Pedagogy / Psychology

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

This bachelor programme has the special feature that half of it consists of the study of education sciences and half of the study of psychology. It is thus primarily aimed at those students who would like to use this as a basis for obtaining the «Diplôme d'Enseignement pour les Ecoles de Maturité (DEEM, French-speaking section)/Lehrdiplom für Maturitätsschulen (LDM, German-speaking section)» in the teaching subject «Pedagogy/Psychology».
In psychology, students deal with the cognitive and affective areas of human experience and behaviour, with diagnostic and clinical treatment procedures as well as research methods and tools. In the pedagogical parts of the programme, the focus is on social, economic and ecological conditions of children growing up, as well as on the theories, history and empiricism of learning, education and socialisation processes, both with regard to individual ages and to institutions and their political contexts.
Thus, the focus of this study programme is on both theoretical and empirical perspectives of both disciplines.

Profile of the study programme

This study programme has been designed primarily to enable students to acquire the basic knowledge of the two disciplines of pedagogy and psychology, so that they can later teach the key terms and concepts to pupils at upper secondary level schools as part of the elective subject «Pedagogy/Psychology». This programme is complemented by another teaching subject, such as philosophy, languages, history, geography, sports or another scientific teaching subject. However, it is equally possible to choose as a minor another social science discipline as, for example, sociology, social work and social policy or social anthropology, in order to have a balanced basic knowledge of social and human sciences, or to keep open the possibility of taking one of these subjects as a priority in the master degree. The study programme «Pedagogy/Psychology» cannot be combined with a minor programme in psychology or in education sciences.
At the beginning of the bachelor programme, students deal with the scientific foundations of education sciences and psychology. The focus is on the philosophy of education, the sociology of education and the politics of education, as well as educational psychology, developmental psychology, and general and clinical psychology. In addition to acquiring basic working techniques for scientific work, students learn about various research methods and their application. Furthermore, they have the opportunity to deepen their knowledge in self-selected topics of education sciences and psychology. In this way, they can deal with various pedagogically relevant questions, such as how family, school, work and leisure time structure the lives and living conditions of children, young people and adults, or what significance economics and culture have for education. In the field of psychology, students can deal more intensively with neurobiology, social psychology or health psychology.

Fribourg profile
The Department of Education Sciences also conducts research projects in which students can participate and, in this way, come into direct contact with research.
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. This possibility represents a personal enrichment, but also allows students to apply for positions at schools throughout Switzerland, as well as specifically in the bilingual cantons. 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.

Learning outcomes and career openings
The primary goal of graduates of this study programme is to obtain a teaching diploma and subsequently teach at baccalaureate schools («écoles de maturité/Maturitätsschulen») or upper secondary specialised schools («écoles de culture générale/Fachmittelschulen»). However, since only a few hours are allocated to these subjects in schools, students are advised to choose an additional teaching subject with many more hours allocated to it if a full-time position is desired.
After obtaining the bachelor degree, it is possible to take up the master programme «Pedagogy/Psychology».
Although this bachelor programme allows access to the master degree in Education Sciences, direct entry into the master degree in Psychology is not possible because the transitional requirements to be completed in this discipline are too numerous.

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/1I (*French*)
https://studies.unifr.ch/go/1J (*German*)

Comments

Specific study programme for DEEM/LDM (teaching diploma for baccalaureate schools and upper secondary specialised schools) candidates. It is not possible to choose this study programme and a programme from the «Psychology» or «Education Sciences» field.

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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