

Master of Science in Finance



Your path into the world of finance:

With the Master in Finance at the FHNW, you start your career in the dynamic world of finance. We will prepare you for the top jobs of tomorrow.

Your Benefits

Profound know-how: Build a strong foundation for your finance career - our curriculum is scientifically profound and internationally recognized.

Flexible to success: Choose your pace - complete the program in 3 semesters (Fast Track+) or part-time in 5 semesters (Work & Study).

Your network booster: Benefit from our targeted partnerships with the CFA Institute, GARP, CAIA and top companies in the financial sector.

Hands-on: Demonstrate your skills in lab modules and compete with the best in the CFA Institute Research Challenge.

Fact Sheet

Degree:	Master of Science in Finance
Start:	Fall semester 2026
Duration:	1.5 years / 3 semesters (Fast Track+) or 2.5 years / 5 semesters (Work & Study)
Credits:	90 ECTS
Language:	English
Format:	Mix of presence, online & asynchronous learning
Location:	Campus Dreispitz in Basel, Switzerland
Internationality:	Coming soon: Partnerships with the CFA Institute, GARP and CAIA. Study trip & cooperations possible.

What you will learn

Students in the Master of Finance programme must earn a minimum of 90 ECTS, of which 60 must be earned through core modules and 30 through elective modules. The content covers four central areas of expertise.

- **Financial Markets:** Understand global financial markets, investments and institutions.
- **Financial Management:** Master corporate finance, valuation and accounting.
- **Methods & Ethics:** Apply quantitative analyses and act responsibly.
- **Hands-on Skills:** Create models in Excel, use digital tools and take part in the audit game.

Study plan of the Master of Science in Finance

This study plan will be effective from the academic year 2026/2027 onwards.

Module Name	ECTS	Language	Core?	Type
Semester 1 (Autumn)				
Investments	6	ENG	Core	Class
Financial Markets and Institutions	6	ENG	Core	Class
Financial Accounting	6	ENG	Core	Class
Corporate Finance	6	ENG	Core	Class
Applied Statistical Data Analysis	6	ENG	Core	Class
Semester 2 (Spring)				
Derivatives & Financial Risk Management	6	ENG	Core	Class
Financial Analysis & Valuation	6	ENG	Core	Class
Finance Ethics	3	ENG	Core	Class
Fixed Income	3	ENG	Core	Class
Sustainable Finance	3	ENG	Elective	Class
Behavioural and Household Finance	3	ENG	Elective	Class
Python Fundamentals for Finance	3	ENG	Elective	Lab
Financial Modelling with Excel	3	ENG	Elective	Lab
<i>Ethik und Leadership</i>	3	GER	Elective	Class
<i>Leader in der Praxis: Ringvorlesung</i>	3	GER	Elective	Class
Semester 3 (Autumn)				
CFA Institute Research Challenge	9	ENG	Core	Lab
Alternative Investments	3	ENG	Core	Class
Financial & Retirement Planning	3	ENG	Elective	Class
Financial Technology	3	ENG	Elective	Class
Mergers and Acquisitions	3	ENG	Elective	Class
Corporate Taxation	3	ENG	Elective	Class
Financial Data Analysis	3	ENG	Elective	Lab
Audit-Lab	3	ENG	Elective	Lab
<i>Financial Performance Management</i>	3	GER	Elective	Class
<i>Study Trip</i>	3	GER	Elective	Class
<i>Career Planning und Management</i>	3	GER	Elective	Class
<i>Strategisches Personal und Talent Management</i>	3	GER	Elective	Class

Abbreviations and Explanations:

Students in the Master of Finance programme earn a minimum of 90 ECTS, of which 60 must be earned through core modules and 30 through elective modules. ENG: module is offered in English. GER: module is offered in German. Class: the class module is mainly a mix of lectures and exercises. Lab: the laboratory module is hands-on in nature, with students being guided through specific assignments.

Additional Modules

A maximum of 12 ECTS of elective modules can be substituted by the following:

- Other master classes at FHNW, or Swiss universities. Prior approval by the programme head required.
- Internship with report (3 ECTS). At least 6 weeks full time. Prior approval by the programme head required.
- Participation in the Swiss final of the CFA Institute Research Challenge (3 ECTS).
- Passing the CFA Institute Level 1 exam.
- Passing the GARP/FRM Part 1 exam.

Students can replace elective modules with specific modules offered at the University of Basel. A list of recommended modules will be published here in the future.

To earn ECTS at the University of Basel, students have to enrol as guest students at the faculty of Business and Economics (WWZ) and successfully complete the modules, with this process being carried out under their own responsibility.

Further information on the modules can be found on the following website:
<https://wwz.unibas.ch/de/studium/master>

Further information to register as a guest student can be found here:
<https://www.unibas.ch/de/Studium/Im-Studium/Mobilitaet/Mobilitaet-Schweiz/Belegen-Studierende-anderer-Schweizer-Universitaeten.html>

Career Prospects

Why Finance? Because your skills are in demand and create real added value.

With this Master degree, you will secure your entry into the most exciting areas of the financial world. With your in-depth knowledge of corporate financial management and the financial markets, you will create real added value in practice. Our graduates are qualified to take on responsible specialist and management roles in national and international organizations and earn top salaries on the job market.

Career prospects

The programme is broad, opening up a wide range of career opportunities and professional specialisation later in your career. Our graduates have the opportunity to:

- start a professional career in a wide range of occupational fields.
- continue specializing with ease by completing a CAS programme, earning one of the CFA/FRM/CAIA designations.
- earn a PhD in Finance and become a researcher and lecturer in the field.
- become a founder and start your own business.



Potential professional and occupational fields include:

- Financial management of companies and public administration: Corporate Finance Specialist, Treasury Manager, Financial Controller, Mergers & Acquisitions Analyst
- Banks, insurance companies and other financial service providers: Financial Planner and Advisor, Portfoliomanager, Riskmanager, Investment Banking Analyst
- Auditing and consulting firms: Auditor, Consultant in Financial Services
- Supervisory authorities, central banks and non-profit organizations: Financial analyst at regulatory authorities, Expert at cantons or international organizations

Individual Study Design

The Master in Finance can be studied in 3 Semesters (FastTrack+) or 5 Semester (Work & Study).

To participate in the CFA Institute Research Challenge, you are required to have successfully attended 48 ECTS of core modules. The CFA Institute Research Challenge is therefore taken in the third or fifth semester.

Fast Track+

Semester 1	Semester 2	Semester 3
Core 30 ECTS	Core 18 ECTS	Core 12 ECTS
	Elective 12 ECTS	Elective 18 ECTS

Work & Study

Semester 1	Semester 2	Semester 3	Semester 4	Semester 5
Core 18 ECTS	Core 9 ECTS	Core 12 ECTS	Core 9 ECTS	Core 12 ECTS
	Elective 9 ECTS	Elective 6 ECTS	Elective 9 ECTS	Elective 6 ECTS

Exemplary Time Schedule of Classes

The schedule is fixed around 6 months before the start of the semester. The following visualizations are indicative, and the working days on which modules take place are subject to change until then.

Fast Track+: students have classes on 2.5 working days. They take all core modules as indicated in the study plan.

Work & Study: students have classes on 1.5 working days. In the first and second semesters, they choose the core modules specified in the study plan. From the third semester onwards, they take the remaining core modules. We recommend starting in the first semester with Investments, Financial Markets and Institutions, and Applied Statistical Data Analysis, and taking Derivatives & Financial Risk Management and Fixed Income in the second semester.

We offer 6 ECTS in an evening session, which will be delivered in a hybrid format (in person and online).

Laboratory modules: These offerings are hands-on and are usually delivered asynchronously with infrequent in person sessions.

Semester 1 – Autumn

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Morning	Core (4 hours)	Core (4 hours)			
Afternoon	Core (4 hours)	Core (4 hours)			
Evening (hybrid)			Core (4 hours)		

Semester 2 – Spring

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Morning	Core (4 hours)	Core (4 hours)			
Afternoon	Core / Elective (2+2 hours)	Core / Elective (2+2 hours)			
Evening (hybrid)			Elective (2+2 hours)		

Semester 3 – Autumn

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Morning		Elective (2+2 hours)	Elective (2+2 hours)		Core CFA Challenge
Afternoon		Elective (2+2 hours)	Elective (2+2 hours)		
Evening (hybrid)			Elective (2+2 hours)		

Contact

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Student Advice

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Academic Curriculum, Career Prospects & Network Partners

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