Contributing to sustainable development is a contemporary challenge that must be approached in an interdisciplinary manner. Thus, in addition to specific disciplinary competences, the Master’s Degree in Sustainable Development (MSD) draws on concerns of sustainability that are generated by the natural, social and economic sciences.

Methodological aspects of the curriculum include the analytical and integrative skills and knowledge necessary to work on complex questions relevant to sustainability, together with reflexive skills and proficiency in dealing with a broad range of instruments. Considerable importance is placed on competences facilitating and providing constructive work in interdisciplinary and research-based settings.

**Focal area of teaching and research**

The special feature of the MSD is its three-faculty-structure, formally recognizable by the three supporting faculties, but also by the equal treatment of the three pillars of sustainability – environmental, social and economic. Although the master’s thesis is written in one of the three offered focus areas, it is also interdisciplinary in its orientation. This guarantees that students can approach sustainability issues from different perspectives.

The research focuses of the three professorships and their research groups anchored in the MSD are incorporated into teaching, and offer students the opportunity to write a master’s thesis within the framework of a current research project; for example on microplastics, invasive species such as gobies, aquatic ecosystems, energy management, environmental ethics, inter- and intragenerational justice, resource use, resource economics, etc.

By combining the supporting faculties, the three research groups, the responsible professorships and their teams, a very large network within and outside the University of Basel to cooperation partners is ensured.
Course structure
The MSD is a postgraduate degree that requires a successfully completed bachelor. The program awards 120 ECTS credits in total. It is a so called «monocourse». At the beginning of their studies, students choose one of the three focus areas with corresponding master’s thesis.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Curriculum Master’s Degree in Sustainable Development</th>
<th>CP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Focus area Natural Sciences</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complementary Knowledge in Social Sciences module</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complementary Knowledge in Economics module</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interdisciplinary Research in Sustainability module</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Core Competences in Natural Sciences module</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preparation Master’s Thesis in Natural Sciences module</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master’s Thesis Natural Sciences</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Focal Areas in Sustainability Research module</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Focus area Social Sciences</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complementary Knowledge in Natural Sciences module</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complementary Knowledge in Economics module</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interdisciplinary Research in Sustainability module</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Core Competences in Social Sciences module</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preparation Master’s Thesis in Social Sciences module</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master’s Thesis Social Sciences</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Focal Areas in Sustainability Research module</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Focus area Economics</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complementary Knowledge in Natural Sciences module</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complementary Knowledge in Social Sciences module</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interdisciplinary Research in Sustainability module</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Core Competences in Economics module</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preparation Master’s Thesis in Economics module</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master’s Thesis in Economics</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Focal Areas in Sustainability Research module</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

One ECTS credit point roughly equals 30 hours of study.

Course language
The language of instruction is English; no language certificates are expected, although a good command of English is required (level B2 or higher).

Exams
Student performance is assessed throughout all courses by a variety of assessments: Written examinations, oral presentations, essays etc. Details are fixed in the detailed course directory.

Combination of subjects
There is no possibility to combine this master with other master programs.

Start of program
Students can begin their studies in fall or in spring semesters; although starting in fall is recommended.
**Duration of study**
The program lasts four semesters (full-time study/30 CP each semester). An optimal course progression plan is available: https://www.msd.unibas.ch/en/services/downloads/msd-2017/
Part-time studying with a longer study time is possible and according to individual progress plan.

**Further degrees**
The MSD qualifies students for a doctorate in natural, social, or economic sciences.

**Career opportunities**
The MSD teaches key competences in the field of sustainability and transdisciplinary project work. It is a science-based course of study that enables graduates to gain a foothold in the academic environment as well as in other professional areas. Whether at consulting firms, engineering offices, public authorities, large corporations, NPOs, political parties, banks or auditing firms - an enormous spectrum of job entry opportunities are offered to MSD graduates, which receive a challenging supplement through the foundation of start-ups.

**Admission**
To be admitted to the MSD, students must provide evidence of a university bachelor’s degree worth at least 180 credit points (according to ECTS), or another academic first degree recognized in accordance with the guidelines of the University of Basel. Evidence of at least 100 credit points from one, or at least 150 credit points from two, of the following branches of study must be provided: Business administration, Economics, Geography, Communication and Media Studies, Philosophy, Political Science, Social and Cultural Anthropology, Social Work and Politics, Sociology, Applied Biosciences, Biology, Earth Sciences, Forestry, Environmental Sciences, or Environmental and Geomatics Engineering.

Further admission requirements:

a) A bachelor’s degree with an average grade of at least 5.0/unrounded (Swiss scale) in the first degree relevant for admission (formula for the conversion of grades awarded by foreign institutions: https://www.unibas.ch/en/Studies/Application-Admission/Admission/Conversion-of-the-final-grade---the-grade-point-average-of-degrees-awarded-by-foreign-higher-education-institutions-into-the-Swiss-grading-system.html);

b) Evidence of basic knowledge in mathematics, and in statistics or methods of empirical social research at university level in the form of at least 10 CP;
   i) at least 3 CP in mathematics and
   ii) at least 3 CP either in statistics or in methods of empirical social research.

See study guidelines for more details.

As an alternative to these conditions (a and b), current test results from the Graduate Record Examination® General Test (GRE® General Test for short) can be submitted. More details can be found in the study regulations or guidelines (on https://www.msd.unibas.ch/en/services/downloads/msd-2017/).

Details concerning admission requirements are to be found on: https://www.msd.unibas.ch/en/study-programs/msd-2017-current-program/admission-application-msd-2017/

Binding information under: http://www.unibas.ch/admission

**Application**
Application under http://www.unibas.ch/application; the application fee amounts to CHF 100.-.
Application deadline for the fall semester is April 30, for the spring semester November 30.

**Enrollment**
The letter of admission informs students on procedure of enrollment.
**Tuition fees**

Tuition fees per semester (also for examination semesters): CHF 850.-

Individual costs of living etc. are not included.

**Scholarships and student loans:** Applications should be sent to the responsible office of the canton in which the parents are eligible to pay their taxes. International students should find out what scholarships they are eligible for in their home country. The MSD cannot offer any scholarship.

**Mobility**

Mobility semesters are possible - abroad or within Switzerland. Details for mobility semesters must be clarified with the Teaching Committee MSD before the start of the mobility semester (fact sheet available regarding recognition of credit points on: https://www.msd.unibas.ch/en/services/downloads/msd-2017/).

Further information: https://www.unibas.ch/en/Studies/Mobility.html, Student Exchange, T +41 61 207 30 28, mobility@unibas.ch

**Further information**

**Guidelines and regulations**

Guidelines (English and German) and study regulations (only in German) of the Master's Degree in Sustainable Development are available as downloads on: https://www.msd.unibas.ch/en/services/downloads/msd-2017/

Detailed course directory, medium-term syllabus and timetable are also available as downloads on the same site.

**Information about the University of Basel**

- The course directory can be found under: https://www.unibas.ch/en/Studies/Course-Directory.html
- Basler Studienführer: www.studienberatung.unibas.ch
- Website: www.unibas.ch

**Student advice**

Coordination office MSD, Camelia Chebbi, MA/MAS ETHZ/MAS NPPM FHNW (head)

Appointments for study counseling etc. are possible on agreement via: coordination-msd@unibas.ch

Opening hours of the coordination office according:

**Contacts**

**Coordination Office MSD**

Vesalgasse 1, 4051 Basel, T +41 61 207 04 20


e-mail: coordination-msd@unibas.ch

**Student Administration Office of the University of Basel**

Petersplatz 1, 4001 Basel, T +41 61 207 30 23

www.unibas.ch, enquiries: www.unibas.ch/studseksupportEN

**Student Advice Center Basel**

Steinengraben 5, 4051 Basel, T +41 61 207 29 29/30

www.studienberatung.unibas.ch, e-mail: studienberatung@unibas.ch

**Imprint**

**Editorial:** Student Advice Center Basel. Edited by Dr. Nathalie Bucher in collaboration with Camelia Chebbi MA/MAS ETHZ/MAS NPPM FHNW, head Coordination Office MSD University of Basel, June 2018.

© by Studienberatung Basel / subject to change.