



Basel is one of the most productive and innovative business and research centres in the world. World-renowned life sciences and pharmaceutical companies have their headquarters here. Together with research-based companies, the University of Basel, the ETH Biosystems Department and the University of Applied Sciences Northwestern Switzerland FHNW, they form a world-leading life sciences cluster. Companies in the ICT ecosystem within the region are driving digitalisation across all sectors. As Switzerland's most important exhibition centre, Basel also hosts internationally renowned conferences and fairs.

Science companies make the largest contribution to value creation in the region. Companies such as Novartis, Roche, Lonza, Bayer, Syngenta, Straumann and Moderna have their headquarters or important group functions here. Numerous research-based companies from the pharmaceutical, biotech, medtech, agritech and ICT sectors are growing around them. With the University of Basel, the ETH Department of Biosystems and the University of Applied Sciences Northwestern Switzerland FHNW, the industry forms a strong life sciences cluster. This includes not only large corporations but also SMEs and an increasing number of successful start-ups and spin-offs, over 700 of which are located throughout the Basel region. All other industries in the region benefit from its dynamism.

Internationally renowned research institutes

The University of Basel, the oldest university in Switzerland, is one of the most successful research universities in Europe, uniting life sciences and medicine, natural sciences, as well as the humanities and social sciences in one institution. International rankings regularly place the University of Basel among the 100 top universities in the world based on its research achievements. The University of Applied Sciences Northwestern Switzerland FHNW, which is active in education, research, continuing education and services, is characterised by its proximity to practice, its application-oriented research and its global network.

As part of the University's basic research and the FHNW's application-oriented research, the two educational institutions work together with hospitals, other research institutions, industry and business. One example of this is the Friedrich Miescher Institute for Biomedical Research, which was founded by two Basel-based pharmaceutical companies. It is a globally recognised top institute for basic research in the biomedical sciences. The universities also have close relationships with the Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute Swiss TPH, one of Switzerland's leading institutions in the field of public and global health.

The Department of Biosystems Science and Engineering (D-BSSE) at ETH Zurich is located on the Schällemätteli Life Sciences Campus – in the vicinity of the Biozentrum and Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences at the University of Basel, the University Hospital and the University Children's Hospital Basel. The University of Basel is also constructing a new research building for the Department of Biomedicine (DBM) by 2031.

Promotion of innovations and start-ups

Together with its partners, the Canton of Basel-Stadt offers consulting and networking services to promote innovation in the Basel region in the fields of healthcare, digital innovation and sustainable economic activity. In January 2024, the Grand Council decided to increase the Canton of Basel-Stadt's innovation promotion programme by CHF 42.5 million to CHF 67.3 million for the period up to 2030.

The Switzerland Innovation Park Basel with its four locations Main Campus in Allschwil, Basel (Dufourstrasse), Novartis Campus in Basel and Jura is aimed at start-ups in the fields of biotech, medtech, digital health, healthcare technology and industrial transformation. The innovation park offers ultra-modern infrastructure with co-working spaces, offices and laboratories at competitive rents and stimulating environment with a vibrant community. From 2027, the campus in Allschwil will also be home to the new Botnar Institute of Immune Engineering, which was founded in 2024 by the Basel-based Botnar Foundation. The investment amounts to over one billion US dollars – the highest amount of funding for a single project in the Swiss foundation sector to date. Around 300 scientists will dedicate themselves to researching the immune system of young people. A collaboration with ETH Zurich and the University of Oxford is planned.

Digital innovation & ICT

Basel-based companies are driving digitalisation, which affects all areas of business and life, across all sectors. The ICT ecosystem in the Basel region can be divided into the following three clusters:

1. The digital transformation of Basel's core industries is gaining increasing global significance, particularly in the life sciences and insurance sectors, thanks to innovative startups (VIAC, Creadi) and companies moving into the area.
2. Strong software companies and SMEs (Adobe, Unblu, Karakun) are fuelling the region's dynamism with innovative products and services.
3. Creative technologies link computers, design, art and the humanities. They are enabling new experiences and setting standards for user experience in the areas of media and architecture as well as in the cultural scene (lArt, Literoom).

Exhibition and convention city

Basel is the leading trade-fair location in Switzerland. With more than 140,000 square metres of exhibition space, Messe Schweiz in Basel is even one of Europe's most important exhibition and congress centres. Art Basel, the world's biggest trade fair for modern and contemporary art, is hosted by Basel every year. Basel also hosts globally important conferences in the fields of science and business, such as BioTechX Europe 2024 (9-10 October 2024) and the Festival of Biologics (15-17 October 2024).

Further information on the Innovation Hub Basel:



www.bs.ch/wirtschaftsstandort