Berner
Fachhochschule

Master of Science
Resilient Cities and Communities

Help shape the cities of tomorrow

Master of Science
Resilient Cities and Communities:
Interdisciplinary, Project-Based and Practice-Oriented

As an urban change agent, you will work with cities and local authorities to make urban areas more adaptable and resilient in dealing with current crises and profound change.

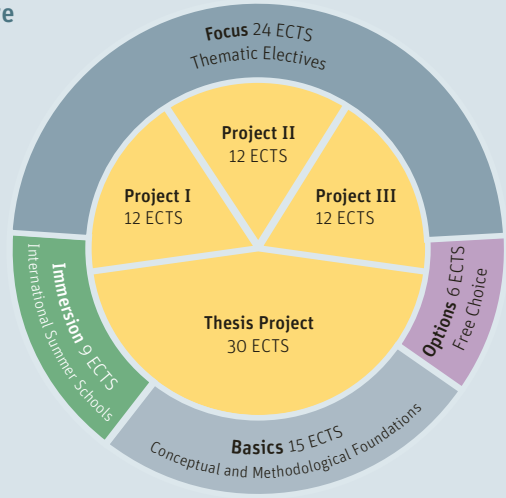
What you will gain with your degree

Climate and biodiversity crises, demographic shifts, structural and social transformations present cities and municipalities with complex challenges. Effectively tackling these issues requires professionals who can bring together different perspectives and develop sustainable solutions. In the Master Resilient Cities and Communities, we train urban change agents, who work hands-on on current transformation projects, actively helping to shape sustainable, liveable and resilient cities and communities.

Teaching concept

The programme combines living labs, collaborative project work and hybrid modules with European partner universities. The study modules build systematically on one another and combine theoretical foundations, individual specialisations, international perspectives and practice-driven work.

Modular Structure



Factsheet

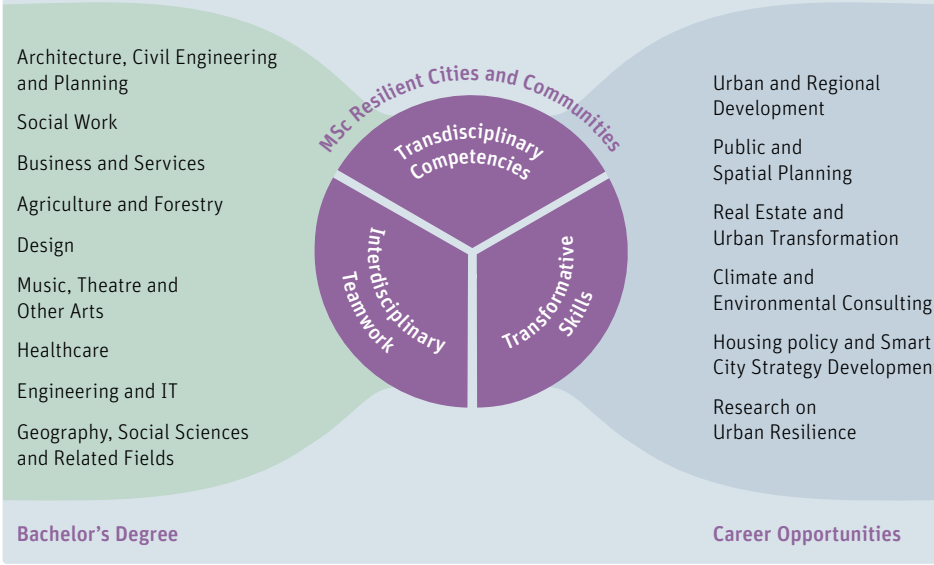
Focus areas	– You will develop core planning skills for urban and neighbourhood development, engaging with spatial development, social change and economic transformation. – You will develop competencies in the areas of systems analysis, project management, participation and governance. These skills will enable you to develop and implement effective and inclusive solutions within interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary teams. – You will learn to identify vulnerabilities and risks at an early stage, mitigate them using transformative solutions, and turn them into opportunities for positive change. – You will develop a comprehensive understanding of urban development by integrating environmental, social, economic, spatial and institutional perspectives. – You will work on real-world projects in living labs, collaborating with experienced partners and civil society groups to develop practical solutions that will boost the resilience of cities and communities.
Programme schedule	– 1st semester: Foundations and practice-oriented project work – 2nd & 3rd semesters: Practice-oriented project work with thematic focus modules – 4th semester: Thesis project – In addition: international summer schools and optional modules
Career prospects	Career opportunities include project management and consultancy in urban and regional development, planning and public administration, climate adaptation and governance, real estate and infrastructure, NGOs and international organisations, and research and innovation.
Mode of study	Full-time (4 semesters) Part-time (6–8 semesters)
Teaching language	English
International exchange and double degree	Joint modules, summer schools and projects through the PIONEER European University Alliance Double degree options and exchange semester opportunities at selected partner institutions
Location	Biel/Bienne and Bern
Start date	September 2027
Application deadline	31. July 2027
Title/Degree	Master of Science Resilient Cities and Communities

Career prospects

This master's programme is designed for individuals seeking meaningful work and wishing to play an active role in the sustainable transformation of cities and communities.

As a graduate, you will act as an urban change agent, supporting and shaping transformation processes in collaboration with public institutions, planning offices, consultancy firms and NGOs, thereby contributing to equitable and sustainable urban development.

Become an Urban Change Agent



Thanks to the project-based nature of the programme and an extensive network of partners in industry and academia, you will start building a professional network from the outset to support your future career.

Why choose this Master's programme?

- The Master's programme Resilient Cities and Communities brings together the expertise of seven BFH schools. It combines perspectives from urban planning, social work, ecology, economics and governance.
- The programme is part of the PIONEER European University Alliance and draws on a broad network of partner universities.
- You will learn how to understand complex urban systems, identify risks and opportunities at an early stage, and develop sustainable solutions in collaboration with others.
- You will work in interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary settings with businesses, public authorities and civil society, combining local practice with international perspectives.

Admission requirements

You will be admitted if you hold a bachelor's degree in one of the following fields: Architecture, Civil Engineering and Planning; Social Work; Business and Services; Agriculture and Forestry; Design; Music, Theatre and Other Arts; Healthcare; Engineering and IT; or any other disciplines related to urban development (e. g. Geography, Social Sciences). Admission may be granted on a 'sur dossier' basis.

Advice and contact

Choosing a degree programme is an important decision. Join an information event or book a personal consultation to learn more and get your questions answered.

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Register Now for an Information Event

Develop skills at the intersection of spatial planning, climate, society, economics and governance.

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HEdA 2024–2031
August 2026, subject to change