

## Virtuelle Hochschule Bayern (vhb) Bavarian Virtual University (BVU)

The Virtuelle Hochschule Bayern (vhb) / Bavarian Virtual University (BVU) is a joint institution of currently 33 Bavarian universities and universities of applied sciences as well as one university of music. The vhb supports its member universities with the promotion and funding of online teaching offers in order to improve teaching and study conditions and to meet the growing demand for flexibility in terms of location and time. The vhb also supports lifelong learning, with open online courses.

### Portfolio of digital courses and learning units

The vhb provides a wide range of different digital learning / teaching opportunities for use across the member universities. All offerings are developed by professors from Bavarian universities and are subject to continuous quality assurance.

**CLASSIC vhb** courses are tailored to and usually integrated into degree programmes at multiple member universities. They provide students the possibility to earn credit points (ECTS). Students of the member universities use these online courses free of charge, even irrespective of their field of study. Others can participate for a fee. Around 570 supervised courses from 15 subject groups are currently available.

**SMART vhb** currently offers more than 1,800 digital learning units in a repository. They are designed for flexible use in blended learning in individual lectures. Instructors and students from our member universities can use the units. The units can comprise diverse instructional material such as exercises, videos, text elements, or simulations related to a given topic. In addition, the repository provides Open Educational Resources created at Bavarian universities (**OER@vhb**).

125 **OPEN vhb** courses impart university knowledge on a wide range of topics free of charge and are aimed at an interested general public. Enrolment at a university or a university entrance qualification are not required. The courses are not bound to the academic schedule and can be completed at your own learning pace. Most courses offer a certificate of participation after successfully completing tests. There are no credits awarded for OPEN vhb courses, nor they are supervised.

### Organization

The coordination and cooperation managed by the BVU results in an efficient use of public funds. Several hundred professors in Bavaria are involved in the BVU either in a teaching capacity or as committee members. The Assembly of Member Universities is the basic governing body of the BVU; it comprises delegates from each member university. It elects the three members of the Steering Committee and the eight members of the Programme Committee. The Steering Committee develops the guidelines for the overall programme of the BVU, decides on the budget and decides on the funding applications from the member universities. The Programme Committee advises the Steering Committee on all questions related to the course programme and quality management. The Office in Bamberg supports the committees. The vhb is a dependent institution of the Free State of Bavaria and is directly subordinate to the Bavarian State Ministry of Science and the Arts in terms of budget.

Further information at [www.vhb.org/](http://www.vhb.org/).