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**UNIVERSITY
OF BERN**

CDE
CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT
AND ENVIRONMENT

Master's in Sustainability Transformations

A 120 ECTS STUDY PROGRAMME



Shaping the change for desirable futures

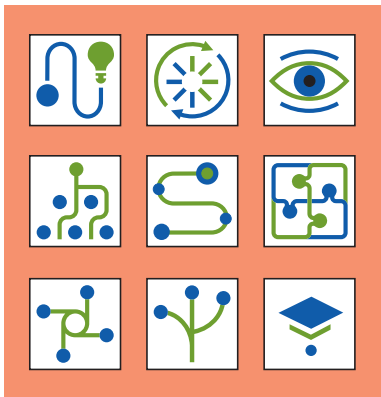
Multiple crises such as global warming, biodiversity loss, dwindling resources, and increasing poverty are stark realities today – and a consequence of how wealthy countries have structured the global economy and societal systems. The pivotal question is: how can we successfully organize a comprehensive and targeted transformation that tackles all three dimensions of sustainability: social, environmental, and economic?

Cutting-edge research meets local and international application

Addressing this question is the focus of CDE's new Master's in Sustainability Transformations. This innovative MSc seeks to train students to become sustainability specialists. Upon completion of the programme, they will be equipped to critically analyse sustainability issues in interconnected dimensions and develop comprehensive practical solutions at local, national, and international levels. Students will identify solutions that address the *causes* – and not just the symptoms – of sustainability problems. The programme thus seeks to achieve genuine, far-reaching transformation rather than simply increasing efficiency or improving existing systems.

The Master's combines cutting-edge research in sustainability sciences with practical applications. The programme actively collaborates with leading global networks in which CDE is active, such as the Land Matrix and WOCAT, as well as with local stakeholders from the city and canton of Bern.

Study programme



Science of sustainability – Understanding transformations

10 ECTS credits



Science for sustainability – Current discourses on sustainability transformations

10 ECTS credits



Desirable futures

5 ECTS credits

MSc in Sustainability Transformations

Programme objective

Students will acquire competences to help shape desirable futures: They will learn to initiate, design, and implement innovative processes to help shape a sustainable world. This Master's will prepare them for important roles in business, political consultancy, international organizations, NGOs, and science.

Learning environment

The study programme is inter- and transdisciplinary and focuses on Education for Sustainable Development and transformative science:

Methodological mastery: Rigorous training in research methodologies ensures that 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, teaching methods are designed to inspire creative problem-solving and dynamic project management.

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



Methods for sustainability transformations

17 ECTS credits



Navigating the science-policy-society interface

9 ECTS credits



Pathways for transformations

15 ECTS credits



Personal development and complementary skills

10 ECTS credits



Managing transformations – Serious games

6 ECTS credits



Master's colloquium and thesis

30 ECTS credits

Organization and information

Application and admission

The programme offers 30 study places. Interested students should apply by 30 April. The application process consists of:

- an online assessment
- submission of the application documents including your assessment score
- a possible interview

Interviews usually take place within one to three months of the application deadline. Interviews will be conducted via video conference.



Please see the website for more information on the application and admission process.

Degree

Master of Science (MSc) in
Sustainability Transformations,
University of Bern

Number of credits

Mono 120 ECTS

Duration

4 semesters

Admission

Bachelor with 60 ECTS in Sustainable
Development or equivalent

Start date

Autumn semester

University of Bern
Centre for Development and Environment (CDE)
Mittelstrasse 43
3012 Bern
Switzerland

Contact

Study administration
Samira Wittenwiler
sustrafo-admin.cde@unibe.ch

Student advice
Anna Lena Lewis
sustrafo-advice.cde@unibe.ch

Director of studies
Dr. Christoph Bader
studienleitungne.cde@unibe.ch