



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

<b>Content</b>	<p>The implementation of the Master's Thesis (MT) is regulated in the <a href="#">Study and Examination Regulations</a> (SER MSc CIS) and in the <a href="#">MSc CIS Master's Thesis Guidelines</a>.</p> <p>When writing the thesis, the <a href="#">Guide to Writing a Master's Thesis</a> 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"> <li>1. <b>Module enrolment</b> on IS-Academia (5-30 ECTS).</li> <li>2. <a href="#">Select MT topic</a> following the Guidelines procedures notably concerning the "choice" of the Principal &amp; complementary Co-Advisor.</li> <li>3. <b>Plan</b> your research/field/writing work with your Advisors.</li> <li>4. <a href="#">Project Definition</a></li> <li>5. <b>Carry out</b> your MT work following your plan &amp; Advisors' indications.</li> <li>6. <a href="#">Announcement Form</a></li> <li>7. <a href="#">MT submission</a></li> <li>8. <b>Oral examination</b></li> </ol>
<b>Teaching and Learning Methods</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research-Based Learning</li> <li>• Mentoring</li> </ul>
<b>Competency Assessment</b>	<p>Follow the specificities of the <a href="#">Assessment Form</a>, which includes two main components: the MT written work and oral examination.</p> <p>The Principal Advisor decide on the <i>Assessment Form Type</i>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Type 1 with deskwork focus</li> <li>• Type 2 with practical focus</li> </ul> <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>
<b>Mode of Repetition</b>	Should a student fail the module, they have one more attempt and must repeat the entire module.
<b>Format</b>	<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>
<b>Attendance</b>	NA
<b>Module Type</b>	Compulsory
<b>Timing of the Module</b>	Autumn & Spring Semester
<b>Venue</b>	NA
<b>Literature</b>	All regulatory and supporting documents can be found on the <a href="#">Campus App</a> .
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Links to Other Modules</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MCCf186 Expansion of Personal Competencies: Products and Processes</li> <li>• MCCf256 Expansion of Personal Competencies: Business Models</li> <li>• MCCf356 Expansion of Personal Competences: Inter- and Transdisciplinary Projects</li> <li>• MCCf413 Research Methods 1: Qualitative Approaches</li> <li>• MCCf423 Research Methods 2: Quantitative Approaches</li> <li>• MCCf433 Research Methods 3: Transdisciplinary Approaches</li> </ul>
<b>Last Update</b>	February 2026