

Master's Degree in Sustainable Development



### **Optimal Course Progression Part Time**

(last update March 22/CCh)

#### **Preliminary**

The guidelines state (section 4.2, p. 6) that "A optimal course progression is recommended in each focus area. [...] The MSD includes so called core lectures that must be attended to avoid exclusion. Furthermore, the attendance of these lectures is compulsory for the allocation of certain classes, as they provide knowledge essential for the successful completion of the degree program. Students are advised to attend these core lectures in the first fall semester".

The two core lectures are:

- 48953: Sustainable Development: Introduction into Topics and Approaches;
- 48954: Tools and Methods for Interdisciplinary Research.

This optimal course progression plan is to be seen as an example considering that:

- the period of studying is of six semesters (without counting the semester(s) for the master's thesis);
- the MSD has been started in fall semester (as recommended);
- the admission to the MSD has been without additional requirements (Auflagen) or preliminar semester(s) (preparation master/Vorbereitung Master).

As soon as one of the above-mentioned conditions is altered, the optimal course progression changes accordingly.

#### Curriculum (according to the three focus areas; see study regulations §7)

## Natural Sciences

- Complementary Knowledge in Social Sciences (CK Soc) 12 CP
- Complementary Knowledge in Economics (CK Econ) 12 CP
- Interdisciplinary Research in Sustainability (IRS)24 CP
- Core Competences in Natural Sciences (CC Nat) 15 CP
- Preparation Master's Thesis in Natural Sciences (PM Nat) 15CP
- Master's Thesis Natural Sciences 30 CP
- Focal Areas in Sustainability Research module (FASR) 12 CP

#### **Social Sciences**

- Complementary Knowledge in Natural Sciences (CK Nat) 12 CP
- Complementary Knowledge in Economics (CK Econ) 12 CP
- Interdisciplinary Research in Sustainability (IRS) 24CP
- Core Competences in Social Sciences (CC Soc) 15 CP
- Preparation Master's Thesis in Social Sciences (PM Soc) 15 CP
- Master's Thesis Social Sciences 30 CP
- Focal Areas in Sustainability Research module (FASR) 12CP

### **Economics**

- Complementary Knowledge in Natural Sciences (CK Nat) 12 CP
- Complementary Knowledge in Social Sciences (CK Soc) 12 CP
- Interdisciplinary Research in Sustainability(IRS) 24 CP
- Core Competences in Economics (CC Econ) 15 CP
- Preparation Master's Thesis in Economics (PM Econ) 15 CP
- Master's Thesis Economics 30 CP
- Focal Areas in Sustainability Research module (FASR) 12CP

Module	Semester 1 Fall	Semester 2 Spring	Semester 3 Fall	Semester 4 Spring	Semester 5 Fall	Semester 6 Spring
CK Social Sciences 12 CP	<ul> <li>41829: Perspectives of Social Sciences on Sustainability (3*)</li> <li>14253: Environmental Ethics (3)</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>11513: Sustainability:         <ul> <li>A new Societal</li> <li>Paradigm? (3)</li> </ul> </li> <li>17403: Governance,         <ul> <li>Sustainable</li> <li>Development and</li> <li>Democracy (3)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		0		
CK Economics 12 CP	48981: Intensive Introduction to Intermediate Economics (6)	10160: Environmental and Ressource Economics (6)		:017		
IRS 24 CP	48953: Sustainable     Development:     Introduction into     Topics and     Approaches (3)     48954: Tools and     Methods for     Interdisciplinary     Research (3)	Methods in Natural Sciences (3)  and CP according to possibilities and offer published in the medium-term syllabi & online course directory:      Methods in Social Sciences (3)      Methods in Economics (3)      50729: Training for Sustainability Research (6)      Master colloquium A: 50399: Introduction to Ongoing MSD Master's Thesis (or next semester) (1)	CP according to possibilities and offer published in the medium-term syllabi & online course directory:  • Methods in Social Sciences (3)  • Master colloquium A: 50399: Introduction to Ongoing MSD Master's Thesis (or next semester) (1)	Courses not passed in semester 2 (spring) out of this list (according to possibilities and offer published in the medium-term syllabi & online course directory:  • Methods in Social Sciences (3)  • Methods in Economics (3)  • 50729: Training for Sustainability Research (6)  • Master colloquium A: 50399: Introduction to Ongoing MSD Master's Thesis (or next semester) (1)	CP according to possibilities and offer published in the medium-term syllabi & online course directory:  • Methods in Social Sciences (3)  • Master colloquium A: 50399: Introduction to Ongoing MSD Master's Thesis (or next semester) (1)	Master colloquium B:     52317: Presentation of     concepts of MSD     Master's thesis (1)

#### Optimal study progression plan part time (6 semesters without MT) Focus Area Natural Sciences/2 Module **Semester 1 Fall Semester 4 Spring** Semester 2 Spring **Semester 3 Fall** Semester 5 Fall Semester 6 Spring Registration of CP CC Registration of CP In case of free In case of free Focus on mandatory Focus on mandatory course if not passed vet: **Natural** capacities: Registration course if not passed yet: according to free according to free capacities: Registration Sciences of mandatory course: of mandatory course: • 49077 Global Chance 50264: Global capacities and offer: capacities and offer: 15 CP • 49077 Global Chance only optional courses only optional courses • 50264: Global Resources (3) Change Ecology (3) (max. 9 CP to take) Resources (3) Change Ecology (3) (max. 9 CP to take) plus plus plus only in case of free plus only in case of free · optional courses out of · optional courses out of this module (max. 9 capacities: capacities: this module (max. 9 add. CP to take) add. CP to take) optional courses out of optional courses out of this module (max. 9 this module (max. 9 add. CP to take) add. CP to take) РМ • 49078: Research • 49078: Research **Natural** Design Master's Design Master's Sciences Thesis (3) for both, 9-Thesis (3) for both. 9-15 CP or 6-months period or 6-months period Master's thesis (as a Master's thesis (when "test") applying for the MT in Independent research the same semester) • Independent research work (or next semester) (11 or 6) work (or former Optional seminar semester) (11 or 6) Optional seminar paper (or next semester) (5) paper (or former semester) (5) MSD Life Science • MSD Life Science Colloquium (or next semester) (1) Colloquium (or former/next semester) (1) Registration of CP Registration of CP Registration of CP **FASR** Registration of CP 12 CP according to free according to free according to free according to free capacities capacities capacities capacities

**Master colloquium C**: 53982: Presentation of Results of MSD Master's thesis (1): In the semester of submission of the master's thesis. The theses have to be completed at least up to 80% or may have been submitted already prior to the final presentation.

Optimal study progression plan part time (6 semesters without MT) Focus Area Social Sciences/1 (\* numbers indicate CP) Module **Semester 1 Fall Semester 2 Spring Semester 4 Spring Semester 5 Fall Semester 6 Spring Semester 3 Fall** CK • 40076: Technical • 41828: Perspectives **Natural** of Natural Sciences Basis of Generation. Sciences on Sustainability (3\*) Distribution and 12 CP • 20721: Ecosystems -Storage of Energy (3) Concepts, Principles • 50260: Ecology and and Processes (3) Evolution (1) • 36792: Terrestrial Ecosystem Ecology & Sustain. Landuse (2) CK • 48981: Intensive 10160: Environmental **Economics** Introduction to and Ressource 12 CP Intermediate Economics (6) Economics (6) IRS CP according to CP according to • 48953: Sustainable Methods in Natural Courses not passed in • Master colloquium B: 24 CP possibilities and offer 52317: Presentation of semester 2 (spring) out possibilities and offer Development: Sciences (3) published in the of this list (according to Introduction into published in the concepts of MSD possibilities and offer Master's thesis (1) Topics and and CP according to medium-term syllabi & medium-term syllabi & Approaches (3) possibilities and offer online course directory: published in the online course directory: medium-term syllabi & • 48954: Tools and published in the Methods in Social Methods in Social medium-term syllabi & Sciences (3) online course directory: Sciences (3) Methods for online course directory: Master colloquium A: Master colloquium A: Interdisciplinary 50399: Introduction to Methods in Social 50399: Introduction to Research (3) Methods in Social Ongoing MSD Sciences (3) Ongoing MSD Master's Thesis (or Sciences (3) Master's Thesis (or Methods in Methods in next semester) (1) Economics (3) next semester) (1) • 50729: Training for Economics (3) Sustainability • 50729: Training for Research (6) Sustainability Research (6) Master colloquium A: 50399: Introduction Master colloquium A: 50399: Introduction to to Ongoing MSD Master's Thesis (or Ongoing MSD Master's Thesis (or next semester) (1) next semester) (1)

#### Optimal study progression plan part time (6 semesters without MT) Focus Area Social Sciences/2 **Semester 2 Spring Semester 5 Fall Semester 6 Spring** Module Semester 1 Fall **Semester 3 Fall Semester 4 Spring** Registration of CP CC In case of free In case of free Focus on mandatory Focus on mandatory Registration of CP capacities: Registration course if not passed yet: course if not passed yet: according to free according to free capacities: Registration Social of mandatory course: of mandatory course: • 14253: Environmental • 11513: Sustainability: capacities and offer: capacities and offer: **Sciences** only optional courses only optional courses • 14253: Environmental • 11513: Sustainability: Ethics ... (3) A new Societal 15 CP (max. 9 CP to take) Ethics ... (3) A new Societal Paradigm? (3) (max. 9 CP to take) Paradigm? (3) plus plus only in case of free optional courses out of plus plus only in case of free optional courses out of capacities: this module (max. 9 capacities: add. CP to take) this module (max. 9 optional courses out of this module (max. 9 optional courses out add. CP to take) add. CP to take) of this module (max. 9 add. CP to take) Registration of CP only PM Registration of CP only • 49078: Research • 49078: Research in case of free in case of free Design Master's Design Master's Social capacities and offer, capacities and offer, Thesis (3) for both, 9-Thesis (3) for both, 9-**Sciences** excluded are: excluded are: or 6-months period or 6-months period 15 CP • 49078 (Research • 49078 (Research Master's thesis (as a Master's thesis (when Design Course) Design Course) "test") applying for the MT in • seminar paper 5 CP the same semester) seminar paper • seminar paper seminar paper 5 CP (or next semester) (or former semester) remaining CP accor-• remaining CP according to capacities and offer ding to capacities and offer **FASR** Registration of CP Registration of CP Registration of CP Registration of CP according to free according to free according to free according to free 12 CP

**Master colloquium C**: 53982: Presentation of Results of MSD Master's thesis (1): In the semester of submission of the master's thesis. The theses have to be completed at least up to 80% or may have been submitted already prior to the final presentation.

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Optimal study progression plan part time (6 semesters without MT) Focus Area Economics/1 (\* numbers indicate CP) Module Semester 1 Fall Semester 3 Fall Semester 2 Spring Semester 4 Spring Semester 5 Fall Semester 6 Spring **CK Natural**  41828: Perspectives 40076: Technical Basis of Generation, Sciences 12 of Natural Sciences CP on Sustainability (3\*) Distribution and • 20721: Ecosystems -Storage of Energy (3) Concepts, Principles • 50260: Ecology and and Processes (3) Evolution (1) • 36792: Terrestrial Ecosystem Ecology & Sustain. Landuse (2) **CK Social** • 41829: Perspectives • 11513: Sustainability: Sciences 12 of Social Sciences on A new Societal CP Sustainability (3) Paradigm? (3) • 14253: Environmental • 17403: Governance. Ethics ... (3) Sustainable Development and Democracy (3) IRS • 48953: Sustainable Methods in Natural CP according to Courses not passed in CP according to • Master colloquium B: 24 CP possibilities and offer semester 2 (spring) out possibilities and offer 52317: Presentation of Development: Sciences (3) Introduction into published in the of this list (according to published in the concepts of MSD medium-term syllabi & possibilities and offer medium-term syllabi & Master's thesis (1) Topics and and CP according to online course directory: possibilities and offer online course directory: published in the Approaches (3) published in the · Methods in Social medium-term svllabi & Methods in Social 48954: Tools and Methods for medium-term svllabi & Sciences (3) online course directory: Sciences (3) Interdisciplinary online course directory: Master colloquium A: • Master colloquium A: Research (3) 50399: Introduction to · Methods in Social 50399: Introduction to Methods in Social Ongoing MSD Sciences (3) Ongoing MSD Master's Thesis (or Master's Thesis (or Sciences (3) Methods in Methods in next semester) (1) Economics (3) next semester) (1) Economics (3) • 50729: Training for Sustainability • 50729: Training for Research (6) Sustainability Master colloquium A: Research (6) 50399: Introduction Master colloquium A: 50399: Introduction to to Ongoing MSD Master's Thesis (or Ongoing MSD Master's Thesis (or next semester) (1) next semester) (1)

#### Optimal study progression plan part time (6 semesters without MT) Focus Area Economics/2 **Semester 1 Fall Semester 2 Spring Semester 4 Spring Semester 5 Fall** Module Semester 3 Fall Semester 6 Spring CC In case of free capacities optional **Economics** capacities optional capacities optional capacities optional capacities optional capacities optional 15 CP courses out of this module (max. 15 CP to take) to take) to take) to take) to take) to take) PM Plus only in case of 49078: Research • 49078: Research free capacities: free capacities: **Economics** free capacities: free capacities: Design Master's Design Master's 15 CP optional courses out optional courses out optional courses out optional courses out Thesis (3) for both. Thesis (3) for both. 9- or 6-months of this module (max. of this module (max. of this module (max. of this module (max. 9- or 6-months 12 CP to take) 12 CP to take) 12 CP to take) 12 CP to take) period Master's period Master's thesis (as a "test") thesis (when optional courses applying for the MT in the same out of this module semester) (max. 12 CP to take) optional courses out of this module (max. 12 CP to take) **FASR** Registration of CP Registration of CP Registration of CP Registration of CP 12 CP according to free according to free according to free according to free capacities capacities capacities capacities

**Master colloquium C**: 53982: Presentation of Results of MSD Master's thesis (1): In the semester of submission of the master's thesis. The theses have to be completed at least up to 80% or may have been submitted already prior to the final presentation.

#### Scheduling the master's thesis (MT)

"The students have a choice of two periods in which to complete the master's thesis: six or nine months. They must choose one of these periods when applying for the master's thesis.

For the nine-month period specific data collection relevant to answer the research question is compulsory. Theses that do not meet the criteria have a period of six months." (Study guidelines MSD 2017, section 4.4.6.5).

Prior to the application of the MT students must do a credit point check with the coordination office MSD. For details see fact sheet on graduation (available on the our website/downloads MSD 2017).

Consider the following steps/deadlines when submitting the application for your master's thesis (MT).

Period semester	submission of application of master's thesis	latest registration of: 49078 Research Design Master's Thesis	latest registration of: 52317: Pre- sentation of Con- cepts of Master's Thesis (coll. B)	latest date of start: submission of LC MT within 3 weeks after approval	latest date of handing in the thesis	latest registration of: 53982: Presen- tation of Results of Master's Thesis (coll. C)	a) b)	semester of graduation graduation ceremony <sup>1</sup>
6 months (application MT in fall)	meeting of teaching committee (TC) in September or end of October/begin- ning of November	former semester as application MT	same semester as application MT, the presentation of concept is to be done during the master's colloquia following the approval of application MT	at latest 3 weeks after approval of application MT	6 months later dep. on starting day  March-May	spring semester of submission of MT; presentation is usually done on the first or second date offered for the master's colloquia	a) b)	spring semester June if MT is submitted until beginning of March; otherwise in December
6 months (application MT in fall)	meeting of teaching committee (TC) in December	same semester as application MT	same semester as application MT, the presentation of concept is to be done during the master's colloquia following the approval of application MT	15. January at latest	6 months later dep. on starting day  15. July at latest	spring semester of submission of MT; the presentation of the results is done during the last date of the master's colloquia (usually in June).	a) b)	spring semester December

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The graduation ceremonies are organized twice a year, they take place at the end of the semester.

Period semester	submission of application of master's thesis	latest registration of: 49078 Research Design Master's Thesis	latest registration of: 52317: Pre- sentation of Con- cepts of Master's Thesis (coll. B)	latest date of start: submission of LC MT within 3 weeks after approval	latest date of handing in the thesis	latest registration of: 53982: Presen- tation of Results of Master's Thesis (coll. C)	a) b)	semester of graduation graduation ceremony <sup>2</sup>
6 months (application MT in spring)	meeting of teaching committee (TC): February/March or April	former semester as application MT	same semester as application MT, the presentation of concept is to be done during the master's colloquia following the approval of application MT	at latest 3 weeks after approval of application MT	6 months later dep. on starting day  September November	Fall semester of submission of MT; presentation is usually done on the first or second date offered for the master's colloquia	a) b)	fall semester December if MT is submitted until beginning of September otherwise in June
6 months (application MT in spring)	meeting of teaching committee (TC): at the end of spring semester in May/June	same semester as application MT	same semester as application MT, the presentation of concept is to be done during the master's colloquia following the approval of application MT	at latest 3 weeks after approval of application MT	6 months later dep. on starting day  November until around mid- December at latest	fall semester of submission of MT; the presentation of the results is done during the last date of the master's colloquia (usually in December).	a) b)	fall semester June
9 months (application MT in fall)	meeting of teaching committee (TC) in September or end of October/begin- ning of November	former semester as application MT	same semester as application MT, the presentation of concept is to be done during the master's colloquia following the approval of application MT	at latest 3 weeks after approval of application MT	9 months later dep. on starting day June until around mid-July at latest  If the submission is later, the semester of graduation will be in the next fall, the graduation cere- mony will be in December	spring semester of submission of MT; presentation is to be done during the last date of the master's colloquia (usually in June)		spring semester (or fall semester, for details see column on latest submission date on the left) December

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The graduation ceremonies are organized twice a year, they take place at the end of the semester, either in December or June.

Period semester	submission of application of master's thesis	latest registration of: 49078 Research Design Master's Thesis	latest registration of: 52317: Pre- sentation of Con- cepts of Master's Thesis (coll. B)	latest date of start: submission of LC MT within 3 weeks after approval	latest date of handing in the thesis	latest registration of: 53982: Presen- tation of Results of Master's Thesis (coll. C)	c)	semester of graduation graduation ceremony <sup>3</sup>
9 months (application MT in fall)	meeting of teaching committee (TC) in December	same semester as application MT	same semester as application MT, the presentation of concept is to be done during the master's colloquia following the approval of application MT	15. January at latest	9 months later dep. on starting day 15. September at latest	fall semester of submission of MT; presentation usually done on the first or second date offered for the master's colloquia	a) b)	fall semester December
9 months (application MT in spring)	meeting of teaching committee (TC): February/March	former semester as application MT	same semester as application MT, the presentation of concept is to be done during the master's colloquia following the approval of application MT	at latest 3 weeks after approval of application MT	9 month later dep. on starting day November until December at latest	Fall semester of submission of MT; presentation is usually done on the first or second date offered for the master's colloquia	a) b)	fall semester June
9 months (application MT in spring)	meeting of teaching committee (TC): April or May/June	same semester as application MT	same semester as application MT, the presentation of concept is to be done during the master's colloquia following the approval of application MT	at latest 3 weeks after approval of application MT	9 month later dep. on starting day  January or February	Usually in spring semester; presentation is usually done on the first date offered for the master's colloquia (it is also possible to do it in the former fall semester, on the last date of the master's colloquia)	a) b)	spring semester June

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> The graduation ceremonies are organized twice a year, they take place at the end of the semester, either in December or June.