

## Art History

---

### Degree conferred

Bachelor of Arts

### Options

For information on the optional award of the distinction «Bilingual curriculum, French/German», please contact the relevant Department (see Contact).

An **Archaeology** option is also available for this degree programme.

### Languages of study

Study in French and German

### Commencement of studies

Commencement of studies in the Autumn Semester (September) or in the Spring Semester (February)

### Access to further studies

This bachelor programme qualifies students for the master programmes **Art History**, [Archaeology](#) (with the Archaeology option).

---

The bachelor programme in Art History offers students the opportunity of learning about Art History over a broad time span, ranging from Art History and Classical Archaeology to History of Contemporary Art. Students can explore the periods which interest them most in greater depth.

This study programme is taught partly in French and partly in German. Students must take modules in both languages, which will vary from course to course, but they can prepare their presentation, coursework and exams in the language of their choice (in either French or German).

The programme is composed of core modules and more specialised modules. The core modules, compulsory for all students, provide basic knowledge on all periods of Art History. The more specific modules enable students to broaden their education in three of the four periods of Art History and they can choose an «Archaeology» option with a specific set of classes and internships, which gives them the opportunity of later pursuing a master's in Archaeology.

### Profile of the study programme

The bachelor programme in Art History offers students the opportunity of learning about Art History over a broad time span: History of Contemporary Art (20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries), History of Modern Art, History of Mediaeval Art (Western and Byzantine art) and Art History and Classical Archaeology. Students can explore the periods which interest them most in greater depth.

### Compulsory modules

The compulsory modules consist of five courses. Each of these introductory modules corresponds to the history and scientific methods of the discipline and the four periods of Art History. Students thus obtain basic knowledge to help them understand and interpret works of art in relation to materiality, historical context and function.

### Specialisation in Art History

The specialisation in Art History consists of five modules. The first three modules enable students to deepen their knowledge and methods of analysis within the framework of themes that are specific to the respective periods. Different methodologies and processes of interpretation are examined and applied according to the various issues addressed. Case studies are used to encourage a scientific approach to description, analysis and interpretation. The fourth module allows students to validate their knowledge through their bachelor thesis, and the final module allows students to supplement their studies by acquiring knowledge that is specific to other disciplines of their choice.

### Archaeology option

The Archaeology option consists of five modules and offers a specialisation in archaeology covering a broad chronological period, from the beginnings of the Minoan civilisation (2700–1200 BC) to the end of the Roman Empire in the 5<sup>th</sup> century AD. This option focuses on learning archaeological techniques and methods, including an introduction to archaeometry, as well as on developing knowledge of monuments, objects, and the material and artistic culture of classical antiquity (Greek and Roman) through an anthropological approach. This option combines the study of objects and images from an anthropological and sociological perspective with practical training through the study of objects in museums, the collaboration in the setting up of exhibitions and initiation/participation in archaeological excavations. Choosing this option allows students to write a bachelor thesis dedicated to Antiquity.

### Learning outcomes and career openings

This course aims to raise awareness of the critical use of diverse sources, interpretations, methods and theories, as well as to teach students basic knowledge on the major stylistic trends, the classification of works of art and the theories relating to them from Antiquity to the present day. The formal and content methods of analysis, as well as a scientific approach to works of art, are one of the main pillars of the programme. The in-depth knowledge acquired in this bachelor programme can be further developed in master level studies. This knowledge also prepares students to pursue careers in museums, the art market, culture, publishing, historic monument conservation, archaeological services, etc

## Studies organisation

### Structure of studies

120 ECTS credits + 60 ECTS credits in a minor study programme freely chosen, 6 semesters

### Curriculum

<http://studies.unifr.ch/go/JpcAi> (French)  
<http://studies.unifr.ch/go/6TFJB> (German)

### Admission

The following **Swiss school-leaving certificates** grant **admission to bachelor programmes** at the University of Fribourg:

- Swiss academic Maturity Certificate
- Federal vocational or specialised Baccalaureate + supplementary examination of the Swiss Maturity Commission (passerelle)
- Bachelor Degree from a Swiss university, from an accredited Swiss university of applied sciences (HES/FH) or from a Swiss university of teacher education (HEP/PH)

A **complete list of all further recognised Swiss school-leaving certificates** is to be found on the webpages of swissuniversities (*in French and German only*): <https://studies.unifr.ch/go/fr-admission-swisscertificates>;  
<https://studies.unifr.ch/go/de-admission-swisscertificates>

**Foreign upper secondary school-leaving certificates** are recognised only if they correspond substantially to the Swiss Maturity Certificate. They must qualify as general education. Foreign school-leaving certificates are considered to be general education if, among other things, the last three years of schooling include at least six general education subjects, independent from each other, in accordance with the following list:

1. Language of instruction (at the school)
2. Second language (a foreign language)
3. Mathematics
4. Natural sciences (biology or chemistry or physics)
5. Humanities and social sciences (geography or history or economics/law)
6. Elective (computer sciences or philosophy or an additional language or an additional subject from category 4 or 5)

The general **admission requirements** to the **bachelor programmes** at the University of Fribourg for holders of foreign school-leaving certificates as well as the **admission requirements for individual countries** are to be found on the webpages of swissuniversities: <https://studies.unifr.ch/go/en-admission-countries>  
In addition, applicants with foreign school-leaving certificates must present **proof of sufficient language skills in French or German**. All guidelines are available at (*only in French and German*): <https://studies.unifr.ch/go/adm-guidelines>

*The assessment of foreign school-leaving certificates is based on the «Recommendations for the Assessment of Foreign Upper Secondary School-Leaving Certificates» adopted by the Chamber of universities of swissuniversities on 21.11.2024 (<https://studies.unifr.ch/go/swissuniversities24fr>; <https://studies.unifr.ch/go/swissuniversities24de>). The admission requirements are valid for the respective academic year. The Rectorat of the University of Fribourg reserves the right to change these requirements at any time.*

### Alternatives

Also offered as a minor study programme (60/30 ECTS credits).

### Contact

Faculty of Humanities  
Department of Art History and Archaeology  
Dr Alexandre Varela (French)  
[alexandre.varela@unifr.ch](mailto:alexandre.varela@unifr.ch)  
Kalinka Janowski (French)  
[kalinka.janowski@unifr.ch](mailto:kalinka.janowski@unifr.ch)  
<http://studies.unifr.ch/go/fr-art-history>  
Anja Delz (German)  
[anja.delz@unifr.ch](mailto:anja.delz@unifr.ch)  
<http://studies.unifr.ch/go/de-art-history>