

Mission statement for teaching and learning at BOKU University

Together towards a sustainable future worth living



PICTURES: CHRISTOPH GRUBER | BOKU UNIVERSITY

This mission statement illustrates BOKU University's vision for teaching and learning to raise awareness of teaching staff and students and guide their actions.

HOLISTIC – RESPONSIBLE – FUTURE-ORIENTATED

BOKU University views education as a lifelong process, promoting the acquisition and development of knowledge and competencies throughout all life stages. We are committed to fostering responsibility and active contribution to sustainable societal change. Through holistic teaching and learning, we encourage systemic, critical, knowledge- and value-based thinking and action. We empower students to assess the ecological, economic, technical and social consequences of actions, develop sustainable solutions, and engage in their implementation. We strengthen students' problem-solving and organisational skills, their ability to deal with complexity and risks, and their capacity for

empathy and resilience.

RESEARCH-LED – INTERDISCIPLINARY – TRANSDISCIPLINARY

BOKU University's 3-pillar principle ensures a balanced inclusion of not only engineering and natural sciences, but also economics, social sciences, and law across the curriculum. With research-led teaching, we ensure that our course content is up-to-date and promotes the pursuit of knowledge. By engaging with the latest scientific findings and discourses, and through involvement in current research activities, we provide students with early research experiences.



We foster the instinct to collaborate across disciplinary boundaries and to seek out knowledge from all areas of society. In this manner, we gradually introduce our students to independent research, as well as instil the standards of good, and ethical, scientific practice.

COOPERATIVE – INNOVATIVE – STUDENT-CENTERED

We commit to a teaching and learning culture characterised by respectful and constructive interactions, as well as a positive attitude towards mistakes and feedback. Our teaching is designed to be cooperative and student-centred, emphasising curiosity, motivation, and personal responsibility. Our students are goal-oriented and encouraged to view their studies as valuable opportunities. Our teaching staff are receptive to change and support students' self-efficacy and competency development. They align their teaching and assessment methods with competence-oriented learning outcomes, ensuring accurate workload assessment and transparent performance expectations. BOKU teachers employ methods that stimulate intensive debate, discussion, and reflection, embracing both established didactic methods as well as innovative, digital, and experimental teaching and learning environments.

INDIVIDUAL – INTERNATIONAL – HIGH QUALITY

We value the diversity of our university community and are committed to a discrimination- and prejudice-free academic environment. We accommodate different life situations and learning needs with tailored strategies and support programmes.

We value intercultural exchange, creating a welcoming and attractive environment for guest lecturers and students from abroad, and support traditional and innovative mobility formats. Our degree programmes embrace individual interests, talents, and career aspirations, as well as personal development and intercultural skills acquisition.

We view the continuous improvement of teaching content, methods, and organisation as an ongoing process that involves all relevant stakeholders, particularly students. To achieve this we create spaces for discussion and reflection, enabling the demand-oriented adaptation of our teaching practices.

This mission statement has been approved by the Senate and Rectorate of BOKU University in July 2024.