

## Musicology and History of Opera

### 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).

### 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 will have you studying the forms, functions and significances of musical expression in a variety of cultures, focusing primarily on European music from the Middle Ages to the present day. In coming to Fribourg to study Musicology and History of Opera, you will profit from the tradition of the oldest musicology teaching programme in Switzerland and one of the very first set up in Europe. We also serve as a highly active research centre in this field of study, both on a national and European scale. This programme promotes studying music as a language, including its connection to codes used in other forms of expression and its role in complex systems such as opera, religious rites, cinema, and audio-visual broadcasting in contemporary societies.

While the courses and seminars are taught partly in French and partly in German, students are allowed to write their coursework and pass their exams in the language of their choice (French, German or Italian).

### Profile of the study programme

The programme in musicology studies the forms, functions and significances of musical expression in different cultures, including cultures close to and far-removed from ours, in terms of both geography and time. The primary field of research is European music from the Middle Ages to the present day.

### Fribourg profile

The programme in musicology at the University of Fribourg - the oldest in Switzerland and one of the first chairs created in Europe - is noteworthy for its international character and its interdisciplinary approach.

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to codes used in other forms of expression and its role in complex systems such as opera, religious rites, cinema, and audio-visual broadcasting in contemporary societies.

Moreover, the Department of Musicology at the University of Fribourg is one of the most active music research centres in Switzerland as well as in Europe.

The Musicology and History of Opera curriculum consists of a bachelor's degree programme (3 years) and a master's degree programme (2 years). As is tradition at the University of Fribourg, the courses and seminars are taught partly in French and partly in German. Students are welcome to take courses in both languages, but are allowed to write their coursework and pass their exams in the language of their choice (French, German or Italian).

The course requirements for the bachelor's degree programme include introductory courses (history, bibliography, notation, music theory), seminars analysing musical works, music and visual art courses, and thematic courses. Thanks to the BENEFRI network, students can also attend lectures at the Musicology Institute at the University of Berne, and ethnomusicology courses at the University of Neuchâtel.

Students are also encouraged to participate in research activities and in music-related events organised by the Department for the wider public: symposiums, conferences, commented concerts and operas, film clubs, etc.

### Learning outcomes and career openings

The main career opportunities available to musicology students, in particular after they have obtained a master's degree, include:

- Researcher (Swiss National Fund projects, universities, music schools);
- Teacher: middle schools, high schools, universities, music schools (music history);
- Journalist: radio, print press;
- Music librarian, museum curator (musical instrument museums, music collections in historical museums, etc.);
- Musical archivist (municipal and cantonal archives, RISM associate, national sound archives, etc.);
- Music publishing associate;
- Associate in an organisation that promotes music (SUISA, ProHelvetia, etc.);
- Manager or public relations agent for orchestras or festivals; editor of concert hall programmes; stage or floor manager in opera houses;
- Musician (further to studies at a higher music education institute such as HEM).

## 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)

## Comments

A new curriculum will be in force starting from the autumn semester 2025.

## 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. First language
2. Second 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, foreign candidates 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 11.11.2021 (<https://studies.unifr.ch/go/swissuniversities21fr>; <https://studies.unifr.ch/go/swissuniversities21de>). 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

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 Department of Musicology  
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<http://studies.unifr.ch/go/fr-musicology> (French)  
<http://studies.unifr.ch/go/de-musicology> (German)