

Education Sciences

Degree conferred

Bachelor of Science in Education Sciences

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 only in the Autumn Semester (September)

Access to further studies

Master

What are the social, economic and ecological conditions of children growing up? What tasks do different institutions – such as family, school and other professional contexts – perform with regard to upbringing, education, care and socialisation and how do they cope with them? What challenges do people face at different ages? Education Sciences provide well-founded answers to these pedagogical questions. Among other things, they deal with learning, development and socialisation processes as well as with the contextual conditions of upbringing and education.

Profile of the study programme

The German-language study programme Education Sciences is composed of three joint working areas, each with a different thematic focus:

- Education and Globalisation
- Childhood and Youth Research
- International Education Policy

Students acquire comprehensive theoretical basic knowledge in the fields of education, upbringing and socialisation, and learn which quantitative and qualitative methods can be used to carry out research. The study programme allows for internships in the field of research and in educational institutions. In the corresponding seminar, students reflect on their practice-related experiences against the background of theoretical knowledge.

At the beginning of this bachelor programme, students deal with various scientific approaches to pedagogical topics. The focus is on

the philosophy of education, the sociology of education, and the politics of education as well as educational psychology. In addition to acquiring basic working techniques for scientific work, students learn about various methods of empirical social research and their application. Through their own approaches, they experience how answers to pedagogical questions can be developed on the basis of educational sciences research. This includes dealing with different research designs and methodological approaches. Students address in depth questions such as how family, school, work, and leisure time structure the lives and living conditions of children, young people and adults, what significance the economy and culture have for education and which challenges the internationalisation of education poses for national education systems.

Fribourg profile

The specificity of this study programme lies explicitly in the equal weighting of theoretical, historical and empirical approaches to education sciences research. Thus, in addition to social research methods, different systematic and historical approaches are also dealt with. The Department of Education Sciences also conducts research projects in which students can participate and, in this way, come into direct contact with research.

Thanks to the cooperation with Teacher Education, students also acquire knowledge in general didactics, among other things.

Through a diverse range of block courses, it is possible to regularly attract international as well as Swiss colleagues for specific courses, which further increases the breadth of the teaching offer. In addition, the possibility of bilingual study allows a more extensive thematic choice of courses and socialisation in the academic discourse of both languages. Based on the BENEFRI agreement, lectures and seminars can be attended at the Universities of Bern and Neuchâtel. Furthermore, there is the option of spending one or more semesters at a university abroad with a mobility placement.

Several times a year, students and lecturers organise joint events, such as the popular summer party.

Educational goals and career perspectives

After obtaining the bachelor degree, students have the option to start on a master programme, to take an «intermediate year» (e.g. stay abroad, internships) or to enter directly into professional life.

The following professional fields are common:

- Science-oriented activities and tasks in the educational and social sectors
- Project work in the education sector
- Work in counselling centres and specialised social services
- Work in social institutions, e.g. youth centres or children's homes
- Media and public relations work in the education sector

Following the bachelor programme, a master programme can be completed at the Department of Educational Sciences at the University of Fribourg.

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/11> (French)

<https://studies.unifr.ch/go/1J> (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

Faculty of Education

Department of Education Sciences

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