



Module Title		Research Methods 3: Transdisciplinary Approaches
Code	MCCf433	
Degree Programme	Master of Science – Circular Innovation and Sustainability	
ECTS Credits	3	
Workload	90 hours	
Module Coordinator	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	
Lecturers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Dr. Maria Franco Mosquera</a>; TI</li> <li>• <a href="#">Dr. Nick Miszak</a>; HAFL</li> </ul>	
Entry Requirements	Prerequisite: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MCCf413 Research Methods 1: Qualitative Approaches</li> </ul>	
Competencies upon Completion	After completing the module, students will be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• reflect on transdisciplinary research, its principles, ethical implications and its quality;</li> <li>• recognize when and which transdisciplinary methods can be used in a meaningful way;</li> <li>• work competently in transdisciplinary groups building on the competencies they have built up during the course;</li> <li>• engage in dialogue about policy options with the public, stakeholders, and policymakers in inclusive environments;</li> <li>• explain and discuss the opportunities and challenges that transdisciplinary brings along in specific projects;</li> <li>• know different transdisciplinary methodological approaches, applicable to the different stages of a transdisciplinary project;</li> <li>• recognize, analyse, and present the different perspectives of diverse actors involved in specific questions that need to be tackled in particular transdisciplinary projects;</li> <li>• set up a process of knowledge co-creation among the diverse actors involved to contribute to the solution of wicked problems;</li> <li>• design a transdisciplinary research project and know how to select suitable methods for dealing with wicked problems, especially in the sustainability realm.</li> </ul>	
Content	<p>Complex global challenges around sustainable development – including the environmental, social, cultural, political, and financial issues linked to the circular economy paradigm – demand expertise and collaboration across academic disciplines and beyond, including various non-academic sectors of society.</p> <p>Transdisciplinary research aims to understand real-world problems of practical interest and is based on collaborative work between academic researchers from different related disciplines (i.e., interdisciplinarity) and non-academic stakeholders such as civil society, NGOs or companies (i.e., transdisciplinarity), to create societal value.</p> <p>Students in this course will learn about transdisciplinarity and how to design, carry out and evaluate effective transdisciplinary projects.</p>	

<b>Teaching and Learning Methods</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contact teaching</li> <li>• Project-Based Learning</li> <li>• Case studies</li> <li>• Individual and group exercises</li> <li>• Group coaching</li> </ul>
<b>Competency Assessment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Written report, Individual (60%)</li> <li>• Oral presentations, Group work (40%)</li> </ul> <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, except for the 2 oral presentation sessions. Furthermore, <b>active participation</b> in group work throughout the module is <b>mandatory</b>. 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>	Spring Semester, Calendar Weeks 17 to 23
<b>Venue</b>	Onsite   Brückenstrasse 73, 3005 Bern
<b>Literature</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brouwer, H.; Woodhill, J.; Hemmati, M.; Verhoosel, K.; van Vugt, S. (2016). <i>The MSP guide – how to design and facilitate multi-stakeholder partnerships</i>. Wageningen: Wageningen University and Research, WCDI, and Rugby, UK: Practical Action Publishing, <a href="http://dx.doi.org/10.3362/9781780446691">http://dx.doi.org/10.3362/9781780446691</a></li> <li>• Hirsch Hadorn, G. et al. (eds.) (2008). <i>Handbook of Transdisciplinary Research</i>. New York: Springer.</li> <li>• Pohl, C.; Hirsch Hadorn, G. (2007). <i>Principles for Designing Transdisciplinary Research. Proposed by the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences</i>. München: oekom Verlag.</li> <li>• Wibeck, V.; Eliasson, K.; Naset, T. (2022). Co-creation research for transformative times: Facilitating foresight capacity in view of global sustainability challenges. <i>Environmental Science &amp; Policy</i>, 128, p. 290-298.</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>• MCCf323 Society and Environment</li> <li>• MCCf413 Research Methods 1: Qualitative Approaches</li> <li>• MCCf423 Research Methods 2: Quantitative Approaches</li> </ul>
<b>Last Update</b>	February 2026