FHNW – regionally anchored, internationally networked
The universities of applied sciences within Switzerland’s dual education system

Page 6

FHNW University of Applied Sciences and Arts Northwestern Switzerland

Page 12

Studying at the FHNW

Page 20
Continuing and executive education
Page 26

Applied R&D
Page 30

Beyond borders
Page 34

Schools and contacts
Page 38
The universities of applied sciences within Switzerland’s dual education system

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

Advanced Federal Diploma of Higher Education
Federal examination

Advanced Federal Diploma of Higher Education

Federal Diploma of Vocational Education and Training
Host companies, vocational schools, branch courses

Federal Diploma of Vocational Education and Training
Host companies, vocational schools, branch courses

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Usual pathway
Possible pathway
The universities of applied sciences within Switzerland’s dual education system offer the following options:

- **Master's degree**
- **Bachelor's degree**

Universities of applied sciences provide these options.

Universities of teacher education offer:

- **Master's degree**
- **Bachelor's degree**

Universities and Federal Institutes of Technology provide this hierarchy:

- **PhD/doctorate**
- **Master's degree**
- **Bachelor's degree**

The vocational education and training structure includes:

- **Federal Diploma of Vocational Education and Training**
- **Host companies, vocational schools, branch courses**

Specialised schools offer:

- **Specialised School Certificate**
- **Specialised schools**

Baccalaureate schools provide:

- **Baccalaureate**
- **Baccalaureate schools**

Specialised schools and Baccalaureate schools are part of the general education system.
Switzerland’s dual education system: an internationally sought-after and successful model

Switzerland consistently ranks top in terms of innovativeness and its ability to attract talent from the international employment market. One of the key reasons for this is the country’s education system.
Switzerland’s education system is closely aligned to the needs of both society and the economy. Consisting of a combination of practical vocational education and sound academic education, the system is characterised by high permeability.

Switzerland is a full member of the European Higher Education Area (Bologna Process), which guarantees comparability in the standards and quality of higher education qualifications. A key feature of universities of applied sciences is the applied nature of their research and the practical orientation of their education. In addition, their graduates are able to complete doctorates in collaboration with academic universities.

Another unique feature compared to other countries is the fact that Swiss music and art colleges are deemed equal to universities although, formally speaking, they are part of the universities of applied sciences.
FHNW University of Applied Sciences and Arts Northwestern Switzerland

400 partners worldwide
Nine schools, four modern campuses, around 12 000 students: the FHNW is one of Switzerland’s leading universities of applied sciences, acknowledged for the excellence of its teaching and research.
All campuses within 30 minutes
A central feature across all mandated areas is practical orientation. With its broad range of degree programmes, vocational relevance, innovative research and its global network of nearly 400 international partnerships, the FHNW is a sought-after educational institution, employer and partner.

Interdisciplinary, innovative, international
The nine schools of the FHNW cover a broad spectrum of subject areas and facilitate a diverse and interdisciplinary approach to research and teaching. The skills of its lecturers and researchers, the quality of its infrastructure and its regional, national and international networks provide an optimal basis for addressing current issues in the fields of science, business, politics, culture and society.

The FHNW is home to students and teaching staff from more than 60 countries. This diversity provides an enriching environment for preparing students to confront the challenges of globalised economies, societies and cultures. Indicative of the FHNW’s international engagement are partnerships with foreign universities and institutions, involvement in European research programmes and its portfolio of tri-national and multi-lingual degree programmes.
Studying at the FHNW

The portfolio of 29 bachelor’s and 18 master’s degree programmes offered by the FHNW gives students a wide range of opportunities to undertake practical tertiary education and training designed to facilitate successful career pathways. With numerous opportunities for international experience such as international degree programmes, summer schools and international projects, the FHNW prepares its students for the challenges of the modern working world in an international environment.
Graduates of universities of applied sciences benefit from above-average success when it comes to securing employment, and are assimilated quickly into the labour market, verified by the Swiss Federal Education Report.

The FHNW’s excellent reputation of the applied teaching extends far beyond Switzerland’s borders and attracts numerous foreign students and lecturers. The schools of the FHNW impart practical knowledge and skills, and instill in their students the motivation and ability to work in multidisciplinary teams to meet social, commercial and cultural challenges. By facilitating critical reflection and fostering entrepreneurial, innovative and ethical attitudes, the FHNW offers its students the best possible prospects in terms of preparing them for the demands of an international and increasingly complex world of work.

Many of the FHNW’s degree programmes can be completed on a full-time, part-time or combined basis, offering students the chance to tailor their studies to their individual needs and circumstances.
Discover new horizons

The FHNW takes a practical approach to preparing its students for a globalised working world. Mobility has high priority. Students can study in multinational degree programmes, spend a phase of their studies abroad or participate in an international student project, such as Insight China.
The project Insight China offers ambitious students at the FHNW the opportunity to gain insights into China’s economic and cultural diversity. By promoting exchange between professionals and students, both sides benefit from each other through the combination of theory and practical experience. Insight China consists of three major parts: The Preparatory Seminar, the On-Site Seminar and the Final Event. Each part has its own aims, but all stand in the overall framework of broadening the participants’ horizon in terms of knowledge transfer between theory and practice.

My trip to China was full of highlights, surprises and unforgettable memories. From a business perspective, there were many interesting company visits giving us an insight into different business environments and allowing us to see several production sites in companies. Furthermore, the company visits were a great networking opportunity. Complementing this from a cultural perspective, our trip was enriching and taught us a lot about Chinese history.

Another highlight was the visit to the Lanzhou University of Technology, where we were warmly welcomed by local students and experienced a day full of cultural exchange.

I can definitely say that the Insight China trip has been one of the best experiences in my life. Besides all the business and cultural highlights, I was lucky enough to be part of an amazing delegation. There was a strong feeling of togetherness and we could share many moments we will not forget any time soon.”

Laura Zimmer,
FHNW School of Business
“Why the FHNW Academy of Art and Design? The determining factor for me was the institution’s reputation and Basel’s geographical location, which makes it a hub for international exchange.”

Laurent Hermann Progin, graduate of the FHNW Academy of Art and Design

“The International Business Management programme finds us studying in three different countries, which means we acquire practical experience at an international level. This teaches us how to be flexible and think outside the box.”

Julian Widtmann, student at the FHNW School of Business
“Every semester, we work on a practical project with an industrial partner. That’s more motivating than pure theory, plus it means we meet potential employers.”

Stephan Maurer, student at the FHNW School of Engineering

“I find it great that you can tailor your studies and combine them flexibly with your day job. It means that my studies benefit from my professional experience and that I can apply what I've learnt at uni directly to my job.”

Susanna Wittler, student at the FHNW School of Education
Continuing and executive education

In today’s globalised world of work, the demands presented by numerous professional fields are becoming ever more complex and fast-changing. Lifelong learning and continuing education have become the buzzwords of modern business.

The FHNW provides a solid, diverse and flexible range of continuing education programmes at both national and international level, designed to meet the individual requirements of a wide range of career paths – whether broadening individual professional profiles, preparing individuals for working in an international environment, or providing employees of an organisation with higher qualifications and skills.

Master’s degree, diploma and certificate-level programmes as well as numerous seminars and courses provide education and training across nine disciplines; by combining academic theory with practice, they cater for a wide range of needs.

Thanks to its practical relevance, national and international partnerships and cutting edge forms of teaching and learning, the continuing education offered by the FHNW affords optimal chances for further professional development.
“Our lecturers come from the real world. The course contents are based on the latest research findings and target concrete situations. This combination of theoretical and practical continuing education helps me develop my company in an informed way.”

Vivian Demartin, entrepreneur and continuing education graduate from the FHNW School of Engineering

“My contact with the lecturers and course participants from other organisations and sectors helped me build up a useful network, which could result in interesting opportunities.”

Anna Bernard-Martels, continuing education graduate from the FHNW School of Architecture, Civil Engineering and Geomatics

“As a result of my part-time MBA, I feel I am well equipped for the fast-changing, demanding nature of my profession. My sojourn abroad has also strengthened my understanding of working in a different cultural context.”

Dominique Meyer-Schott, continuing education graduate from the FHNW School of Business.
Research and innovation know no national borders. The applied research carried out at the FHNW is aligned to international developments and conducted in close cooperation with regional, national and international research and industry partners.

The FHNW’s R&D focuses on identifying answers to specific questions in the fields of business, politics, culture and society, and on transferring knowledge and technology to industry.

The FHNW maintains an extensive network at home and abroad and participates in research projects in Switzerland and further afield. Researchers from the university’s nine schools adopt a multidisciplinary approach in their collaboration with organisations, other universities and institutions in Europe and beyond. Much of this collaborative work is performed within the context of European research programmes, some of which are headed by the FHNW.

The research results published by the FHNW contribute to the innovativeness and strengthening of the economy and of society. At the same time, the findings flow back into the university’s degree and continuing education programmes, thereby ensuring that the education provided is academically sound, up to date and practically relevant.

The FHNW’s portfolio of services helps organisations and institutions develop tailored solutions for a wide range of issues arising out of their day-to-day activities.
AquaNES – Clean water: Nature and technology working together

Traditional water management systems have their limitations, especially in differing climatic conditions. AquaNES combines new knowledge of natural processes with innovations in engineering solutions.

Providing adequate clean water in distinctly different environments is one of the challenges of the 21st century. The AquaNES consortium, coordinated by FHNW, takes an international, integrated approach. With 30 partners from Europe, Israel and India – among them water utilities, SMEs and research institutes – it represents a good balance along the technology innovation value chain.

AquaNES aims to demonstrate how natural and engineered methods can be combined for optimal, resource-efficient water treatment and management, opening new market opportunities in Europe and abroad. At demonstration sites in Europe, India and Israel, the project is looking into new water supply and wastewater treatment methods in different climatic, geographical, hydro-geological and socio-economic conditions. “We will then determine how to best transfer the knowledge from our case studies and provide concrete examples of how combined systems can be used to achieve advantages and open unexploited potential,” explains Prof. Thomas Wintgens from the FHNW School of Life Sciences.

Facts & Figures
Project: AquaNES – Demonstrating synergies in combined natural and engineered processes for water treatment systems
Project duration: 1.06.2016 – 31.5.2019
Project Cost: CHF 10.74 million
Project Funding: CHF 8.71 million
Programme: Horizon 2020 Societal Challenge: Climate Action, Environment, Resource Efficiency and Raw Materials

More information: www.aquanes.eu
Beyond borders

Learning, perception and innovation presuppose openness – vis-à-vis other people, other cultures and other worlds. In promoting this openness, the FHNW considers the diversity of its students and staff to be of value – and a resource of importance to the development of the university.

Diversity competence and diversity awareness are essential in a diverse, internationally oriented university if students, staff and partners are to develop to their full potential – regardless of age, gender, disability, background, world view or sexual orientation.

The FHNW views the varying and contrasting abilities, experience and biographies of its students and staff as potential that can be leveraged for its development as an organisation and as a resource for innovation.

It promotes equality of opportunity, especially with regard to gender equality, women in leadership roles, and combining studies with work and family life.

Also thanks to its diversity, the FHNW is a sought-after partner for national and international companies and organisations with a business, cultural and social orientation.
Diverse people – diverse skills

The disciplines and topics covered by the FHNW are as diverse as people themselves. Its nine schools provide an all-encompassing framework, offering an excellent specialist and a strong interdisciplinary approach to teaching.

The major challenges of our time demand cross-boundary collaboration as a means of securing sustainable solutions. Complex subject areas such as ageing demographics, sustainable energy and digital transformation call for holistic approaches.

The FHNW, as a multisectoral institution, views this as an outstanding opportunity. It deploys its interdisciplinary competencies in a focused manner in order to address the opportunities and risks of global trends: its education and continuing education programmes hone students’ skills for dealing with the challenges of a globalised economy and society. And through its applied research activities, which involve collaboration with national and international partners, it develops concrete solutions to some of the key issues of our time.

In doing so, the FHNW generates long-term economic and social benefits for the region and far beyond.
Schools and contacts

FHNW School of Applied Psychology
Customer Care Center/
International Office
Riggenbachstrasse 16
4600 Olten
T +41 848 821 011
info.aps@fhnw.ch

FHNW School of Architecture,
Civil Engineering and Geomatics
Gründenstrasse 40
4132 Muttenz
T +41 61 228 55 66
info.habg@fhnw.ch

FHNW Academy of Art and Design
International Office
Freilager-Platz 1
Postfach
4023 Basel
T + 41 61 228 44 44
info.hgk@fhnw.ch

FHNW School of Business
Customer Care Center
Riggenbachstrasse 16
4600 Olten
T +41 848 821 011
info.business@fhnw.ch

FHNW School of Education
Campus Brugg-Windisch
Bahnhofstrasse 6
5210 Windisch
T +41 848 012 210
info.ph@fhnw.ch

FHNW School of Engineering
Klosterzelgstrasse 2
5210 Windisch
T +41 56 202 99 33
info.technik@fhnw.ch

FHNW School of Life Sciences
Gründenstrasse 40
4132 Muttenz
T +41 61 228 55 77
info.lifesciences@fhnw.ch

FHNW Academy of Music
Leonhardsstrasse 6
4009 Basel
T +41 61 264 57 57
info.mhs@fhnw.ch

FHNW School of Social Work
Von Roll-Strasse 10
4600 Olten
+41 84 882 10 11
info.sozialearbeit@fhnw.ch
The FHNW University of Applied Sciences and Arts Northwestern Switzerland consists of the following schools:

– FHNW School of Applied Psychology
– FHNW School of Architecture, Civil Engineering and Geomatics
– FHNW Academy of Art and Design
– FHNW School of Business
– FHNW School of Education
– FHNW School of Engineering
– FHNW School of Life Sciences
– FHNW Academy of Music
– FHNW School of Social Work