Transfaculty Cross Section Program

Sustainable Development

For free credits

I   Status

As part of the Transfaculty Cross Section Program (TQ) of the University of Basel, we offer a small program of interdisciplinary courses of study in sustainability. It is open to bachelor (from the third semester), master and PhD students, who may earn credit points for the free credits of their degree program. It is intended as a supplement to the enrolled degree program.

The courses can be attended individually, but it is advisable to take all four (acquisition of a certificate, see VII).

Students who have completed the courses as part of a degree cannot receive credits for them a second time when studying a another degree.

II   Study objectives

The theme complex of sustainability and nutrition forms the thematic focus of the program as a whole.

The goals of the program are:

- Knowledge of the socio-political significance of sustainability
- Reflection on the role and contributions of science
- Ability to speak competently about the current social and scientific challenges of a sustainable development
- Basic knowledge of important social, ecological and economic systems, and their interactions
- Raising of awareness of the complexity of issues related to sustainable development and the need for multiple perspectives and integrated approaches to sustainability
- Knowledge of reasonable expectations regarding the various contributions made by the natural, social and economic sciences
- Adoption of strategies to identify, evaluate and integrate knowledge from different disciplines and professional fields with a view to substantiated judgments about socially relevant issues
- Experience in interdisciplinary work and transdisciplinary dialog.

III   Program structure

A: 41828: Lecture with practical course	**Perspectives of Natural Sciences on Sustainability**	**3 CP**	**12 CP**
B: 41829: Lecture with practical course	**Perspectives of Social Sciences on Sustainability**	**3 CP**	
C: 43700: Lecture with practical course	**Perspectives of Economics on Sustainability**	**3 CP**	
D: 43701: Seminar	**Interdisciplinary Approaches to Sustainability**	**3 CP**	

The program consists of introductory lectures with practical courses (A-C), which convey the basics of sustainable development and present them for discussion; and an integrative seminar (D) in which students gain experience of interdisciplinary work in mixed-subject groups. Registration for D requires successful completion of two lecture courses from A-C.

IV   Course content

The lecture courses with practical courses (A-C) present, discuss and reflect on approaches, theories and findings on sustainability from the three disciplinary areas of natural sciences, social sciences and economics. The knowledge gained in the lectures is the foundation for work in the integrative seminar (D), in which students formulate interdisciplinary questions about socially relevant problems and address them independently in mixed-subject groups.

Perspectives from outside academia are gained in a field trip (within seminar D).

V   Teaching formats

Lectures with practical courses, seminar, field trip, interdisciplinary group work.

VI   Language

The language of instruction is English; therefore, a good command of English is required (level B2 or higher). According to the rules of Unibas, students are responsible for having attained the required language skills.

VII   Certification

Students who have successfully passed all courses AND completed their studies at the University of Basel will receive a certificate for TQNE. This can be requested via an email to coordination-msd@unibas.ch, with the student's first and last name, matriculation number, postal address and degree information.

VIII   Web links

In English, see here;
in German, see here

IX   Contacts

Professor Patricia Holm, Head MSE & TQNE
Phone: +41(0)61/207 04 02
Email: patricia.holm@unibas.ch

Student advice service
Camelia Chebbi, MA/MAS ETHZ/MAS NPPM,
Head Coordination Office MSD & TQNE
Vesalgasse 1, 4051 Basel
Phone: +41(0)61/207 04 20
Email: coordination-msd@unibas.ch