

Get the Certificate of Engagement in Sustainability (CES)

Sustainability is one of the most urgent and complex social development tasks. We believe in the impact of bottom-up processes and are convinced that every engagement can make a difference. If you have an idea to make the future more sustainable and you want to actively participate in the transformation towards a more sustainable society, BFH SUSTAINS is happy to support you.

The BFH *Certificate of Engagement in Sustainability (CES)* offers you the opportunity to expand your interdisciplinary knowledge and sustainability-related skills in a targeted manner and to demonstrate your acquired skills and individual commitment, for example to employers, with the help of an official BFH certificate.

How is the CES constructed?

The CES consists of two parts: A curricular (**knowledge and skills** / Wissen und Fertigkeiten) and an extracurricular (**engagement** / Engagement) part.

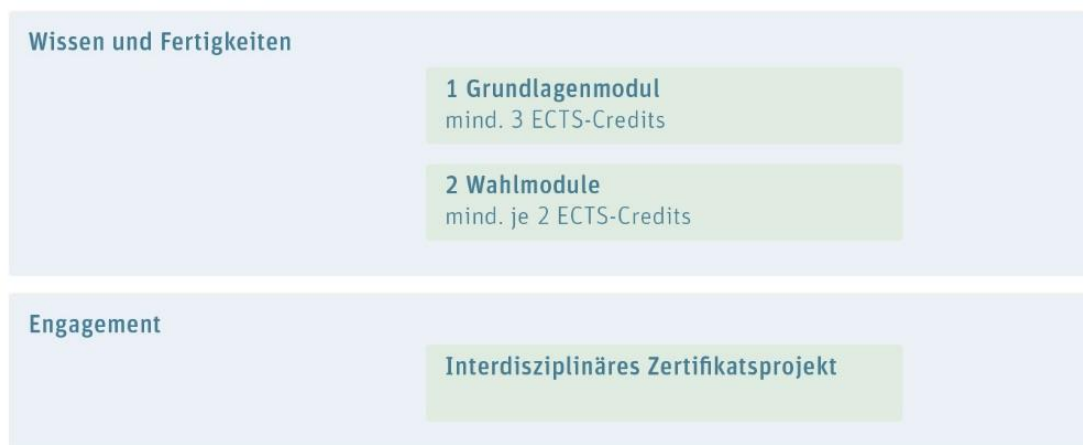


Abb. 1 Structure Certificate of Engagement in Sustainability

Knowledge and skills

In the part *knowledge & skills*, basic knowledge, awareness and fundamental competences for the goals and contents of sustainable development are acquired.

The **basics** are developed within the framework of a course comprising at least 3 ECTS. This course must deal with sustainable development in as interdisciplinary a manner as possible, addressing principles and concepts of SD and critically dealing with non-sustainable developments in our society.

From the academic year 2021/22, the following BFH diagonal modules can be credited as a foundation module (**Grundlagenmodul**):

- **Sustainability and Impact in Entrepreneurship** (Summer School und Winter School)
- **Acting sustainably** (autumn semester)
- **Negotiating a sustainable future for all** (spring semester)
- **Sustainability Dialogue** (spring semester)



If you have taken a module at another university (e.g. as part of an exchange semester) that meets the requirements, you are welcome to apply for credit.

In addition to the basic module, you can have two additional modules credited for the area of knowledge & skills. These two elective modules can be freely chosen and can be compulsory modules in the regular degree programme or elective modules (at BFH or another university). However, a meaningful connection to the certificate project and/or the previously defined sustainability-relevant competences should be demonstrated for these modules. The scope of the two selected modules must be at least 2 ECTS each.

Engagement

In the part *engagement*, you can prove your will to change something with your certification project. While knowledge and, to some extent, skills can be taught and tested in courses, attitudes, values and will only manifest themselves in actions outside the "classroom".

Project ideas for certification projects can be developed independently or evolve from a course.

What is a certificate project?

- It deals with a **multidisciplinary problem with a clear reference to sustainability**.
- **Interdisciplinary cooperation** between at least two people (students, employer, practice partner)
- **Commitment**: The project work is voluntary, but it can be remunerated with ECTS or financially, e.g. by the student's own employer. A thesis or term paper can therefore be the basis for a certificate project. However, an additional achievement (e.g. a lecture) should still be achieved.
- **Service learning**: in addition to cognitive learning, a certificate project should focus on the assumption of responsibility towards third parties (service). A reciprocal connection to curricular offers is desirable and should be encouraged if possible.
- Certificate projects take into account the principles of **self-organised learning**.

What are the requirements for a certificate project?

- The project must be implemented in an **interdisciplinary team**. (either two students from different areas or in collaboration with a practice partner)
- The time commitment per project member must be approx. **100 working hours**.
- Certificate projects must meet scientific standards.
- A certificate project must be accompanied by a **coach**.
- A certificate project needs a **project plan** (1 page), which has to be submitted and approved before the project starts, and is concluded with a short reflection report (based on approx. 4-5 questions).
- You must be enrolled in a Bachelor's or Master's degree programme at the BFH (but this is not compulsory for the other members of the project team).



Don't worry, we'll help you.

Certificate projects are **accompanied by a coach**. During the planning and implementation of the project, coaches advise you in discussions and arrange contacts to experts, practice partners, etc. where necessary and possible. As a guideline, each project benefits from about 5 coaching sessions.

In addition, the Sustainable Development Unit will be happy to provide you with advice and support at any time.

Let's get started

If you are interested in not only shaping the future more sustainably with your activities, but also gaining a certificate, please contact us.

We will then register you on the corresponding Moodle page, where you can manage the certificate yourself and find further information.

The three modules and the certificate project must be completed **during your studies at the BFH**. The modules are only credited if they have been successfully completed.

The deadline for submitting the complete portfolio with the corresponding evidence (ToR for knowledge & skills, project report for commitment) **is 40 days before your graduation**. After submitting the portfolio via Moodle, you will receive written feedback within 10 days as to whether the conditions for receiving the certificate have been met.

If possible, the CES will be presented at the regular graduation ceremony or sent by post in the same period.

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