



CAS ETH in  
Global Cooperation and  
Sustainable Development





NADEL equips professionals with the knowledge, skills and attitudes needed to implement the 2030 Agenda for a more inclusive world.



# Building expertise for sustainable development

The Certificate of Advanced Studies in Global Cooperation and Sustainable Development (CAS ETH GCSD) is a part-time education programme that deepens expertise in sustainable development and project management in an interlinked world. The programme offers state-of-the-art training to practitioners, managers and policymakers from international organizations: from NGOs, multilaterals, government entities, universities, foundations to private companies. Participants benefit from both the knowledge and latest research of ETH scientists, as well as from experienced professionals who discuss specific practical aspects of global cooperation and sustainable development.

## CAS graduates are trained to

- plan and manage projects in an intercultural setting
- use evidence to make informed decisions that increase the social impact of projects and policies
- integrate cutting-edge knowledge on sustainable development into their work
- engage in contemporary debates on global cooperation for development



**Location**  
Zurich



**Duration**  
six weeks to three years



**Language**  
English



**Format**  
part-time



**Degree**  
CAS ETH in Global Cooperation and Sustainable Development



**Number of courses**  
two mandatory and four to five elective courses out of 30 courses offered



**Students enrolled**  
50-70



**CAS alumni**  
550

“The CAS programme at NADEL offers an excellent combination of theory and practice and great flexibility to maximise its effect through input providers, coaching sessions, peer learning, individual work, etc. The diversity of both the input providers and the participants has enriched us with additional perspectives and tools to advance us in our daily work.”



# Theory based & practice oriented

In the CAS programme, students acquire hands-on methods, tools and approaches that enable them to design and implement development programmes, cooperate with others and keep an organization fit for purpose.

In addition, they gain conceptual and empirical knowledge in selected areas of the 2030 Agenda. Students can choose from a variety of topics, including



## ● People

Poverty, food security, education, health and inequality; the role of global cooperation in improving well-being

## ● Planet

Linkages between climate change, biodiversity and development; trade-offs and synergies between environmental sustainability and economic growth

## ● Profit

Economic factors that promote or impede poverty reduction; economic policies and their impact on poverty and inequality

## ● Peace

Political and institutional dynamics that create structural power and dependency; stability, fragility and conflict-sensitive engagement

## ● Partnerships

Global cooperation across private sector, civil society, public actors and multilateral institutions





# Study programme

The CAS ETH GCSD programme includes both specialized courses on sustainable development and methodological courses on project management and evaluation. To earn the required 15 ECTS points, participants must attend at least six courses.

Two compulsory courses offer participants the opportunity to develop a basic knowledge of state-of-the-art project management and participate in contemporary discussions on sustainable development. For the remaining ten ECTS points, students choose from 30 different courses to customize their study programme according to their interests and needs. To obtain the CAS ETH GCSD, all six courses must be completed within three years.

In the Spring Semester 2025, participants will have the opportunity to complete the CAS ETH GCSD within six weeks by attending a predefined selection of courses (marked with a \* on pages 10 and 11) between 17 February and 28 March 2025. The number of places is limited, so please apply early.















Project Management	Sustainable Development
Project Cycle Management	Contemporary Development Debate
One additional course on project management	One additional course on sustainable development
At least two additional elective courses	

“The CAS curriculum at ETH NADEL offers a perfect blend of theory and practice, addressing the complexities of both local and global realities. The flexible, modular structure allowed me to tailor my studies precisely when my professional path required deeper understanding, knowledge, and skills in international cooperation for sustainable development. I can confidently say that I greatly benefited from the program. The familial atmosphere and the interaction with ETH lecturers, field experts, and peers provided a rich and invaluable learning experience!”

**Björn Gabriel**, Head of Office for North Macedonia, European Investment Bank (EIB)

# Courses

<b>Courses on sustainable development</b>		<b>Days</b>	<b>ECTS</b>
Contemporary Development Debate (compulsory) *		3	2
Food Security: How to Measure and Improve		3	2
VET Between Poverty Alleviation and Economic Development		5	3
Gender and Economics		5	3
Social Entrepreneurship – Driving Sustainability in Business		2	1
ICT4D – Concepts, Strategies and Good Practices *		5	3
AI for Global Development Organisations		2	1
Migration and Development		3	2
Natural Resource Governance and Energy Transition: Policies and Practice		9	4
Climate Change and Development*		5	3
Biodiversity, Resilient Ecosystems and Sustainable Development		2	1
Fragile Contexts – the Nexus between Humanitarian Aid, Peace and Development		5	3
Conflict Management and Peacebuilding – Tools and Approaches		4	3
Mediation Process Design: Supporting Dialogue and Negotiation		5	3
The Private Sector and Development Organizations: Building Successful Alliances		3	2
Leveraging Private Impact Investors in Development Cooperation *		3	2
Decolonizing Aid		5	3
Finance for the 2030 Goals		3	2

<b>Courses on project management</b>		<b>Days</b>	<b>ECTS</b>
Project Cycle Management (compulsory) *		5	3
Evaluation of Projects and Programmes *		5	3
Advanced Monitoring and Evaluation in Learning Organizations		3	2
Impact Evaluation in Practice		4	3
Strategies for Behaviour Change		3	2
Tools and Approaches for Capacity Development		5	3
Qualitative and Participatory Research Methods for Development Practitioners		3	2
Engaging with Policy Processes: Strategies and Tools		3	2
Financial Management of Projects		4	3
Design Thinking for Sustainable Development		3	2
Foundations of Leading Change		2	1
Storytelling for Systems Change		2	1
(Mis)information and International Cooperation Projects		3	2
Market Systems Development		5	3

Courses with the “Managing Projects and Processes” symbol teach generic methods that can be applied to any of the SDG topics; many courses with SDG symbols also have a strong focus on methods, but specific to the respective SDG.

Courses are organized every one or two years. Each semester, a selection of 10 courses is offered, except in Autumn Semester 2026, where less courses are taking place due to the start of the MAS programme.

**\* Predefined selection of courses to complete the CAS ETH GCSD within six weeks between 17 February and 28 March 2025.**



# Lecturers for the CAS ETH GCSD

NADEL works closely with scientists and lecturers from ETH and other universities, as well as experienced guest speakers from various organizations engaged in international cooperation for sustainable development. The CAS ETH GCSD thus brings together expertise and know-how from science and practice. Lecturers include, among others:

## Bilateral and multilateral organizations

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### SECO/SIF

**Stefan Flückiger**, former OECD ambassador; former Deputy State Secretary

### Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation

**Pia Häni**, Head of Section; Expert Human Rights and Fragile Contexts

### World Food Programme

**Gernot Laganda**, Head Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction

### UN-Habitat

**Selene Angelone**, Urban Resilience Programme Specialist

### UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

**Madeline Garlick**, Chief of Section, Protection Policy

### UN Environment Programme

**Henrique Martins de Araujo**, Partnerships and Engagement

## NGOs

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### Alliance Sud

**Kristina Lanz**, Expert on International Cooperation

### elea Foundation

**Andreas Kirschschläger**, Founding Partner and CEO

### Give Directly

**Caroline Teti**, Director, Recipients Advocacy

### Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation

**Annick Vollmar**, Senior Advisor Private Sector Development and Inclusive Systems

**Owen Frazer**, Senior Advisor Conflict Transformation

### Slum Dwellers International (SDI)

**Martha Sibanda**, Senior Programme Officer

### Swisscontact

**Laura Courbois**, Expert Monitoring and Results Measurement and Impact Reporting

**Niklaus Waldvogel**, Advisor Skills Development

### UBS Optimus Foundation

**Martina Gaus**, Head of Strategic Partnerships

### ZEWO

**Martina Ziegerer**, CEO

## Private sector

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### IGravity

**Patrick Elmer**, CEO

### Nature Finance

**Arend Kulenkampff**, Director, Sustainability-linked Sovereign Debt Hub

### responsAbility

**Samuel Baumgartner**, Head of Wholesale

### The Great Full

**Michelle Grant**, Founder and Leadership Coach

### ThomasLloyd

**Smita Nakhoda**, Head of Impact and ESG

## Research

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### ETH Zurich

**Marine Casalis**, Senior Research and Partnerships Manager, Immigration Policy Lab

**Simon J.A. Mason**, Head Mediation Support Team, Center for Security Studies

**Bjarne Steffen**, Assistant Professor, Head of Climate Finance and Policy Group

**Tobias Schmidt**, Professor Energy Politics

## Other research institutions

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### FiBL

**Irene Kadzere-Forichi**, Researcher and Project Coordinator

### Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute

**Manfred Störmer**, Senior Project Leader



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# NADEL teaching team



**Isabel Günther**

Professor Development Economics with a focus on evidence-informed policies, poverty, inequality and technologies for development.



**Fritz Brugger**

Senior Scientist with a focus on politics of development, fragile contexts, adaptive management, ICT4D, extractive industries and the private sector.



**Kenneth Harttgen**

Senior Scientist with a focus on data science, economics, child health, nutrition and population dynamics.



**Chris Humphrey**

Senior Scientist with a focus on development finance in the 21st century, including development banks, impact investing and Chinese overseas finance.



**Medinat Malefakis**

Senior Scientist with a focus on conflict, terrorism, peacebuilding, humanitarian displacement and development cooperation in fragile contexts.



**Max Morel**

Senior Lecturer, focusing on project cycle management, humanitarian aid and media for global cooperation.



**Jasmine Neve**

Senior Lecturer with a focus on climate change, environment and migration.



**Shruti Patel**

Senior Lecturer with a focus on agriculture, food security and communicating for behaviour change.

# Practical information

## Admission requirements

- A Master's degree recognized by ETH. Applicants without a Master's or an equivalent degree may be admitted in exceptional cases, provided proof of relevant qualifications and sufficient professional experience.
- Two years of professional experience in international cooperation, including sustainable development, development cooperation, humanitarian aid, corporate responsibility or migration. A minimum of six months of work experience in international cooperation related to the 2030 Agenda is acceptable with a written recommendation from the applicant's current employer.
- PhDs conducting empirical work in low- and middle-income countries for their dissertation who wish to pursue a career in international cooperation are also eligible for admission.

## Start of study programme

Every semester

## Duration of study

15 ECTS points (corresponding to approximately six courses) over a maximum of three years. The date of enrollment is considered to be the beginning of the study programme.

In Spring Semester 2025, participants have the opportunity to attend a predefined selection of courses (marked with \* on pages 10 and 11) to complete the CAS ETH GCSD within six weeks between 17 February and 28 March 2025. The number of places is limited, so please apply early.

## Applying for the CAS

Applications can be submitted to the School for Continuing Education: <https://sce.ethz.ch/en/programmes-and-courses/search-current-courses/cas/cas-eth-gcsd.html>

The following documents must be included in the application:

- Curriculum vitae
- Motivation letter
- Written proof of 2 years of relevant professional experience
- Diploma certificate, transcript (of records)
- Passport copy or identity card
- Declaration of consent

An orientation meeting will take place before final admission to the programme to get students acquainted and to advise them on designing their study programme and choosing courses.

## Registration for individual courses

Application for Spring Semester courses opens on 4 November 2024, for Autumn Semester courses on 2 June 2025. Registration for individual courses takes place via the NADEL website. Students should register as early as possible, as the number of participants is limited to 24 per course to allow for intensive group discussions. Once a course is full, additional registrants will be placed on a waiting list. Students can apply to the CAS and register for courses at the same time.

## Language

English

## Performance requirements

Active participation is expected, as is the timely completion of preparatory and follow-up work. Approximately two weeks before the start of the course, participants will receive the schedule and work materials. Students should set aside enough time for preparation.

## Absences

Full attendance is obligatory. During five-day courses, a one-day absence is allowed in case of sickness. Absences due to work commitments cannot be accepted.

## Examinations

For each course, students take a written exam at the end of the semester OR complete a written assignment. The examination modalities as well as the exam dates will be published on the NADEL website along with the course programme. Written assignments and exams are graded pass/fail.

In order to obtain the CAS ETH GCSD, examinations must be passed for all courses. Failed examinations can be repeated once. ETH regulations do not permit online examinations. It is possible to attend individual courses without an exam/written assignment if no credits for the CAS want to be earned.



**Graduation**

Upon successful completion of the study programme, ETH Zurich will award a CAS ETH in Global Cooperation and Sustainable Development. Students also receive a confirmation of participation for each course completed.

**Costs**

A registration and processing fee will be charged for on-line applications. Applicants with a degree from a Swiss university are charged CHF 50, applicants from other universities are charged CHF 150. An additional one-off fee of CHF 730 will be charged to all students. Payment of course fees must be made by credit card upon regis-

tration. An invoice will not be sent. Two- and three-day courses cost CHF 570, four- and five-day courses cost CHF 950.

**Cancellation terms**

Cancellations are possible up to four weeks prior to the start of a course. Any cancellation less than four weeks prior to the start of a course will be subject to a cancellation fee equal to the full course fee.



Having worked my entire career in the public and non-profit sectors, I joined the CAS programme to deepen my knowledge of international development efforts. The diversity of courses raised my curiosity, and I even took one after having gotten my CAS. The programme has helped me advance my career here in Switzerland. In addition, NADEL also offers terrific opportunities to meet great people.”

**Rebecca Laes-Kushner,**

Policy Analyst, Laes-Kushner Consulting



# Impressum

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