Master’s Minor in Sustainable Development
A 30 ECTS STUDY PROGRAMME
Challenges of sustainable development

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?

What do we mean by “sustainable development“?

At CDE, we understand sustainable development to mean the development of society as a whole that meets the (basic) needs of present generations without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. The transformation to sustainability requires the commitment of all social groups, in particular science, policymaking, and civil society.

Centre for Development and Environment (CDE)

We envision a transformed world, where everyone can live a life of dignity in open societies while preserving the ecological integrity of our planet. CDE is committed to pioneering, transformative research: we generate high-impact, high-quality knowledge that inspires innovation in science, society, and policy.

Education in sustainable development

CDE offers a Bachelor’s Minor in Sustainable Development worth 15, 30, or 60 ECTS credits, a Master’s Minor in Sustainable Development worth 30 ECTS credits, and a Master’s Mono in Sustainability Transformations worth 120 ECTS credits.

At doctoral level, CDE coordinates the International Graduate School North-South (IGS North-South), a joint initiative of the Universities of Bern, Basel, and Zurich. In the area of continuing education, CDE offers a Certificate Course in Sustainable Development (CAS NE), worth 15 ECTS credits. In addition, CDE advises all faculties of the University of Bern on the integration of sustainable development into teaching.
The MSc Mi SD (30 ECTS credits) in a nutshell

The MSc Mi SD teaches research- and application-oriented scientific principles of sustainable development and enables students to work on questions of sustainable development in an inter- and transdisciplinary manner. A special feature of the programme is that it encourages students to integrate the discipline-specific knowledge from their major, in order to develop transformations towards a more sustainable and just society. MSc Mi SD graduates are able to independently identify and describe global and societal challenges of sustainable development, taking into account the latest research, different perspectives, and inter- and transdisciplinary theories and transformation approaches.

1st Semester
- current discourses on sustainability transformations (3 ECTS)
- understanding transformations (6 ECTS)
- ID/TD approaches for transformative research (3 ECTS)

2nd Semester
- current discourses elective courses (3 ECTS)
- masterclass pathways for transformation (3 ECTS)

3rd Semester
- current discourses elective courses (3 ECTS)
- student project pathways for transformation (6 ECTS)
- desirable futures (3 ECTS)

Module A: Foundations of sustainability transformations (12 ECTS)
Module B1: Challenges of sustainable development in practice (3 ECTS)
Module B2: Challenges of sustainable development (6 ECTS)
Module C: Envisioning and implementing sustainable futures (9 ECTS)
Organization and information

Admission and registration

The MSc Mi SD is aimed at students of all disciplines who have been admitted to a Master’s programme at the University of Bern. To be eligible for admission to the MSc Mi SD, you must be enrolled in a Master’s programme at the University of Bern or at another Swiss university. If you are enrolled at another Swiss university, please refer to the “Minor Mobility” page for information on enrollment. No prior achievements in Sustainable Development at Bachelor’s level are required.

The MSc Mi SD is credited to your degree programme in accordance with the study plan of your Master’s Major. Please make sure to enquire about the terms for this in advance.

Further information

Please see the website for more information on the MSc Mi SD.

Contact

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