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).

Languages of study
Possibility to study in French, in German or in French and German. Some courses are offered in English.

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

Access to further studies
Master

How did people in the past shape and perceive their lives? What scope did they have for making decisions? How did the economic, political, social and cultural environment in which they lived change? What impact has what they did or did not do had on the structures of the present day? These and similar questions are at the core of the History programme. In Fribourg, this course is based on close cooperation between the four subjects of ancient, mediaeval, modern and contemporary history. In a series of joint, coordinated, introductory teaching sessions, students are taught from the outset to take a multi-perspective, comparative and culturally informed look at history. A broad choice of specialisations is also available, ranging from economic history, social history, political history, the history of ideas and mentalities and legal history, right through to gender history and cultural history. The programme is taught in German and French. Of course, it is possible to study solely in German or French in Fribourg, but we also promote bilingualism, offering bilingual teaching sessions and collaboration with international partners. Numerous, highly popular and well-supported national, European and global exchange programmes round out the study programme.

Profile of the study programme

History courses explore how people shaped and perceived their lives in the past, how their lifestyles developed over time, and how earlier living conditions influence our lives today. The idea is to examine the benefits of each lifestyle identified throughout different historical epochs. The study of history covers the entire spectrum of human activities and thought: work, exchange of goods, social relations, family, visions of religion, ideologies, knowledge cultures, fine art and engagement in political organisations. History pinpoints developments, causes and consequences, but also chaotic and unforeseen events. In short, studying history constitutes coming to grips with the different eras and finding links between them. From the ancient world, Middle Ages, modern times through to today, innovations have been developed, conceptions revised, customs changed and institutions reformed, and yet at the same time, a sense of continuity and tradition has been preserved. The paradoxical simultaneous existence of opposing ideas and irreconcilable ideologies are the driving force of history.
A specific method is used in the history course: indicators are gathered from historical sources and are then analysed and compared. Sources might include material objects, texts or images. This involves constructing ideas which may be very far from those which are current today. In Historical Studies great importance is attached to the interpretation of statements and the linguistic presentation of results gained through research and reflection. The ability to understand foreign languages, mastery of the mother tongue and astute powers of deduction are core ingredients for successful completion of the course.

Fribourg profile
Historical Studies at Fribourg offer courses on every era and focuses on all corners of the world, particular emphasis being given to Europe. The university provides extensive opportunities for specialisation: for example in economic history, social history, political history, the history of ideas and mentalities or even the history of law. Students are also encouraged to combine studies on a specific domain with an era. The use of information technology is integral to the course. The University of Fribourg unites people from different linguistic, national and geographical backgrounds. Broad international cooperation and an elaborate programme for student exchange organised by the university provide the perfect set-up for the participants' expanding knowledge, learning to analyse critically and broadening the horizons of understanding. The course promotes the Swiss multi-linguistic culture through joint projects which bring together students from all the different linguistic regions of the country. Courses are offered in German, French and Italian, as well as in English. Although it is possible to follow courses solely in German or French, students also have the option of combining courses in different languages.
The University of Fribourg's rich variety of courses in the social, cultural, legal and economic fields as well as theology add an interesting perspective to the study of history. The interplay between different disciplines is a valuable tool for deepening students' understanding of history.

Learning outcomes and career openings
History graduates are distinguished by their ability to identify social connections and to evaluate and categorise them critically. Their competence and knowledge are valued in all fields of employment which involve communication methods which have been shaped by history and culture. Qualified history teachers play a vital role in transferring historical knowledge to future generations; Historical Studies and the additional teaching and education course form the basis for such a career. The study of history also provides career opportunities in
public relations, journalism, national and international organisations and in institutions which serve to store, process and present knowledge of the past, i.e. in archives, libraries and museums.

Careers in higher education and research require a doctorate, which can be obtained through the broad spectrum of research projects offered by the University of Fribourg. History graduates are not limited to any single career option; they are highly sought after in fields involving teaching, transferring information to the media and safeguarding knowledge about the past.

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/QgyUs *(French)*
http://studies.unifr.ch/go/l7ufr *(German)*

Comments

It is not possible to choose both this study programme and a programme in the fields of *History* and *Contemporary History*.

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

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http://studies.unifr.ch/go/fr-history *(French)*
http://studies.unifr.ch/go/de-history *(German)*