

Wiener Neustadt, 25th October 2018

*Austria's only Distance-Learning University of Applied Sciences has new location in Wiener Neustadt*  
**Studying at the new Ferdinand Porsche FernFH location**

***The location in Zulingerasse was always only intended as a temporary solution but will be history by mid-2019. A lucky coincidence gave Ferdinand Porsche FernFH the opportunity not only to rent a building on the Ferdinand-Porsche-Ring, but also to convert and extend it to suit their own ideas and needs. This vision of modern and flexible study, teaching and work is now a reality in the city centre of Wiener Neustadt, at Ferdinand Porsche Ring 3. Lecturers and students have already been able to move to the new location.***

Within just six months, project manager Andrea Waldherr and the team of building owners, architects and professionals completed what seemed to be an impossible task at the beginning: The conversion and extension of the building at Ferdinand Porsche Ring 3 has been successfully completed. The new location of Ferdinand Porsche FernFH is ready to be occupied. CEO Axel Jungwirth expressed respect for and gratitude to Andrea Waldherr at the opening ceremony on Wednesday.

The extension on the site of the former health insurance is modern and innovative: It includes three large modern auditoriums, four seminar rooms and a student lounge as well as a MediaLab with a powerful post-production workstation for editing and animating video content, a full video studio (VideoLab) with Greenbox, which allows different recording settings, and an AudioLab with a "Plug-In & Record" studio for users without technical (sound) knowledge, which enables professional voice recordings and offers the ideal listening configuration for dubbing. As well as this, the new location naturally also offers modern workplaces for employees. Equipment in all of the rooms is state-of-the-art. Another new addition to the team is the "SurfaceHub" located in the seminar room on the third floor. Lecturers can use this to take their course content presentations to the next level. The vision of flexible study and work is now a genuine reality here. This project, that aims to further underline the pioneering role of the FernFH in the field of distance learning using the new location, has been a success.

The first on-campus session with students has already been completed and with this, the new location has undergone its first intensive practical test. "However, the future of teaching must not be reduced to technology alone. We never set out to build a 'technology stronghold' with this project, but wanted to create premises that allow flexibility. That's why when people come here, they won't find an 'AudiMax' with "listener seats" that are screwed in and arranged like an amphitheatre or an EDP room with PCs for students. Those things are out of date. The future of study will take place in a much less rigid academic system than is the case today, and only if the physical buildings and the cities in which they are located adapt to this flexibility will they be suitable as university locations. In both cases for us (with this building and in this city), we believe we've made a good choice", stressed Martin Staudinger, Head of the Academic Board at FernFH in his speech during the opening celebration.

CEO Axel Jungwirth is convinced that the successful completion of this project is a milestone in the still young history of Austria's only Distance-Learning University of Applied Sciences "and is a big step into the future of education". "With our distance-learning study model, we are expanding the range of training courses and executive education on offer and making a way for people who would otherwise not be able to study the chance to receive an education.

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**Contact in case of questions**

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**Ferdinand Porsche FernFH | PRESS RELEASE**

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University degree: Study parallel to the job. Location-independent. Innovative. And always flexible. The distance-learning programmes provided at Ferdinand Porsche FernFH adapt to the students' needs – and not the other way around. This is one of the criteria that contribute significantly to our success", says Axel Jungwirth.

However, Axel Jungwirth, CEO of the Distance-Learning University of Applied Sciences, explains why a University of Applied Sciences that has an Online Campus and practices teaching and learning using modern e-learning tools needs to have a physical location at all: "In addition to the Online Campus, where students can have access to all important communication options and learning tasks at any time, we also make sure our students can attend workshops, lectures and exams in person too. It is important to us that there is a place where students, lecturers and researchers can meet face-to-face and exchange ideas. Having personal contact with our students is one of reasons why our didactic concept is so successful and why we also have a low drop-out rate. On top of this, lecturers, researches and employees need a place for work development in teaching and research."

**And why did you end up choosing a location in Wiener Neustadt?**

"Because FernFH has roots here and Wiener Neustadt is an important and central educational location. Of course, the public connection also flowed into the planning", says Jungwirth. This is music to the ears of Klaus Schneeberger, mayor of Wiener Neustadt and driving political force, who has assured FernFH that it has the support of the state government. "Ferdinand Porsche FernFH is a great enrichment for Wiener Neustadt as a location of education, science and research. This also reflects how the area has changed from an industrial city to a centre of knowledge. With this new campus in the city centre, FernFH is also supporting our efforts to revitalise the city centre. In about a year from now, we will have two universities of applied sciences in our city centre; the companies in the area will benefit enormously from this as well", explains Mayor Klaus Schneeberger.

For more information on the opening event, please see

<https://www.fernfh.ac.at/news/detail/eroeffnung-des-neuen-fernfh-gebaeudes-in-wiener-neustadt/>

As a side note, other companies and educational institutions can also benefit from the new location: The seminar rooms and auditoriums including the on-site technology can be rented upon request. For more information on this, you can contact Andrea Waldherr at [andrea.waldherr@fernfh.ac.at](mailto:andrea.waldherr@fernfh.ac.at).

**About Ferdinand Porsche FernFH**

Ferdinand Porsche FernFH is Austria's first distance-learning University of Applied Sciences. It is a wholly owned subsidiary of FernFH Management & Service GmbH and was founded in 2006. FernFH is a pioneer when it comes to distance learning in Austria thanks to the innovative learning and teaching methods in the field of distance learning. All five publicly funded distance learning programmes are accredited by AQ Austria, the Austrian Agency for Quality Assurance and Accreditation. In 2016, FernFH was certified according to international standards by the evaluation agency evalag Baden-Württemberg. Ferdinand Porsche FernFH collects the tuition fees of 363.36 Euro per semester plus the contribution for the Austrian Union of Students. Furthermore, FernFH offers certificate programmes for executive education with "NPO Management" and "Evaluation in the Health, Social and Education Sector". The MBA programme "International Corporate Social Responsibility Management" is a new addition to the executive education portfolio. Preparations for further degree programmes and executive education programmes are currently underway. More Information on [www.fernfh.ac.at/en](http://www.fernfh.ac.at/en).

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