



Regulations on the Certificate of Engagement in Sustainability of Bern University of Applied Sciences BFH (R CES)¹

The President of Bern University of Applied Sciences,

on the basis of article 9 of the Regulations on Supplementary Certificates at Bern University of Applied Sciences BFH (RZZ) of 23 January 2020,

rules that:

1. General conditions

Scope

Art. 1 ¹ These regulations govern the requirements and the procedure for obtaining the Certificate of Engagement in Sustainability (R CES) at Bern University of Applied Sciences.

² They contain provisions substantiating the RZZ.

Learning outcomes

Art. 2 Holders of a CES have fundamental knowledge in sustainable development and selected key competences in the field of sustainability. They are qualified for work that addresses sustainable development.

2. Admission, contents and structure

Registration

Art. 3 ¹ Registration for a CES is possible any time after the commencement of studies. It takes place via the strategic thematic field Sustainable Development.

² The strategic thematic field Sustainable Development defines the procedures to be followed for registration for the CES and for the submission and review of the portfolio.

Contents and accreditation

Art. 4 ¹ To obtain a CES, modules in the field of sustainability (area of *Knowledge and skills*) plus a certificate project (area of *Engagement*) must be completed and passed. These two parts have to be completed within the study time at Bern University of Applied Sciences.

² Modules are only credited to the CES if they have been successfully completed. A certificate project is deemed to have been passed if a project report approved by the strategic thematic field Sustainable Development is available.

³ Master students who have already completed modules that can be accredited to the certificate during their bachelor studies at Bern University of

¹ This document is a translation and is not legally binding; the original German version prevails.

Applied Sciences can have them credited to the certificate, provided the relevant competence assessment is not older than 5 years at the date of submission.

⁴ Academic achievements completed abroad are credited if they meet the requirements for the certificate.

⁵ The evidence submitted must be verified and must contain contact details to this end.

⁶ Decisions on credit transfer and any exceptions are made by the Vice-President Teaching at the request of the student or by the strategic thematic field Sustainable Development.

Competences

Art. 5 Students completing the CES acquire and deepen various essential skills in matters related to sustainable development. These, combined with the specialised skills acquired in the regular study programme, enable those obtaining the certificate to act in favour of sustainable development. Having essential skills in sustainable development means being able to²:

- a* develop knowledge by integrating new perspectives and remain open-minded to the world,
- b* analyse and assess developments with foresight,
- c* adopt a broad interdisciplinary approach in both the development of knowledge and its application,
- d* recognise and balance risks, dangers and uncertainties,
- e* plan and implement actions with others,
- f* consider conflicting goals when reflecting on strategies for action,
- g* participate in collective decision-making processes,
- h* motivate oneself and others to become active,
- i* reflect on one's own mission statements and those of others,
- j* use ideas of justice as a basis for decision-making and action,
- k* plan and carry out actions independently,
- l* exhibit empathy toward others.

Portfolio

Art. 6 Students demonstrate their acquired skills in a portfolio, which is divided into two main areas: *Knowledge and skills*, and *Engagement*.

1. Knowledge and Skills – Basic Module

Art. 7 ¹ Students must take a basic module that is worth at least 3 ECTS credits and focuses on the fundamentals of sustainable development.

² The BFH modules that can serve as a basic module are defined by the head of the strategic thematic field Sustainable Development.

³ In exceptional cases, several courses worth a total of 3 or more ECTS credits or courses taken at another university (e.g. within the framework of an exchange semester) can be accredited. The Vice-President Teaching decides on such exceptions.

² These correspond to the twelve competences of ESD according to de Haan et. al (2008).

Knowledge and skills – Specialisation modules

Art. 8 ¹ In addition to the basic module, students must complete two specialisation modules, each worth at least 2 ECTS credits. In order for them to be accredited to the portfolio, the student must provide written proof justifying their inclusion by way of a clear and meaningful connection to the certificate project or by showing their relevance for sustainability competencies.

² In exceptional cases, courses completed at another university (e.g. within the framework of an exchange semester) can be accredited. The Vice-President Teaching decides on such exceptions at the student's request, following a preliminary assessment by the strategic thematic field Sustainable Development.

2. Engagement

Art. 9 ¹ In order to pass the Engagement step, the student must present a completed certificate project. The certificate project must meet the following criteria:

- a* It addresses an interdisciplinary and practice-oriented problem with relevance to sustainability.
- b* The project is implemented in an interdisciplinary team.
- c* ECTS credits may be earned for work on the certificate project. A thesis or semester project may form the basis for this. The project team must provide an additional contribution (e.g. in the form of a presentation or participation in an event). Work on the certificate project may be remunerated by the employer within the scope of their normal professional activities.
- d* In addition to cognitive learning, the project should emphasise taking responsibility towards third parties.
- e* Certificate projects take into account the principles of self-organised learning.
- f* A project plan must be submitted and approved before the start of the project and a self-reflection report after the project's completion. The strategic thematic field Sustainable Development determines the detailed criteria.
- g* The individual time devoted to the project is approximately 100 working hours.
- h* The certificate project is supervised by a coach.
- i* Certificate projects must meet scientific requirements.

² The strategic thematic field Sustainable Development checks whether these criteria have been met. In the event of a dispute, the Vice-President Teaching shall decide on the matter.

³ Certificate projects can also be conducted during a study stay or an internship abroad, provided the requirements for a certificate project are met. The student must make a request beforehand. The Vice-President Teaching bases his decision on this request.

3. Certification

Art. 10 ¹ The submission date for the completed portfolio is determined by the strategic thematic field Sustainable Development.



² Within thirty days after submitting the completed portfolio, the student will be informed in writing by the strategic thematic field Sustainable Development whether the conditions for the CES have been met or not.

³ If the conditions have not been met, students can request a ruling by the Vice-President Teaching.

⁴ As a rule, the CES is handed out at the regular graduation ceremony where the Bachelor's or Master's diploma are awarded.

4. Application of the law

Art. 11 The appeals procedure is governed by cantonal law.

5. Final provisions

Repeal of regulations

Art. 12 The Regulation of Bern University of Applied Sciences on the Certificate of Engagement in Sustainability (R CES) of 21 February 2023 is repealed.

Entry into force

Art. 13 These regulations shall enter into force on 1 February 2024.

Bern, 21 November 2023

Bern University of Applied Sciences

Prof. Dr Sebastian Wörwag, President