



Module Title	Master's Thesis
Code	MCCmath
Degree Programme	Master of Science – Circular Innovation and Sustainability
ECTS Credits	30
Workload	900 hours
Module Coordinator	Name: Dr. Silvia Zingg Phone: +41 (0) 31 910 21 32 Email: silvia.zingg@bfh.ch Address: BFH – HAFL, Länggasse 85, 3052 Zollikofen
Lecturers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Principal Advisor (BFH academic staff) • Co-Advisor (BFH academic staff from a different discipline or thematic field, or possibly external partner) • External Expert (private/public sector, other university or research institute) <p>➔ MSc CIS Student Administration: studadmin.cis@bfh.ch ➔ Head of Teaching: Prof. Dr. Roland Stähli</p>
Entry Requirements	None
Competencies upon Completion	After completing the module, students will be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • design and conduct independent research project; • develop precise, theoretically grounded research questions and, where appropriate, formulate testable hypotheses that clearly align with the study's conceptual framework and methodological approach; • systematically identify, select, and critically evaluate academic literature, assessing its relevance, methodological rigor, and contribution to the field in order to construct a robust theoretical foundation for their research; • employ specialised literature and domain-specific expert knowledge to support and substantiate their research; • apply correct academic referencing practices, ensuring transparent, consistent, and ethically sound use of sources; • select, justify, and apply suitable methodological approaches to collect and analyse data; • interpret research findings and draw evidence-based conclusions that contribute to academic or professional practice; • communicate complex ideas clearly and professionally, both in written academic form and through oral presentations; • synthesize their research findings concisely, design clear and informative data visualizations, and translate complex scientific content into accessible language to create a high-quality poster; • adhere to ethical research principles, including data protection, responsible data management, and academic integrity; • apply project management strategies to plan, structure, and complete a Master's Thesis within a defined timeframe; • reflect on their own research process, identifying limitations, challenges, and areas for future inquiry.

Content	<p>The implementation of the Master's Thesis (MT) is regulated in the Study and Examination Regulations (SER MSc CIS) and in the MSc CIS Master's Thesis Guidelines.</p> <p>When writing the thesis, the Guide to Writing a Master's Thesis and the detailed work assignments must be observed.</p> <p>The development of the work extends over the following steps:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Module enrolment on IS-Academia (5-30 ECTS). 2. Select MT topic following the Guidelines procedures notably concerning the "choice" of the Principal & complementary Co-Advisor. 3. Plan your research/field/writing work with your Advisors. 4. Project Definition 5. Carry out your MT work following your plan & Advisors' indications. 6. Announcement Form 7. MT submission 8. Oral examination
Teaching and Learning Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research-Based Learning • Mentoring
Competency Assessment	<p>Follow the specificities of the Assessment Form, which includes two main components: the MT written work and oral examination.</p> <p>The Principal Advisor decide on the <i>Assessment Form</i> Type.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Type 1 with deskwork focus • Type 2 with practical focus <p>Students who receive an insufficient grade of 3.5, are given the opportunity to carry out a <i>subsequent improvement</i> of written assignments defined by the Principal Advisor. The maximum grade that can then be obtained is 4. This still counts towards the same attempt.</p>
Mode of Repetition	Should a student fail the module, they have one more attempt and must repeat the entire module.
Format	<p>Oriented autonomous work</p> <p>The timely submission of the required documents as described in the <i>MSc CIS MT Guidelines</i> is mandatory and is the responsibility of the student (this includes informing/reminding the Principal Advisor of their obligations in advance). Failure to comply with this condition can lead to exclusion from the <i>Competency Assessment</i> and therefore to failure of the module.</p>
Attendance	NA
Module Type	Compulsory
Timing of the Module	Autumn & Spring Semester
Venue	NA
Literature	All regulatory and supporting documents can be found on the Campus App .
Language	English
Links to Other Modules	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MCCf186 Expansion of Personal Competencies: Products and Processes • MCCf256 Expansion of Personal Competencies: Business Models • MCCf356 Expansion of Personal Competences: Inter- and Transdisciplinary Projects • MCCf413 Research Methods 1: Qualitative Approaches • MCCf423 Research Methods 2: Quantitative Approaches • MCCf433 Research Methods 3: Transdisciplinary Approaches
Last Update	February 2026