University of Bern

Facts and Figures

The University of Bern is a university in the Swiss capital of Bern and was founded in 1834. It is regulated and financed by the Canton of Bern. It is a comprehensive university offering a broad choice of courses and programmes in eight faculties and 160 institutes. With around 15,000 students, the University of Bern is a medium-sized Swiss university.

The University of Bern offers about 40 bachelor and 70 master programmes, with enrolments of 8,029 and 3,970, respectively. The university also has 2,416 doctoral students. Around 2,600 degree students and 500 PhD students graduate each year. For some time now, the university has had more female than male students; at the end of 2012, women accounted for 54% of students.

In addition to the classical disciplines, the University of Bern has also established a reputation in newer ones such as sports science and theatre studies. It is the only institution in Switzerland with a theatre studies course that enables students to major in dance in their master program. Bern is also the world’s only university to offer Christian Catholic Theology as a major in the theology course. The Graduate Schools for doctoral candidates offer further-reaching programmes that are closely linked to the University's successful research priorities in the fields of climate science, health care and penal law and criminology.

The Physics Institute of University of Bern contributed to the first flight to the moon and still carries out experiments and provides apparatus for NASA and ESA space missions on a regular basis.

Today the University of Bern is one of the top 200 universities in the world. In the QS World University Rankings 2014 it ranked 145th. The Shanghai Ranking (ARWU) 2014 ranked the University of Bern 151st–200th in the world. In the Leiden Ranking 2013 it ranked 160th in the world.

Faculties

- Faculty of Business Economics and Social Sciences
- Faculty of human Sciences
- Faculty of Humanities
- Faculty of Law
- Faculty of Medicine
- Faculty of Science
- Faculty of Theology
- Faculty of Veterinary Medicine

Exchange Agreement and Research Collaboration in China

- China University of Political Science and Law
- Wuhan University
- Chinese University of Hong Kong,
Notable Alumni

- Carl Baudenbacher – lawyer and President of the EFTA Court
- René Fasel – President of the International Ice Hockey Federation and Member of the International Olympic Committee
- Niklaus Gerber – chemist and Swiss dairy industry pioneer
- Lazar Grünhut – rabbi and writer, Zionist activist
- Thomas Jordan – chairman of the Swiss National Bank
- Peter Lampe – theologian and professor
- Mani Matter – singer-songwriter and lawyer
- Hassan Naim - Lebanese-Swiss biochemist
- Ulrich Ochsenbein – federal councillor and general, founding member of the Swiss Confederation
- Rolf Reber – psychologist and professor
- Jakob Stämpfli – politician and federal councillor, lawyer and journalist
- Daniel Vasella – chairman and CEO of Novartis
- Nikolaj Velimirović – Serbian Orthodox bishop and saint
- Carl Vogt – scientist and politician
- Kurt Wüthrich – chemist, winner of Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2002
- Jean Ziegler – sociologist, politician and writer
- Olga Roh – founder of Rohmir