



Bern University
of Applied Sciences



Regional Management in Mountain Areas (the Alpine Master's)

MSc in Life Sciences

► School of Agricultural, Forest and Food Sciences HAFL

Experts for special challenges

2 Mountain areas have special potential and present special challenges. They provide unique landscapes, decentralised value creation and diverse social and cultural patterns. At the same time, though, nature conservation and protection of the landscape often seem incompatible with economic interests. Climate change, growing integration into world markets and the emigration of the mountain population are giving rise to new challenges.



Norbert Schmid, Director of Diemtigtal Nature Park
“Good regional development depends upon the cooperation and acceptance of local stakeholder groups. This calls for intelligent projects that are initiated and implemented in a practical manner by experts working together with the local population.”

The regional management of mountain areas requires specialists who are familiar with these features and trends and can adopt an interdisciplinary and cross-sectoral approach in their work, focusing on practicality and goals.

The BFH-HAFL MSc in Life Sciences majoring in Regional Management in Mountain Areas (Alpine Master's) equips you for precisely this task.



A study programme grounded firmly in practice at the interface of nature, society and technology

What makes our MSc programme unique

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The MSc in Regional Management in Mountain Areas is one of its kind. The content is geared to mountain regions and is illustrated using examples from the Alps. You study the interrelationships between nature, land use, society and politics.

In particular, you deal with:

- the use of the Alpine region for agriculture and forestry
- changing living conditions in the Alpine region
- identifying natural hazards and managing risks
- current methods of geospatial analysis, such as GIS
- nature parks and protected areas
- tourism
- project management and conflict management
- regional planning and public relations

This degree programme further offers you:

- cutting-edge expertise and sound methodological skills
- diverse insights into research and practice
- hands-on experience gathered during excursions and projects
- excellent opportunities to specialise during your master's thesis
- cooperation with experts operating in national and international networks
- excellent career prospects
- great flexibility in the choice of topics you tackle
- a location near Bern with attractive amenities



Franziska Imhof, Scientific Officer at the Regions- und Wirtschaftszentrum Oberwallis AG (centre of competence for regional development)

“The broad range of topics and methods gave me many insights that now help me in my job to understand linkages and find solutions.”

Career prospects: research and management

- 4 Upon completing your studies, you will be well prepared to take on challenging leadership roles in regional development or nature parks and conservation areas. You operate at the interfaces of nature, society and economy – working for federations, environmental organisations or tourism. Or you assume an executive function in the agricultural agencies or forestry services of mountain regions.

You are able to think systemically and delve quickly and independently into unfamiliar areas, before implementing your new knowledge in practice. You carry out projects competently regardless of their complexity.



Good regional management in mountain regions considers agriculture and forestry, but also nature and society.

Programme structure

The Alpine Master's builds upon expertise in agricultural and forest sciences. You choose the sector on which you wish to focus when selecting the specialised modules, thus furthering your individual strengths and interests. At the same time you build leadership capabilities through core-competence modules such as project management or innovation management. During case studies, round tables and excursions you have opportunities to forge links to researchers and practitioners.



Tabea Bischoff, Project Manager, ProNatura Aargau/CreaNatira GmbH (Protected Area Maintenance)
“Thanks to the many excursions and the contacts established to local experts, the programme has very strong links to practice. Today, I can apply what I learnt not only to mountain areas but also to the most varied types of region.”

The core of the degree programme is your master's thesis, which you write in your third semester. It is during your thesis that you become a specialist in a mountain-related topic of your choice. Wherever possible, your thesis is embedded in a BFH-HAFL research project or carried out with a sector partner – such as your employer.

Master's thesis – the core of your studies	30 credits
Specialisation modules	30 credits
Cluster-specific modules (Environment Cluster)	9 – 15 credits
Core-competence modules (Data and Business Management)	15 – 21 credits

The degree programme is structured according to different module categories.



"I was particularly fascinated by the range of approaches we took to the incredibly diverse issue area of 'the Alps'. This really helped me understand the many interests involved."

Kevin Suhr, ensemen Managing Director and
BikePlan AG Project Coordinator

At a glance

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Target group

The MSc programme majoring in Regional Management in Mountain Areas (Alpine Master's) is designed for holders of a bachelor's degree in agricultural science, forest science, geography, biology, tourism, landscape architecture, environmental engineering, nature management or similar disciplines.

Admission

Holders of a bachelor's degree from a Swiss university of applied sciences in the above disciplines, with a grade point average of at least 5. Students with other qualifications or lower grades can be admitted following an aptitude assessment.

Qualification

Upon successful completion of the programme (90 ECTS credits), you will be awarded the title "Master of Science in Life Sciences with specialisation in Forest Science" or "Master of Science in Life Sciences with specialisation in Agricultural Science" from Bern University of Applied Sciences.

Duration

Full-time study: 3 semesters. Part-time study: 4 to 6 semesters.

Study languages

German and English. The master's thesis can be written in German, English, French, Italian or Spanish.

Tuition fees

CHF 750 to 950 per semester plus registration and examination fees.

Application and Deadlines

You can start your studies in autumn or spring. The deadline for applications is in April and November before the programme commences.

Bern University of Applied Sciences

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www.bfh.ch/alpine-master