

Media Release / Bern and Brussels, June 2, 2017

University of Bern joins The Guild of European Universities

The University of Bern has been admitted to The Guild of European Research-Intensive Universities as its newest member with immediate effect.

Welcoming the decision, Professor Christian Leumann, the University of Bern's rector, said: "We look forward to taking up our place in this network of peers, where we can bring our institutional strengths to the table and learn from those of our fellow members."

"Joining the Guild is part of the University of Bern's internationalization strategy to enhance our standing as a player on the global stage. Membership will facilitate the University's links to institutions with similar interests and support its quest to hit new international heights," Professor Leumann underlined.

The University of Bern was voted in during The Guild's General Assembly in Brussels on June 2. "We are pleased to welcome a partner that shares our values, our commitment to excellence in research and research-led education, and is enthusiastic about the collaborative possibilities offered by the Guild," said The Guild's Secretary-General Jan Palmowski.

The University of Bern is a public institution with a strong focus on excellence in research and teaching at all levels in the majority of academic disciplines. Also under its aegis are international research platforms, national centers of competence in research and interdisciplinary programs. These cover areas such as climate science, medicine, space science and international trade, using an inter- and trans-disciplinary approach. More than a third of this Swiss-based institution's budget stems directly from external funding for research.

The Guild's commitment to reinforce citizens' trust in public institutions and affirm evidence-based discourse has been central to its vision for research and innovation (R&I) in Europe. The commitment of Guild members stems from their dedication to scientific excellence through internationally-recognized scholarship and the quality of their research-led teaching.

Situated in the Swiss national capital, the University of Bern represents an anchor in one of Europe's powerhouses for research and innovation. Switzerland not only spends over 3 percent of its GDP on R&I, it also has the second highest number of patents per capita in the world. Ole Petter Ottersen, founding Chair of the Guild, extended the warm welcome, stating that "the University of Bern will bring to the Guild new perspectives gained from its rich history of research and education, [as well as] its engagement with Switzerland's economy, culture and society."

University of Bern

The University of Bern is a public institution, based in Switzerland's capital city, with a strong focus on providing excellence in research and teaching. The university has some 17,500 students benefiting from a full range of courses in most disciplines at undergraduate and graduate levels, as well as continuing education. It also hosts international research platforms, national centers of competence in research and trans- and interdisciplinary programs. The institution offers state-of-the-art facilities to its students and teaching staff at its eight faculties. Its current annual budget is CHF 846 million of which some 30 percent stems from third-party funding for research.

Website: http://www.unibe.ch/index_eng.html

The Guild

Founded in 2016, the Guild comprises nineteen of Europe's most distinguished research-intensive universities in fourteen countries, and is dedicated to enhancing the voice of academic institutions, their researchers and their students. The Guild is committed to the pursuit of excellence, the importance of truth-seeking and trust-building as the foundation of public life, and the creation of new knowledge for the benefit of society, culture, and economic growth.

Website: <http://www.the-guild.eu/>

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