Spanish

Degree conferred
Bachelor of Arts

Languages of study
Study in Spanish

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 Spanish provides a sound and comprehensive basic qualification. It covers the diverse literatures of Spanish-speaking America and the Iberian Peninsula, both in terms of their own evolution and in relation to one another. At the University of Fribourg, particular attention is paid to the relationship between literature and the humanities, and to interdisciplinary studies.
Furthermore, in Hispanic philology students study the language, literature and culture of mediaeval and modern Spain. This orientation exists in none of the surrounding Swiss universities; it is a feature specific to Hispanic studies at the University of Fribourg.
This study programme enables students to improve their command of the Spanish language and to develop techniques of analysis and research. A knowledge of Spanish equivalent to the B2 level is necessary at the start of the course.

Profile of the study programme

The bachelor study programme covers the diverse literatures of Spanish-speaking America (including the United States) and the Iberian Peninsula, both in terms of their own evolution and in relation to one another. Concerning the methodology, particular attention is paid to the links between literature and the humanities, as well as to the contribution of interdisciplinary studies.

In Hispanic philology, students analyse different ecdotic methodologies to be able to adapt them to the specifics of Hispanic texts and thus build up a codicological description and textual history. The topics studied include the language, literature and culture of mediaeval Spain, as well as the manuscript tradition of the works and their place in the history of the language.

The study programme is general and progressive, while being highly flexible as to its content and the order of the modules: the autonomy of the students is not only respected but also encouraged as part of their training. Nevertheless, an advisor is at the students' disposal to guide them in their choices. The basic module (M1) should preferably be taken during the first year of study, as it provides students with the methodological and scientific foundation for their future studies. As for the remaining modules, students are advised to take them in the order indicated. However, this order may be changed to suit students' abilities and the courses offered each academic year.

We offer general and monographic courses on major periods and regions, as well as on more specific topics in which students are taught the essential knowledge; we also offer proseminars, seminars and exercises to enable students to learn the skills and use the tools of research and analysis. Colloquia and conferences with external speakers enable them to investigate topics in greater depth.

All our teaching units are taught in Spanish for complete immersion in the language. This is why knowledge of Spanish equivalent to the B2 level – corresponding to the level of Spanish taught in Baccalaureate schools in Switzerland (special option in upper secondary level) – is necessary and a prerequisite for taking our study programmes.

Fribourg profile
Our unique orientation compared with that of all other Swiss universities can be seen in the range of our study programme and methodological approach. Hispanic philology is taught in neither of the other regional universities (Bern and Neuchâtel) and our intercultural and interdisciplinary approach is unique in Switzerland. As part of this multidisciplinary approach, we work with the Medieval Institute, the Fribourg Institute of the Renaissance and Modern Period and the Institute of Comparative Literature.

Contact between members of the Department and students is always direct and personal. The size of the classes allows for interactive collaboration and guarantees that everyone is heard. A language trip or study trip to a Spanish-speaking country is strongly recommended to complement the teaching of the Spanish language and culture. To encourage students to undertake trips of this kind, they count for additional ECTS credits towards the bachelor degree.

Learning outcomes and career openings
By the end of their bachelor course, students will have improved their skills in oral and written Spanish and acquired knowledge of the Hispanic language, literature and culture of three continents, from the Middle Ages to the present day. They will be capable of producing a basic, university-level literary or philological analysis of a work thanks to skills acquired through proseminars, seminars and exercises, such as techniques of discourse analysis, codicological description, critical distancing and management of personal and group research.

A comprehensive course of study combining both the bachelor and master levels opens up a wide variety of career opportunities, such as:

- Teaching: university teaching and research; teaching at the upper secondary level (with DEEM/LDM), as well as in private schools and the business sector;
- Writing professions: journalism, advertising, libraries, archives, literary and technical translation, the book industry

(publishing, management and retail);
- Other: diplomacy, banking, tourism, hospitality, public relations, new technologies, interpreting, commercial and cultural management, international organisations, public and private administration, etc.

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/ghIdR

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 Spanish
Prof. Hugo Bizzarri
hugo.bizzarri@unifr.ch
http://studies.unifr.ch/go/es-spanish