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Dear prospective student

Thank you for your interest in the Bern University of the Arts HKB. Ambitious students will find a range of distinctive and unique courses and highly personalised learning opportunities at HKB. Course contents evolve continually because we want our students to receive the best education and take their feedback seriously. Our curriculum is complemented by various courses in Research, Services, and Continuing Education. We wish for our students to develop into attentive and engaged creative people. Our students are encouraged to learn from their experiments, failure and success alike.

Moreover, it is most important to me that our school should provide a welcoming and meaningful environment to students and staff alike. By sharing our personal skills, passions and networks with each other, we nurture and actively engage in a culture of mutual support and empowerment. Diverse worlds and disciplines come together at HKB. Our educational approach is defined by experimentation and reflection. Situated near the boundary between two distinct cultural regions, and two languages – French and German, we are creating a public space for new developments in education and research. We rely on a wide range of methods and artistic approaches to negotiate, elaborate and teach a broad understanding of culture. Moreover, as a major event organiser, HKB maintains ties of solidarity to a large number of educational and cultural institutions. We form part of society. We stand up for our values and are committed to responsible interactions, both with people and with our environment. Our many diverse experiences, positions and perspectives underpin our determination to enhance our standing in the world of education, and our commitment to the arts, and their very real and utopian power.

You are most welcome to visit any or all of our locations.

Prof. Dr. Thomas Beck, Director
Bern University of the Arts HKB

Bachelor of Arts

Music

- Classical

- Jazz

- Sound Arts

- Music and Movement

Art and Design

- Fine Arts

- Art Education

- Visual Communication

- Multimedia Production (Bachelor of Science)

Conservation and Restoration

- Conservation

Theater

- Theater

Swiss Literature Institute

- Literary Writing

A Bachelor's degree usually requires three years of full-time study (180 ECTS credits) and is an entry requirement for Master's degree courses.

Preparatory courses

PreCollege Bern HKB

- Classical

- Music and movement

- Sound Arts

Preparatory class theater

Master of Arts

Music

Music Performance

– Classical – Jazz

Specialized Music Performance – Classical

Specialized Music Performance – Opera

Music Pedagogy

– Classical – Jazz – Music and Movement

– Major Music SII

Music Composition

– Creative Practice – Contemporary Jazz

Art and Design

Art Education

– Secondary Teaching Diploma

– Art and Cultural Education

Design

– Entrepreneurship – Research

Multimedia Communication & Publishing

– Political Communication – Journalism

Conservation and Restoration

Conservation-Restoration

– Architecture and furnishings – Paintings and sculptures

– Books, graphic and photographic objects

– Modern materials and media

Theater

Expanded Theater

Y Institute

Contemporary Arts Practice

– Fine Arts – Sound Arts – Literary Writing/Translation

– Performance Art

A Master's degree usually requires two years of full-time study (90 to 120 ECTS credits, depending on subject).

Music

Welcoming and versatile: Inspiring exchanges with lecturers of international standing encourage our music students to acquire the knowledge required for a successful career in Classical Music, Jazz, Sound Arts, Opera, Composition, or Music and Movement. Alongside our established courses in Music Education in Performance and Pedagogy, students can enrol in our excellent Research programme, in Jazz Education across a wide range of styles, in Contemporary Musical Theater, or specialise in Music Pedagogy. Our school also boasts an Opera studio and regularly arranges Contemporary Music events. The HKB Music Department is proud to be among the German-speaking world's most progressive institutions for higher music education.

Art and Design

Open-minded and pluralistic: The Department of Art and Design provides Bachelor's and Master's degree courses in a friendly environment with plenty of choices. Excellent infrastructure and a close association to research are just two aspects that underpin the high quality of our courses in Fine Arts, Art Education, Art and Design Education, Visual Communication, Multimedia Production, Design and Multimedia Communication & Publishing. Significantly, it is easy for our students to engage in wide-ranging dialogue and exchange; they are encouraged to experiment and realise practical projects.

Conservation and Restoration

Innovative and specialized: The Department of Conservation and Restoration looks back on thirty years of experience in the conservation of artistic and cultural assets. A two-year foundation course is followed by three years of specialized study. Our students acquire a deep understanding of the significance and materiality of artefacts in their care that is the underpinning of a societally significant task. Which is the adequate and appropriate treatment and storage of cultural material assets. The notion that without a past there is no future is as relevant to the fine arts as it is to video arts, to contemporary installations, written records, or to protected buildings and furnishings, for example.

Theater

Versatile and inquisitive: HKB Theater provides a forward-looking education to future actors and performers. Our students prepare for traditional ensemble work as well as for a wide range of dramatic arts formats and media. Working with internationally recognised lecturers and guest lecturers, our students explore contemporary forms of theater, including drama and stage performance, and of course other forms of stage production that may involve dance, puppets, music or sound. Courses are designed to encourage our students to develop and realise their own artistic ideas under the personal guidance by lecturers and tutors.

Swiss Literature Institute

Personalised and bilingual: The Swiss Literature Institute, in Biel/Bienne, is Switzerland's only higher-level educational institution for creative writing. The three-year Bachelor's degree course focuses on plot and subject matter, on language and experimentation, and on students finding their unique literary voice. Both in education and research, mentoring by experienced authors plays a key part at the Swiss Literature Institute. Mentors meet frequently with their mentees to discuss students' texts and provide constructive feedback. Courses at the institute are delivered in German or French, or in both German and French.

Y Institute

Unifying and supportive: Y Institute is a centre for interdisciplinary education. Deeply committed to the concept of intellectual freedom from disciplinary boundaries in the arts, the Y Institute promotes the interplay of all the arts by bringing together diverse forms of knowledge and presentation. Its activities therefore rise above the boundaries between art and science. The Y Institute offers transdisciplinary Bachelor's and Master's degree courses, as well as an interdisciplinary course for a Master's degree of Contemporary Arts Practice (CAP) in Fine Arts, Creative Writing/Translation, Performance Art, and Sound Arts.

Research and Services

Renowned and relevant: HKB has conducted highly successful research projects. It is the first University of Applied Sciences in Switzerland to whom the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNF) has awarded three SNF professorships and two SNF Ambizione grant posts (as of 2019). Moreover, in conjunction with the University of Bern, HKB is the only Swiss University of the Arts to offer the doctorate degree course, Studies in the Arts. In HKB research projects, artistic and scientific approaches alike come together. Some 150 lecturers, sixty PhD students, numerous arts and science staff and research assistants engage in practical research to explore issues in the arts, culture and technology. The BFH Arts in Context centre, and a range of HKB services further enhance the practical relevance of our educational and research activities.

Continuing Education

Focused and substantial: Continuing education courses at HKB lead to a Certificate of Advanced Studies (CAS) or to a Master of Advanced Studies (MAS). The courses are designed for artists, tutors and teachers, art restorers and designers who wish to expand their artistic repertoire and to acquire new skills, knowledge and qualifications. HKB foundation courses are expanded and integrate recent artistic research results. Continuing Education students at HKB also benefit from broad cross-linking to professional practice. Our courses are complemented and continually broadened by conferences and symposia, often in cooperation with other institutions.

Locations

Fellerstrasse 11, 3027 Bern, Switzerland

- Art and Design
- Conservation and Restoration
- Y Institute
- Research
- Continuing Education
- Directorate, Administration
- MediaLab
- Workshop
- Mediothek

Schwabstrasse 10, 3018 Bern, Switzerland

- Y Institute
- Research

Eigerplatz 5a, 3007 Bern, Switzerland

- Jazz

Papiermühlestrasse 13a, 3014 Bern, Switzerland

- Music
- Research
- Sound Studio
- Music Library

Zikadenweg 35, 3006 Bern, Switzerland

- Theater

Ostermundigenstrasse 103, 3006 Bern, Switzerland

- Music

Jakob-Rosius-Strasse 16, 2502 Biel/Bienne, Switzerland

- Opera
- Music and Movement

Seevorstadt 99, Rockhall IV, 2502 Biel/Bienne, Switzerland

- Swiss Literature Institute

Contact

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