

Corporate Responsibility

Involvement in diverse areas of education

Ernst & Young is enthusiastically committed to the Swiss education sector. An important pillar of this long-term commitment is our physical presence at universities and colleges, where we provide targeted support to research and teaching. Since 2007, Ernst & Young has been sponsoring a full assistant professorship at the Institute for Accounting, Controlling and Auditing of the University of St. Gallen. Dr. Anke Müssig holds this assistant professorship in the area of Auditing and Risk Management.

At the University of Applied Sciences Northwestern Switzerland (FHNW), Ernst & Young is a committed sponsor of new courses. The partnership has given the Institute of Financial Management the chance to offer two additional modules, "Major in Auditing" and "Minor in International Accounting", starting in the 2007/2008 academic year. Both programs give students the opportunity to experience real-life case studies. Among the lecturers is Manuel Aeby, who is responsible for the direct exchange between teaching and practice and is a Partner at Ernst & Young in Basel.

At the University of Lucerne, Ernst & Young supports an attractive coaching program. Five law students at a time receive guidance from five seasoned Ernst & Young employees, with the objective of finding a placement as interns or permanent employees in the area of tax or legal advisory services. Each student is coached for a year and, through the close bond formed with his or her coach, is afforded an in-depth view of daily work routines.

"Achieving Potential - Making a Difference" is the motto Ernst & Young has adopted for its activities worldwide. We pursue the same objective in academia and to this end have extended our award concept to include the higher-education sector. At the universities of Geneva and Lausanne, for example, the top-scoring theses at the bachelor's and master's levels now receive an award. This model is being expanded to include further higher-education institutions in order to spread the incentive for achieving excellence as widely as possible.

Ernst & Young does not simply look for top graduates. Along with the excellent technical qualifications new hires are expected to bring in, we also set great store by interpersonal skills and good chemistry; hence the importance of being able to guide the students closely and over a long period of time. We achieve this objective by maintaining close ties to the education sector. Among other things, this involves targeted partnerships with university alumni associations; for example, the True and Fair View association at the University of St. Gallen, or ELSA throughout Switzerland. Thanks to such cooperative efforts, students meet experienced professionals at an early stage, and this helps them get started in their careers later on.