Geography

Degree conferred
Bachelor of Science in Geography

Languages of study
Study in French and German

Commencement of studies
Commencement of studies only in the Autumn Semester (September)

Access to further studies
Master

The study of geography provides students with a deeper understanding of processes in nature and society and their increasingly complex interrelationships. Geography is a discipline of great social relevance. For this reason, students are required to address current issues concerning the environment, such as climate change, urbanisation or scarcity of resources.
Students acquire knowledge in the two main branches of geography: human geography and physical geography. In addition to this they have to write their own research paper.
The geography course at the University of Fribourg pays particular attention to the relevance and concrete applications of the knowledge students have acquired. The study programme provides them with scientifically-grounded, practice-oriented qualifications which open the door to appropriate career opportunities.

Profile of the study programme

Motivation
Geography is a highly application-oriented and socially relevant science which is concerned with issues of the environment such as climate change, urbanisation and scarcity of resources. Such changes take place at a relatively fast rate and present significant challenges to today's society. Nowadays it is only possible to tackle these highly complex process chains between nature and society using a highly interdisciplinary approach to solution-finding. This is precisely where integrative geography makes a significant contribution. The key research objects of geography are **time** and **space** – that is to say processes of particular relevance for society which take place on various temporal and spatial scales. Geography is a highly interdisciplinary subject which is at the intersection between natural and social sciences.

The bachelor's degree in Geography gives students an in-depth knowledge of processes which are characterised by the increasing interrelationships of nature and society. At present, two main branches of geography are taught in the bachelor programme at the University of Fribourg. These are human geography and physical geography. They give a comprehensive insight into the condition and processes of the lithosphere, hydrosphere, cryosphere, biosphere and atmosphere, and provide an understanding of economic, urban and political developments, and their consequences for the environment.

Learning outcomes and career openings
The aim of the bachelor's course is to give students a scientifically-grounded, practice-oriented qualification which is relevant to their future professional career and opens up suitable employment opportunities. Special emphasis is placed on the relevance and application of the skills they have acquired. In the two subject areas human and physical geography, students acquire a comprehensive fundamental knowledge and understanding of the relationships between nature and society and their influence on the various spheres. Applying the scientific methods they have learned, graduates are also capable of analysing spatial problems on various levels of scale and assessing, interpreting and evaluating the significance of various aspects from different perspectives in order to deduce possible solutions. By preparing a research paper, students learn, with close supervisory assistance, how to examine scientific and socially relevant questions independently.

By building consistently on the contents of these common study foundations, students acquire a broad range of basic geographical knowledge in physical geography, human geography and geographical information systems. At the end of their studies they are optimally qualified to work in diverse areas of business, administration or science.

Studies organisation

Structure of studies

120 ECTS credits + 60 ECTS credits in one or two minor study programmes freely chosen, 6 semesters

Curriculum

http://studies.unifr.ch/go/mjkY5 *(French)*
http://studies.unifr.ch/go/0fTFn *(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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