



Optimal Course Progression MSD 2017

(last update: March 2022/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 optimal course progression is to be considered as a recommendation, applies for a period of four semesters including the following points:

- admission to the MSD and start of studies in fall semester (as recommended);
- admission to the MSD without additional requirements (Auflagen) or preliminar semester(s) (preparation master/Vorbereitung Master);
- full time study.

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 modules (CK)
- in Social Sciences (CK Soc) 12 CP
- 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) 15 CP
- Master's Thesis Natural Sciences 30 CP
- Focal Areas in Sustainability Research module (FASR) 12 CP

Social Sciences

- Complementary Knowledge modules (CK)
- in Natural Sciences (CK Nat) 12 CP
- in Economics (CK Econ) 12 CP
- Interdisciplinary Research in Sustainability (IRS) 24 CP
- 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) 12 CP

Economics

- Complementary Knowledge modules (CK)
- in Natural Sciences (CK Nat) 12 CP
- 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) 12 CP

Optimal study progression plan Focus Area Natural Sciences (* numbers indicate CP)				
Module	Semester 1 Fall	Semester 2 Spring	Semester 3 Fall	Semester 4 Spring
CK Social Sciences 12 CP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 41829: Perspectives of Social Sciences on Sustainability (3)* 14253: Environmental Ethics and Intergenerational Justice (3) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11513: Sustainability: A new Societal Paradigm? (3) 17403: Governance, Sustainable Development and Democracy (3) 		
CK Economics 12 CP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 48981: Intensive Introduction to Intermediate Economics (6) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10160: Environmental and Resource Economics (6) 		
IRS 24 CP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 48953: Sustainable Development: Introduction into Topics and Approaches (3) 48954: Tools and Methods for Interdisciplinary Research (3) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Methods in Natural Sciences (3) Methods in Social Sciences (3) Methods in Economics (3) 50729: Training for Sustainability Research (6) Master colloquium A: Introduction to Ongoing MSD Master's Thesis (1) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Master colloquium B: Presentation of concepts of MSD Master's thesis (1) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Master colloquium C: Presentation of results of MSD Master's thesis (1)
CC Natural Sciences 15 CP	<p>Registration of CP according to free capacities and offer published in the medium-term syllabus and online course directory:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attend mandatory courses first <p>plus only in case of free capacities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> optional courses out of this module (max. 9 add. CP to take) 	<p>Registration of CP according to free capacities and offer published in the medium-term syllabus and online course directory:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attend mandatory courses first <p>plus only in case of free capacities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> optional courses out of this module (max. 9 add. CP to take) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Registration of optional courses out of this module (max. 9 add. CP to take) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Registration of optional courses out of this module (max. 9 add. CP to take)
PM Natural Sciences 15 CP		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 49078: Research Design Master's Thesis (3): for both, 9- or 6-months period Master's thesis Registration of CP according to free capacities (incl. individual research work, seminar paper) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 49078: Research Design Master's Thesis (3): for both, 9- or 6-months period Master's thesis Registration of CP according to free capacities (incl. individual research work, seminar paper) 	
MA Natural Sciences 30 CP			Master's Thesis	Master's Thesis
FASR 12 CP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Registration of CP according to free capacities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Registration of CP according to free capacities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Registration of CP according to free capacities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Registration of CP according to free capacities

Optimal study progression plan Focus Area Social Sciences (* numbers indicate CP)

Module	Semester 1 Fall	Semester 2 Spring	Semester 3 Fall	Semester 4 Spring
CK Natural Sciences 12 CP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 41828: Perspectives of Natural Sciences on Sustainability (3)* 20721: Ecosystems – Concepts, Principles and Processes (3) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 40076: Technical Basis of Generation, Distribution and Storage of Energy (3) 50260: Ecology and Evolution (1) 36792: Terrestrial Ecosystem Ecology & Sustainable Landuse (2) 		
CK Economics 12 CP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 48981: Intensive Introduction to Intermediate Economics (6) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10160: Environmental and Resource Economics (6) 		
IRS 24 CP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 48953: Sustainable Development: Introduction into Topics and Approaches (3) 48954: Tools and Methods for Interdisciplinary Research (3) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Methods in Natural Sciences (3) Methods in Social Sciences (3) Methods in Economics (3) 50729: Training for Sustainability Research (6) Master colloquium A: Introduction to Ongoing MSD Master's Thesis (1) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Master colloquium B: Presentation of concepts of MSD Master's thesis (1) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Master colloquium C: Presentation of results of MSD Master's thesis (1)
CC Social Sciences 15 CP	<p>Registration of CP according to free capacities and offer published in the medium-term syllabus and online course directory:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attend mandatory courses first <p>plus only in case of free capacities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> optional courses out of this module (max. 9 add. CP to take) 	<p>Registration of CP according to free capacities and offer published in the medium-term syllabus and online course directory:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attend mandatory courses first <p>plus only in case of free capacities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> optional courses out of this module (max. 9 add. CP to take) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Registration of optional courses out of this module (max. 9 add. CP to take) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Registration of optional courses out of this module (max. 9 add. CP to take)
PM Social Sciences 15 CP		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 49078: Research Design Master's Thesis (3) for both, 9- or 6-months period Master's thesis Registration of CP according to free capacities (incl. start with the seminar paper) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 49078: Research Design Master's Thesis (3) (or 2nd sem.): only in 3d semester if the Master's thesis is to be done in 6 months Registration of CP according to free capacities (incl. finishing and submission with the seminar paper) 	
MA Social Sciences 30 CP			Master's Thesis	Master's Thesis
FASR 12 CP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Registration of CP according free capacities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Registration of CP according free capacities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Registration of CP according free capacities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Registration of CP according free capacities

Optimal study progression plan Focus Area Economics (* numbers indicate CP)

Module	Semester 1 Fall	Semester 2 Spring	Semester 3 Fall	Semester 4 Spring
CK Natural Sciences 12 CP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 41828: Perspectives of Natural Sciences on Sustainability (3)* • 20721: Ecosystems – Concepts, Principles and Processes (3) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 40076: Technical Basis of Generation, Distribution and Storage of Energy (3) • 50260: Ecology and Evolution (1) • 36792: Terrestrial Ecosystem Ecology & Sustainable Landuse (2) 		
CK Social Sciences 12 CP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 41829: Perspectives of Social Sciences on Sustainability (3)* • 14253: Environmental Ethics and Intergenerational Justice (3) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11513: Sustainability: A new Societal Paradigm? (3) • 17403: Governance, Sustainable Development and Democracy (3) 		
IRS 24 CP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 48953: Sustainable Development: Introduction into Topics and Approaches (3) • 48954: Tools and Methods for Interdisciplinary Research (3) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Methods in Natural Sciences (3) • Methods in Social Sciences (3) • Methods in Economics (3) • 50729: Training for Sustainability Research (6) • Master colloquium A: Introduction to Ongoing MSD Master's Thesis (1) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Master colloquium B: Presentation of concepts of MSD Master's thesis (1) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Master colloquium C: Presentation of results of MSD Master's thesis (1)
CC Economics 15 CP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registration of CP according to free capacities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registration of CP according to free capacities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registration of CP according to free capacities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registration of CP according to free capacities
PM Economics 15 CP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registration of CP according to free capacities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 49078: Research Design Master's Thesis (3) for both, 9- or 6-months period Master's thesis • Registration of CP according to free capacities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 49078: Research Design Master's Thesis (3) (or 2nd sem.): 3d semester only if the Master's thesis is to be done in 6 months • Registration of CP according to free capacities 	
MA Economics 30 CP			Master's Thesis	Master's Thesis
FASR 12 CP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registration of CP according to free capacities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registration of CP according to free capacities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registration of CP according to free capacities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registration of CP according to free capacities

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: Presentation of Concepts 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: Presentation of Results of Master's Thesis (coll. C)	a) semester of graduation ceremony ¹ b) graduation ceremony
6 months (application MT in fall)	meeting of teaching committee (TC) in September or end of October/beginning 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) spring semester b) 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) spring semester b) December

¹ 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: Presentation of Concepts 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: Presentation of Results of Master's Thesis (coll. C)	a) semester of graduation b) graduation ceremony ²
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) fall semester b) 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) fall semester b) June
9 months (application MT in fall)	meeting of teaching committee (TC) in September or end of October/beginning 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 ceremony 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)	a) spring semester (or fall semester, for details see column on latest submission date on the left) b) December

² 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: Presentation of Concepts 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: Presentation of Results of Master's Thesis (coll. C)	c) semester of graduation d) graduation ceremony ³
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) fall semester b) 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) fall semester b) 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) spring semester b) June

³ The graduation ceremonies are organized twice a year, they take place at the end of the semester, either in December or June.