

MASTER OF ARTS IN SUSTAINABILITY AND TRANSFORMATION

DESIGN SUSTAINABLE PATHWAYS FOR A CHANGING WORLD

The Master of Arts in Sustainability and Transformation (MAST) at Franklin Switzerland prepares students to lead change in a complex, rapidly evolving world. Through a **liberal arts approach combined with applied practice**, students develop a different approach to sustainability addressing interconnected challenges across culture, governance, communication, economics, and the environment.

Located in Switzerland, a global hub for sustainability and innovation, Franklin provides an internationally recognized education grounded in academic rigor and real-world engagement, offering an international, residential, and English-speaking campus overlooking Lake Lugano, with **dual accreditation in the United States and Switzerland**.

THE LAUNCHPAD FOR CHANGEMAKERS

PROGRAM AT A GLANCE



DEGREE

Master of Arts (MA)



DUAL ACCREDITATION

Swiss and American



DURATION

12 months (August to July) – 45 Credits/90 ECTS
+ Optional 4th semester with two tracks focused
on Research or Application - 60 Credits / 120 ECTS



LOCATION

Lugano, Switzerland
+ retreats in Zurich & Geneva



LANGUAGE

English



MODE OF STUDY

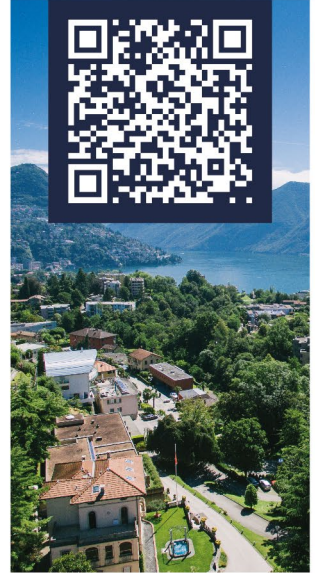
Full-time, in-person



FINAL PROJECT

Collaborative Master's Project in Sustainability
based on immersive learning with external partners

LEARN MORE



ACCELERATED 3+1 PATHWAY PROGRAM

Take advantage of the 3+1 accelerated program, **combine 3 years of bachelor degree with 1 year of MAST**, and advance your knowledge and expertise in sustainability.

Want to develop a deep understanding of sustainability and how to apply it in practice? Combine Franklin's **Bachelor's degree in Social Justice and Sustainability** with the **Master of Arts in Sustainability and Transformation**.

A LIVING LABORATORY FOR SUSTAINABILITY AND TRANSFORMATION

Switzerland offers a unique context for studying sustainability and transformation, both as theory and lived practice. Known for political stability, strong institutions, and long-term policymaking, it is a place where sustainability is continuously debated, tested, and implemented across society.

With MAST, Switzerland becomes part of the curriculum. Through **fieldwork, retreats in cities across Switzerland, and immersive learning at partner organizations**, students engage directly with real-world challenges, seeing how ideas move from theory to a prototype and into daily practice, and how lasting transformation takes shape.

WHY CHOOSE MAST?

A NEW PATH TO SUSTAINABILITY LEADERSHIP

- **Learn** how environmental, social, political, economic, and cultural systems interact.
- **Develop** practical tools for communication, governance, design thinking, and transformation.
- **Build** a professional portfolio through immersive projects and collaboration with external partners.
- **Work** with organizations ranging from NGOs and museums to corporations, international organizations, and research institutes.
- **Explore** sustainability challenges in fields such as education, fashion, food systems, health, culture, and social innovation.
- **Participate** in retreats in Zurich and Geneva and engage directly with sustainability in practice.
- **Benefit** from alumni mentorship and dedicated career development support.

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN



UNDERSTAND SYSTEMS

Examine sustainability challenges through the interconnected lenses of culture, behavior, governance, communication, economics, and the environment.



DESIGN CHANGE

Develop practical approaches to transformation through strategic communication and storytelling, policy-making, stakeholder engagement, collaborative leadership, and design thinking.



IMPLEMENT TRANSFORMATION

Apply ideas in practice through immersive learning, collaborative projects, and partnerships with external organizations.

CAREERS OUTCOMES

As societies respond to **accelerating environmental and social challenges**, the need for professionals who can lead sustainability transformations continues to grow. In a rapidly evolving field, new roles and ways of working are constantly emerging at the intersection of sectors and disciplines. The MAST prepares graduates to **work across public, private, nonprofit, cultural, and educational sectors** in areas such as:

- ✓ Public policy and governance
- ✓ NGOs, international and governmental organizations
- ✓ Sustainability and ESG
- ✓ Philanthropy and foundations
- ✓ Museums and cultural institutions
- ✓ Sustainability communication and public engagement
- ✓ Education and curriculum development
- ✓ Social and environmental innovation
- ✓ Think tanks, applied research and academia



CURRICULUM STRUCTURE

1ST SEMESTER FOUNDATIONS OF SUSTAINABILITY

Build interdisciplinary insight and analyze sustainability through diverse lenses.

- Human Behavior and Sustainability (3 credits)
- Sustainable Economics (3 credits)
- Understanding Issues in Environmental Sustainability (3 credits)
- Sustainability Through the Lens of Environmental Humanities (3 credits)
- Interdisciplinary Methodologies (2 credits)
- From Sustainability Issues to Transformation: Zurich Retreat (1 credit)

2ND SEMESTER SKILLS FOR TRANSFORMATION

Gain the tools to lead change and communicate impact.

- Policy, Regulation, and Law (3 credits)
- Sustainability Communication: Storytelling and Media Literacy (3 credits)
- Design Thinking for Innovation and Reflexive Solution Development (3 credits)
- Social Entrepreneurship and Innovation for Systemic Change (3 credits)
- Transdisciplinary Methodologies (2 credits)
- From the Classroom to the Real World: Geneva Retreat (1 credit)

3RD SEMESTER PRAXIS AND COLLABORATION

Work with partner organizations to turn knowledge into impact.

- Collaborative Master's Project in Sustainability (12 credits)
- Research Colloquium (2 credits)
- Franklin Sustainability Forum (1 credit)

4TH SEMESTER OPTIONAL DEFINING YOUR TRAJECTORY

Extend your studies and earn 15 more credits (30 ECTS).

CHOOSE BETWEEN TWO TRACKS:

- **Research track:** delve deeper into an area of research under the supervision of an expert in your field of interest. This track culminates in an independent research thesis.
- **Application track:** work on a real-world sustainability challenge with Franklin partner organizations in Lugano, Costa Rica or Madagascar, resulting in an applied research thesis.



ELIGIBILITY AND ADMISSIONS

- ❑ **Bachelor's degree** from an **accredited university**, completed by the time of enrollment.
- ❑ **Recommended GPA of 3.2** (or equivalent).
- ❑ **Two letters of recommendation.** If you completed your BA or BS is more than 4 years ago, we recommend an academic letter and one professional letter.
- ❑ A concise **personal statement** (1-2 pages).
- ❑ **English proficiency** required if previous degree was not in English (CEFR B2 / IELTS 6.5 / TOEFL 90 / Cambridge 160-179).



WE ALSO VALUE:

- Relevant professional, volunteer, or research experience.
- Interdisciplinary curiosity and openness.
- Evidence of critical thinking, communication skills, and commitment to sustainability in your area of interest.
- Applicants from a wide range of academic disciplines.
- Personal statements that speak to your previous experience, your personal interest in sustainability, and what you hope to achieve with this program.

TUITION

FALL 2026

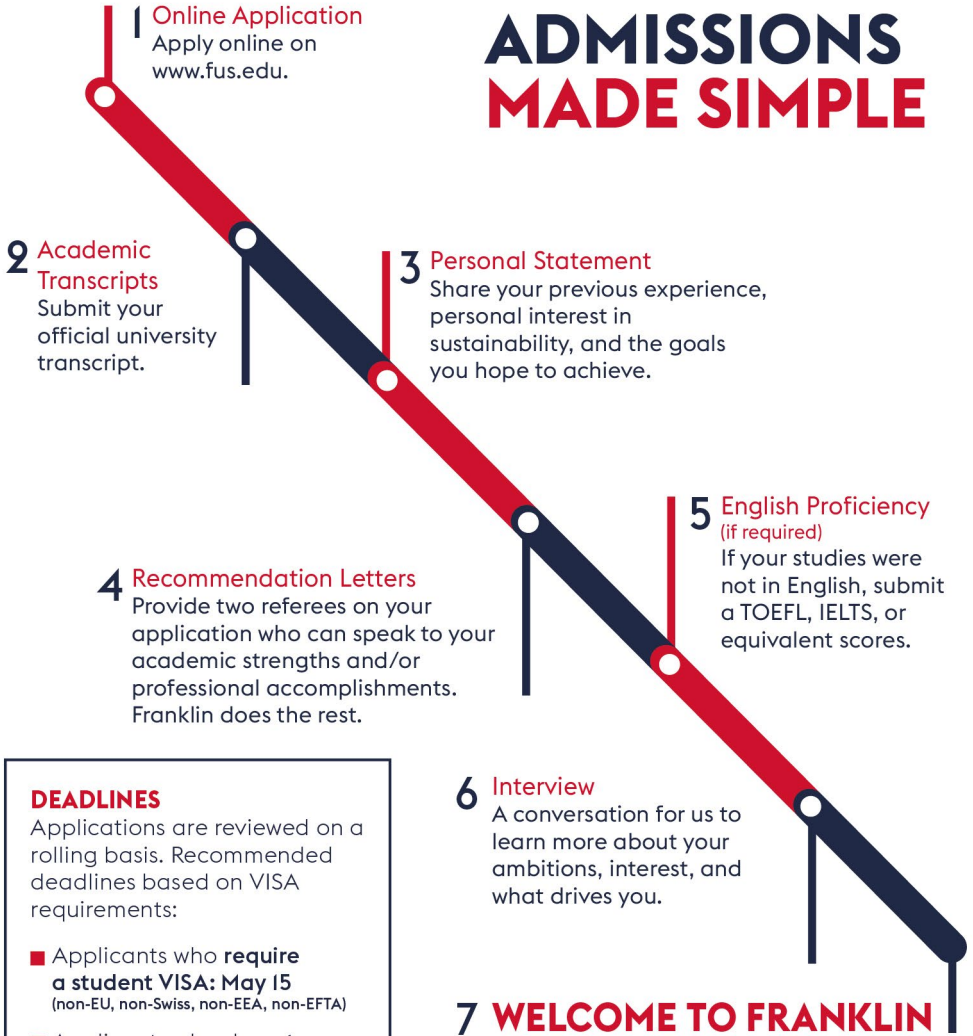
- **CHF 25,500**
Three-semester program (45 credits / 90 ECTS)
- **CHF 8,500**
Optional fourth semester (15 credits / 30 ECTS), extending the degree to 60 credits / 120 ECTS

Students are encouraged to finance their studies through a combination of external funding sources, including government loans or scholarships, private lenders, employer sponsorship, and foundations. Funding availability varies by country of citizenship and residence.

For U.S. students, the MAST program is approved for **Title IV U.S. Federal Student Aid.**



ADMISSIONS MADE SIMPLE



DEADLINES

Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis. Recommended deadlines based on VISA requirements:

- Applicants who **require a student VISA: May 15** (non-EU, non-Swiss, non-EEA, non-EFTA)
- Applicants who do **not require a student VISA: August 1** – subject to availability

HAVE QUESTIONS?

Don't hesitate to contact us.

www.fus.edu
admissions@fus.edu

**START YOUR
APPLICATION**

