

Background information on student numbers / September 14, 2021

2021 student numbers: around 18,400 students

At the start of the new academic year, science courses continue to be the most sought-after in terms of new registrations. The Faculty of Medicine maintains its place as the largest faculty.

In the fall semester of 2021, the total number of students decreased slightly on the previous year: Around 18,400 students will study at the University of Bern (cf. p. 3, Fig. 1). This is possibly due to the fact that, in comparison to the previous year, the Matura students could take an interim year as a result of the current travel restrictions.

A total of around 2,400 students are currently expected to take up a bachelor's degree program. In addition to those who are seamlessly transferring from a bachelor's to a master's degree program, almost 600 people are applying for a master's degree program or returning to the University of Bern after a break in their studies. Most of them come from other Swiss universities. Successful applications from people with a degree from a foreign university have also tended to fall this year. By the beginning of September, 112 students with a foreign identity card were enrolled, 2 from the Principality of Liechtenstein.

Applications for the doctorate are still possible until October 15, so the current number of around 300 new applications is likely to grow. Approximately 3,500 new students are expected across all three levels. In terms of faculties, most new students at bachelor's, master's and doctoral levels are interested in studying at the Faculty of Science (p. 3, Fig 2). In 2nd place are applications for the Faculty of Human Sciences, where Education, Psychology and Sports Science are offered.

With around 3,600 students, the Faculty of Medicine remains the largest faculty, followed by the Faculty of Human Sciences and the Faculty of Science (p. 4, Fig 3). In addition to bachelor's, master's, and doctoral students, there are around 2,400 students in continuing education (Certificate, Diploma and Master of Advanced Studies CAS, DAS, MAS) and in further studies (preparation for the bar or notary's examination, and learning vicariate).

Foreign applications from around 130 countries

Of the 5,447 applications processed for a bachelor's, master's or doctoral degree program, 3,404 presented a Swiss or Liechtenstein previous educational or academic qualification. The 2,043 applications from other countries came from around 130 countries. However, many of them have not submitted documents for enrollment verification. The number of new international students in the fall 2021 semester is slightly higher than last year. Compared to 228 enrolled students from the beginning of September 2020, 295 students are now already newly enrolled. The number will

increase somewhat, as people with a foreign academic qualification mainly enroll for doctoral degree programs and the registration deadline for this level is not until October 15. The share of international students has therefore remained constant at around 13 percent.

International student mobility

The mobility figures for outgoing students are still at a significantly lower level than before due to the pandemic. In the fall semester of 2021, 103 students from the University of Bern are expected to spend one or two semesters at a foreign university as part of an exchange program. The majority of these, 88 students, are mobile with the Swiss-European Mobility Programme (SEMP). (This transitional federal program allows exchanges with Erasmus+ universities to continue. The University of Bern is committed to ensuring that an association with Horizon Europe and also with Erasmus+ succeeds and that the University of Bern can once again offer its students and lecturers all the opportunities of this educational program.)

For incoming students, the numbers are almost back to pre-pandemic times. In the fall semester of 2021, 129 students from abroad will study at the University of Bern for 1 or 2 semesters as part of an exchange (this compares to 134 in the fall semester of 2019 and 61 in the fall semester of 2020).

Further information:

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Fig. 1: Total number of students per year

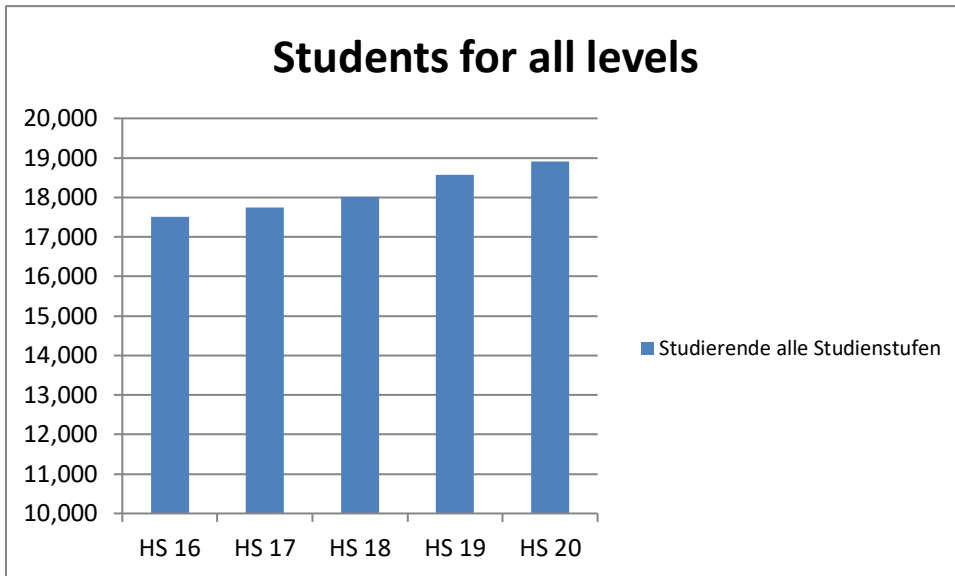


Fig. 2: New students by level and faculty

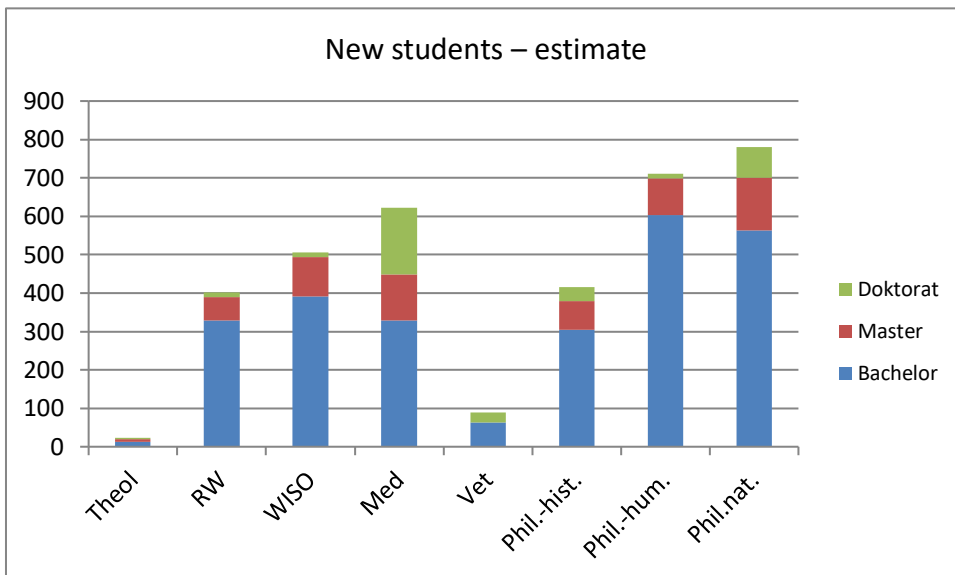


Fig. 3: All students by level and faculty

