



Master in Life Sciences

A cooperation between
BFH, FHNW, HES-SO, ZFH

Module Title	Landscape Development and Planning
Code	MSLS_AF-56
Degree Programme	Master of Science in Life Sciences (MSLS)
ECTS Credits	5
Workload	150 h: Contact 45 h; Group Exercise in the field 40 h; Self-study 65 h
Module Coordinator	<p>Name Evelyn Coleman Brantschen</p> <p>Phone +41 31 848 51 03</p> <p>Email evelyn.coleman@bfh.ch</p> <p>Address Bern University of Applied Sciences, School of Agricultural, Forest and Food Sciences, Laenggasse 85, 3052 Zollikofen</p>
Lecturers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evelyn Coleman Brantschen • David Raemy • Jean-Jacques Thormann • Guest lecturers
Entry Requirements	None.
Learning Outcomes and Competences	<p>After completing the module students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • analyze the spatial development of rural areas and draw conclusions for general planning, taking account of climate change and societal demands • identify societal demands on landscape development and propose goal-oriented solutions • understand and apply the principles of a landscape approach • develop and implement development strategies at landscape level in rural mountain areas
Module Content	<p>Lecturers give an introduction to the selected topic and contributions from different disciplines to approach key issues related to that subject, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basics of a landscape approach and landscape analysis • Basics of land-use planning in rural areas • Facts and figures, landscape development policies • Property regimes and their influence on natural resource management systems • Implications of climate change and changes in societal needs on management systems (adaptive management) • Case study in a mountain region: Design of a local landscape development plan containing an interdisciplinary situation analysis, development of scenarios for the future and of policy and management recommendations for the sustainable development of the region

Teaching / Learning Methods	A combination of lectures, individual work and teamwork with disciplinary/topical subgroups, and seminars with individual presentations and interdisciplinary group work for synthesis report. A final field week in a mountain region in Switzerland
Assessment of Learning Outcome	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Results of the landscape analysis, to be handed in on the Friday preceding the field week (40%) 2) Presentation of a local landscape development plan at the end of the field week (60%)
Bibliography	References and readings will be made available during the course; students are expected to complement these sources with their individual research of literature and other information.
Language	English and German/French (field week): Students must be able to interact in German or French with local stakeholders.
Comments	There will be a field week (Monday - Friday) in calendar week 25 in June
Last Update	20.01.2026 / Evelyn Coleman Brantschen