English Language and Literature

Degree conferred
Bachelor of Arts

Languages of study
Study in English

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

Access to further studies
Master

Our study programme covers British and American literature, Medieval English language and literature (Philology), and English linguistics. We aim to equip students with the knowledge and the skills to read any text – from a medieval poem to a modern news report – critically, and to present persuasive and evidence-based written arguments. We teach through lectures and seminars, but also study trips and fieldwork. We teach entirely in English, but within the multilingual environment of the University of Fribourg we encourage interdisciplinary approaches. We also encourage students to study for part of their degree at a university in an English-speaking country, and we have established exchange partnerships with universities in the US and the UK.

Profile of the study programme

What are we like?
English is the largest language and literature Department at the University of Fribourg, but it is nonetheless small enough that our professors and students can get to know one another, particularly in smaller seminars. Professors are supported in their teaching by doctoral and post-doctoral assistants and lecturers, who also pursue their own research. The staff of the English Department have international careers that foster richly diverse approaches to research and teaching.

What do we do?
We offer a comprehensive curriculum including English linguistics, Medieval English language and literature, and British and American literature; other Anglophone texts are also included in some courses. We also, of course, run funded research projects, and publish our research. In research as well as teaching, we collaborate in many enlivening ways with colleagues from other Departments, often through Fribourg's Institutes of Comparative Literature, Medieval Studies, and Renaissance Studies.

What can you do here?
Our students come from Switzerland and abroad, and English is our exclusive language of communication in the hallways as well as in the classroom. Studying with us gives you the opportunity to learn about medieval women, act in plays, do linguistic field work in pragmatics, study English literature and its relations to other media and/or technology, discover the rich intellectual world of the English and European Renaissance, and investigate the American Western or meet contemporary American poets. You will meet scholars of international acclaim who are regularly invited to give talks at our University. We have exchange partnerships with universities in Nebraska, Mississippi, Arizona, and Southampton, in particular for first- and second-year BA students. Our students have won literary prizes and published their manuscripts. They have enjoyed intensive weeks of theatre-going in London, and performed in Renaissance plays and shot films in Oxford Colleges. Others have won travel awards to academic conferences from Albuquerque to Puerto Rico. Students in Linguistics embark on real-world empirical studies involving online questionnaires and experiments. They may also participate in the workshops organised by the nationally recognised Research Centre on Multilingualism (*Centre scientifique de compétence sur le plurilinguisme/Wissenschaftliches Kompetenzzentrum für Mehrsprachigkeit*). Students in Literature are invited to cross-enroll in classes offered by the Institute of Comparative Literature (*Institut de littérature générale et comparée/Institut für Allgemeine und Vergleichende Literaturwissenschaft*).

How will you learn?
Our study programme ensures that you encounter many different facets of English literature and linguistics, not just a sliver here and there: we also offer training in methodology, bibliography, and theory, aiming to develop your academic skills alongside your knowledge. Modules are assessed by essay or exam; towards the end of your bachelor course you can undertake an applied project or write a bachelor thesis with dedicated supervision, or you can opt for an oral exam based on your independent reading. When appropriate, we offer intensive weekend seminars and study trips.

Where will you go from here?
Our bachelor and master programmes are designed to fit together: many of our BA students choose to move on to our master programme, and from there some move on to doctoral study in Fribourg or elsewhere in Switzerland, or abroad—and thence to academic jobs. Our graduating MA students can also choose between French-speaking and German-speaking teacher education programmes here in Fribourg, and many secure desirable teaching jobs in Swiss schools. Other graduates work internationally in non-profit or governmental organisations, or in journalism, communication, event management, or publishing.

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/TaufR *(French/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 ECTS credits).

Contact

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http://studies.unifr.ch/go/en-english