

Musicology and History of Opera

Degree conferred

Bachelor of Arts

Languages of study

Study in two languages, 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

Master

This bachelor programme offers a musicology course centred mainly on western music from the Middle Ages to the present and taught according to the latest methods of the discipline. The programme enables students to acquire their knowledge progressively (history, methodology, techniques) and fosters oral and written analytical skills as well as music appreciation. The programme is highly interdisciplinary, studying in detail the relationships between music and the codes of other forms of expression and music's role in complex systems such as opera and cinema. Moreover, specialised courses on musical communication, history and criticism of musical-performance practice, historical notation and music publishing provide students with essential skills for numerous career fields.

Profile of the study programme

The study programme provides the crucial skills for a career in musicology:

- It enables students to acquire historical, aesthetic and analytical knowledge, both general and advanced, on a variety of specific subjects;
- It teaches students to reflect analytically about the role of music in cultures past and present;
- It helps students develop the specific skills which are crucial in teaching or in any career which involves music appreciation with regard to the relationship between music and images;
- Thanks to different methods of evaluation, it promotes not only learning but also oral and written scientific reasoning, as well as music appreciation.

Fribourg profile

The teaching of this discipline at the University of Fribourg - the oldest course of its kind in Switzerland and one of the first to be established in Europe – is noteworthy for its international character and interdisciplinary approach. For example, it prioritises the study of music as a language and its relationship with the codes of other

forms of expression, the role it plays in complex systems such as opera, liturgy and cinema, and the audiovisual dissemination of music in contemporary societies.

Moreover, the University of Fribourg Department of Musicology is one of the most active centres of research at the national and European levels.

Some of the teaching units can be completed at the universities of Berne and Neuchâtel under the agreement signed between universities of Berne, Neuchâtel and Fribourg (BeNeFri) or as part of national or international mobility programmes (Swiss Mobility/SEMP, ISEP, International Student Program Québec).

Students are also encouraged to become involved in the research and outreach activities organised by the Department: symposiums, conferences, commented concerts and operas, film club, etc.

Learning outcomes and career openings

The programme is aimed at people wishing to pursue a career in musical institutions, music appreciation, teaching or academic research. Some career openings require a subsequent master programme with 90 or 30 ECTS (research and culture, teaching).

The list below provides some insights into possible careers:

- Teaching: Baccalaureate schools; Hautes Écoles de Musique (higher musical education institutions), – subject: music history;
- Journalism and cultural mediation (radio; press; television; Internet; musical and cultural institutions);
- Management and conservation of musical and audiovisual sources (music archives; music libraries and music collections of general libraries; music collections of historical museums; specialised museums, sound archives; Répertoire International des Sources Musicales);
- Organisation and administration in the cultural sector (concert societies; orchestras; festivals; organisations for the promotion of music, e.g. SUISA or ProHelvetia);
- Music and musicological publishing (music publishers; musicological reviews, digital humanities, recording labels);
- Careers in music or the performing arts (in addition to studies at a Haute École de Musique);
- Research and academic careers (Swiss National Science Foundation; universities; Hautes Écoles de Musique; international institutions).

Studies organisation

Structure of studies

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

Curriculum

<https://studies.unifr.ch/go/p> (French)

<https://studies.unifr.ch/go/q> (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 Musicology

Isabelle Haldemann

isabelle.haldemann@unifr.ch

<http://studies.unifr.ch/go/fr-musicology> (French)

<http://studies.unifr.ch/go/de-musicology> (German)