

swissuniversities

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UAS research narrative

The complementary and non-hierarchical pillars presented below identify the specificities, plurality, quality and relevance of the UAS research mission.

1. Practice-based research

UAS research is resolutely practice based. The research topics emerge from professional fields and are linked to real-world issues; they address very diverse economic, technical, artistic, health and societal challenges. The questions addressed, whether theoretical or practical, resonate with partners in the fields of economics, industry, culture and society as well as in health and social institutions. They are relevant to their needs. The UAS ensure that the knowledge and technologies created are forwarded to and quickly implemented in professional fields.

2. For the direct benefit of society

UAS research is rooted and profoundly integrated into society. The knowledge created benefits the prosperity of all society, with a special focus on problem solving. If the results are implemented quite heterogeneously, they generally have an immediate or medium-term and, above all, lasting impact on the professional fields concerned or on society as a whole. The UAS anticipate the challenges of sustainability and major changes in society, especially around digitalisation or the aging population, and support the economic, industrial, health, social and cultural fabric. They therefore place great importance on innovation and research geared towards solutions. This support includes integrating this knowledge into teaching and life-long learning in order to train the professionals of today and tomorrow.

3. Diverse research

UAS research is diverse ("Vielseitige Forschung"). There is a wide variety of disciplines and subjects, ranging from technology and economics to health and the arts. UAS research has a strong potential for interdisciplinarity and transdisciplinarity, as well as a wide variety of methodologies and results (publications, prototypes, professional or clinical practices, support for public policies, artwork, etc.). The UAS are involved in all stages of the research process, from the production of new practice-based knowledge to its application and implementation.

4. Accessible research

UAS research is accessible. The results are made available to professional partners and, more broadly, to society. Furthermore, the researchers often work closely with these partners, building a strong relationship with them. The dynamics of the ever-changing relationship between science and society are taken into account. Finally, the UAS are pragmatic. Due to the dual trajectory of their staff, they understand the needs, language and concerns of professional partners. This closeness makes both the researchers and their projects accessible to professionals.

5. Co-creative research

UAS research involves co-creation with numerous partners. It integrates multiple perspectives, whether from various scientific disciplines or practical knowledge. The relevance of every party is recognised and they work together on equal footing. Knowledge is generated through constant interactions between academic and professional partners as well as partners from society at all stages of the research process. The UAS work in constant communication with a wide variety of institutions and partners, ranging from professionals (businesses, hospitals, parapublic institutions, etc.) to politicians and social stakeholders (administrations, civil society associations, etc.), and final beneficiaries (clients, beneficiaries, patients, etc.).

6. Cross-cutting characteristics

A bridge to education: research led by the UAS helps foster education. They are involved in training managers and independent professionals, able to reflect on their practices and gain the ability to constantly develop their skills. This shift from research to education and lifelong learning also contributes to the lasting impact of the results in practice since it helps train future and today's professionals to apply this knowledge and technology.

Open science: The UAS help make science a public asset by practising science that is as open as possible. They share the results of their research through open access publishing. Furthermore, in accordance with the international principle "as open as possible, as closed as necessary", the UAS also publish their research data according to the FAIR principles. An exception to this is data that is subject to ethical principles, personal data protection or intellectual property issues, especially when the commercial interests of their partners are concerned.

Scientific integrity: the principles of scientific integrity and the underlying values guide both the universities as institutions and their scientific community in their research and teaching activities as well as in the consideration of the resulting practical, ethical and intellectual issues.