

Module title	0.1 Introduction to circular economy
Workload (ECTS)	3 ECTS
Module coordinator	Prof. Dr. Tobias Stucki
Contributing lecturers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof. Dr. Christian Hopp • Dr. Gernot Pruschak • Dr. Rahel Meili
Entry requirements	No entry requirements
Description	<p>This module is structured in three parts. The first part serves as an introduction to the content and structure of the Master's program. In addition, some lecturers from the Master's program will be presented.</p> <p>In the second part, the students will be introduced to the concept of Circular Economy (CE). The different dimensions of CE will be discussed (macro vs. micro). Some key concepts of CE are roughly introduced (product/service design, business model, supply chain management, ...), and we will also briefly discuss where we stand in terms of the CE transition. Finally, the importance of the institutional environment is briefly shown. In this part, we will also get to know certain companies that have already implemented measures in the field of CE through guest lectures and excursions.</p> <p>Based on this knowledge, in the third part of the module students will learn the basics of conducting a social scientific research project. We discuss the definition of scientific research as well as the characteristics of good research questions. We touch upon deduction and induction and explain the concept of research hypotheses. We further provide students with tools and knowledge on how to conduct a literature review and introduce them to the styles of academic writing. Social science research constitutes one of the primary pillars of economy and society. To understand and investigate the changes induced by/needed for establishing a CE, it is a pre-requisite to understand the principles, methods and practices of social science research.</p>
Learning outcomes and competences	<p>Competences:</p> <p>Students</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand the basic concept of a circular economy and how it can be implemented in practice • Know the main barriers of the CE transition and how they can be reduced • Understand the necessity of social science research • Know the differences between deduction and induction • Can conduct quests for scientific literature • Know the do's and don'ts of academic writing <p>Outcome:</p> <p>Students</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generate good research questions/hypotheses • Write a literature review



Assessment of learning outcomes	4 page report: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Brief project outline including research questions and links it to existing theory (1 page; weight: 30%)• An individual literature review (2 pages; weight: 30%)• An embedding in the concept of CE (1 page; weight: 40%)
Didactic approach	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Contact teaching• Guest lectures• Excursions• Trial-and-error experiences
Project-based learning	Students write a literature review which will be reviewed by the lecturers. They then need to adapt their literature review based on the feedback and fit it into the proposals of their individual projects.
Links to other modules	This module provides the foundation for all other modules.
Bibliography	Literature will be provided before the start of the module
Language	English
Location	Bern