

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: 26.06.2024



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

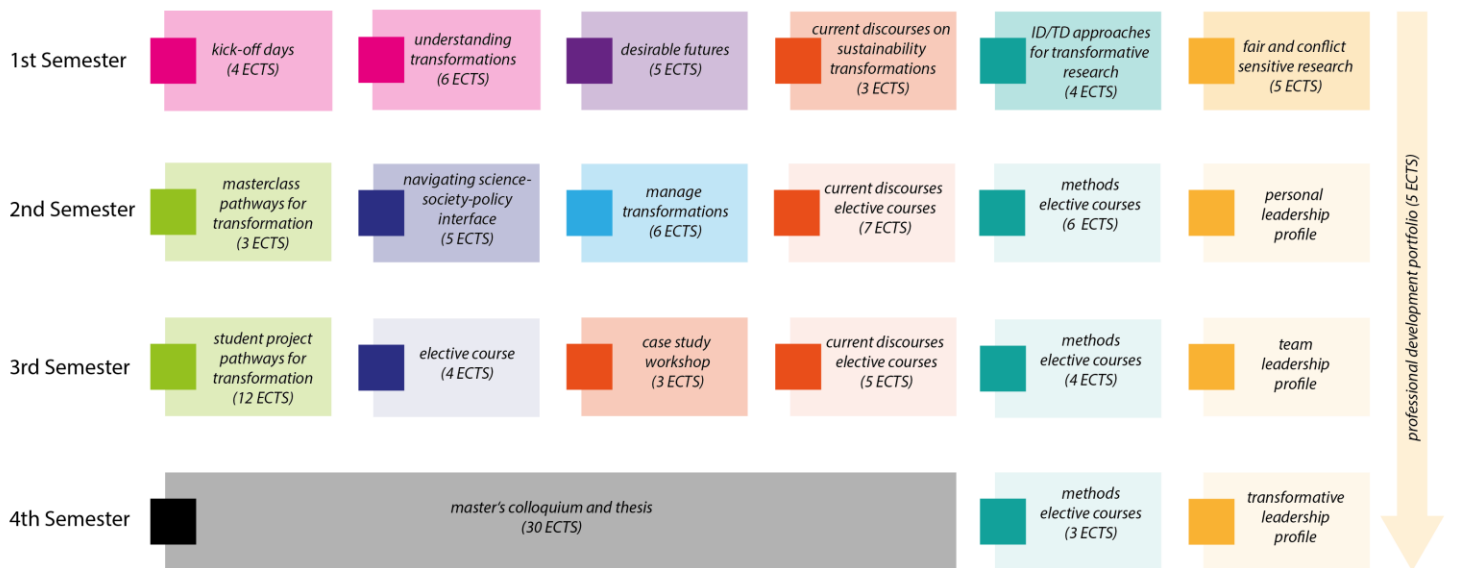
The Master's in Sustainability Transformations is worth 120 ECTS credits. This total is comprised of 66 compulsory ECTS credits (with 30 ECTS credits reserved for the Master's thesis) and 54 elective ECTS credits. The programme duration is four semesters (two years) of full-time study.

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	ECTS Credits
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

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.

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

Science for sustainability – current discourses on sustainability transformations

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

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

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

Course		Time and place	Registration	Repetition
5355 Rt.Nr.:	International Political Economy I Lecture series: 6 ECTS credits VWL	Course: Wen. 13:15-15:00, Bi-weekly 18.9-20.11 Room: Room A222, UniS	See KSL	
		Exam: 11.12.2024	See KSL	

Desirable futures

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

Methods for sustainability transformations

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

Personal development and complementary studies

Course		Time and place	Registration	Repetition
490022	Be fair, contextually aware, and conflict-sensitive in inter-cultural and inter-contextual collaborations: key competences for sustainability transformations Seminar: 5 ECTS credits (CDE: L. Lundsgaard-Hansen, Z. Aye, S. Frey)	Course: Wed, 08:15-12:00, 13:15-14:00 weekly, Room: see KSL	Registration until Fri, 20.09.2024 (See rule, p. 4)	Every autumn term
Rt.Nr.:			Deregistration until Fri, 22.11.2024 (See rule, p. 4)	
	Exam: 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	Evidence-based planning for an impactful career Exercise: 1.5 ECTS credits (CDE: L. Gurtner)	Course: Mon, 10:15-12:00 16.09.-28.10.2024 Room: see KSL	Registration until Fri, 20.09.2024 (See rule, p. 4)	Every autumn term
Rt.Nr.:			Deregistration until Fri, 22.11.2024 (See rule, p. 4)	
	Exam: 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	Human cognitive makeup: getting to know our software for global problem-solving Course: 0.5 ECTS credits (CDE: L. Gurtner)	Course: Mon, 04.11.2024 09:00-12:30 Room: see KSL	Registration until Fri, 20.09.2024 (See rule, p. 4)	Every autumn term
Rt.Nr.:			Deregistration until Fri, 22.11.2024 (See rule, p. 4)	
	Exam: 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			PersDev2: Seminar		
09-10					
10-11	PersDev1: Evidence-based planning for an impactful career (Professional Development Portfolio), 16.09.-28.10.2024				MST1: Transdisciplinarity and transformative research designs and methods for sustainable development (lecture)
11-12					
12-13					
13-14			PersDev 2: Coaching	SfS_elective: International Political Economy I (Economics)	
14-15	SoS2: Introduction to sustainability transformations: analytical tools and concepts to explain systemic change	DesF: Seminar			
15-16					
16-17			SfS1: Polycrisis in the anthropocene: Barriers and leverage points for global sustainability	SfS_elective: Natural Hazards: Process & Methods (Geography)	
17-18					
18-20			SfS_elective: Afrika, Africa, Afrique		

Single dates:

- SoS1_Kick-off days 11 & 12 September 2024
- PersDev1_2 Input human cognition 4 November 2024 (9:00-12:30)