

Certificate of Engagement in Sustainability (CES)

Sustainability is one of the most urgent and complex social development tasks. We believe in the impact of bottom-up processes and are convinced that every engagement can make a difference.

The BFH additional certificate *Certificate of Engagement in Sustainability (CES)* offers students the opportunity to expand their interdisciplinary knowledge and sustainability-related skills in a targeted manner and to demonstrate the skills they have acquired and their individual commitment, for example to employers, by means of an official BFH certificate.

How is the CES constructed?

The CES consists of two parts: A curricular (**knowledge and skills** / Wissen und Fertigkeiten) and an extracurricular (**engagement** / Engagement) part.

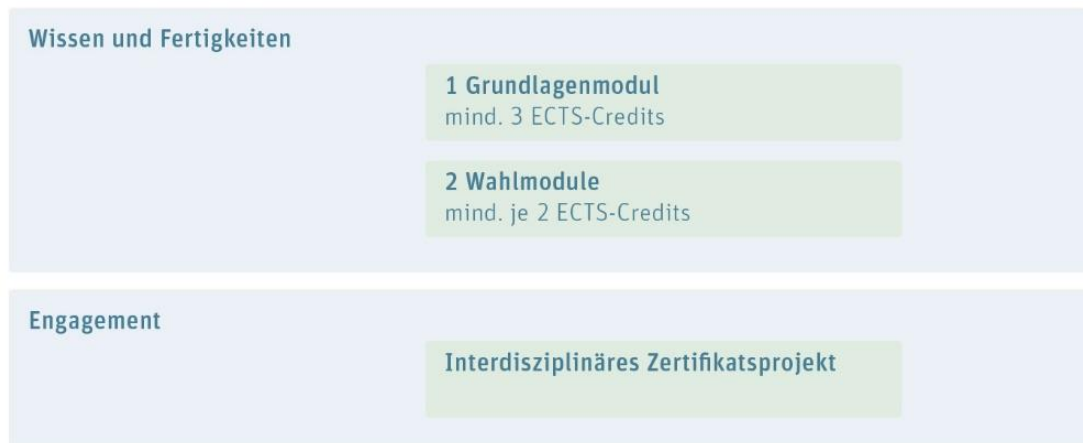


Abb. 1 Structure Certificate of Engagement in Sustainability

Knowledge and skills

In the Knowledge & Skills section, basic knowledge, awareness and fundamental skills for the goals and content of sustainable development should be taught.

The *basics* should be developed as part of a *BFH diagonal module* comprising at least 3 ECTS. This course must take an interdisciplinary approach to SD and address the principles and concepts of SD (understandings of sustainability, sustainability dimensions, SDGs, etc.) as well as the Grand Challenges and critically analyse non-sustainable developments in our society.

The following BFH diagonal modules can be credited as foundation modules:

- **Sustainability and Impact in Entrepreneurship** (Summer School und Winter School)
- **Acting sustainably** (autumn semester)
- **Negotiating a sustainable future for all** (spring semester)
- **Sustainability Dialogue** (spring semester)
- **'Climate' in the village - Social learning videos** (spring semester)
- **Campus Climate Action** (autumn semester)



If a module is taken at another university (e.g. as part of an exchange semester) that fulfils the requirements, an application for credit transfer can be submitted.

In addition to the foundation module, students can have two additional modules (so-called *specialisation modules*) credited for the area of Knowledge & Skills. These two modules can be chosen freely and can be compulsory modules in the regular degree programme or elective modules (at BFH or another university). However, students must be able to demonstrate a meaningful connection to the certificate project and/or the previously defined sustainability-relevant competences for these modules. The scope of the two specialisation modules must be at least 2 ECTS each.

Engagement

In the commitment section, students can demonstrate their willingness to make a difference with their certification project. While knowledge and, in some cases, skills can be taught and tested in courses, attitudes, values and will only manifest themselves in actions outside the 'classroom'.

Project ideas for certification projects can be developed independently or evolve from a course.

What is a certificate project?

- It deals with an interdisciplinary problem with a clear reference to sustainability.
- Interdisciplinary collaboration between at least two people (student, employer, practice partner)
- Commitment: The project work is voluntary, but can be remunerated with ECTS or financially, e.g. by your own employer. A thesis or term paper can therefore be the basis for a certificate project. However, an additional achievement (e.g. presentation) should still be provided
- Service learning: in addition to cognitive learning, a certificate project should focus on the assumption of responsibility towards third parties (service). A reciprocal link to curricular programmes is desirable and should be encouraged wherever possible.
- Certificate projects take into account the principles of self-organised learning.

What are the requirements for a certificate project?

- The project must be realised in an interdisciplinary team (students from different fields of study, employers, practice partners)
- The time required per project member must be approx. 100 working hours.
- Certificate projects must fulfil scientific requirements.
- A certificate project must be accompanied by a coach.
- A certificate project requires a project plan (1 page), which must be submitted and approved before the start of the project, and is concluded with a short reflection report (based on approx. 4-5 questions).
- Enrolment in a Bachelor's or Master's degree programme at BFH (this is not mandatory for the other members of the project team).

Certificate projects are **accompanied by a coach**. During the planning and realisation of the project, coaches advise the students in discussions and, where necessary and possible, arrange contacts with experts, practice partners, etc. As a guideline, each project benefits from approx. 5 coaching sessions. In addition, the Sustainable Development Office is always happy to provide advice and support.



Affiliation with Students4Sustainability

Students4Sustainability (www.students4sustainability.ch) is a joint hub of the Bern University of Applied Sciences, the University of Bern, the Bern University of Teacher Education and the University College of Teacher Education PH NMS. Students who want to realise their sustainability projects can apply for project funding and receive financial resources and other support options. The submission deadlines for project funding are the end of April and the end of October. Students completing the certificate project as part of the CES are recommended to apply to S4S.

Let's get started

If interested, students can contact the Sustainable Development department (sustainability@bfh.ch). They will then be entered on the corresponding Moodle page, where the certificate can be managed independently and further information is available.

The three modules and the certificate project must be completed during the period of study at BFH. The modules will only be recognised if they have been successfully completed.

The deadline for submitting the complete portfolio with corresponding evidence (ToR for knowledge & skills, project report for commitment) is 40 days before graduation at the latest. After submitting the portfolio via Moodle, students will receive written feedback within 14 days as to whether the conditions for receiving the certificate have been met.

If possible, the CES will be presented at the ordinary graduation ceremony or sent by post within the same period.

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