

## Basic principles of the Vetsuisse strategy

With its two locations in Bern and Zurich, the Vetsuisse Faculty is the accredited training facility for veterinary medicine in the whole of Switzerland. The health and well-being of animals is at the heart of all the faculty's activities. However, the Vetsuisse Faculty also sees itself as an essential partner in the "One Health" concept together with the other faculties and institutions of both universities and conducts research, training and continuing education as well as a wide range of services at the highest level.

### Objective of this document

The Vetsuisse Faculty of the universities of Bern and Zurich has formulated common principles that describe an overarching vision and mission as well as long-term strategic goals for the two locations in Bern and Zurich and are thus to be understood as the basis for the local structuring of tasks in teaching, research and service. These principles are supplemented by the specific strategic considerations of both campus faculties.

### Vision and mission of the Vetsuisse Faculty

As the Vetsuisse Faculty, we maintain our position as one of the leading veterinary medicine faculties in research and teaching in Europe. We see ourselves as an essential partner in the "One Health" concept.

The Vetsuisse Faculty is therefore based on a **vision** of a society that gives top priority to animal health and welfare. Many aspects of animal health are closely linked to human health (e.g. food, antibiotic resistance, pathogenesis and treatment of disease). Knowledge in this area is a key resource for improving the understanding of interrelationships, maintaining animal health and welfare, preventing the spread of disease and thus promoting a sustainable society.

Against this backdrop, the **mission** of the Vetsuisse Faculty is to offer research and teaching at the highest level. The Vetsuisse Faculty thus makes an important contribution to promoting animal health and welfare and effectively combating the negative consequences of animal disease on animals and humans. The Vetsuisse Faculty pursues the "One Health" concept in its mission.

This is based on close national and international cooperation between veterinary and human medicine as well as agronomy, natural sciences and social sciences, as a prerequisite for maintaining and promoting animal and human health. The knowledge developed by the Vetsuisse Faculty should find its way into practice in order to make the greatest possible contribution to the well-being of animals and humans. In particular, economic, ecological and social-scientific aspects must also be taken into account here.

## **Spheres of activity**

### **Training and further development**

As the most important point of contact for research into, as well as treatment and prevention of disease in animals, the Vetsuisse Faculty is responsible for research-based basic training in all areas of veterinary medicine.

This USP is to be maintained through excellent work in all sub-areas. To this end, the synergies resulting from the unique constellation of the Vetsuisse Faculty with its two locations will be exploited.

With the new 2021 curriculum, we are strengthening the practice-oriented course and promoting the independence of students. Teaching modules tailored to the work environment are offered, combining digital forms of teaching and practical training in the non-clinical and clinical fields. The Vetsuisse Faculty teaches future veterinarians the concept of lifelong learning.

As part of nationally and internationally accredited programs, the Vetsuisse Faculty has a comprehensive range of continuing education opportunities to train specialists in veterinary medicine.

### **Research**

The Vetsuisse Faculty conducts basic research and veterinary clinical research. Research freedom is the overriding principle. Equal opportunities, transparency and clear evaluation criteria for research achievements are essential for the faculty. It supports the Open Science Strategy and is committed to the DORA Declaration. Where synergies exist, joint research priorities are defined. Cross-site project submissions for national and international tenders should be encouraged. The Vetsuisse Faculty operates cross-location instruments to promote young academics.

### **Service**

The clinics and institutes of the Vetsuisse Faculty have the necessary equipment to provide services at the highest level. These are at the service of teaching and research as well as comprehensive care in the field of veterinary medicine. Where appropriate, the service is coordinated jointly between the sites, such as at the Farm Animal Health Diagnostics Center.

### **Joint Vetsuisse committees to implement the strategy**

The joint committees are the Vetsuisse Dean's Office, the Vetsuisse Executive Board, the Vetsuisse Faculty Assembly and the three permanent commissions for teaching, research and promotion. Processes and criteria developed in a participatory manner are communicated and applied systematically and transparently.

1. The Vetsuisse Dean's Office ensures communication within the faculty by means of communications from the Vetsuisse Dean and the website [www.vetsuisse.ch](http://www.vetsuisse.ch).
2. Another means of communication is the publication VetsuisseNEWS, which is created by employees of the two locations.
3. The joint Vetsuisse Faculty Assembly discusses and determines strategically important joint projects within the framework of the Faculty Regulations.
4. The three commissions work under the common umbrella of the promotion of early career researchers and quality assurance.
  - a. The Teaching Commission monitors the curriculum from the point of view of research-based and practice-oriented basic education.
  - b. The Research Commission draws up packages of measures to promote early career academics and draws up guidelines for the evaluation and quality assurance of research.
  - c. The Promotion Commission ensures quality and a common Vetsuisse standard for habilitations and defines transparent and comprehensible criteria for academic career development.

### **Strategic Objectives of the Vetsuisse Faculty/Executive Board (2022—2026)**

The new curriculum is to be successfully accredited by the Swiss/European accreditation bodies in 2024.

The SERI (State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation) project "Quality-assured external practical modules" will become permanent in 2025.

The new curriculum will be completed for the first time at the end of 2026 and will be evaluated with 360° feedback.

In 2022—2026, a white paper on data management is to be produced as a decision-making aid for the future handling of Vetsuisse-relevant data.