Studying at the University of Fribourg
Facts and Figures

- 10,000 students
- Over 800 professors, lecturers and researchers
- 2500 support staff
- 14 academic disciplines
  - over 50 Bachelor’s programmes
  - over 50 Master’s and Specialised Master’s programmes
- Founded in 1889
- 5 faculties
  - Economics and Social Sciences
  - Humanities
  - Law
  - Science
  - Theology
- Some 20 internationally recognized research institutes
- Over 50 Advanced Studies programmes
- Over 400 cooperation agreements with partner universities in over 40 countries
- An international student community from 110 countries around the world
A University Town *par excellence*

You won’t find a separate campus in Fribourg: the whole town is your campus! With some 10,000 students living among a local population of 40,000 Fribourg is truly a university town like no other. The mixture of historic tradition dating back to the middle ages, brought to life by a vibrant student community, gives life in Fribourg a unique and incomparable charm.

Living in two languages: a chance not to be missed

Fribourg is Switzerland’s only bilingual university. Here, you can choose from a wide range of study programmes in French or German – or in both. In addition, many subjects of importance for an international career are also taught in English. At Fribourg, being multilingual is not an academic pursuit – it’s a way of life.

Studies tailored to the individual

At the University of Fribourg, nobody gets lost in the crowd. As part of a university community of just the right size, with a highly committed teaching body, you will have the benefit of individual guidance in choosing your academic path. The University’s five faculties offer a wide range of study programmes you can tailor to your own individual needs and interests.
Centres of Excellence and National Research Projects

The University of Fribourg also enjoys an excellent international reputation in the area of research. With their work in academic Centres of Competence and in research projects in all disciplines, our researchers continually contribute to the extension of the horizons of knowledge. In addition to numerous research projects supported by the Swiss National Fund (SNF), our University is also home to a National Centre of Competence and Research as well as several interdisciplinary research centres.

Immerse yourself in culture and nature

Fribourg is a medieval gem located in the heart of Switzerland. The town’s historic centre boasts an impressive Gothic cathedral ringed by winding narrow cobblestone streets. Old stone bridges and picturesque squares provide a backdrop for lively restaurants and pubs, joining together to give life in Fribourg its unique romantic charm. Located at the foot of the Swiss Alps, less than 20 kilometres from the beautiful Lake Murten, Fribourg offers students a virtually limitless range of recreational and sports activities to pass their leisure time. Cultural life in Fribourg is dynamic and varied – concerts, events, museums and international festivals provide a mix of cultural attractions to suit every taste, enriching the life of all who live there.
Faculties

The University of Fribourg’s five faculties offer you a choice of over 50 study, teaching and research programmes. They are complemented by numerous interdisciplinary institutes and advanced research centres.

The University’s academic structure encourages direct and individualised communication between students and professors for a high-quality learning experience in an international and culturally diverse setting.

Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences
The Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences is distinguished by its use of the most advanced high-technology education and research methodologies, with a particular emphasis on practice-oriented interdisciplinary teaching.
www.unifr.ch/ses

Faculty of Humanities
The Faculty of Humanities comprises seven departments, making it the largest of the University’s five faculties. A proud defender of Fribourg’s humanitarian values, the Humanities Faculty is the embodiment of the University’s multilingual orientation and focus.
www.unifr.ch/lettres

Faculty of Law
Fribourg’s internationally renowned Faculty of Law continues a 250-year tradition of exceptionally broad-based, high quality legal education.
www.unifr.ch/ius

Faculty of Science
The Faculty of Science promotes excellence in higher education and theoretical research in mathematics and a wide range of natural sciences, with a focus on the materials and life sciences, including medicine. It also makes a substantial contribution to the industrial and economic development of the City and the Canton of Fribourg.
www.unifr.ch/science

Faculty of Theology
The University of Fribourg boasts Switzerland’s largest Faculty of Theology. Fribourg is also the only public university in Switzerland – other than Lucerne – to have a faculty for Catholic theology. Interested students may also combine their theological studies with course offerings from the University’s other faculties.
www.unifr.ch/theo
Degree programmes

Study at the University of Fribourg is structured in three cycles:

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years of study

- **Bachelor’s**: general education, normally requiring three years of full-time study (six semesters), or 180 ECTS credit points.
- **Master’s**: specialised studies requiring, as a rule, one and a half to two years of full-time study (three to four semesters), or 90–120 ECTS credit points.
- **Doctorate**: original individual research concluding with the presentation of a doctoral dissertation; admission is subject to an application procedure based on the specific conditions for admission of each faculty; there is no fixed length of time for completion of the degree.

Studies at the University of Fribourg are structured in accordance with the standards of the Bologna Process. Degrees awarded by the University of Fribourg are thus recognized throughout the European Higher Education Area, making it possible to pursue a Bachelor’s degree at one university and continue with a Master’s degree from another school.

**ECTS**

One year of studies is normally equivalent to 60 ECTS credit points; 1 ECTS credit point represents approximately 25–30 hours of work. The European Union’s ECTS credit point system makes it possible to compare programmes at different universities. This facilitates mutual recognition of the degrees awarded by them, thereby simplifying the process of transferring from one university to another.

**The Bologna Process**

The term Bologna Process refers to a collective effort by European countries to improve the comparability of higher education degrees (Bachelor’s, Master’s and doctoral degree) in order to facilitate the recognition of qualifications. It is also designed to promote greater mobility among students, university teachers and researchers, and to strengthen quality assurance in European educational institutions. A further goal is the incorporation of a European dimension into higher education programmes.
Would you like to do your own independent research? Are you wondering how to get started? The path to an academic career begins when you complete your Master’s degree and start working on your PhD. The purpose of the dissertation is to give you training in advanced research.

The time spent working on the dissertation is a transitional phase, when you go from being a student to becoming an independent scholar in your field. The average time needed for completion of a dissertation varies depending on discipline in which you are working.

Regardless of whether you choose to focus on one specific discipline or whether you prefer to work on an interdisciplinary subject – at Fribourg you will be able to do dissertation research that meets the highest international standards.

Several funding opportunities are available and the Fribourg doctoral programme also allows you to conduct research abroad with the help of a grant from the Swiss National Fund. This has the advantage not only of offering you an enriching personal experience, but also of providing you with an opportunity to expand your network of academic contacts.

For further information, please visit our dedicated webpage for doctoral and post-doctoral students, where you will also find a link to the downloadable brochure “PhD thesis at the University of Fribourg? All you need to know”.

www.unifr.ch/phd
Located in a bilingual French and German speaking canton, the University of Fribourg is the only university in Switzerland or the European Union to offer a complete programme of studies in both languages. Many courses, and even entire programmes, are also given in English.

This multilingual setting is a normal feature of daily life in Fribourg, both at the university and in the town, offering you not only a unique opportunity to learn another language and have contact with another culture, but also to gain a valuable advantage on the job market and for your future career.

Language Courses

The University of Fribourg Language Centre offers courses in French, German, English and Italian. Students also have the opportunity to take language classes that are incorporated into certain study programmes at the Faculties of Economics and Social Sciences, Humanities, Law and Science.

For students who wish to learn a new language or just to brush up their language skills on their own, the Self-Access Centre for Language Learning can provide learning materials relating to specific course programmes or for independent self-study.

www.unifr.ch/centredelangues
Mobility programme

Exchange study at other universities

As a student at the University of Fribourg, you also have the option to enrich your learning experience as an exchange student at another university in Switzerland or in an EU country.

Interested in knowing more about where you can go? Check out the online search engine of the International Relations Office at www.unifr.ch/international, entering your academic discipline and degree programme.

You can also join us at one of the many information meetings we hold at the beginning of each semester and at the end of the spring semester (e.g., Mobility Market, Mobility Lunch, etc.).

Exchange study at the University of Fribourg

Would you like to spend a semester or two as an exchange student at the University of Fribourg? Would you like to come to the University of Fribourg to do doctoral or post-doctoral research for three to six months?

www.unifr.ch/international

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