**Studying “Aging Services Management” at FERNFH**
**Bachelor Degree for a Higher Quality of Life in Old Age**

**By introducing this unique distance learning programme “Aging Services Management”, Ferdinand Porsche FernFH has responded to the demographic changes in our society.**

The “old age” stage of life is currently subject to many changes and is becoming increasingly multifaceted. With the bachelor degree programme “Aging Services Management”, Ferdinand Porsche FernFH is making a significant contribution to this development in the area of higher education and research. The degree programme started in 2014.

The curriculum combines management skills with knowledge of concepts for improving the quality of life for people of the older generation. The study programme trains students in the use of new technologies to support older people in their everyday lives in particular. This is due to the fact that the average life expectancy is higher and the change in family structures, e.g. fewer children, more single households. These developments demand attention and call for a rethink in all areas of social life. What is needed are new, more flexible services to promote health and a high quality of life in older people and in old age that meet the individual needs of the person.

**A degree that qualifies you for a management position**

In terms of content, the interdisciplinary study programme focuses on the point of intersection between social and economic sciences, gerontology and health sciences. The degree qualifies students for positions in the management of social and health-related services and initiatives for older people and their relatives. These include, among other things, activities in health and social services and the public health services, in the field of health promotion and prevention, in the medical and gerontological technology sector, but also in other specialist areas with relevance for the health and quality of life of the older generation, e.g. in tourism, in community and urban planning or in the insurance industry.

Students deal with topics such as long-term care, health and health promotion, diversity and health-related equal opportunities in old age. E-health and ambient assisted living are also topics which are anchored in the curriculum. “In combination with various business subject areas, this education forms a solid basis for management and interface positions in companies and institutions that work with and for the older generation”, says Tanja Adamcik, programme director.

**A flexible degree which allows you to study while working**

A distance learning programme at Ferdinand Porsche FernFH offers the perfect solution for people who want to study alongside their career or care responsibilities, but who cannot attend lectures regularly.

The bachelor degree programme “Aging Services Management” is primarily aimed at professionals in the health and social care sectors, in technology (especially ICT – information and communication technology) or in sectors of the economy in which the health and social needs of older people play an important role, and at people who want to work in these sectors.

**Students appreciate the mixture of e-learning and on-campus sessions**

The individual modules of the degree programme can be completed within six semesters (three years). One semester consists of three on-campus sessions and two self-defined distance learning phases. “The Online Campus gives students constant access to the whole learning material and allows them to exchange information and communicate with others at any time”, explains Sabrina Wiedenegger, who has graduated in the “Aging Services Management” degree programme. Even though the FernFH specialises in e-learning and doesn’t forget about personal contact: The On-campus sessions take place three times per semester, each on a Friday and Saturday. “I really think the on-campus sessions are great, you get to know the others better and develop friendships. My knowledge has definitely grown, you look more closely at things and question them”, says Wiedenegger.

The degree programme “Aging Services Management” is completed with the academic degree BA (Bachelor of Arts in Business).

**About the Ferdinand Porsche FernFH**

The Ferdinand Porsche FernFH is Austria's first distance learning university of applied sciences. It was founded in 2006. Through innovative forms of learning and teaching in the field of distance learning, the FernFH takes on a pioneering role in distance learning in Austria. All five federally funded study programmes are accredited by AQ Austria, the Agency for Quality Assurance and Accreditation Austria. In 2016 the FernFH was certified according to international standards by the evaluation agency evalag Baden-Württemberg. The Ferdinand Porsche FernFH collects the statutory tuition fees of 363.36 Euros per semester plus student union fee for the accredited distance learning programmes. In addition, the FernFH offers master programmes, diploma and certificate programmes. Preparations for further degree programmes and executive education programmes are currently underway. The FernFH is a subsidiary organisation of the FernFH Management & Service GmbH. Since 2020, the province of Lower Austria has also been involved in the FernFH. More information is available at [www.fernfh.ac.at/en](http://www.fernfh.ac.at/en).