

So, it's now been confirmed by an official audit – FernFH provides family-friendly work and study

The Ministry for Family Affairs awards Ferdinand Porsche FernFH a state quality mark for family-conscious personnel and study policies

Reconciling study, a career and family life was one of the founding ideas of Ferdinand Porsche FernFH. FernFH has made this a reality for more than ten years and it was finally officially confirmed by the “University and Family” audit (Audit *hochschuleundfamilie*): FernFH received the “*hochschuleundfamilie*” state mark of quality for the educational institution’s huge commitment to making studying, a career and family life more compatible. It was awarded by Minister for Family Affairs Sophie Karmasin.

A good knowledge of how to balance family life, a career, studying and free time: This is what employees are looking for in their job, this is what students require in order to be successful in the long term but also what they need to feel settled and happy. Ferdinand Porsche FernFH teaches its more than 700 students as well as its approx. 50 employees and more than 160 lecturers how to achieve this. And now FernFH can also declare this “officially”: Minister for Family Affairs Sophie Karmasin has awarded Ferdinand Porsche FernFH the “*hochschuleundfamilie*” audit state mark of quality during a celebratory event at Erste Campus Wien.

Reconciling study, a career and family life is something that is top priority for FernFH CEO Axel Jungwirth: “For many of our students, distance learning programmes are the only way they can get a degree at all.” What does this certificate mean for FernFH? “We want the intuition to be anchored in these realities that we are living with anyway: The flexibility that our students experience and the freedom that our work model offers our employees and lecturers”, explains Jungwirth, “and we also want to reach more people with our broad range of services, which make university and family life more compatible.”

The family representative at Ferdinand Porsche FernFH, Andrea Waldherr, also adds to this by saying: “This certification raises awareness of what we already offer our employees and students at our Distance-Learning University of Applied Sciences. And at our educational institution, we also promote a conscious approach to the issue of reconciling work and family life.”

Contact in case of questions

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Minister of Family Affairs Karmasin underlined the importance of this issue at the award ceremony: “Family friendliness is increasingly becoming a decisive competitive factor. Award-winning universities have recognised this and have been greatly committed to developing a wide range of family-friendly solutions. They make an important contribution to our goal of making Austria the most family-friendly country in Europe.”

Here is a short overview of the measures already taken or planned by Ferdinand Porsche FernFH to help people reconcile studying, a career and family life:

- Including topics on “reconciling university and family life” in main research areas and bachelor’s and master’s theses.
- Continuous further development of study methods to give teachers and students even more flexibility
- Integrating requests and needs of employees into the planning of the new FernFH Campus
- Establishing suitable premises for students and employees with children
- Expanding the existing mobile working guideline
- Clear representation provisions for sudden unplanned absences due to family responsibilities
- Further development of a family-conscious management culture
- Qualification and contact opportunities for employees during a leave of absence
- Internal measures to raise awareness on the topic of “making university and family life more compatible”.

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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.

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