Philosophy

Degree conferred
Bachelor of Arts

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 in the Autumn Semester (September) or in the Spring Semester (February)

Access to further studies
Master

The main characteristics of the bachelor programme in philosophy at the University of Fribourg is – in addition to the diversity of its philosophical orientation – the possibility of bilingual studies (which is an option, not an obligation) and the structure of the bachelor programme around two axes: History of Philosophy and Systematic Philosophy.
History of Philosophy includes ancient, medieval, modern and contemporary philosophy and introduces students to the main authors, texts and currents of Western philosophy. Systematic Philosophy comprises complementary disciplines, such as philosophy of language, of mind and of human sciences; epistemology and metaphysics; ethics and political philosophy; aesthetics and philosophy of art, and introduces students to the themes and questions inherent to present philosophical debate.
Another particular feature of studying philosophy at the University of Fribourg is the possibility to develop a specific profile thanks to a high number of optional courses based around a common core.

Profile of the study programme

Philosophy covers complex, fundamental questions, most of which have been the subject of discussion since Antiquity. It comprises different complementary disciplines, most of which are represented in the Department of Philosophy of the University of Fribourg: metaphysics, epistemology, philosophy of the mind, philosophy of language, ethics and political philosophy, aesthetics and philosophy of art. In addition to these different systematic approaches, at the University of Fribourg, particular attention is paid to the study of philosophy in its historical dimension, with particular focus on Antiquity and the Middle Ages.

Fribourg profile
Due to its size, the diversity of studies, the wealth of scientific activities and bilingual courses, the Department of Philosophy of the University of Fribourg offers a bachelor programme in philosophy that is unique in Switzerland. Studies are structured around two main axes:

- **History of Philosophy** comprises ancient, medieval, modern and contemporary philosophy. These subjects introduce students to the main authors, texts and currents of Western philosophy. The historical approach consists in analysing different philosophical notions by situating them in their cultural context, in order to reconstitute the origins, development and relationships among such notions. This approach leads to the establishment of interactions with the many forms of Western philosophy;
- **Systematic Philosophy** comprises philosophy of language, of the mind and of human sciences, epistemology and metaphysics, ethics and political philosophy, aesthetics and philosophy of art. These subjects introduce students to the themes and questions inherent to current philosophical debate. The purpose of the systematic approach is to engage in direct research for solutions to philosophical problems. To do this, it is necessary to understand how the specific issues of a problematic field interrelate, and to clearly perceive the advantages and disadvantages of the different positions within a given field. Analysis and assessment of arguments, notably with the use of logical tools, plays a central role in this approach.

Within the framework of bachelor studies, relative freedom is given to students who want to invest in their studies and develop a specific profile by embarking on a course centred on a common core with a high number of optional courses. Another major advantage of the philosophy course at Fribourg is the bilingual aspect. Students can attend lessons in French or German, or in both languages.

Learning outcomes and career openings
Students who successfully complete a bachelor programme will have in-depth knowledge of philosophical issues in the historical context and how they relate to each other. They will also have a good grasp of specific methodological tools, such as how to reconstruct, interpret and assess an argument, or how to write complex argumentative texts.

A course in philosophy provides opportunities in a number of sectors that require a high level of intellectual training. The specific skills developed through studying philosophy, such as analysis, argumentation and writing skills, or the ability to deal with complex problems independently and creatively, are appreciated in a variety of fields:

- Non-governmental organisations;
- Federal and cantonal administrative departments in Switzerland;
- Human resources;
- Journalism and media;
- Consultancies (world of finance, medical professions, culture);

- Communication and public relations.

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/Rvrsm *(French)*
http://studies.unifr.ch/go/w99Kh *(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 (60/30 ECTS credits).

Contact

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