



# Master in Life Sciences

A cooperation between  
BFH, FHNW, HES-SO, ZFH

<b>ModuleTitle</b>	<b>Bridging the knowledge on the Swiss Agri-Food System (Agriculture in Switzerland)</b>
<b>Module Code</b>	MCLs404
<b>Module</b>	AF-00
<b>Degree Programme</b>	Master of Science in Life Sciences
<b>ECTS Credits</b>	4 ETCS points
<b>Workload</b>	120 student working hours: 56 hours contact teaching, 20 hours practical exercises, 24 hours self-study
<b>Module Coordinator</b>	Fabio Mascher <b>Address:</b> Länggasse 85, CH-3052 Zollikofen <b>Phone:</b> +41 31 848 60 69 <b>Email:</b> fabio.mascher@bfh.ch
<b>Lecturers</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stéphane Burgos, BFH-HAFL</li> <li>• Sandra Contzen, BFH-HAFL</li> <li>• Jan Grenz, BFH-HAFL</li> <li>• Maria Haller, BFH-HAFL</li> <li>• Andreas Keiser, BFH-HAFL</li> <li>• Marie-Joelle Kodjovi, BFH-HAFL</li> <li>• Fabio Mascher, BFH-HAFL</li> <li>• Beat Reidy, BFH-HAFL</li> <li>• Andreas Scheurer, BFH-HAFL</li> </ul>
<b>Entry Requirements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No formal entry requirement.</li> <li>• Automatic enrolment for students who have this module as a study requirement</li> </ul>
<b>Learning Outcomes and Competencies</b>	<p>This module aims at bridging factual knowledge about the Swiss agricultural system. After completing the module, students will be able to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understand the environmental basis of Swiss Agriculture</li> <li>• Understand the agricultural technology and processes</li> <li>• Understand and describe sustainable approaches of grassland-based production, crop production and animal production.</li> <li>• Approach sustainable agricultural production methods and to design and propose crop protection methods.</li> <li>• Understand Swiss agricultural politics and the organisation of the agricultural market in Switzerland.</li> <li>• Contextualize the sustainability concept overarching the Swiss food and land use system.</li> </ul> <p>Further the module is designed to provide information for the completion of the 2<sup>nd</sup> report of the preliminary work placement programme (PWP programme; deeper analyses of the farm structure).</p>
<b>Module Content</b>	Thematic area 1: The basis for sustainable arable farming

MSLS\_AF-00 – Bridging the knowledge on the Swiss Agri-Food System (Agriculture in Switzerland)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1.1 Agriculture and ecosystems</li> <li>• 1.2 Agriculture and soils</li> <li>• 1.3 Environmentally compatible plant protection</li> </ul> <p>Thematic area 2: Crop production in Switzerland</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2.1 Grassland-based production in Switzerland</li> <li>• 2.2 Basis of sustainable arable farming</li> <li>• 2.3 Agricultural technology and processes</li> <li>• 2.4 Legal and agronomical approaches of crop protection in Switzerland</li> </ul> <p>Thematic area 3: Animal production in Switzerland</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3.1 Overview of Livestock Production in Switzerland</li> <li>• 3.2 Basics of Dairy and Beef Production in Switzerland</li> </ul> <p>Thematic area 4: Social basis of Swiss agriculture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4.1 Social basis of Swiss agriculture</li> </ul> <p>Thematic area 5: Swiss agricultural policy and farm economics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5.1 Agricultural policy and farm economics</li> <li>• 5.2 Sustainability</li> </ul>
<b>Teaching and Learning Methods</b>	Contact teaching Blended learning Flipped classroom
<b>Assessment of Learning Outcome</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Final exam (end of the module)</li> <li>2. Presentation and Q+A during the mini conference (end of the module)</li> </ol>
<b>Attendance &amp; Compulsory session</b>	Open for any student interested in a general view on Swiss agriculture. Compulsory for <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- students enrolled in the Preliminary Work Placement programme</li> <li>and</li> <li>- according to the prescriptions of the Assessment Interview of the MSLS in Agricultural Sciences.</li> </ul>
<b>Format</b>	Block course in calendar weeks 36, 37.
<b>Venue</b>	on site at BFH-HAFL, Zollikofen BE
<b>Bibliography</b>	Literature and study material will be provided upon the start of the module
<b>Links to other modules</b>	The bridging module “Agriculture in Switzerland” provides fundamental knowledge and an overview about agronomical practices and the current political, societal and technical position of the agricultural sector in Switzerland. This course provides fundamental notions for MSLS- students in Agricultural Sciences for both majors VCR and SPS.
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Comments</b>	
<b>Last Update</b>	23 January 2025