

OST Campus Profiles

Graduate



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Introduction: OST, the Eastern Switzerland University of Applied Sciences, was established on September 1, 2020, through the merger of three respected higher education institutions: FHS St. Gallen, HSR Rapperswil, and NTB Buchs. Known as Eastern Switzerland's educational hub, OST teaches around 3,800 students across six schools located on three campuses in Buchs, Rapperswil-Jona, and St. Gallen. One of OST's core goals is to serve as a societal role model in sustainability by effectively transferring and communicating research and educational information to the public, private, and nonprofit sectors. Faculty and staff conduct research focused on ecological, economic, and social sustainability. Furthermore, OST promotes sustainability through student-led campaigns and participation in numerous regional and national projects and initiatives.

Objective: This project was initiated to advance OST's sustainability goals by creating comprehensive campus profiles to analyse the sustainability of each campus and identify measures, solutions, and strategies for future improvement. Given the limited timeframe available for this Bachelor project, the focus was narrowed to three key aspects of sustainability: water, nature, and people. This project is intended to serve as a foundation for future sustainability reports and studies that could expand to include other vital sustainability topics such as energy, waste, and food. The project highlights key improvements needed at each campus, rather than at OST as a whole, and visualises these through an exemplary pilot project where possible strategies have been implemented and localised.

Approach: The information for this criteria catalogue was gathered through various methods, including general research, utilising wikis created by OST, and directly contacting departments like facility management, for example. Additionally, data was obtained from previous sustainability rankings, such as the UIGreenMetric, provided by OST's sustainability officer. In some cases, first-hand information was collected through site visits or by creating plans to extract the required data. However, not all criteria could be addressed for a couple of reasons. Some information or data was either unavailable or could not be sourced in time due to the project's limited timeframe. Certain information was also withheld due to security concerns. Consequently, the unanswered criteria were prioritised based on their importance to this project and future sustainability rankings, categorised as essential, important, and beneficial. This prioritisation highlights which criteria should be focused on first to obtain relevant data and information. Moreover, some information was only accessible for OST as a whole, meaning the results could not be broken down by individual campuses due to the lack of systematically analysed and recorded information across all

campuses. A cut-off date was set to move on to the next steps of the project, such as the evaluation of the results and setting goals for each campus based on all the data available up to that point. Any data received after this date is marked in the criteria catalogue, indicating that some information might not have been considered when determining areas for improvement on each campus.

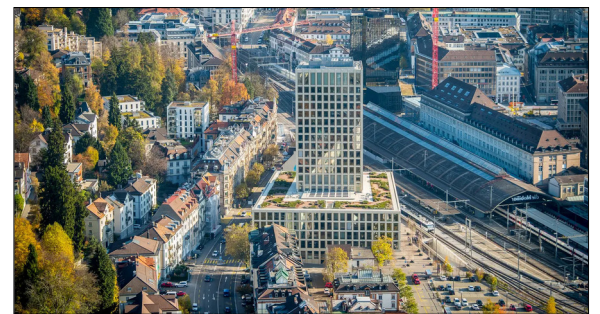
Main campus OST Rapperswil

OST–Eastern Switzerland University of Applied Sciences, n.d.



Main campus OST St. Gallen

Brenner, 2019



Main entrance OST Buchs

High Tech Campus Buchs, n.d.



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Subject Area

Landschaftsarchitektur

