

Sustainability Mission Statement of the University of Bern

"Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

Brundtland Report, "Our Common Future", 1987

Sustainable development is a global challenge. Universities, where knowledge is generated and imparted, are required to make a contribution and counteract the threats to natural resources and the growing inequality between people and societies. The University of Bern fully acknowledges this responsibility and is committed to integrate sustainability as a cross-cutting issue in all spheres of university activities.

Research

Sustainable development is considered a priority in the research activities of the University of Bern. As a comprehensive university covering a full academic spectrum the University of Bern is able to work on this topic from a wide range of disciplinary approaches, with interdisciplinary or transdisciplinary teams. The university takes optimal advantage of this potential in order to provide a substantial contribution to the research and elaboration of sustainable development. It promotes research on sustainability within specialized interdisciplinary research centers as well as in the faculties. Furthermore, the university is dedicated to knowledge transfer: its skills and competencies are made available to institutions of administration, politics and the economy as well as to the general public, thus acting as an innovative force in a regional and global context.

Teaching

The University of Bern imparts knowledge and skills to its students, enabling them to

- recognize the challenge of Sustainable Development
- understand the significance of Sustainable Development for their chosen discipline
- assess their own possibilities and opportunities in order to contribute to Sustainable Development

To this aim the university provides a portfolio of degree programs with reference to Sustainability which are accessible to all students. Furthermore, a strategic approach is taken that aims at integrating sustainability issues into all university curricula.

Business operations

Managing Sustainability

The University of Bern creates space for initiatives highlighting how Sustainable Development can be put into practice. As an enterprise, the university is committed to managing ecological, economic and social resources with the utmost care and continues to enhance its performance in this area. The challenges in this context are multilayered, ranging from the reduction of energy and resource consumption and reducing environmental impact to promoting a family-friendly and gender sensitive working environment, the sustainable management of financial resources and good governance.

The University of Bern in dialogue

The university promotes the participation of its student and staff body in the university process towards further sustainability.

The university regularly reports on the progress of its efforts towards sustainability in research, teaching and business operations.