

Module Overview MSc in Life Sciences FHNW (starting Autumn Semester 2025)

type	modules grouped by specialisation, cluster and core competence	semester	Organic & Supramolecular Chemistry	Analytical Chemistry	Bioanalytics	Applied Cell Biology	Pharmatechnology	Biotechnology	Chemical Engineering	Data science	Environmental Technologies	contents	venue	
Specialisation Modules (Monday - Wednesday)	<b>Organic and Supramolecular Chemistry</b>													
	Advanced Organic Chemistry	AS	●									structure and electronic effects, pericyclic reactions, multicomponent reactions, industrial applications and case studies	Muttentz	
	Modern Technologies in Organic Synthesis	SS	●	●					●			photochemistry, electrochemistry, synthesis in flow systems, organocatalysis and biocatalysis	Muttentz	
	From Supramolecular Chemistry to Drug Discovery	SS	●	●								structure-activity relationship (SAR), drug design, complex supramolecular assemblies, protein-protein interaction, inhibition	Muttentz	
	Bioorganic and Bioconjugate Chemistry	AS	●	●	●							reactivity of biomacromolecules, bioconjugation, biorthogonal chemistry, biocatalytic bioconjugation	Muttentz	
	<b>Analytical Chemistry</b>													
	Advanced Mass Spectrometry	SS		●	●				●	●			technological aspects of mass spectrometry, metabolomics, proteomics, trends and applications in mass spectrometry, student presentation	Muttentz
	Advanced NMR Spectroscopy	AS		●									one- and two dimensional NMR spectroscopy, polarization transfer experiments, product operator formalism, gradients, fast data acquisition	Muttentz
	Biostructures and Solid State Sciences	AS	●	●	●				●				crystallography, powder X-ray, protein structure determination, cryo electron microscopy, solid state characterization	Muttentz
	Molecular & Translational Imaging	SS		●	●	●				●			current key imaging modalities, positron emission tomography, magnetic resonance imaging, spectroscopic imaging methods	Muttentz
	<b>Bioanalytics</b>													
	Proteomics and Protein Analytics	SS	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			protein identification by mass spectrometry, quantification, posttranslational modifications, light-scattering, infrared spectroscopy, colorimetry	Muttentz
	Genomics	AS	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			next generation sequencing technologies, genomics in a clinical context, liquid biopsy, practical exercise, student workshop: genome engineering	Muttentz
	Chromatography and Mass-Spectrometry	AS		●	●	●	●	●	●				fundamentals on chromatographic separations and mass spectrometry, applications of bioanalytical mass spectrometry, case studies	Muttentz
	Biomarker	SS	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			type of biomarkers, design of study to identify biomarkers, traditional and novel types of biomarkers, student group work on biomarker identification	Muttentz
	<b>Applied Cell Biology</b>													
	Bioassays: engineered Cells, Tissues and Organisms	SS		●	●	●	●	●	●				In vitro methods, cell-based assays, genome engineering and basic concepts of high throughput screening; mammalian and non-mammalian cell systems	Muttentz
	Cellular imaging	AS		●	●	●	●	●	●				physics of imaging, molecular imaging, confocal imaging, super-resolution imaging, live imaging, alternatives to light microscopy, applications	Muttentz
	Advanced Cell Culture Systems	AS		●	●	●	●	●	●				Microphysiological systems, Organ on a Chip; technical requirements and limitations; impact of design, materials and microfluidics; specific applications	Muttentz
	Laboratory Automation in the Pharmaceutical Industry	SS		●	●	●	●	●	●	●			robotics, liquid handling, sensors, automated pharmacological characterization of drug candidates, automated cell culture and production	Muttentz
	<b>Pharmatechnology</b>													
	Continuous Pharmaceutical Production	AS					●	●	●	●			continuous production of solid forms and of extrudates, incl. laboratory course at an industrial site	Muttentz
	Pharmaceutical Production Facilities	AS					●	●	●	●			design of production plants; containment systems; heating, ventilation, air-conditioning (HVAC); water, vapour and gas distribution	Muttentz
	Formulation of Biologics and Routes of Drug Delivery	SS	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			formulation and delivery of biologics (liquid and solid forms), drug delivery, drug targeting	Muttentz
	Drug Formulation and Delivery for Solid Dosage Forms	SS					●	●	●	●			controlled release technologies, per-oral drug delivery, formulation of poorly-water soluble drugs, biopharmaceutical modeling	Muttentz
	<b>Biotechnology</b>													
	Gene- and Cell-Therapeutics	AS			●	●	●	●	●				ex-vivo gene manipulation, viral vectors, stem cells as therapeutics, toxicology, pharmacokinetics and manufacturing of gene- and cell therapies	Muttentz
	Continuous Biomanufacturing	AS	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			equipment and concepts for continuous upstream and downstream units, product quality considerations, economics and regulatory aspects, case studies	Muttentz
	Process Analytical Technology	SS		●	●	●	●	●	●	●			process analytical technology in research, development and manufacturing, at-line and online analytics, multivariate data analysis and design	Muttentz
	Process Automation	SS					●	●	●	●			control strategies, implementation of chemometric models, case studies	Muttentz
	<b>Chemical Engineering</b>													
	Reaction Technology	SS	●							●			reactor technology, reaction kinetics, simulation of reactions, operational modes, regulatory aspects	Muttentz
	Process Development and Technology	SS	●						●	●			separation principles, mass and energy balances, process design and layout studies	Muttentz
	Sustainable Process Development	AS	●						●	●			process simulation (case studies), cost estimations, mass and energy balances, life cycle assessment of processes	Muttentz
	Process Transfer and Scale-up	AS							●	●			key performance indicators, mass and energy balances, design of experiment for scale-up, case study with experimental part	Muttentz
	<b>Data Science</b>													
	Computer and Software Architectures	AS								●			Open Science, Hardware and Limitations, Workflows, Networks, Software Engineering	Muttentz
	Programming, Algorithms and Data Structure	AS								●			Unix, Python, Object Oriented Programming, Recursive Algorithms, Sorting Algorithms, Finding/Hashing	Muttentz
	Databases	AS								●			Databases (SQL vs NoSQL), Data Cleansing, API (RESTful)	Muttentz
	Computational Modelling Project	SS								●			recap of a data science pipeline: data cleaning, exploratory analysis, modelling approaches (regression models, classification, ODE-based, neural networks)	Muttentz
	Deep Learning	SS								●			Algorithms of CNN, Long/Short-term memory, LLM, AlphaFold	Muttentz
	Human Machine Interaction and Bias Mitigation	SS								●			transparency and interpretability in algorithmic decision-making, interactive machine-learning, data quality and impact on algorithmic performance	Muttentz
	AI in Drug Discovery	SS								●			High-Throughput Technologies and Single-Cell Data; Data Mining of Chemical Structures and Biological Molecules with network analysis; drug target prediction	Muttentz
	<b>Environmental Technologies</b>													
	Environmental Risk Assessment	SS			●								● environmental sampling, fate of pollutants, exercise on fate, effects and risk assessment, mixtures, risk communication	Muttentz
	Costs and Benefits of Sustainable Production	SS							●	●			● decision making frameworks, cleaner production, circular economy, industrial symbiosis, resource recovery case study	Muttentz
	Process Technology for Industrial Pollution Control	AS							●	●			● air: emission reduction, off-gas treatment, water: emission control, industrial water treatment, resource efficiency	Muttentz
	Remediation	AS							●	●			● management of contaminated sites, biogeochemical basics of remediation, physical, chemical remediation technologies, bioremediation, phytoremediation	Muttentz
	Water and Wastewater Treatment	SS							●	●			● basic principles, coagulation, flocculation, sand filtration, wastewater process engineering, activated carbon, micropollutants, lab experiments	Muttentz
	Resource Recovery from Wastewater	AS							●	●			● material flow and recovery, separation and conversion technologies, recovery examples, case study on resource recovery	Muttentz
	Circular Economy and Solid Waste Management	SS							●	●			● recycling process technology, sustainable raw material supply, environmental protection	Muttentz
	<b>Interdisciplinary Modules</b>													
International Genetically Engineered Machine (iGEM)	SS											synthetic biology: molecular biology, engineering, computer science; project work; participation at iGEM competition	Muttentz	
Cluster-Specific Modules (Thursdays, half a semester or block weeks after the semester)	<b>Cluster Chemistry</b>													
	Materials Science	AS-1	●				●	●				solid state bulk materials, crystallographic and electronic structure, structural, optical, mechanical and magnetic properties, metallic and ceramic materials	Olten/online	
	Surface Characterisation	AS-2	●	●								advanced microscopy, infrared and Raman spectroscopy, EDX, WDX, XPS; Interactions with surfaces: SPR, QCM, OWLS, contact angle, ellipsometry	Olten/online	
	Polymers and Applications	AS-B3	●	●								polymer synthesis, polymer characterization, biopolymer, polymer processing	Fribourg	
	Green Chemistry	SS-1	●	●					●			green chemistry metrics, industrial green chemistry, green solvents	Olten/online	
	Chemistry and Energy	SS-2	●	●					●	●		chemical energy storage, biogas, bioenergy, photocatalysis, photovoltaics, energy and mobility	Olten/online	
	Industrial Chemical Process Safety	SS-B1							●	●		process safety and production unit design, thermal safety, green process design of hazardous reactions, environmental, health and safety	Fribourg	
	<b>Cluster Bio/Pharma</b>													
	Compound Profiling in Pharmaceutical Drug Discovery	AS-2		●	●	●	●	●	●				target identification, clinical candidate selection, ADME, toxicology assessment, validity of test models, extrapolation from animal and in vitro data	Olten/online
	Physicochemical Principles in Pharmaceutics	AS-1	●	●	●	●	●	●	●				interfacial phenomena, surfactants, pharmaceutical nanotechnology, colloids, rheology, pharmaceutical polymers, micromeritics, compacted powder	Olten/online
	Design of Biopharmaceutical Production Facilities	AS-B1							●	●			facility concept, modularization of production facilities, zone concept, regulatory aspects, supply chain, automation	Wädenswil
	Bioanalytics in a regulated Environment	AS-B3	●	●	●	●	●	●	●				concept of specification, development phases of a test methods, monographs for biopharmaceuticals, GMP requirements, analytical SOPs	Muttentz
	Physiology and Immunotherapies	SS-1		●	●	●	●	●	●				3D-construction of human tissues, co-cultures of blood immune cells and infectious microorganisms, immune-based therapies	Bern/online
	Tissue Engineering for Drug Discovery	SS-2			●	●	●	●	●				tissue engineering techniques, bioprinting, skin, cosmetic testing, engineered liver and kidney, cancer models	Olten/Bern/online
	Regulatory Affairs	SS-B1					●	●	●				quality management in production and development, license application process	Sion
	<b>Cluster Environment</b>													
	Journal Club Environmental and Natural Resource Sciences	AS-1											scientific publishing, reading and presenting selected publications, discussion and wrap-up of groups of related publications	Bern/online
	Life Cycle Assessment	AS-2								●			seminal examples of LCA, use and misuse of LCA, environmental management methods, steps of an LCA procedure	Bern/online
	Sustainable Natural Resource Management	AS-B1								●			Rio+20, conflicts in natural resources management, challenges	Zollikofen
	Ecological Infrastructure in Landscapes	AS-B2											landscape and movement ecology, GIS tools, ecological infrastructure, ecological connectivity, land-use planning	Genf
	Biodiversity	SS-1											global change, species loss, functioning of the ecosystem, ecosystem services, international conventions, biodiversity maintenance	Bern/online
	Water Management in Households, Industry and Agriculture	SS-2								●			water resources, water supply and distribution, water use, water cycle management	Olten/online
	<b>Cluster Food</b>													
	Journal Club Food and Nutrition Sciences	AS-1											scientific publishing, reading and presenting selected publications, discussion and wrap-up of groups of related publications	Bern/online
	Progresses in Food Processing	AS-B1											food processing techniques, practical on shelf life extension and micro-encapsulation	Sion
	Nutrition and Nutrition Related Chronic Diseases	AS-B3											healthy and unhealthy diets, epidemiology, diet as risk factor for diseases, public health approaches	Olten
	Foodomics	SS-1		●						●			digestive tract and ingestion, techniques for nutrigenome, microbiome and metabolome analysis, data mining	Bern/online
	Sustainable Food Supply Chains	SS-2											process analysis, sustainable agriculture, social aspects, sourcing, energy management, sustainable diet, customer information	Olten/online
	Advanced Sensory Techniques	SS-B1											innovative sensory evaluation methods, analysis of sensory data, cognitive and psychophysical aspects of perception	Changins
	<b>Cluster Computation</b>													
Modelling of Complex Systems	AS-1								●	●		system theory, system dynamics, modeling software Vensim, numerical integration methods, Monte-Carlo simulation	Olten/online	
Machine Learning and Pattern Recognition	AS-2								●	●		theoretical foundations of ML, feature engineering, types of ML tasks, basic ML algorithms, supervised learning	Olten/online	
Optimisation and Bio-Inspired Algorithms	SS-1								●	●		identification of solvable problems. abstraction and modelling, coding of optimization tasks, bio-inspired algorithms, implementation of evolutionary algorithms	Olten/online	
Imaging for the Life Science	SS-2								●	●		imaging methods, image processing techniques & workflows, application to different fields in the life sciences, student projects	Olten/online	
Generative AI Models in Life Sciences	AS-B1								●	●		natural language processing, representation techniques, information retrieval systems, image-based foundation models, stable diffusion	Olten	
Bioinformatics Methods for Genomics and Applications	SS-B1								●	●		sequencing technology, phylogenetics, 16S RNA, large-scale sequencing data analyses, machine learning immunoinformatics	Olten	
Core Competences (Fridays, Tuesdays)	<b>Data</b>													
	Handling and Visualizing Data	BS-1M	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		introduction to R, organising data, databases, describing data: scatter, skewness, outliers, visualising data, informative plots	online/Muttentz	
	Data and Ethics	BS-1A	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		personal data security, information security, encryption, digital signatures, data stewardship, data ethics, privacy	online/Muttentz	
	Design and Analysis of Experiments	BS-2M	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		statistical inference, experimental design, feasibility, efficiency and power of experiment designs, statistical analysis, interpretation and validation	online/Muttentz	
	Modelling and Exploration of Multivariate Data	BS-2A	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		modeling: linear, nonparametric and multiple regression, model selection and diagnosis; exploration: visual inspection, principal component analysis	online/Muttentz	
	<b>Business, Management and Society</b>													
	Business Administration for Life Sciences	BS-1M	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			Business models, marketing, production, sourcing, capital budgeting, financial accounting, cost accounting	online/Muttentz
	Management and Leadership for Life Sciences	BS-1A	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			Management, corporate ethics, strategic management, HR-management, leadership, change management	online/Muttentz
	Innovation and Project Management	BS-2M	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			Entrepreneurship, megatrends, innovation management, presentation techniques, project management	online/Muttentz
	Politics and Society	BS-2A	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			politics: a process of negotiation, struggle and compromise; the role of the society; public opinion, responsibility, ethics	online/Muttentz
English for Master Students (no ECTS gained)	AS											optional English module; the passed exam allows to meet the English competence requirement	Muttentz	

AS: autumn semester  
SS: spring semester  
BS: both semesters

-1 or -2: first or second half of semester  
Bx: block week at the end of the semester  
M/A: morning or afternoon (core competences only)

● red circles: module group of the specialisation (most modules have to be taken)

● orange and green circles: elective module groups (only a few modules have to be taken)

● grey circles denote the module group Core Competences (4 modules have to be taken)

Muttentz, 12.01.2026

Other elective modules can be chosen freely, in total 17 modules à 3 ECTS are required.