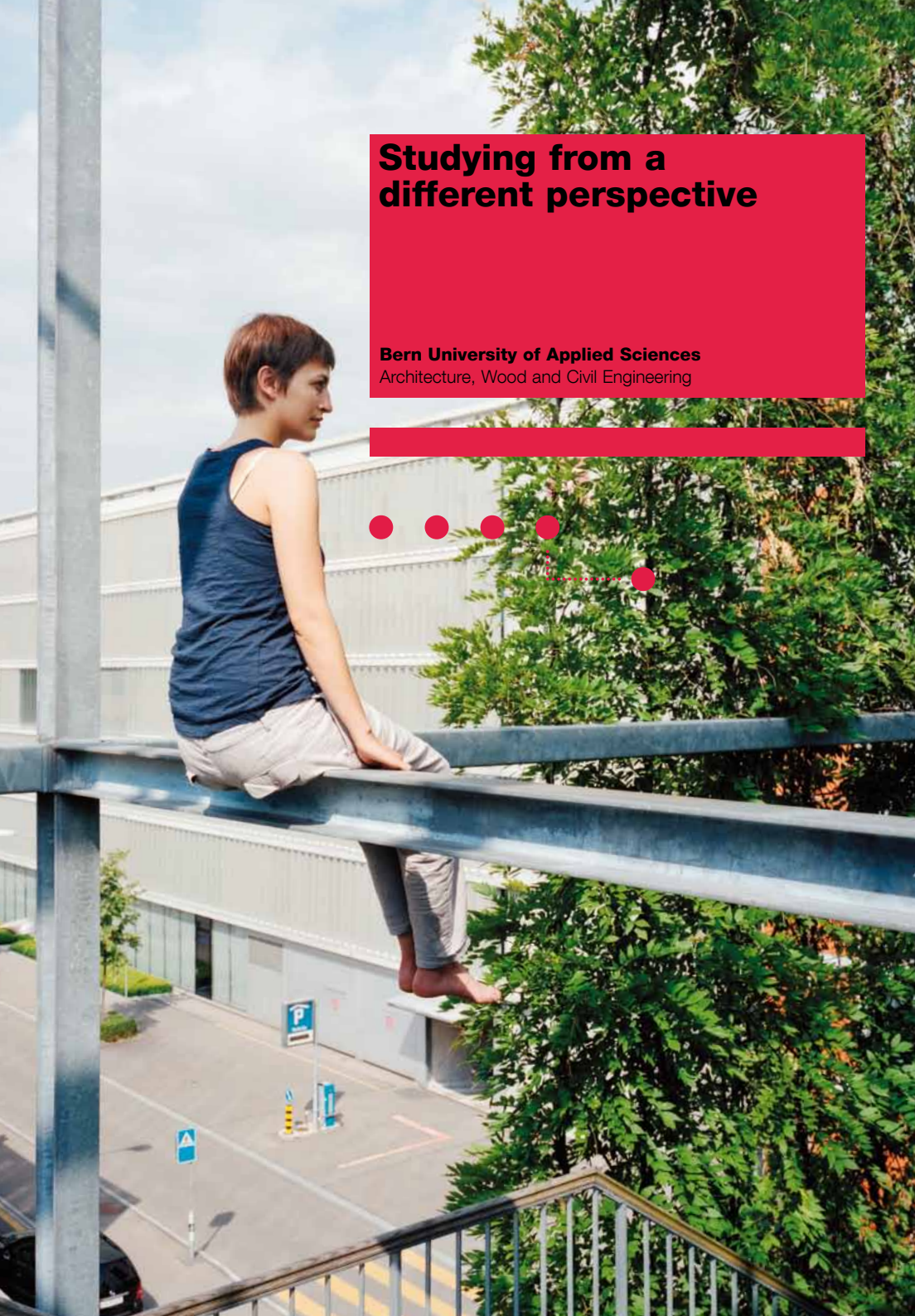

Studying from a different perspective

Bern University of Applied Sciences
Architecture, Wood and Civil Engineering

01

Expert knowledge for the real world. We are one of Switzerland's leading educational institutions for the construction and wood industries. As a nationally and internationally recognised university of applied sciences with many years of experience and tradition, we provide future architects, civil and wood engineers and timber technicians with the tools for a successful career. Our courses are based on a holistic approach that takes ecological and economic factors as well as social responsibility into consideration. Our remit as Switzerland's only centre of competence for the timber industry is to impart high standards of knowledge and skills, which we do in close collaboration with industry partners. We systematically combine the theoretical and practical sides of the learning process. Our courses, research and services are geared to international standards. Our graduates are among the most highly qualified that Switzerland has to offer. The department Architecture, Wood and Civil Engineering is one of the six departments of the Bern University of Applied Sciences (BUAS). Founded in 1997, the BUAS trains around 6400 students each year in a wide variety of subjects and specialisations.

02

The groundwork is the foundation of practice.
(Le Corbusier 1887–1965)

Bachelor of Arts in Architecture

The architecture course of studies in Burgdorf can be attended full-time or part-time. From the third semester on it is possible to focus on majors such as Design, Management or Technology. In this way, students are supported according to their individual talents and interests and are systematically prepared for their professional careers. It is also possible to alternate majors so as to broaden one's knowledge instead of deepening it. The theoretical courses take place mainly in the autumn semester and form the necessary bases for the practice-oriented project studies in the spring semester. Intensive three-week summer schools in Switzerland or abroad complete the programme. And joint modules with the Bachelor Architecture and Bachelor Wood divisions create synergies and encourage the interdisciplinarity of the courses.

Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering

These days, civil engineering is one of the most diverse areas of study at university level. As well as teaching the basics of structural and hydraulic engineering, steel and timber construction, geotechnics, transport and infrastructure construction, we allow students to specialise in particular areas of construction or civil engineering in line with their individual preference. The course can be taken on a part-time basis over eight semesters as an alternative to the traditional full-time option of six semesters. At present, there are not enough civil engineering graduates to meet demand from construction and engineering firms. This means excellent career prospects for new graduates.

Bachelor of Science in Wood Engineering

Timber frames, whole buildings, interior fittings, furniture – wood is central to all of these as a renewable material that can be treated and used in a variety of different ways. Students looking for a career in technical or scientific fields can choose to specialise in Timber Structures and Technology, while those focused on management can opt for a specialisation in Process and Product Management. Starting in the fifth semester, they can choose from a range of subsidiary subjects depending on their preference: Process Management, Product Management, Interior Furnishing, Building Envelope, Timber House Construction or Timber Construction and Engineering. The Bachelor Wood division in Biel, together with the affiliated Higher Technical Schools HF Wood Biel, is the only institution of its kind in Switzerland. No other university of applied sciences in Switzerland offers a bachelor's degree in Wood Engineering.

03

Master of Arts in Architecture (JMA)

The Joint Master of Architecture course is implemented jointly by the University of Applied Sciences of Western Switzerland (HES-SO) and Bern University of Applied Sciences for Architecture, Wood and Civil Engineering. This course can be taken on a full-time or part-time basis. Students can thus benefit from the exchange, exposure to cultural diversity, multilingual teaching in German, French and English and from intercultural mobility. They learn the technical and social skills needed to manage architectural projects, from problem analysis to construction, and to lead their own team or company. Graduates boast the professional skills needed to enter competitions and the constructive mindset required to bring architectural projects to fruition. They also benefit from an internationally recognised degree-level qualification that allows them to find work anywhere in the world and take part in international competitions.

Master of Engineering in Wood Technology

Bern University of Applied Sciences Architecture, Wood and Civil Engineering offers its international Master of Engineering in Wood Technology in conjunction with Rosenheim University of Applied Sciences in Germany. This course enables students to enhance their development potential by acquiring sound management, methodical and social skills as well as in-depth knowledge in one of eight Master Research Units (MRUs): Construction Physics and Building Systems; Windows, Facades, Conservatories, Doors and Gates; Timber and Composite Construction; Management; Furniture Construction and Testing; Production and Logistics; Drywall Installation, Lightweight Construction and Interior Furnishing; Building Materials and Timber Technology. This modular course is offered on a full-time or part-time basis, in German and English. It focuses on honing skills for the latest timber technologies and on working on research and industrial projects.

Master of Science in Engineering (MSE)

The Master of Science in Engineering (MSE) was developed jointly by the seven Swiss universities of applied sciences. It covers three fields: Technology, IT and Construction and Planning. Students can choose to take it as a full-time or part-time course. The course facilitates in-depth study of specific subjects. Subject specialisation takes place within a Master Research Unit (MRU) at one of the seven Swiss universities of applied sciences. Bern University of Applied Sciences Architecture, Wood and Civil Engineering participates in the MRU Integral Planning and Construction, with the majors Building Renovation, Transformation and Physics; Timber and Composite Construction; and Natural Phenomena and Geotechnics.

04

Higher Technical Schools HF Wood Biel

The Higher Technical Schools HF Wood Biel are affiliated to Bern University of Applied Sciences. They train professionals from the wood industry who wish to become Technical Specialist HF Wood Technics. This training – specialising in the areas of Timber Construction, Woodworking Industry and Lumber Industry – includes grounding in specialist and business skills, as well as a thorough general training. Competency-oriented teaching in subject-specific modules, along with a placement in the wood industry, ensure a high level of practical relevance. Technical Specialists HF Wood Technics go on to middle and higher management positions in small- or medium-sized industries and large industrial companies. Their role is to use their professional expertise to support the decision-making process. Courses offered by the Higher Technical Schools HF Wood Biel are designed to prepare students for Swiss specialist certificates and master diplomas, as well as the HF postgraduate course.

Advanced and further education for companies and executives in the wood and construction industry

Advanced and further education is part of our core tasks; we define it as a transfer of science and technology between the university of applied sciences and those working in the practical sphere. It creates an environment where cooperation in the fields of research, training and services can take place. Our broad offering is aimed at highly qualified executives and specialists in the profession, who want to specialise further in their area of expertise, to extend their interdisciplinary skills or prepare themselves for leadership positions. Responsibility towards nature and the environment plays a key role in our further education programme, with great emphasis placed on an ecological mindset and a sustainable energy balance. Every year, 2000 people from Switzerland and abroad attend our advanced and further education programmes.

Research for the market: product testing, expert reports, consulting

Our research feels the heartbeat. Research activities are geared towards practice – their aim is to solve everyday industrial problems quickly and innovatively. We offer a complete range of contract services for industry. The services provided include product testing, planning, expertise and consultancy. Our research concentrates on the planning, construction and manufacturing processes; composite construction and wood engineering; and natural resource management and geotechnical engineering. Research and development are closely linked to the master's degree programme. The research units form the bases of the master courses and the master's students are integrated into the research teams and projects, helping them acquire their knowledge at very close quarters to practice.

05

Things worth knowing about studying at Bern University of Applied Sciences Architecture, Wood and Civil Engineering

Studying at our university of applied sciences is interesting and varied. Workshops, study trips, projects and coursework in collaboration with the Research and Development division, as well as partners from industry, ensure a high level of practical relevance. In our course design the two subject areas of architecture and civil engineering are closely interwoven, giving our students a broad view of all aspects of the construction industry. If a student so wishes, this can also involve a semester abroad at international partner institution. Our graduates are highly qualified, and they are in great demand on the market.

What's the difference between studying at a university of applied sciences and an ordinary university?

Universities of applied sciences fulfil the mission defined by the Swiss Federal Office for Professional Education and Technology (OPET) as follows: education (bachelor and master), advanced and further education (MAS, CAS, DAS postgraduate courses), applied research and development (R&D), services for third parties. Our aim is to ensure that our courses are closely interwoven with the everyday practicalities of the construction site, workshop and engineering office. We make sure that our courses keep pace with current market needs and requirements. This means that when you complete your studies you will have the applied knowledge and practical experience needed to begin your career immediately. All our teaching staff are committed professionals who combine their teaching work with professional work. We set great store by the interdisciplinary cooperation of our departments.

How close to industry is Bern University of Applied Sciences Architecture, Wood and Civil Engineering?

In addition to our education programmes we offer a wide range of contract services. These include national and international product tests, planning, expert reports and consultancy. We perform feasibility studies, product and process optimisation services for our many partners in business and industry. This makes us an ideal partner for SMEs, large companies and public authorities. With practical, advanced and further education events we ensure knowledge and technology transfer to the wood and construction industry. Our programme of events acts as an authoritative platform for an intensive exchange of information with industry. These are ideal networking opportunities for establishing and maintaining contacts. Our test laboratories are certificated to ISO/IEC 17025 standard and have SAS (Swiss Accreditation Services) accreditation.

06

Passing from high school to a university of applied sciences without entrance exams

This stepping stone, known as the Passerelle, makes the transition from high school to the very practically oriented teaching of a university of applied sciences considerably easier. A three-month preparatory course conveys reliable basic technical knowledge in the chosen field. Practical work in workshops and laboratories enables students to get a feeling for their future profession. The 12 months of practical training in a company that were previously required are thus reduced to nine months. Please find additional information under www.passerelle.bfh.ch.

What are my career prospects after I finish my studies?

In addition to training executives for the construction and wood business, advanced and further education for professionals in these sectors is an important priority. Every year over 2000 people participate in our extensive range of advanced and further education programmes which include master courses, postgraduate courses, technical courses, seminars, workshops and study trips in Switzerland and abroad. For more information about our continuing education programmes, go to our home page at www.ahb.bfh.ch or ask for our annual programme to be sent to you.

The Bologna reform and student exchanges

Our broad range of courses meets the Bologna process requirements for a Europe-wide standard in multicycle study models. The modules of the various courses of study are evaluated according to the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS). The bachelor's degree is the first professional qualification degree in this two-level concept (bachelor and master). It can be followed by a master's degree or by one or more courses of study in further education (MAS, DAS, CAS). These training courses are highly regarded in the profession and enable our students to enjoy national and international careers that lead from the basic vocational training (with the vocational high school certificate) or the GCSE (with practical experience) to executive positions in the industry or in research and development. Through the Erasmus scheme, the Bologna process also supports international student exchanges and enables students to find foreign placements. We offer our students help in planning and organising exchanges. You, too, can benefit from our extensive network of partner institutions spanning all five continents. Students who are interested in an exchange or a foreign placement can obtain detailed information by sending an e-mail to international.ahb@bfh.ch.

07

PhD studies within a research partnership between a university and a UAS

The holders of a master's degree with excellent results may, in collaboration with a university, write a doctoral thesis at Bern University of Applied Sciences. The candidates are admitted by the university. They can thus take advantage of practice-oriented infrastructure and labs, as well as gain specific knowledge. We can help you find the appropriate university and research topics.

Study grants, scholarships and student loans

Your home canton is primarily responsible for arranging and awarding grants. Please note that moving to an address in canton Bern does not entitle you to cantonal study grants or student loans. Special regulations apply for students from firms affiliated to Berufsförderung Holzbau Schweiz. For more information, please call the university office in Burgdorf on +41 34 426 41 41 or in Biel on +41 32 344 02 02.

Insurance

Students are insured against accidents during lessons, laboratory experiments, workshop activities and when travelling to the university. We recommend that you also take out a private insurance for the duration of your studies to cover other risks, such as non-occupational accidents. Students on courses that involve a placement year between terms have the option of taking out individual extended accident insurance with Suva at the start of their course.

Studying in Biel and Burgdorf – a wide variety of study and leisure activities in attractive surroundings

Burgdorf and Biel are attractive places to study. They are both a stone's throw from Bern and are easily accessible by public transport. Concentrating courses at the Burgdorf and Biel campuses means that everything you need is in one place. This promotes a close, cooperative atmosphere between students and teaching staff. We prefer the personal, human approach and the staff-student relationship is one of equals. Personal tutoring for students is one of the ways we create a relaxed, friendly and cooperative atmosphere among people. The Biel campus is multilingual. Students can also enjoy a wide variety of study, sports and leisure activities. The Emmental and Seeland-Bielersee regions are known for their natural beauty and offer many opportunities for sports and leisure activities.

Where can I apply for a course?

You can apply on the Internet. Of course, we are always happy to handle your enquiry personally. Our university offices can make an appointment for you: contact them at +41 34 426 41 01 (Architecture), +41 34 426 41 04 (Civil Engineering), +41 32 344 02 02 (Wood Engineering), +41 32 344 02 02 (Higher Technical Schools HF Wood Biel) or +41 426 41 74 (Master).

Where can I find detailed information about courses and exam regulations?

For more information about courses and exam regulations, contact the academic administration of the divisions running the courses that interest you:

Bachelor of Architecture	Friedrich Häubi	friedrich.haeubi@bfh.ch
Bachelor of Civil Engineering	Dr. Markus Romani	markus.romani@bfh.ch
Bachelor of Wood Technology	Dr. Andreas Hurst	andreas.hurst@bfh.ch
Master of Architecture	Stanislas Zimmermann	stanislas.zimmermann@bfh.ch
Master of Engineering Wood Technology	Dr. Heiko Thömen	heiko.thoemen@bfh.ch
Master of Engineering	Andreas Müller	andreas.mueller@bfh.ch
Higher Technical Schools HF Wood, Biel	Christoph Rellstab	christoph.rellstab@bfh.ch
Advanced and Further Education	Heinz Mutzner	heinz.mutzner@bfh.ch

We offer more than just good training and advanced and further education

Accommodation near campus. We help our students find inexpensive accommodation within a 10-kilometre radius of the campus. For more information, go to our home page at www.ahb.bfh.ch and look under "Services" (only in german language). **Campuses.** At the Biel campus, students have the possibility to use the facilities of the technical park, laboratories and workshops. Students may use the facilities at both campuses outside study times. **Catering.** The university refectories in Burgdorf and Biel offer inexpensive meals (breakfast, lunch, dinner and snacks) from Monday to Friday. **Information technology.** Our students have access to an intranet as well as direct access to WLAN. Each student is allocated a personal e-mail address. **Internships.** We help our students find internship in Switzerland and abroad. You can find vacant offers on our home page under “Service”. **Libraries.** The university has open-access libraries with reading rooms at the Burgdorf and Biel sites. The library documents are linked to NEBIS, the Network of Libraries and Information Centres in Switzerland. **Parking.** Parking spaces available are for a fee. Windscreen stickers are available from the campus secretariat. Why not try public transport instead? **Technology park.** In Biel we operate the biggest research centre for the Swiss wood industry; in Burgdorf we run a laboratory for geotechnics together with the Institute for Geology at the University of Bern. Our laboratories are certified to ISE/IEC 17025 standard and have SAS (Swiss Accreditation Services) accreditation. The SAS is a member of the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ilac). Accredited tests performed in our labora-tories are recognised internationally.

Bern University of Applied Sciences
Architecture, Wood and Civil Engineering

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09

Please send the following document(s):

[ ] Bachelor of Arts in Architecture
[ ] Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering
[ ] Bachelor of Science in Wood Engineering
[ ] Technical Specialist Diploma HF Wood Technics with diploma in Timber Construction
[ ] Technical Specialist Diploma HF Wood Technics with diploma in Woodworking Industry
[ ] Technical Specialist Diploma HF Wood Technics with diploma in Lumber Industry
[ ] Postgraduate course HF in management
[ ] Timber construction foreman with diploma
[ ] Timber construction foreman with federal professional certificate
[ ] Wood specialist with federal professional certificate
[ ] Master in timber construction, specialist with federal diploma
[ ] Master of Architecture
[ ] Master of Engineering in Wood Technology
[ ] Master of Science in Engineering
[ ] MAS Conservation of monuments and conversion
[ ] MAS Timber construction
[ ] CAS Basics of sustainable construction
[ ] CAS Renewing the building stock
[ ] CAS Steel in multistorey construction
[ ] CAS Construction physics in wood construction
[ ] CAS Solar architecture
[ ] CAS Sustainable Architecture in India
[ ] CAS Facility Management KBOB, managing business premises
[ ] CAS Protecting buildings against natural hazards
[ ] CAS Economy and processes
[ ] CAS Real estate valuation
[ ] Yearly programme of further education
[ ] R+D documentation

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