

Master's in Sustainability Transformations (MSc SusTrafo)

## Course Overview

(Course offer according to the new study plan, valid from 01.08.24)

**Autumn term 2024**

Status: 24.09.2024



### General information

This summary outlines the course structure for the Master's in Sustainability Transformations (MSc SusTrafo). Please note that this overview is provisional. For further details and updates refer to the KSL (Kernsystem Lehre / Core teaching system). For course-specific inquiries, please contact the relevant organizational unit directly.

## Scheme of programme

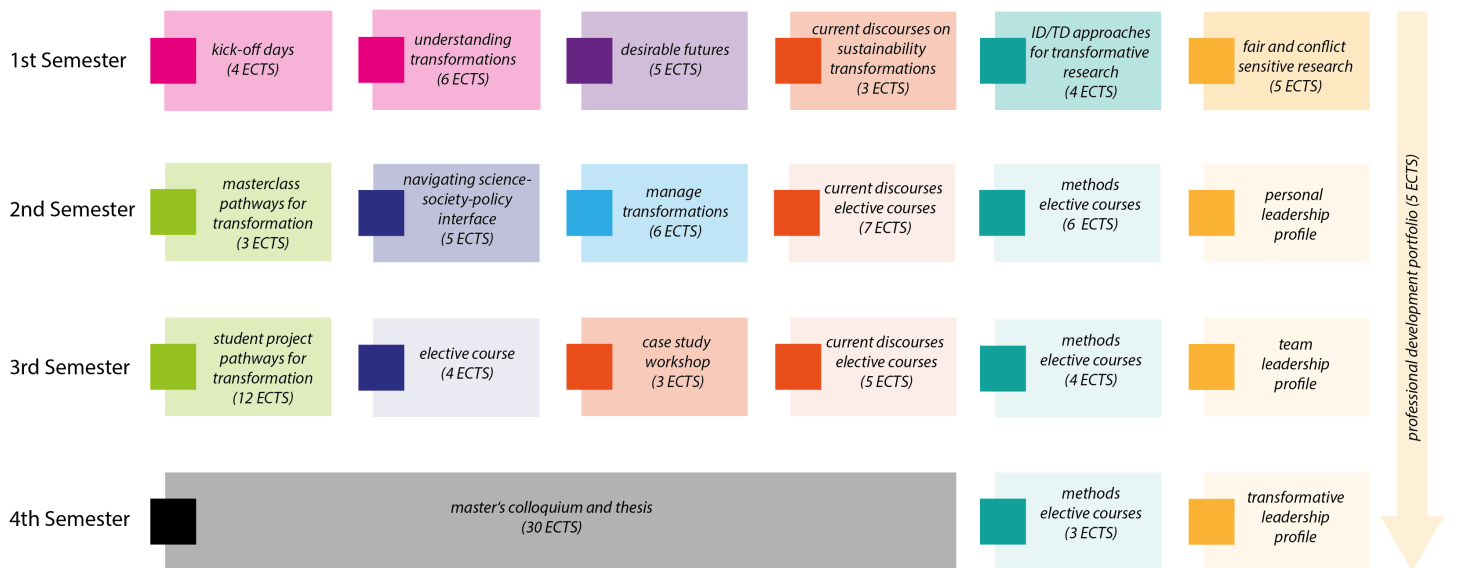
The Master's in Sustainability Transformations is worth 120 ECTS credits. This total is comprised of 66 compulsory ECTS credits (with 30 ECTS credits reserved for the Master's thesis) and 54 elective ECTS credits. The programme duration is four semesters (two years) of full-time study.

The study programme is divided into 9 modules:

- Science of sustainability – Understanding transformation
- Science for sustainability – Current discourses on sustainability transformations
- Desirable futures
- Methods for sustainability transformations
- Pathways for transformation
- Managing transformations – Serious games
- Navigating the science–policy–society interface
- Personal development and complementary studies
- Master's colloquium and thesis

The following illustration provides an overview of the structure of the study programme.

### Curriculum: Master's in Sustainability Transformations (template)



### Learning environment

**Methodological mastery:** Rigorous training in research methodologies ensures that the graduates are well-equipped to approach complex sustainability problems with a robust and critical scientific mindset.

**Innovative teaching methods:** From serious games to interactive modules with practice partners, the teaching methods are designed to inspire creative problem-solving and dynamic project management.

**Transformative learning:** The study programme nurtures the students as whole persons – cultivating resilience, cultural competency, and an ethic of self-care to sustain the passion for long-term impact.

Modules	Science of sustainability – Understanding transformation (10 ECTS)	Science for sustainability – Current discourses on sustainability transformations (18 ECTS)	Pathways for transformation (15 ECTS)
	Desirable Futures (5 ECTS)	Methods for sustainability transformations (17 ECTS)	Personal development and complementary studies (10 ECTS)
	Managing transformations – Serious games (6 ECTS)	Navigating the science–policy–society interface (9 ECTS)	Master's colloquium and thesis (30 ECTS)

## **Cooperation with the University of Fribourg i. Üe.**

The departments of Sustainable Development at the University of Bern and Environmental Sciences at the University of Fribourg have established a BeFri subject convention. This convention enables MSc SusTrafo students to participate in selected courses at the University of Fribourg for credit purpose. This opportunity is available for courses within the individual study programme in the modules *Science for sustainability – Current discourses on sustainability transformations* and *Methods for sustainability transformations*.

You must be enrolled as a BeNeFri student at the University of Fribourg in order to attend courses and take assessments at the University of Fribourg. Enrolment takes place online through the Admissions Office of the University of Bern (ZIB). Further information on the registration procedure, deadlines and travel expense reimbursement can be found here:

[https://www.unibe.ch/studies/mobility/outgoing/in\\_switzerland/benefri/index\\_eng.html](https://www.unibe.ch/studies/mobility/outgoing/in_switzerland/benefri/index_eng.html)

## **Course selection, guidelines and recommendations for individual study planning**

As the modules of the Master in Sustainability Transformations progressively build upon each other in terms of content and methodology, it should be taken into account that the module *Science of sustainability – Understanding transformation* must be completed before commencing module *Pathways for Transformation*.

If you have any questions about individual study planning, please contact the academic student advice (sustrafo-advice.cde@unibe.ch).

## Registration and deregistration procedure

Registration and deregistration for **CDE courses** are conducted via KSL.

The following rules apply:

REGISTRATION FOR THE COURSE IS CONSIDERED AS REGISTRATION FOR THE EXAM

- For courses in the autumn term, registration is open until Friday of calendar week 38 (20.09.2024) and deregistration is possible until Friday of calendar week 47 (22.11.2024).
- If you wish to deregister without providing a reason up to 2 weeks before the exam or (if exams take place during the term) up to 2 weeks before the last course, please inform the Study administration: [sustrafo-admin.cde@unibe.ch](mailto:sustrafo-admin.cde@unibe.ch).

The Study administration will deregister you from the course.

For information regarding registration and deregistration procedures for other courses at the University of Bern **not administered by CDE**, please contact the responsible organizational unit in advance.

For courses at the University of Fribourg, registration can be completed via [my.unifr.ch](http://my.unifr.ch). You can find the deadlines [here](#).

For courses at the University of Neuchâtel, find all information about the registration here: [Courses \(unine.ch\)](http://Courses.unine.ch).

## Modalities of the exams

For courses organized by CDE, there is generally only one date for the assessment. In the event of a repeat examination, an additional date will be scheduled.

For courses not conducted by CDE, please follow the exam modalities specified by the responsible organizational unit.

## Autumn term 2024

### Science of sustainability – understanding transformations

Course		Time and place	Registration	Repetition
490048 Rt.Nr.	<b>Sustainability Transformations - Kick-off days</b> Excursion: 4 ECTS credits (CDE: C. Bader, A. Lewis)	<b>Course:</b> 11. & 12.09.2024 Time: 11.09., 08:30 to 12.09, 19:00 Place: Avenches	Registration is done automatically	Every autumn term
		<b>Exam:</b> Exam type will be announced at the beginning of the course	-	
414226 Rt.Nr.:	<b>Introduction to sustainability transformations: analytical tools and concepts to explain systemic change</b> Lecture: 6 ECTS credits (CDE: M. Duygan, C. Bader, S. Bieri)	<b>Course:</b> Mon, 14:15-17:00, weekly, Room: see KSL	<b>Registration</b> until Fri, 20.09.2024 (See rule, p. 4)	Every autumn term
		<b>Exam:</b> Exam type will be announced at the beginning of the course	<b>Deregistration</b> until Fri, 22.11.2024 (See rule, p. 4)	

## Science for sustainability – current discourses on sustainability transformations

Course		Time and place	Registration	Repetition
414274  Rt.Nr.:	<b>Polycrisis in the anthropocene: Barriers and leverage points for global sustainability</b> Lecture: 3 ECTS credits (CDE: S. Bieri, C. Bader, T.Tribaldos, C. Oberlack)	<b>Course:</b> Tue, 16:15-18:00, weekly, Room: see KSL	<b>Registration</b> until Fri, 20.09.2024 (See rule, p. 4)	Every autumn term
			<b>Deregistration</b> until Fri, 22.11.2024 (See rule, p. 4)	
	<b>Exam:</b> Tue, 17.12.2024 16:15-18:00 Room: see KSL	<b>Registration</b> until Fri, 22.11.2024 (exception to rule, p. 4)		
		<b>Deregistration</b> until Tue, 03.12.2024 (exception to rule, p. 4)		

Course		Time and place	Registration	Repetition
489936  Rt.Nr.:	<b>Afrika, Africa, Afrique</b> Lecture series: 3 ECTS credits Interdisziplinär Universitätsleitung: various lecturers)	<b>Course:</b> Wed, 18:15-19:45, weekly, Room: see KSL	See KSL	
		<b>Exam:</b> See KSL	See KSL	

Course		Time and place	Registration	Repetition
103804  Rt.Nr.:	<b>Natural Hazards: Process &amp; Methods</b> Lecture series: 3 ECTS credits Institute of geography	<b>Course:</b> Wed, 16:15-18:00, weekly, Room: Room 001, GIUB	See KSL	
		<b>Exam:</b> See KSL	See KSL	

Course		Time and place	Registration	Repetition
5355  Rt.Nr.:	<b>International Political Economy I</b> Lecture series: 6 ECTS credits VWL	<b>Course:</b> Wed, 13:15-15:00, biweekly 18.9-20.11 Room: Room A222, UniS	See KSL	
		<b>Exam:</b> 11.12.2024	See KSL	

Course		Time and place	Registration	Repetition
441353 Rt.Nr.:	<b>Climate Economics: International Cooperation</b> Lecture: 4.5 ECTS credits (VWL)	<b>Course:</b> Tue, 12:15-14:00, weekly Wed, 08:15-10:00, biweekly Room: See KSL	See KSL	
		<b>Exam:</b> 31.01.2025	See KSL	

### Desirable futures

Course		Time and place	Registration	Repetition
490061 Rt.Nr.	<b>Desirable Futures</b> Seminar: 5 ECTS credits (CDE: A. Vlachos)	<b>Course:</b> Tue, 14:15-16:00, weekly, Room: see KSL	<b>Registration</b> until Fri, 20.09.2024 (See rule, p. 4)	Every autumn term
		<b>Exam:</b> Exam type will be announced at the beginning of the course	<b>Deregistration</b> until Fri, 22.11.2024 (See rule, p. 4)  Registration for the course is considered as registration for the exam	

### Methods for sustainability transformations

Course		Time and place	Registration	Repetition
488622_HS2024-0 Rt.Nr.:	<b>Transdisciplinarity and transformative research designs and methods for sustainable development</b> Lecture with exercises: 4 ECTS credits (CDE: C. Oberlack)	<b>Course:</b> Fri, 10:00-12:00, 14:00-16:00 weekly, Room: see KSL	<b>Registration</b> until Fri, 20.09.2024 (See rule, p. 4)	Every autumn term
		<b>Exam:</b> Exam type will be announced at the beginning of the course	<b>Deregistration</b> until Fri, 22.11.2024 (See rule, p. 4)  Registration for the course is considered as registration for the exam	

## Personal development and complementary studies

Course		Time and place	Registration	Repetition
490022	<b>Be fair, contextually aware, and conflict-sensitive in inter-cultural and inter-contextual collaborations: key competences for sustainability transformations</b> Seminar: 5 ECTS credits (CDE: L. Lundsgaard-Hansen, Z. Aye, S. Frey)	<b>Course:</b> Wed, 08:15-12:00, 13:15-14:00 weekly, Room: see KSL	<b>Registration</b> until Fri, 20.09.2024 (See rule, p. 4)	Every autumn term
			<b>Deregistration</b> until Fri, 22.11.2024 (See rule, p. 4)	
Rt.Nr.:	<b>Exam:</b> Exam type will be announced at the beginning of the course	Registration for the course is considered as registration for the exam		

Course		Time and place	Registration	Repetition
490037	<b>Evidence-based planning for an impactful career</b> Exercise: 1.5 ECTS credits (CDE: L. Gurtner)	<b>Course:</b> Mon, 10:15-12:00 16.09.-28.10.2024 Room: see KSL	<b>Registration</b> until Fri, 20.09.2024 (See rule, p. 4)	Every autumn term
			<b>Deregistration</b> until Fri, 22.11.2024 (See rule, p. 4)	
Rt.Nr.:	<b>Exam:</b> Exam type will be announced at the beginning of the course	Registration for the course is considered as registration for the exam		

Course		Time and place	Registration	Repetition
490039	<b>Human cognitive makeup: getting to know our software for global problem-solving</b> Course: 0.5 ECTS credits (CDE: L. Gurtner)	<b>Course:</b> Mon, 04.11.2024 09:00-12:30 Room: see KSL	<b>Registration</b> until Fri, 20.09.2024 (See rule, p. 4)	Every autumn term
			<b>Deregistration</b> until Fri, 22.11.2024 (See rule, p. 4)	
Rt.Nr.:	<b>Exam:</b> Exam type will be announced at the beginning of the course	Registration for the course is considered as registration for the exam		



## Course schedule Master's in Sustainability Transformations autumn term 2024

### Autumn term 2024

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
08-09			<b>PersDev 2:</b> Seminar	<b>SfS_elective:</b> Climate Economics: International Cooperation (Economics)	
09-10					
10-11	<b>PersDev1:</b> Evidence-based planning for an impactful career (Professional Development Portfolio), 16.09.-28.10.2024				
11-12					
12-13		<b>SfS_elective:</b> Climate Economics: International Cooperation (Economics)			
13-14			<b>PersDev 2:</b> Coaching	<b>SfS_elective:</b> International Political Economy I (Economics)	
14-15	<b>SoS2:</b> Introduction to sustainability transformations: analytical tools and concepts to explain systemic change	<b>DesF:</b> Seminar			
15-16					
16-17			<b>SfS1:</b> Polycrisis in the anthropocene: Barriers and leverage points for global sustainability	<b>SfS_elective:</b> Natural Hazards: Process & Methods (Geography)	
17-18					
18-20			<b>SfS_elective:</b> Afrika, Africa, Afrique		

#### Single dates:

- SoS1\_Kick-off days 11 & 12 September 2024
- PersDev1\_2 Input human cognition 4 November 2024 (09:00-12:30)