



Student mobility at the Bern University of Applied Sciences

General information on student mobility

Target group: BFH students interested in a stay abroad.

Experiencing a semester abroad, a guest semester at another Swiss university or an internship in another country will give you valuable experience and will increase your attractiveness in the job market. The Bern University of Applied Sciences facilitates stays for its students either within Switzerland or abroad.

A stay abroad is aimed at:

- Expanding and deepening opportunities for learning
- Looking at the subject area with other lenses
- Knowing global trends in your field
- Acquiring additional practical knowledge
- Promoting transcultural competence: a better understanding of linguistic, cultural, political-economic diversity at home and abroad and the ability to act in multicultural contexts
- Promoting foreign language skills (technical language)
- Taking self-responsibility for the organization of your studies
- Supporting personality development (autonomy, social competence)

As part of the regular study program, students have the following options at their disposal to deepen competences in another country and/or in another language:

Exchange semester abroad

Studying abroad brings many benefits, such as meeting other colleges, acquiring special skills in a foreign language and gaining personal experience.

Internship abroad

Gain practical experience in another country, deepen your language skills and get to know another culture at the same time. Students can do all this while doing an internship abroad.

Mobility within Switzerland

Studying a guest semester or a module at another Swiss university enable students to learn from their subject area in other cantons and to acquire professional skills in another national language.

Timing

As part of the regular study program, it is possible to study for one semester, either abroad or in Switzerland, only after completing the second year of study. This requirement does not apply to internships.

Planning and organization

Although semesters abroad are preferably organized in cooperation with partner universities, students can also independently look for host universities and internships abroad. You can use this link to search for partner universities:

<https://bfh.moveon4.com/publisher/1/deu>.



Recognition of credits

In principle, ECTS credits awarded abroad are recognized by the BFH. We recommend planning your stay abroad in advance if you want to avoid a delay in your studies.

Swiss-European Mobility Program (SEMP, formerly Erasmus)

Switzerland has been taking part, as a third state, in the European program Erasmus since the academic year 2014/2015. The Swiss solution, the Swiss-European Mobility Program SEMP, regulates student mobility between partner universities within Europe. Students have the possibility to receive SEMP scholarships while completing an internship abroad or while studying an exchange semester at any of our European partner universities.

Finances

Costs are typically a major factor affecting the decision of staying abroad. This is so because there is usually no compensation for practical internships and universities charge high tuition fees. Under SEMP student exchanges, however, tuition fees are often omitted.

Certificate of Global Competence

With the BFH "Certificate of Global Competence", students have the opportunity to get recognized for acquiring explicit inter- and transcultural competencies during the course of their studies.

More information

You will find detailed information about all of these topics on the BFH intranet: (<https://intranet.bfh.ch>): Offices> Internationalization> Mobility> Students