



Life Sciences and
Facility Management

Bachelor's degree in Facility Management

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Facility Management

Perspectives

We design living spaces

Why study Facility Management

For people

The demands on work environments have changed: keywords are customization, autonomy, and flexibility. Offices are no longer just workplaces but meeting zones that stimulate creative exchange, promote employee well-being and health, and increase productivity.

For a Sustainable Future

Buildings account for approximately 40 percent of Switzerland's energy consumption. This not only affects companies' wallets but also the climate. Therefore, solutions for sustainable planning and management of properties are in demand.

For Successful Companies

Whether office buildings or residential properties, industrial plants, shopping centers, airports, or hospitals, facility managers play an essential role in the success of companies. They create environments that encourage productivity, well-being, and innovation. Because only with satisfied employees and a functioning infrastructure can a company thrive and be an attractive employer.

Are you interested in a practical, multidisciplinary study program? Do you want to deepen your business knowledge and further develop your leadership skills? Do you enjoy planning and organizing and want to work with people? Would you like to make a tangible contribution to the energy transition and qualify yourself for a highly sought-after industry? Then the Bachelor's program in Facility Management is the perfect choice for you. It combines elements from architecture, business administration, psychology, and engineering into a unique study program.

The following aspects are emphasized in the program:

- Sustainable management of properties throughout their life cycle
- Optimization of building systems using the latest technologies
- Designing workplaces to support the work activities, health, and well-being of employees
- Development, organization, and implementation of innovative services and events

In addition to the subject-specific content, the focus is on developing additional skills such as self-management, creativity, communication, teamwork, and critical thinking. These skills are actively fostered through a six-month internship and by working on real-world business and research questions.

Specialisations

In the third year of your studies, you will choose one of the four specializations: Real Estate, Building Systems, Workplace, or Services and Events. This allows you to focus specifically on preparing for your professional career.

Real Estate

Focus on the economic aspects of real estate management. Students in this specialization gain additional expertise in the planning, management, and administration of spatial and structural infrastructure. The optimization of the entire life cycle of a property is a key aspect.

Building Systems

This specialization focuses on the technical and operational aspects of real estate management. The interaction between building systems, structural infrastructure, and usage takes center stage. Key topics include IT tools, sensors, robotics, data utilization for property management (Smart Building), and energy management.

Workplace

Students in this specialization deal with the provision and management of healthy and sustainable work environments. This includes consulting and planning appropriate space offerings, as well as implementing company-specific facilities.

Services and Events

The emphasis here is on planning, designing, and optimizing services related to organizations and properties, particularly in the healthcare sector. Students acquire competencies in project and process management, as well as in implementing change processes. Another focus is on conceptualizing and realizing events.

Education Goals

Upon completion of the program, you will be able to:

- Develop properties and services holistically, sustainably, and in a user-centric manner, managing their provision and operation.
- Apply business management methods and practices to effectively run organizations.
- Think and act economically, considering financial aspects in decision-making.
- Competently lead diverse teams and employees.
- Plan and oversee projects, as well as lead project teams.
- Communicate effectively to different target audiences.
- Continuously develop properties and services in line with customer needs.
- Facilitate and manage change processes (Change Management).
- Design sustainable operational processes.

You prioritize customers and their needs, with sustainability, safety, and cost-effectiveness as important cornerstones of your considerations.

Career

Our graduates have excellent job prospects: more than three-quarters of them already have permanent employment secured upon graduation. This is because the industry is seeking specialists who can take a holistic approach to real estate, building systems, workplaces, and services, implementing sustainability measures and communicating across disciplines.

Due to the comprehensive training, you will be able to develop solutions with various stakeholders, whether it's the CFO, facility services staff, or architects. Where in-depth knowledge is required, your holistic thinking will enable you to quickly familiarize yourself with the specifics. Therefore, graduates from all specializations can work in all areas of Facility Management in private companies or public administrations.

Areas of work

The Swiss real estate and facility management industry is a billion-dollar market. To meet its complex requirements, companies need professionally trained specialists and executives.

Potential fields of employment include:

- Banks, insurance companies, and service providers
- Real estate firms, construction companies, and housing cooperatives
- Co-working spaces
- Facility services companies
- Federal, cantonal, and municipal governments
- Industrial companies
- Healthcare sector
- Hotels and restaurants
- Shopping centers
- Airports, train stations, and transportation companies
- Planning and consulting firms
- Providers of facility management software

Examples of entry-level positions for bachelor's graduates include:

- Junior Facility Manager
- Real Estate Manager, Property Manager
- Project Manager for construction projects
- Team Leader in Hospitality Management
- Energy Officer
- Junior Facility Management Consultant
- Workplace Manager



If you are on-site in Wädenswil, collaborative exchange is at the center.

Structure and Learning

Studying Full-Time or Part-Time

The program can be completed either full-time in six semesters or part-time in seven to nine semesters. The part-time study option is integrated into the full-time program and allows for concurrent employment of approximately 50 percent.

Undergraduate and Graduate Studies

In the full-time program, the first three semesters focus on imparting foundational knowledge and skills in Facility Management. Alongside various practical study assignments, you will work on a group project in the third semester. This project connects current industry topics with the knowledge and skills acquired during the program.

Internship Semester

In the fourth semester, according to your chosen specialization, you will complete a six-month internship, where you will apply the theoretical knowledge and skills in a practical setting. Simultaneously, you will gain valuable experience and expand your professional network. The university provides support and guidance during the internship.

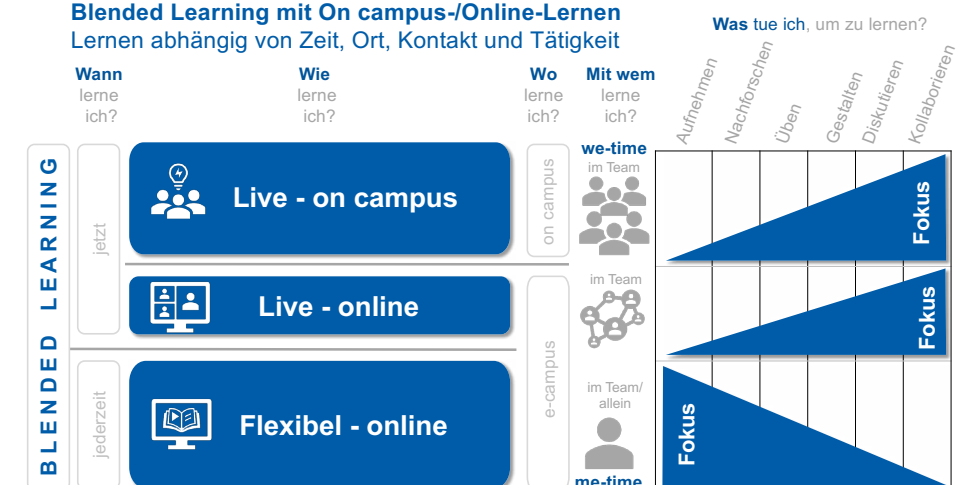
Specialization Studies

In the fifth and sixth semesters, you will choose one of the four offered specializations (Real Estate, Building Systems, Workplace, or Services and Events) and have the flexibility to select additional elective modules from a wide range of options. The program culminates with a bachelor's thesis, where you will independently work on a practical research question.

Please note that the above translation may vary based on the specific terminology and context used in the Facility Management program you are referring to.

How You Will Learn

Blended Learning mit On campus-/Online-Lernen Lernen abhängig von Zeit, Ort, Kontakt und Tätigkeit



Blended Learning – der Mix macht's!

The Facility Management program is designed to fit seamlessly into your life. We offer various learning settings to accommodate your needs: live on campus or live or asynchronously in the virtual learning environment. On-site in Wädenswil, you will have opportunities for interactive exchange with fellow students, instructors, and industry partners. For individual knowledge acquisition, we provide multimedia learning materials for self-study, allowing you to learn at your own pace and convenience, with guidance and coaching from our instructors.

Elective Modules

The division into mandatory and elective modules allows you to individually choose approximately half of the study contents, tailoring them to your interests and career goals. This enables you to further refine your competency profile in the third year of study. You select these modules in addition to one of the four specialization tracks.

Currently, we offer 28 different elective modules. You choose four modules from your chosen specialization track and eight modules from the wider selection (a total of 12 elective modules worth 4 ECTS each).

International Profile

The Facility Management program also offers an international profile. This requires additional language skills, international experience, and intercultural competence. The successful completion of the international profile is recognized with a certificate (Certificate of International Profile).

Overview

	Basic studies 1 st and 2 nd semesters	Subject-specific studies 3 rd and 4 th semesters	Specialised studies 5 th and 6 th semesters
Subject-specific courses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Facility Management Basics – Materials and Construction Materials – Service Value – Building Services, Engineering Systems and Models – Planning, Construction and Operation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Service Design and Service Management – Property Management and Technical Building Systems – Hospitality Services – Cleaning Management 	<p>Real Estate Specialisations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Real Estate Management 1 – Real Estate Management 2 – Usage-Oriented Construction Planning – Property Development Case Study <p>Enhancing Building Systems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Smart Building and Building Automation – Building Operations and Optimisation – Sustainable Life Cycle Management – Energy Management <p>Workplace Enhancement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Workplace Management Basics – Interior Space Quality – Consulting Approaches and Methods – Workplace Development and Operations <p>Specialised Services and Events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Facility Management in Healthcare – Event Management – Hospitality Management – Change Management <p>Supplementary Elective Modules</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Digital Facility Management – Risk- and Security Management – Occupational Safety and Hygiene
Business and social science subjects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Business Management – Economics and Law – Accounting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Finance and Controlling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Business Planning – Procurement and Contract Management
Communication and Leadership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Digital Literacy – Language and Critique 1 & 2 – Personnel Management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Organizational Behaviour 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Leadership Practice – International Experience
Methodological skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Data and Information 1 & 2 – Semester Thesis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Project work and project management – Service Camp 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Management Case Study – Bachelor's Thesis
Internship		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Internship Semester 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Experience Transfer

Facility Management Student

“For me, photography means focusing my eye on the essentials and the beauty of nature. I select my subjects in a concentrated, focused and passionate way. These qualities also benefit me during my studies because organizing, planning and coordinating are among the qualities required by a facility manager.”

Patrick



Facility Management Student

“Sport is my passion and an ideal balance to studying. Success requires both motivation and discipline. Thanks to the conveniently located ASVZ fitness centre, I can also complete my fitness routine over lunchtime. This keeps my body fit and my head clear for the exciting topics in class.”

Elena

Important information

Conditions for acceptance

The program is multidisciplinary, and as such, the backgrounds of incoming students can vary:

- With a vocational baccalaureate, you can directly enroll in the program.
- With a general baccalaureate or a specialized baccalaureate, you will need program-specific practical experience in the form of a 12-month work experience. Recognition of practical experience is done through an evaluation of the candidate's dossier and a work experience report.
- With a diploma from a recognized higher vocational school in a specific professional field, you will be admitted without examination. Additional requirements will be determined by the program management.

For information on other admission possibilities (e.g., foreign diplomas), please contact the program management.

Dates

The study programme begins mid-September. The registration deadline is 30 April.

Support from the ZHAW

The university has developed a one-year practical course, “Work Experience”, in cooperation with companies and supports interested candidates in finding internship positions. During the internship, five days of study take place at the university.

www.zhaw.ch/lsfm/vorkurse

Master's Degree Program

After successfully completing your bachelor's degree, you can pursue the advanced Master of Science in Real Estate & Facility Management at ZHAW.

This program qualifies you for challenging managerial positions, a career in research, or a Ph.D. program.

The Master's degree program is a collaboration with the ZHAW School of Management and Law. The majority of courses are taught in German (30 out of 90 ECTS in English).

www.zhaw.ch/ifm/master



International exchange


Would you like to complete a part of your studies abroad? ZHAW offers you this opportunity. An exchange semester, an internship abroad, attending a summer school, participating in a study trip, or taking a language course can bring you numerous benefits: you will get to know a different culture and language, experience a different educational and research system, and gain valuable experiences for your future career.

The Department of Life Sciences and Facility Management at ZHAW is currently connected to over 70 partner universities in 15 European countries through the Swiss-European Mobility Programme (SEMP). The experts in the Student Advisory Service and the International Relations Office at ZHAW are available for non-binding individual consultations.

To learn more about international mobility, online application for an exchange semester, and student testimonials, please visit:

www.zhaw.ch/lsfm/international/en

At a glance

Degree programme Specialisations	Facility Management Real Estate Management, Building Systems, Workplace, Services and Events
Title	Bachelor of Science ZHAW in Facility Management
Duration	Full-time: 6 semesters Part-time: 7 to 9 semesters
Start of studies	Mid-September (week 38); one week earlier for all new 1 st semester students (week 37).
Workload	180 ECTS credits; 1 credit represents 25 to 30 hours of work.
Preparation	An introductory study programme is possible in calendar weeks 9 to 21 and 38 to 50. Details at: www.zhaw.ch/ifm/bachelor/en
Campus	Location: Wädenswil, situated by Lake Zurich (5 minutes walk from the train station), as well as online.
Tuition fees	Semester Fees: CHF 720 (subject to change) including learning materials and membership in the sports association ASVZ. Additional study fee of CHF 500 per semester for all students who come to Switzerland for study purposes and do not establish their civil residence in Switzerland at the relevant time of the start of studies.
Conditions of acceptance	Individuals with a completed vocational training and a federally recognized professional baccalaureate or specialized baccalaureate can enroll in the program directly. Individuals with a general baccalaureate, specialized baccalaureate, or a diploma from a higher vocational school (HF) must demonstrate 12 months of work experience in a field related to the study program before starting their studies.
Important information	The Facility Management programme is 'paperless.'
Information events	Details at: www.zhaw.ch/ifm/bachelor/en
Study advisor	 Irene Arnold studienberatung-fm.lsfm@zhaw.ch

A multidisciplinary study programme covering topics ranging, from architecture to social and economic science.

Studying and researching in Wädenswil: practical, creative, passionate, and reflective.

ZHAW Campus Reibach / Einsiedlerstrasse

ZHAW Campus Reibach / Seestrasse

Wohnhaus für Studierende

ZHAW Campus Gruental

ZHAW is one of the leading Swiss universities of applied sciences. The Department of Life Sciences and Facility Management currently has nearly 1800 enrolled students and employs around 600 staff members. Our offerings include bachelor's and master's degree programs, as well as a wide range of continuing education programs.

With our expertise in life sciences and facility management, we make significant contributions to the fields of environment, food, and health, addressing societal challenges and improving our quality of life. Research-intensive institutes such as Computational Life Sciences, Chemistry and Biotechnology, Facility Management, Food and Beverage Innovation, and Environment and Natural Resources contribute through research, development, and service provision.



Environment | Food | Health | Society
Unsere Kompetenzen in Life Sciences
und Facility Management.

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