



Fachhochschule Potsdam
University of
Applied Sciences

Mission statement **teaching and learning** of the University of Applied Sciences Potsdam

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Information as of 02/12/2020

This Mission Statement Teaching and Learning at the University of Applied Sciences Potsdam was developed in an open, collaborative thought process. It shows what we stand for and what we are committed to in our teaching.

The University of Applied Sciences Potsdam is a place where all university members are committed to making a lasting impact on our community, society, and the future - together and with each and everyone's individual abilities. The goals of teaching and research are exchange and participation for all social groups in society, a cosmopolitan discourse and successful cooperation with companies and institutions.

The University of Applied Sciences Potsdam is committed to democracy and pluralism. Teachers and Students meet each other with respect and openness in an inclusive and familiar atmosphere. The University of Applied Sciences Potsdam is regionally anchored and lives interdisciplinarity on a strong disciplinary basis. It is also an international place of lifelong learning and takes into account the heterogeneity of its members.

1. Personality development and civic engagement as an educational goal

Teaching and plurality

Globalisation and the internet, artificial intelligence and automation, climate change and urbanisation represent profound social changes. In addition, society is becoming increasingly heterogeneous. This is associated with a steadily growing pluralisation of lifestyles and the increasing digitalisation of information and communication in public and in private. Furthermore, robotics and human-machine interfaces will continue to profoundly change our relationship to work.

With its practice-oriented perspective and its combination of disciplines, the University of Applied Sciences Potsdam offers solid foundations for finding sustainable answers to societal development in the future.

- ➔ **The University of Applied Sciences Potsdam supports socially active and responsible action through teaching formats that take a holistic view of topics and enable students to take the initiative.**

Teaching and interdisciplinarity

Examples of personal development at the University of Applied Sciences Potsdam are university-wide semester topics that can be taken up by all university members and worked on under a wide variety of issues. Teaching formats such as project weeks also focus on ways of working that will become even more important in the future. They offer students opportunities for initiative and personal responsibility, teamwork, and self-directed learning - skills that are increasingly in demand alongside profound expert knowledge.

A special profile feature of teaching at the University of Applied Sciences Potsdam is interdepartmental and interdisciplinary permeability, which is oriented towards the future reality of work. It is already anchored in the curricula of the study programmes and will be further advanced. Simplified recognition and credits procedures will also be further expanded.

- ➔ **The foundation of the study programmes are secure professional skills. They form the starting point for our goal of promoting interdisciplinary thinking in order to find answers to the questions of our time.**

Teaching and attitude

The University prepares students for later professional life in a practice-oriented manner and imparts skills for the further shaping of the individual learning biography in the sense of lifelong learning. At the University of Applied Sciences Potsdam personalities develop who can reflect on their environment and act in a socially responsible manner. Teaching at the University of Applied Sciences Potsdam stands for the promotion of interdisciplinarity, permeability and flexibility under the condition of professional identity. Respectful interaction and appreciation, even in the case of conflicting views, are seen at the University of Applied Sciences Potsdam as a quality feature and guarantor of open, cooperative and mature interaction. With all openness to discourse and acceptance regarding the diversity of opinion, the University of Applied Sciences Potsdam opposes exclusionary behaviour and offers protection and support to all those experiencing exclusion.

Our cooperative, appreciative interaction finds expression in our teaching, for example in intercultural and international projects with study programmes at other universities in Germany and abroad. Intercultural studying and studying abroad prepares students for a global job market. In addition to the necessary skills and knowledge, a cosmopolitan, tolerant basic orientation is a requirement for successful joint work.

- **The University of Applied Sciences Potsdam promotes an attitude characterised by openness, initiative, cooperation and appreciation for fellow human beings and the environment.**

2. Innovative teaching for the working world of the 21st century

Teaching and research

At the University of Applied Sciences Potsdam teaching and research are thought of together and understood as important components of a future-oriented, high-performance university. At the University of Applied Sciences Potsdam, we experience the productive friction between teaching, research and practice as a source of strength for new approaches and ways of thinking. We therefore specifically promote the development of contemporary, innovative teaching concepts and support our teachers with a variety of continuing education and support options.

Interdepartmental and interdisciplinary teaching formats such as the flex modules and the Interflex programme strengthen the disciplines and promote individual Initiative, cooperation and interdisciplinary working methods in teaching and research. The University of Applied Sciences Potsdam facilitates student research projects and research-based learning. It also stands for the communication and application of current research results in the disciplines. Here, research does not remain abstract, and teaching inspires research.

- **Professional expertise, research-based learning, practical orientation and interdisciplinary experiences are the basis of our teaching. Learning through teamwork and independent thinking prepare students for professional life.**

Thinking and free spaces

The University of Applied Sciences Potsdam expects commitment and performance from its students. In return, they find thinking spaces for new teaching formats, for theories independent of practical exploitation logic, for discussions and discourses, and a shared campus life.

The University of Applied Sciences Potsdam offers free space for initiatives, for experiments, for cooperation. Our university enables all its members to try out new things and to contribute to study programmes, research, transfer, professional development and administration. The University of Applied Sciences Potsdam promotes creativity and inventiveness for forward-thinking ideas, for example through innovation- and investment-funds and start-u promotion.

- **The University of Applied Sciences Potsdam offers thinking and free spaces. commitment, innovative teaching, student initiative or business start-ups are promoted at the University of Applied Sciences Potsdam. Teaching, transfer or research projects are the results of joint work.**

Teaching and digitalisation

Digital transformation is a fundamental social, cultural and technical process. Within the framework of digitally integrated university teaching, we develop the subject-specific and interdisciplinary skills of our students and teachers for critical thinking as well as for shaping the digital transformation and its impact on society. University teaching in a digitally shaped world links interactions of teaching and learning in both physical and digital space. We impart knowledge and skills for active participation in a digitised living and working world, and we use digitalisation to further develop our teaching-learning opportunities. Students can prepare themselves for successful participation in a digitised world of life and work. We combine classroom teaching with computer-based training (blended learning formats) where it makes sense.

- **Reflecting on the digital transformation with its social and professional opportunities and risks is just as much a part of everyday student life at the University of Applied Sciences Potsdam as the digital teaching-learning opportunities. In this way, we promote skills for living and working in a digitalised world.**

Teaching and internationalisation

Intercultural and interdisciplinary study programmes prepare students to solve complex social tasks. This requires open, cooperative and mature Interaction. This attitude is also reflected in the international context of the University of Applied Sciences Potsdam. Relationships with partners in neighbouring countries strengthen the anchoring in the European region, and relationships with intercontinental partners sharpen the view for global problems and challenges. Study and practical experiences abroad intensify the qualification for the global job market. A general and subject-specific knowledge of foreign languages as well as intercultural skills help with communication in increasingly international teams. The use of English as a standard international language is essential for this, as is the creation of international study programmes. The development and implementation of international study programmes opens the university to international applicants. Foreign language learning is supported at University of Applied Sciences Potsdam in teaching, research and administration. This internationalisation, which takes place at the University of Applied Sciences Potsdam (Internationalisation@Home), enables all university members to have inclusive and international experiences. We take into account the special needs of foreign students during a study visit at the University of Applied Sciences Potsdam. Mobility windows are available to our students for a smooth stay abroad.

- **The University of Applied Sciences Potsdam is committed to the international mobility of students and teachers as well as barrier-free Internationalization@Home. The University of Applied Sciences Potsdam supports international studying for example through mobility windows and transparent recognition and crediting procedure.**

3. Customised study programmes for a heterogeneous student community

Teaching and heterogeneity

Whereas in earlier times higher education was the privilege of only a few young people, today nearly 60% of an age cohort find their way to a higher education institution. This results in a number of comparatively new requirements with the goal of preparing students with their different educational biographies equally well for a higher education.

- **Good support during the initial study phase opens up opportunities for everyone. The University of Applied Sciences Potsdam enables successful studies even with different requirements by offering study information in advance and advise services as well as individual support in all study phases.**

Lifelong learning

The diversity of students has increased. It is not only school leavers who aspire to study. Career changers who start an academic study programme for professional education later in their career come to the university with a wide range of prior knowledge, expectations and needs. The University of Applied Sciences Potsdam is open to the growing number of individuals who deviate from the conventional image of the student and bring with them a wide variety of study requirements and needs.

Our alumni are able to help shape social processes in a reflective manner, with expertise, a sense of responsibility and in a democratic public spirit. The University of Applied Sciences Potsdam also offers career options, a wide range of continuing education opportunities and the possibility of cooperative doctorates.

- **In addition to undergraduate study programmes, part-time formats and professional development are important components of our portfolio, which is designed for school leavers, students with previous professional experience, and graduates.**

Equal opportunities

Permeability at University of Applied Sciences Potsdam also means permeability in a social and intercultural context. We are committed to the inclusion of disadvantaged people to ensure equal opportunities even in difficult starting situations. We work towards ensuring that students and teachers can participate in both face-to-face and online learning situations without barriers. At the University of Applied Sciences Potsdam, this is achieved through the appropriate and situational use of digital media, tailored support for students with disabilities and face-to-face teaching situations, as well as joint work in the workshops as a place of learning and teaching format.

- **The University of Applied Sciences Potsdam is committed to barrier-free study programmes, especially access to education for those for whom academic study is not a given.**

Teaching and study-ability

The University of Applied Sciences Potsdam continuously develops its study programmes regarding the goals of this mission statement. Subject-specific and interdisciplinary study guidance, studyable curricula, uncomplicated recognition of achievements made outside our university, clear study and examination organisation and an appropriate student workload should enable our heterogeneous student body to study within the standard period of study and to achieve good academic results.

- **The University of Applied Sciences Potsdam accompanies students and teachers through contemporary quality management for the best possible support of all students in achieving their educational and study goals.**