



FAQ Master programme “Circular Innovation and Sustainability”

Questions considering content

What is the new Master’s programme Circular Innovation and Sustainability?

The new Sustainability Master has a focus on Circular Economy and offers you in-depth expertise and versatile practical examples to help you innovatively shape the future. The interdisciplinary Master's enables you to initiate and realise innovative transformation projects and thus contribute significantly to CO2 reduction and resource efficiency. Gain in-depth knowledge in the areas of (bio)resources, circular economy, social and digital sustainability. The degree programme can be completed full or part-time.

Why is this such a broad Master’s programme touching various topics only on the surface?

Circular economy works at the intersection of different disciplines. Accordingly, it is central that there are people who understand the various sides of sustainability. With this master you will gain a broad understanding of various thematic fields and learn how to find solutions considering multiple perspectives. Such graduates will be central for steering the transformation.

I am interested in a specific thematic area (e.g. sustainable finance, or chemistry). Is there a possibility to specialise?

In the first part of the Master's programme, we try to cover all the central areas of knowledge for the circular economy. In this way, a solid foundation of knowledge is already developed in many areas. Specialisation in certain areas is possible in the second part of the Master's degree (i.e. in the focus and case area), where certain knowledge can be deepened with modules from other degree programmes, coaching or an internship.

Does the Master focus exclusively on physical products or also on services?

The Master is explicitly not limited to certain sectors or products/services. Thus, in addition to product innovations, the innovation section also deals with process innovations, which can be just as relevant for services. Business models and the institutional environment are also of central importance for service companies. If someone wants to acquire more specific knowledge for a certain industry, this specialisation option is available in the second part of the Master's degree.

What are the reasons for the 120 ECTS and not 90 ECTS of this MSc?

This master's programme aims for an interdisciplinary approach to the topic. It builds up expertise in various disciplines through various experts. Such a broad insight into sustainability and circular economy is hardly possible with only 90 ECTS.

Are my previous qualifications sufficient to start this Master's programme?

Check our entry requirements on the website. If you are not sure, whether you are eligible, we are happy to conduct a rapid individual examination of the dossiers [msc.sustainability@bfh.ch] After a quick check, we can tell you more precisely whether it is possible to study or what conditions might be imposed.



Organizational questions

Is it possible to study part-time?

Yes, it is possible to study part-time. The full-time programme is already very flexible. With a 100% study programme, only two attendance days per week are planned. The rest is acquired individually and flexible through distance learning and self-study.

A part-time study (e.g. 50%) means there would only be one attendance day a week. However, the time used for distance-learning and self-study shall not be underestimated.

What are the advantages of the full-time or part-time mode?

The full-time mode offers the advantage that students can concentrate on their studies for the most part. The study time is short but intensive. They can face new challenges in professional practice more quickly.

The part-time mode has the advantage that the studies are continuously enriched by practical experience and new knowledge from the studies can be immediately transferred to everyday working life (theory-practice transfer). In addition, the professional activity makes it easier to finance the studies. In return, the study time is extended accordingly.

How much can I work alongside my studies if I study part-time?

If you wish, you can work at about 80% next to your studies, as there is only one attendance day in a part-time study programme. However, do not underestimate the time needed for self-study. We do not recommend to work more than 50% next to your studies

Is it possible to have certain points credited to the Master's degree through professional experience?

It is possible to credit certain ECTS in the "Cases" module group. However, it must be clearly shown that the skills in the job can be used directly for the study. In general, however, we want to generate new knowledge with the master's degree. Accordingly, it might make more sense to gain new experience, for example in the form of an internship at another company.

How is the practical relevance established in the Master's programme?

The direct practical relevance is central to this Master's programme and is also implemented in the individual modules. However, the concrete implementation differs from module to module. In some modules, we work with guest speakers, in others we work directly on live cases from companies, and often we also work directly on the individual cases, which means that the knowledge gained is implemented directly in a personal, practical context.

Is it possible to do a semester abroad during the Master's programme?

A study exchange is possible and we are happy to support this. The study regulations explicitly provide for this possibility. From a legal point of view, a minimum of 60 ECTS must be completed at the BFH for the title MSc CIS - the rest could theoretically be done abroad (after approval by the programme management). Crediting can take place in the Focus and Cases module group (i.e. in the case of full-time study, in principle from the 2nd or 3rd semester). No institutional partnerships (double degrees) have yet been established specifically for the Master's programme. However, each department has partnerships that could be used here. A good solution would certainly be found here based on individual counselling.