

Media release / 24 January 2018

University of Bern enhances research across disciplines

Research at the University of Bern is being intensified: Networking projects from different subject areas are being supported with three new Interfaculty Research Collaborations IRC. The projects deal with the health of environment, animals and humans, with religious conflicts and with sleep.

The University of Bern strikes a new path in research funding: With the Interfaculty Research Collaborations IRC, it is launching networking projects, each of which involves 8 to 13 research groups from different faculties and which are being specifically funded. At least two faculties must be involved in each IRC. “Complex problem areas such as migration or genetic modifications on humans can no longer be resolved within individual disciplines, but only in an interdisciplinary manner”, Rector Christian Leumann says. “The University of Bern is in an ideal position for these new, interdisciplinary research approaches as a comprehensive university thanks to its broad academic profile.” With the instrument of the IRC, the University of Bern is strengthening the scientific quality and topicality of its research. “We are thus enhancing our profile as a research-intensive university”, Leumann says.

Possible new research centres

The IRCs are targeting their research on the five strategic areas of focus of the University of Bern: Health and medicine, Sustainability, Politics and administration, Matter and the universe as well as Intercultural knowledge. The research collaborations are each funded for four years with 1.5 million Swiss francs per year. Three projects have now been approved in a competitive process. The IRCs are based on the subject focuses of the National Centres of Competence in Research (NCCR) of the Swiss National Science Foundation. “If we enter new areas of research, it is entirely conceivable that this will yield applications for further National Centres of Competence in Research and thus new strategic research centres”, explains Leumann.

Detailed information on the three projects: see attachment.

Information:

Prof. Dr. Christian Leumann, Rector

Tel.: +41 31 631 84 44

Email: christian.leumann@rektorat.unibe.ch