



Bern University
of Applied Sciences



Studying in the heart of Switzerland

Bern, a first class study destination, offers an exciting student life with excellent career opportunities.

Studying in Switzerland

There is more to Switzerland than mountains and chocolate. Apart from splendid tourist attractions, visitors can discover an excellent place to live, work and study. Located in the heart of Europe, the country offers an exciting culture mix, breathtaking landscapes and excellent career opportunities.

Switzerland also stands for a high quality of life and a safe living environment. Swiss hospitality and discretion make a stay in this small country most enjoyable.

The Bern University of Applied Sciences is situated in the canton of Bern which hosts the Swiss capital of the same name. The Bern University of Applied Sciences comprises six departments in various locations in Bern, Biel/Bienne, Burgdorf, Magglingen/Macolin and Zollikofen.

Education

The Swiss education system is enriched by its diversity, each of the 26 cantons being responsible for all aspects of education in its territory. The first nine years, comprising a primary and a secondary cycle (secondary level I), are mandatory. Students then can choose to pursue their studies at secondary level II either in academic upper secondary schools, specialised middle schools or in vocational education and training.

Higher education is provided by both the traditional universities, including the cantonal universities, the Federal Institutes of Technology in Zurich and Lausanne, and the Swiss Universities of Applied Sciences. While traditional universities focus mainly on fundamental research, the universities of applied sciences emphasise applied research. The master programmes offered by universities of applied sciences differ from those of traditional universities through their clear practical orientation which provides valuable experience gained through project-related education.

Although the country's official languages are German, French, Italian and Romansh, students can find numerous courses held in English. As a matter of fact, English is the first language for business and research in Switzerland, something which makes it easy for English speakers to settle down in this country.

The possibility of acquiring one of a wide range of diplomas and certificates shows the priority Switzerland puts on education. Numerous schools, institutes and universities emphasise the value of lifelong learning in Switzerland.

Bern University of Applied Sciences in an International Perspective

The Bern University of Applied Sciences is one of the seven Swiss Universities of Applied Sciences. It was founded in 1997 by regrouping 13 former specialised schools. About 6800 students are enrolled in 28 bachelor degree programmes, 21 master degree programmes and a variety of executive master, diploma and certificate of advanced studies programmes as well as seminars. Most of the programmes are taught in German, while others are conducted both in French and German. An increasing number of courses or modules within these programmes are held in English, and courses are internationally accredited.

The Bern University of Applied Sciences comprises six departments:

- the Department of Engineering and Information Technology
- the Department of Architecture, Wood and Civil Engineering
- the Department of Business, Health, Social Work
- the Bern University of the Arts
- the School of Agricultural, Forest and Food Sciences
- the Swiss Federal Institute of Sports Magglingen

The Bern University of Applied Sciences fosters an active internationalisation policy and cooperates with a number of partner institutions within and beyond Europe, in terms of teaching exchanges, research and service delivery.

The Swiss-European interinstitutional agreements allow the Bern University of Applied Sciences to participate in the Integrated Lifelong Learning Program.

Many departments promote opportunities for their students to undertake internships or do part of their studies in other countries.

The Six Departments

Department of Engineering and Information Technology

The Department of Engineering and Information Technology pursues an active international strategy. International partners are located all over the world: mainly in Europe, but also in the USA, Canada, China, Australia and South Africa to mention but a few. International partnerships cover both research and teaching activities. Graduate students can take advantage of international agreements between the department and other internationally recognized institutions to apply for a master and, in some cases, for a PhD programme in English-, French- or German-speaking countries.

Bachelor Programmes

Automotive Engineering; Electrical and Communication Engineering; Information Technology; Mechanical Engineering; Medical Informatics; Microtechnology and Medical Technology

Master Programmes

Biomedical Engineering (in cooperation with the University of Bern); Engineering (in cooperation with the Department Architecture, Wood and Civil Engineering and other Swiss UASs)

Research Institutes

Institute for Applied Laser, Photonics and Surface Technologies; Institute for Energy and Mobility Research; Institute for Human Centered Engineering; Institute for ICT-Based Management; Institute for Mechatronic Systems; Institute for Mobile Communication; Institute for Printing Technology; Institute for Rehabilitation and Performance Technology; Institute for Risks and Extremes; Research Institute for Security in the Information Society

Department of Architecture, Wood and Civil Engineering

The Department of Architecture, Wood and Civil Engineering fosters a strong national and international network and is one of the foremost educational and research establishments in the building and construction industry in Switzerland. It maintains international cooperation and projects mainly in Europe, but also all over the world. The department attaches particular importance to cooperation with emerging and developing countries.

Bachelor Programmes

Architecture; Civil Engineering; Wood Engineering

Master Programmes

Architecture (in cooperation with the UAS Western Switzerland, Fribourg and Geneva); Engineering (in cooperation with the Department Engineering and Information Technology and the seven Swiss UASs); Master of Engineering in Wood Technology (in cooperation with the Rosenheim University of Applied Sciences, Germany)

Fields of research

Planning, building and manufacturing processes; natural phenomena and geo-technics; wood technology and composite construction

Department of Business, Health, Social Work

The Department of Business, Health, Social Work is the largest member of the Bern University of Applied Sciences. It offers seven areas of specialisation, each targeting a different audience.

Bachelor Programmes

Business Administration; Business Information Technology; Midwifery; Nursing; Nutrition and Dietetics; Physiotherapy; Social Work

Master Programmes

Business Administration; Business Information Technology (in cooperation with St. Gallen University of Applied Sciences, Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts, ZHAW School of Management and Law in Winterthur); Nursing (in cooperation with St. Gallen University of Applied Sciences, Zurich University of Applied Sciences); Physiotherapy (in cooperation with Zurich University of Applied Sciences); Social Work (in cooperation with Lucerne, St. Gallen and Zurich Universities of Applied Sciences)

Fields of research

E-government; corporate and business development; governance, risks and compliance. Health promotion and prevention across all life stages; Quality improvement, effectiveness and economic efficiency in the health system. Social security and integration issues; gerontology.

Bern University of the Arts

The Bern University of the Arts is an international, multilingual department, with students and lecturers from more than 30 different countries. It has partnerships with a series of universities abroad, takes its productions abroad and cooperates with international partners in a large number of projects.

Bachelor Programmes

Art Education; Conservation; Fine Arts; Literary Writing; Music (Classical Music, Jazz, Music & Media Arts); Music and Movement/Rhythmics; Theatre; Visual Communication

Master Programmes

Art Education; Communication Design; Conservation-Restoration; Contemporary Arts Practice; Music Composition/Theory; Music Pedagogy; Music Performance; Specialized Music Performance; Theatre

Fields of research

Interpretation; materiality in Art and Culture; communication design; intermediality

School of Agricultural, Forest and Food Sciences

The School of Agricultural, Forest and Food Sciences provides unique bachelor degree courses in French and German, and a master programme in English. Its expertise is in application-based research and development services in close cooperation with companies, institutions and organisations from the farming and forestry sectors and the food industry. It is involved in over 70 projects in more than 20 countries.

Bachelor Programmes

Agriculture; Food Science & Management; Forestry

Master Programme

Life Sciences

Fields of research

Sustainable agricultural production systems; sustainable and use-orientated forestry management; Food Science and Management

Swiss Federal Institute of Sports Magglingen

The Swiss Federal Institute of Sports Magglingen is also part of the Federal Office of Sports of the Federal Department of Defence, Civil Protection and Sports. It fosters a large national and international network in the domain of sport activities, physical activities, physical education as well as health education and policy of sport.

Bachelor Programme

Sports

Master Programmes

Sports (specialisations in elite sport and management of sport), Sport Sciences (specialisations in «Teaching» or «Health and Research» in cooperation with University of Fribourg).

Fields of research

Three main lines of research: detection of performance-limiting factors in elite sports, and their improvement by means of training and other interventions; objective quantification of levels of physical activity and sport, including intervention studies to increase energy expenditure; sport pedagogic analysis of different physical education settings.

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