



# Joint Bachelor in Sustainability (BASUS)

<b>Semester 1-2</b> <i>All students start at Jagiellonian University</i>	<b>Common core area (20 ECTS)</b> Introduction to Sustainability Dilemmas Introduction to Environmental Factors Introduction to Economic Development Introduction to Social Issues		<b>Disciplinary introductions (24 ECTS)</b> Chemistry & physics Environmental & life sciences Economy & geography Economics, management & engineering Law & politics Social sciences & humanities		<b>Transversal and practical area (26 ECTS)</b>	<b>Elective and language area (40 ECTS)</b>
<b>Semester 3-5</b> <i>Students choose one of the tracks offered by partner universities.</i>  <i>UZH track: "Social sciences and humanities"</i>	<b>Integration area (12 ECTS)</b>  Sustainability Research in Social Sciences and Humanities (I-III)	<b>Disciplinary core area (12 ECTS)</b> Ethical perspectives Sociological perspectives Anthropological perspectives Economic perspectives	<b>Disciplinary extension area (12 ECTS)</b> Political science Legal perspectives Geography Religious studies Philosophy			
		<b>Thematic focal area (24 ECTS)</b> Justice, responsibility & rights   Cultures, spaces & transformations   Social structures, actors & strategies   Governance, politics & policy				
<b>Semester 6</b> <i>Students can do a mobility semester at a partner university.</i>	<b>Bachelor thesis (10 ECTS)</b>					

Overview of BASUS program (semesters 3-6 represent the UZH track "Society and Responsibility")

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## BASUS is innovative because...

1. The **international cooperation** allows students to study at up to three different universities and promotes a broad European learning experience in sustainability, where students can interact with different cultural approaches.
2. Its structure combines **broad interdisciplinary foundations of sustainability with disciplinary track specializations**. UZH's track "Society and Responsibility" includes core social science and humanities disciplines, current thematic foci, and a unique integrative strand that enables students to collaborate in research-oriented courses addressing real-world sustainability issues.
3. **Flexible course offerings** allow students to tailor their education by choosing electives, and practical and transversal courses that broaden and deepen their knowledge in specific areas and develop individual profiles.

## BASUS is exemplary because...

1. It is UZH's first international joint degree as a "degree-awarding partner," addressing key legal, administrative, and technical collaboration issues that will benefit future similar projects.
2. Faculty from different partner universities teach in the program, ensuring **diverse academic perspectives on sustainability**. This multinational collaboration allows students to tap into the academic resources and expertise of top European universities.
3. Students graduate with a **joint degree recognized in several countries**, enhancing their employability in international contexts. BASUS prepares students not only for academic advancement but also for the global labor market by fostering transferable skills in sustainability.

## Idea

UNA Europa brings together several leading European universities to offer the first joint degree Bachelor in Sustainability (BASUS). Students spend their first year at the BASUS leading house, the Jagiellonian University in Krakow, before moving to different tracks at partner institutions, providing them with rich exposure to international teaching and research. UZH hosts the "Society and Responsibility" track, which focuses on the human and societal dimensions of sustainability, providing insights into human interactions with the environment, sustainability principles and strategies for promoting sustainable transformations.

## Success factors

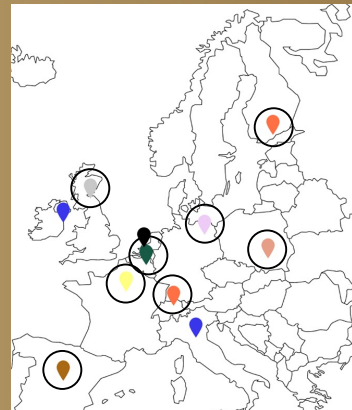
BASUS is scheduled to start in autumn 2025, with the first students coming to UZH in autumn 2026. Developing a joint degree program is challenging. The success of BASUS depends on several factors, including

- A clear **strategic commitment** on the part of UNA Europa and the partner universities;
- A **willingness to find pragmatic solutions** to challenges by all partner universities;
- **Clear responsibilities** with a strong leading house and well-resourced partner universities;
- The **support of specialized UNA Europa clusters** in the development of the program.

## Goals

BASUS equips students with the knowledge and skills needed to address sustainability challenges from inter- and transdisciplinary perspectives and prepares them to engage in global transformation processes. BASUS students who focus on the UZH track "Society and Responsibility" will in particular...

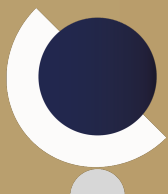
- **Understand patterns of (non-)sustainability** and their intertwined cultural, social, economic and political causes and historical trajectories in contemporary societies.
- **Know how to describe, explain and evaluate** conditions, orientations and approaches for sustainable change in a reflective way, using theories and methods from the humanities and social sciences.
- **Reflect on and learn about strategies and practices** for engaging as change agents in sustainability-oriented transformations.



UNA Europa Universities (encircled are BASUS partner universities)  
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