



**Bachelor's degree in
Facility Management**

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Facility Management

Specialisations

We design living spaces

The demands placed on working environments are changing; with individualisation, autonomy and flexibility being keywords. Offices should no longer simply be workplaces, but also concepts for attracting the best talent, increasing productivity and promoting employee health. Demand-oriented real estate and services contribute to achieving this. The Swiss real estate and facility management industry is a billion dollar market. In order to meet their complex requirements, companies need specialist employees.

Real estate accounts for around 40 percent of Switzerland's energy consumption. Not only is this a burden on company finances, but also on the climate. Consequently, solutions for sustainable planning and management of real estate are required.

In the Facility Management Bachelor's programme, you will learn how healthy living and working environments can be created and sustainably managed, as well as how to formulate user-oriented service proposals using innovative technologies. Be it office buildings, residential properties, industrial companies, shopping centres, airports or hospitals – you ensure that the buildings function efficiently. You will develop processes and services that aim to make people feel comfortable with them.

Study programme

Are you interested in a practice-oriented, multi-disciplinary study course? Would you like to broaden your business knowledge and develop your leadership skills? Would you like to plan, organize and work with people? Are you open to international perspectives? Then the Bachelor's programme in Facility Management is just right for you. It combines elements from architecture, business administration, psychology, sociology and engineering to create a unique study programme.

The programme focuses on the following aspects:

- Sustainable management of real estate and facilities over their entire lifecycle
- Optimisation of building systems with structural infrastructure and use
- Designing workplaces to support working activities, health, and the well-being of employees
- Development, organization and implementation of innovative services and events.

In addition to subject-specific content, there is a strong focus on other skills, such as independent working, creativity, team skills, communication and holistic thinking. These competencies are actively promoted through a six-month internship and by working on real-world issues from business and research.

By selecting elective modules as well as choosing specialisations – **Real Estate Management, Building Systems, Workplace or Services and Events** – you can specifically align your studies to your future career.

Structure

The programme spans six semesters of full-time study or can be completed on a part-time basis in eight to nine semesters. Part-time studies are integrated into the full-time programme and allow for approx. 50 percent part-time employment.

The compulsory and elective module structure allows you to individually choose approximately half of the study content, therefore shaping it according to your interests and career goals. The modular structure also enables you to spend a semester abroad.

Basic and subject-related studies

The basic knowledge and skills required for Facility Management are taught in the first three semesters. In addition to various practical tasks, a group project assignment with written work is carried out in the third semester. This enables current practical issues to be linked to the knowledge and skills acquired in the study programme.

Internship semester

In line with the specialisation chosen, a half-year internship is undertaken in the fourth semester, in which the theoretical knowledge and skills learned are applied in practice, and valuable learning experiences are gained. The university monitors and supervises the internship.

Specialisation studies

In the 5th and 6th semesters you choose between one of the three specialisations offered (Hospitality Management, Real Estate Management or General Facility Management) and can also select from a broad range of elective modules. In the sixth semester the Bachelor's thesis is written.

Specialisations

Real Estate Management

The focus is on the economic aspects of real estate management. In this specialisation, students can gain additional professional knowledge about the provision, operation and management of spatial and building infrastructure. The focus is on optimising the entire lifecycle of a building.

Building Systems

The focus is on the interaction of building systems, including structural infrastructure and its use. The focus is therefore on the structural, technical and operational aspects of real estate management. Further central topics are the use of new technologies such as sensors and robotics, as well as the use of data for property and energy management.

Workplace

Students of this specialisation deal with the provision and management of healthy and sustainable working environments. This includes consultation, cooperation and monitoring of working environments over the entire lifecycle from the allocation of space to company equipment.

Services and Events

The focus is on the planning, design and optimisation of services relating to organisations and real estate with a special focus on the healthcare industry. Students can develop their competencies in project and process management as well as in the implementation of change processes. A further focus is the conception and implementation of events.

Elective modules

Based on professional experience gained in your internship semester, you can further develop your competence profile in the third year of study thanks to elective modules. You choose these modules in addition to one of four specialisations.

We currently offer 26 different elective modules. At least four must be chosen from the selected specialisation. You can take a further eight modules individually or combined as Minors (a total of 12 elective modules with 4 ECTS each).

In order to acquire interdisciplinary competencies, the following Minors are available:

- Event Management
- Consultation
- Leadership
- Entrepreneurship
- International Experience

Areas of work

Most large private and public sector companies have an urgent need for professionally trained specialists and managers.

Areas of application include:

- Facility Services Companies
- Banks, insurance and service companies
- Real estate companies, construction companies
- Federal government, cantons and municipalities
- Administration and educational institutions
- Housing cooperatives
- Pension funds
- Industrial plants
- Health institutions
- Accommodation facilities
- Shopping centres
- Airports, railway stations, transport companies
- Co-working spaces / Co-working provider(s)
- Planning offices and consultancies
- Providers of FM-specific EDP tools

Typical entry functions for Bachelor graduates:

- Junior Facility Manager
- Real Estate Manager, Property Manager
- Team Leader
- Assistant to Facility Management leadership
- Project Manager
- Junior Facility Management Consultant
- Workplace (Experience) Manager



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 In the specialisations you expand your knowledge and put it into practice.

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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 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 – 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"> – Corporate Finance and 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 – Academic and Professional English for FM – 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

Prospects

Educational objectives

After completing your studies, you will be able to:

- develop real estate projects and services holistically, sustainably and in a user-oriented way while managing their provisions and management.
- apply business management strategies.
- think and act economically.
- competently manage heterogeneous teams and employees.
- plan and manage projects and project teams.
- communicate in a way that is appropriate to your target-group.
- further develop real estate and services according to client needs.
- participate in change processes (Change Management).
- design sustainable operational processes.

You put the client and their requirements at the forefront. Sustainability, safety and cost-effectiveness are important cornerstones in your decision-making. You check whether internal or external solutions are preferable and deploy the right specialist at the right location. Decision-making processes are shortened thanks to standardised professional management of all these supporting processes.

Career prospects

As Facility Management is playing an increasingly important role in all areas of work, graduates are in great demand. More challenging and sophisticated technology applications in buildings, the issue of energy, the need for more sustainability, higher customer expectations of professional services, and requirements of economic performance call for a holistic view of the entire life cycle of a property. At the same time additional benefits can be generated, and the value of a business improved through customer-oriented services.

Being in a position to offer all supporting processes as a package represents an outstanding opportunity. This concentration of services and professional management generates striking cost savings and creates the potential for significant quality improvements in FM. The demand for well-trained Facility Managers is therefore high.

Due to the wide scope of the FM study programme, in which various disciplines are uniquely combined, graduates have excellent job prospects. Where in-depth knowledge is required in a new situation, they are able to learn the ropes quickly due to the methods of holistic thinking they have acquired. Graduates of both specialisations are therefore suitable candidates for employment in all areas of FM.

Master's degree/ Continuing education

After successfully completing your Bachelor's degree at the ZHAW in Wädenswil, you can opt for the internationally aligned, research based and practically oriented Master of Science in Facility Management degree programme. A Master's degree enhances your career chances, particularly in international companies. The Master's degree programme is taught in English.

www.zhaw.ch/ifm/master/en

Based on years of experience, the Institute for Facility Management offers a wide range of part-time continuing education programs (MAS, DAS, CAS). The courses are modular, enabling you to put together your own individual educational package in respect of scope and content.

www.zhaw.ch/ifm/weiterbildung



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 study programme is multidisciplinary and students come from a broad variety of educational backgrounds.

- Candidates with a vocational baccalaureate can begin their studies directly.
- Candidates with an academic baccalaureate or professional baccalaureate (Fachmaturität) must have 12 months' work experience in a relevant field. Recognition of professional experience and/or internships is granted by the programme directors “sur dossier” and based on an internship report.
- Candidates with a diploma in a relevant field from an accredited technical college (höhere Fachschule) are accepted without an examination. The programme directors will decide on any further requirements.

The programme directors can provide information on other admission opportunities (e.g. foreign diplomas).

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/lfsfm/preliminary-courses

International exchange

Would you like to do part of your studies abroad? The ZHAW provides this valuable opportunity. An exchange semester, a foreign internship, attendance at a summer school, a field trip or a language course all bring many advantages: you get to know a different culture and language as well as another educational and research system, and gain experience for your professional life. The School of Life Sciences and Facility Management is currently linked with over 70 partner universities in 15 European countries as part of the Swiss-European Mobility Programme (SEMP), the interim solution organised by the Swiss Federal Council for the European Erasmus+ educational exchange programme. The student advisors or the ZHAW's International Relations Office (IRO) will be pleased to arrange a personal interview and advise you without obligation. More details about international mobility, online application for an exchange semester, and reports of students' experiences can be found at www.zhaw.ch/lfsfm/international/en

At a glance

Degree programme Specialisations	Facility Management Real Estate Management, Building Systems, Workplace, Services and Events
Title	ZFH Bachelor of Science in Facility Management
Duration	Full-time (six semesters), part-time (individually planned). Part-time studies are integrated into full-time studies and last 4 to 6 years depending on individual workloads.
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	Wädenswil on Lake Zurich (25 km from Zurich)
Tuition fees	Semester fees: CHF 720 (subject to change) plus study materials, membership of the ASVZ sports association and individual living expenses. An additional fee of CHF 500 per semester is also applicable for all students who travel to Switzerland for study purposes and do not have permanent Swiss residence when commencing their studies.
Conditions of acceptance	Candidates with a vocational apprenticeship (relating to facility management) and a federally recognised vocational baccalaureate can begin their studies directly. Candidates with a federal certificate of proficiency in another professional field other than facility management require 6 to 12 months' work experience. Candidates with an academic baccalaureate, a technical baccalaureate or a higher education diploma must provide proof of 12 months' work experience in a field related to facility management before beginning their studies.
Important information	The Facility Management programme is 'paperless.'
Information events	Four times per year, in March and October. Details at: www.zhaw.ch/lsvm/veranstaltungen
Study advisor	 Irene Arnold studienberater.fm.lsvm@zhaw.ch

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

Study and research in Wädenswil: practically-oriented, creative, passionate and reflective

ZHAW Campus Reidbach / Einsiedlerstrasse

ZHAW Campus Reidbach / Seestrasse

ZHAW Campus Grüental

The ZHAW is one of the leading Swiss universities of applied sciences. The School of Life Sciences and Facility Management currently has around 1500 students and over 600 employees. Its study and continuing education options include five Bachelor's and three Master's degree programmes as well as a broad selection of continuing education courses.

Our expertise in life sciences and facility management in the areas of the environment, food, health and society enables us to make a vital contribution to solving social challenges and improving quality of life. Our success is based on five dynamic institutes with extensive competence in research, development and services in the disciplines of chemistry and biotechnology, food and beverage innovation, natural resource sciences, applied simulation, and facility management.



Environment | Food | Health | Society
Our competencies in Life Sciences
and Facility Management.

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www.zhaw.ch/ifm/bachelor

Visit us



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