

Graduation 2020: FernFH celebrates 146 new alumni online

President of Austria Van der Bellen and Governor of the Province of Lower Austria Mikl-Leitner congratulated this year's graduates of the bachelor and master degree programmes

This year is different than usual. This also applies to the graduation at the Ferdinand Porsche FernFH: Due to the coronavirus situation, the Ferdinand Porsche FernFH celebrated its 146 new alumni in a virtual graduation ceremony. "We have practiced many new rules in the last weeks and we want to stick to these rules today", FernFH's Head of Academic Board Martin Staudinger welcomed the graduates and their guests from the screen. The guests of honour were - also virtually - President Alexander Van der Bellen, Governor of the Province of Lower Austria Johanna Mikl-Leitner and Klaus Schneeberger, Mayor of Wiener Neustadt.

"Studying can be quite exhausting, it's not easy to keep going", said Alexander Van der Bellen in his greeting to the proud graduates. According to the President, one thing is particularly important: "Scientific thinking thrives on controversy, on discussions, on uncertainty. There is not always a clear yes or no, right or wrong, black or white. And there is not always an answer to everything, including the effects of the Corona pandemic." This is not always easy to understand, especially in times like these, when we would eagerly expect clear answers. "The commitment to be able to complete their studies under these circumstances makes the graduating class of 2020 a very special one. Congratulations!" These congratulations were joined by Governor Johanna Mikl-Leitner and Klaus Schneeberger, Mayor of Wiener Neustadt: "A good education is essential in today's world. With the completion of your studies you have reached an important milestone in your life", said Mikl-Leitner.

Graduation - highlight of the academic ceremony

Whether on site or virtually, the climax of the academic ceremony is the actual graduation, in which the graduates take the vow and commit themselves to always behave in the spirit of the academic education. Students from 127 different places in 67 districts of Austria or one of four neighbouring countries were the main actors in the virtual graduation ceremony this year. They successfully completed their bachelor or master exams in the past few weeks, also online: "Almost two million baby elephants would have fit between those to be examined and the examination board - but that didn't stop you and us from completing your studies", said FernFH's Head of Academic Board Martin Staudinger in the direction of the new alumni.

The graduates were also actively involved in the virtual celebration ceremony: In each case "15 seconds of fame" they talked very personally about their time at the FernFH and thanked everyone who stood by them during this intensive time: friends, families and the FernFH team. "I am very proud of you, dear graduates. With a lot of self-discipline and motivation you have successfully mastered your studies alongside your professional and private life. For this you deserve my great respect", said Axel Jungwirth, CEO of the FernFH.

There were a few small anniversaries for the FernFH this year: She is happy about the 1500th graduate, who has completed the "BA in Aging Services Management". In "Business Administration and Psychology" there was the 1000th bachelor degree from the FernFH and a round number also comes from the "BA in Business Informatics": With its graduates it reached the four hundred mark. In total, the FernFH has now awarded 1582 bachelor and master degrees.

Contact in case of questions

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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.

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