The University of Fribourg
Switzerland
Fribourg, or Freiburg in German, is one of Europe’s most beautiful and best-preserved medieval towns. Yet the city moves to the beat of its students. With over a third of its population being students, this ancient city is truly young at heart.

Located at the crossroads of the German and French speaking regions of Switzerland, and nestled between Northern and Southern Europe, Fribourg is a bridge between cultures and languages.

Fribourg hosts a multitude of festivals and cultural events throughout the year, cafés and restaurants that serve first-class delicacies, and is a veritable sporting paradise. It is easily accessible by road, rail, and air from Geneva, Zurich, Lausanne and the Swiss capital, Bern.

The University

The University of Fribourg, Switzerland, is committed to excellence in research and teaching and takes pride in its truly international and interdisciplinary spirit. Close personal contact between students and professors and a collaborative spirit are trademarks of a University that places humanity at the centre of all its endeavours.

Fribourg reflects the perfect example of Switzerland’s long tradition of unity in diversity. With a strong commitment to international relations, the University is part of several strategic networks and maintains exchange partnerships with more than 150 universities worldwide. A number of international courses taught in English emphasises these links.

The University of Fribourg’s students and teaching staff hail from 120 countries. Approximately 40% of students speak German as their native language, 35% French, and 20% other languages. Students can study in French and/or German as well as in English in some Master’s programs.

The curricula are modular, which allow for specialization, and are spread over three years for Bachelor’s degrees with an additional average of 18 months for Master’s degrees. PhDs are offered in all disciplines, and doctoral students can benefit from extensive networks of doctoral programs with national and international partners.

The University is committed to strengthening existing international ties and creating new networks. Students are encouraged to live an international experience and to develop their global responsibility, one of the University’s missions. The majority of the University’s guest students are European, followed by students from Asia, the Americas, Africa and Oceania.

Fribourg

The Faculty of Theology – Tradition and openness

The diversity of its students and teachers is one of the richest aspects of the largest faculty of theology in Switzerland. With its distinguished international and multicultural character, the faculty distinguishes itself by its openness to ecumenism as well as dialogue among various religions and cultures.

It has several specialized areas of competence: monuments and documents of the Bible, theology of ecumenism, and theology in the Dominican and Thomist traditions. Its extraordinary BIBLE+ORIENT Museum, thanks to a collection of objects from the ancient Middle East, sheds light on the complex environment in which monotheistic religions were born and have evolved.

Departments

- Biblical Studies
- Patristic and Church History
- Science of Faith, Religions and Philosophy
- Moral Theology and Ethics
- Practical Theology

Research Centers

- Documents and Monuments of the Bible
- The Study of Ecumenism
- Theology in the Dominican tradition
- Saint Thomas Aquinas Institute for Theology and the Culture
- Swiss Center for Islam and Society
- Center of compared Pastoral Studies
- Studienzentrum für Glaube und Gesellschaft

Exchange Programs

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Fribourg
Faculty of Law – Internationally renowned

Steeped in a tradition of law teaching going back 250 years, the Faculty of Law offers high quality, widely diversified instruction covering all areas of comprehensive legal training with special emphasis placed on European and International Law. A particular strength are practical and intensely interactive courses, which prepare students for a successful future in the field of law.

Thanks to its strong international connections, the Faculty offers its students unique opportunities to follow international curricula, such as its Master of Laws in Cross-Cultural Business Practice or the Center for Transnational Legal Studies (CTLS) Program (London).

www.unifr.ch/droit

Faculty of Social and Economic Sciences – Dynamic, competitive, and international

The Faculty offers excellent study opportunities, close student-faculty relations and an international atmosphere reinforced by the variety of teaching languages including several Master’s programs in English. Its major sections consist of Economic Sciences and Mass Media and Communication Research. At the Master’s level, the Faculty has focused on Europe, establishing dual degree programs with leading European universities and has proposed a specialized Master’s program in European Business.

The Faculty is recognized as a center of competence for governance in corporate and public institutions and offers a variety of international and cross-faculty curricula; in particular, with the International Institute of Management in Technology and the Non-Profit Organization Research Institute (VMI). Students also benefit from relations with prestigious universities like the Harvard Business School at the Research Center for Competitiveness.

www.unifr.ch/ses

Departments:
- Management
- Economics
- Informatics (interfaculty)
- Communication and media research

Research Institutes
- Swiss and International Construction Law
- Federalism
- European Law
- Religious Law
- Law and Economy

Institutes
- Verbandsmanagement Institut VMI
- International Institute of Management in Technology

Department:
- Private Law
- Public Law
- Criminal Law
- International and Commercial Law
Faculty of Arts and Humanities – Connecting the past and the future

Linguistically diverse with a strong humanistic focus, this Faculty explores the relationships between past, present, and future cultures. It has both a theoretical and practical approach to human values and places a particular emphasis on inter- and trans-disciplinary competence based on solid disciplinary qualifications. Thanks to its first-rate programs and the rigorous and diverse methods it employs, the Faculty prepares students for a variety of careers, from the art world to teaching, from analytical and public relations professions to public service.

www.unifr.ch/lettres

Faculty of Science – Excellence, humanism and high ethical standards

The Faculty of Science provides first-rate teaching and internationally recognised research in a wide range of scientific disciplines, with a special focus on the life sciences and materials research. Students enjoy a collaborative atmosphere and close supervision by professors and teaching staff. In addition to theory, practical work closely related to research is a priority and students have access to first-class equipment. PhD candidates are attracted to Fribourg by an international and diverse faculty as well as the opportunity to make high quality and original contributions to current scientific issues.

www.unifr.ch/sciences

Departments

- Philosophy
- Languages and Literature
- Historical Sciences
- Social Sciences
- Special Education
- Education Sciences
- Psychology

Institutes:

- Medieval Studies
- Swiss Contemporary History
- General and Comparative Literature
- Special Education
- Antiquity and Byzantine Studies

Research Center

The Fribourg Center for Nanomaterials, FrIMaT is incorporated as an interdisciplinary research institute into the Faculty of Sciences of the University of Fribourg. In partnership with the Adolphe Merkle Institute and local industries, the institute FrIMaT conducts materials related research and development of new advanced functional materials.

THE ADOLPHE MERKLE INSTITUTE (AMI)

is an internationally renowned independent center for nanomaterials research, attached to the University of Fribourg’s Faculty of Science. The AMI’s focus on soft nanomaterials is unique due to its particular blend of fundamental and application-oriented research within a multidisciplinary setting. Backed by its own technology transfer office, and through collaborations with industrial partners, the AMI aims to stimulate innovation, foster industrial competitiveness and improve our quality of life.

www.unifr.ch/frimat
Cross-Faculty Institutes:

- Eastern and Central Europe
  Theology, Law, Economics and Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities
- Ethic and Human Rights
  Theology, Law, Economics and Social Sciences, Sciences
- Environmental Sciences
- Family Research and Counselling
  Theology, Law, Economics and Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities
- European Studies
  Theology, Law, Economics and Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities

Cross-Institution structures:

- Research Institute of Multilinguism of the University of Fribourg
  and the Fribourg University of Teacher Education
- Joint Programme in Environmental Sciences with the University of Bern
- Joint programme in Computer Sciences with the Universities of Bern and Neuchâtel
- Joint programme in Osteuropastudien (in German) with the University of Bern