



Module Title	
Introduction to Circular Economy and Scientific Literature	
Code	MCCf013
Degree Programme	Master of Science – Circular Innovation and Sustainability
ECTS Credits	3
Workload	90 hours
Module Coordinator	Name: Prof. Dr. Tobias Stucki Phone: +41 (0) 31 848 41 12 E-Mail: tobias.stucki@bfh.ch Address: BFH Business School – Institute for Sustainable Business Brückenstrasse 73, 3005 Bern
Lecturers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof. Dr. Christian Hopp; W • Prof. Dr. Rahel Meili; W • Prof. Dr. Gernot Pruschak; W
Entry Requirements	None
Competencies upon Completion	After completing the module, students will be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • understand the basic concept of a circular economy and how it can be implemented in practice; • understand the necessity for social science research; • carry out literature searches; • know the differences between deduction and induction; • know the dos and don'ts of academic writing.
Content	<p>To understand and investigate the many facets of more circular economies, it is not only prerequisite to understand what is meant by a circular economy (CE) but also vital to know the principles, methods and practices of social science research.</p> <p>This module is structured in two parts. In the first part the students will be introduced to the concept of CE, and we will make a direct link to the structure and content of the master's programme. The different dimensions of CE will be discussed (macro vs. micro). Some key concepts of CE are broadly introduced (product/service design, business model, supply chain management, amongst others), and we will also briefly discuss where we stand in terms of a CE transition. Finally, the importance of the institutional environment is briefly examined. In this part, we will also become acquainted with companies that have already implemented CE measures through guest lectures and excursions.</p> <p>Building on this, in the second part of the module students will learn the basics of conducting social science research. We discuss the definition of scientific research as well as the characteristics of good research questions. We touch upon deduction and induction and explain the concept of research hypotheses. We further provide students with tools and knowledge to conduct a literature review and introduce them to the styles of academic writing.</p>
Teaching and Learning Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flipped classroom • Trial-and-error experiences • Guest speaker • Learning videos

Competency Assessment	<p>Written assignments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual literature review (60%) • Introduction and theory part of individual project (40%) <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>
Mode of Repetition	<p>Should a student fail the module, they have one more attempt.</p> <p>They may either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit a new assignment (100%), defined by the <i>Module Coordinator</i>, for the next resit examination session. • Repeat the entire module next time it is offered.
Format	<p>Three times 4 teaching lessons distributed over 7 weeks + 1 Guest speaker session + 2 Library input sessions</p>
Attendance	Not mandatory
Module Type	Compulsory
Timing of the Module	Autumn Semester, Calendar Weeks 38 to 44
Venue	Onsite Brückenstrasse 73, 3005 Bern
Literature	Literature will be provided before the start of the module via Moodle.
Language	English
Links to Other Modules	This module provides the foundation for all other modules of this master's programme.
Last Update	February 2026