French

Degree conferred
Bachelor of Arts

Languages of study
Study in French

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

Access to further studies
Master

The bachelor programme in French offers students a broad foundation, in terms of French and French-language literature, linguistics and the history of the French language. This course opens the way to other disciplines, such as history, philosophy or art history.
In literature, the course begins with a series of introductory teaching sessions to familiarise students with literary analysis and the history of literature. Emphasis is then placed on acquiring solid methodological foundations including an introduction to critical writing. The course covers the history of literature starting with the modern and contemporary period and gradually works back through classical literature as far as the texts of the Middle Ages.
The course in linguistics is very thorough, ranging from enunciation and the contrastive study of the spoken/written language to lexicon description and text linguistics, including of course the history of language from its origins to modern time.
This programme is open to students for whom French is not their mother tongue, but who have sufficient command of spoken and written French.

Profile of the study programme

The bachelor programme in French at the University of Fribourg offers students a broad foundation, in terms of French and French-language literature, linguistics and the history of the French language. The course opens the way to other disciplines, such as history, philosophy or art history.
The study of French literature begins with a series of introductory lectures enabling students to become familiar with literary analysis, the history of literature, and the history of books and reading. In small learning groups, emphasis is then placed on acquiring solid methodological foundations including an introduction to critical writing. To cover the different centuries of literature, the course offers literary history teaching sessions and seminars in alternation, in which the students are encouraged to develop their analytical and reflective skills through personal work. The subjects of the seminars vary each semester and cover a very wide range, from canonical writers through to interdisciplinary issues. In linguistics, students also receive a very thorough education, ranging from enunciation and the contrastive study of the spoken/written language to lexicon description and text linguistics, including of course the history of language from its origins to modern time.
The bachelor programme is also open to students for whom French is not their mother tongue, provided they have sufficient command of spoken and written French. The University Language Centre provides registered students with language lessons at all levels (at no extra charge) and international certificates.

Fribourg profile
Fribourg is a friendly university where emphasis is placed on close, personal supervision of students. The Department of French is welcoming and dynamic and gives students the opportunity to take part actively in a number of events organised by the student committee and the team of lecturers: visits to theatres, outings, evening events, lectures by writers, as well as study days and international conferences.
Students are also able to benefit from several partnerships with other universities, notably within the framework of the BENEFRI network, which also allows students to take courses at the universities of Neuchâtel and Bern. On the international level, the Department of French is able to offer students Erasmus exchanges thanks to close contacts with partner universities in France and in other parts of the world.

Learning outcomes and career openings
Students who successfully complete a bachelor in French will have acquired substantial knowledge of the history, culture and aesthetics of French/French-language literature and the French language, both in terms of its contemporary function and its development over the centuries. They will also have developed their ability to think independently and critically about literary and non-literary texts.
Students who gain a bachelor's degree in French can go on to the master programme in French. In addition to teaching at secondary schools and academic upper secondary schools, career opportunities resulting from a course in French language and literature include a number of other fields, some of which require additional training: documentalist; translator (administration, companies, international organisations, literary translation); librarian; the publishing profession; book seller; journalism; advertising; administrative departments in Switzerland); diplomat and working with international organisations.

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/a3eVa *(French)*

Comments

The bachelor programme is also open to students for whom French is not their mother tongue, provided they have sufficient command of spoken and written French.

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

Faculty of Humanities
Department of French
Dr Matthieu Corpataux
matthieu.corpataux@unifr.ch
http://studies.unifr.ch/go/fr-french