



Module Title	
<b>Research Methods I: Qualitative Approaches</b>	
<b>Code</b>	MCCf413
<b>Degree Programme</b>	Master of Science – Circular Innovation and Sustainability
<b>ECTS Credits</b>	3
<b>Workload</b>	90 hours
<b>Module Coordinator</b>	Name: <a href="#">Dr. Christine Jurt</a> Phone: +41 (0) 31 910 29 50 E-Mail: <a href="mailto:christine.jurt@bfh.ch">christine.jurt@bfh.ch</a> Address: BFH – HAFL, Länggasse 85, 3052 Zollikofen
<b>Lecturers</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Sofia Foladori</a>; HAFL</li> </ul>
<b>Entry Requirements</b>	None
<b>Competencies upon Completion</b>	After completing the module, students will be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• select, apply, and reflect on different qualitative methods according to a project’s goals;</li> <li>• evaluate qualitative data and analyse it with regard to the specific context;</li> <li>• reflect critically on the research process.</li> </ul>
<b>Content</b>	<p>Putting innovative projects into practice demands solid knowledge of the context in which the projects will take place. Involved actors and their interplay need to be understood in their particular social, cultural, environmental, economic, and political contexts. In this module, you will acquire these necessary skills to apply qualitative methods.</p> <p>In the first part of the module, you will learn to undertake an actor analysis by identifying key actors, their roles, and their perspectives. You will learn the necessary techniques to design interview guidelines and carry out interviews with actors from different backgrounds, paying particular attention to their differing perspectives. Furthermore, you will get insights into the analysis of qualitative data (particularly into qualitative content analysis) being applied to the interview data as well as texts and visual data.</p> <p>Students choose a topic of interest for the elaboration of a case study. They define suitable qualitative methods for the particular research questions at stake, undertake data collection as well as the analysis of the qualitative data. In a group as well as a short individual report, students describe, analyse, and evaluate the data as well as the research process as a whole and reflect critically on what could be improved.</p>
<b>Teaching and Learning Methods</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flipped classroom</li> <li>• Contact teaching</li> <li>• Learning videos</li> <li>• Project-Based Learning</li> <li>• Case studies</li> <li>• Individual and group exercises</li> </ul>

<b>Competency Assessment</b>	<p>Written report</p> <p>Weighting:      Group work: 40%                          Individual work: 60%</p> <p>Students who receive an insufficient overall grade of 3.5, are given the opportunity to carry out a <i>subsequent improvement</i> of written assignments defined by the <i>Module Coordinator</i>. The maximum overall grade that can then be obtained is 4. This still counts as the same attempt.</p>
<b>Mode of Repetition</b>	<p>Should a student fail the module, they have one more attempt. They may either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Submit a new assignment (100%), defined by the <i>Module Coordinator</i>, for the next resit examination session - <u>provided the student has actively participated in the group work throughout the course.</u></li> <li>• Repeat the entire module next time it is offered.</li> </ul>
<b>Format</b>	2 lessons per week over 7 weeks
<b>Attendance</b>	<p>Not mandatory</p> <p>However, active participation in group work throughout the module is mandatory. A lack of commitment and/or participation in this group work can lead to exclusion from the <i>Competency Assessment</i> and therefore to failure of the module.</p>
<b>Module Type</b>	Compulsory
<b>Timing of the Module</b>	Autumn Semester, Calendar Weeks 47 to 51 and 02 to 03
<b>Venue</b>	Onsite   Brückenstrasse 73, 3005 Bern
<b>Literature</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bernard H.R, 2012. Social Research Methods. Qualitative and quantitative approaches. (2nd edition). SAGE Publications, 824 p.</li> </ul>
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Links to Other Modules</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MCCf313 Society and Technology</li> <li>• MCCf423 Research Methods 2: Quantitative Approaches</li> <li>• MCCf433 Research Methods 3: Transdisciplinary Approaches</li> </ul>
<b>Last Update</b>	February 2026