Social Work and Social Policy (FR)

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 or in French and German

Commencement of studies
Commencement of studies in the Autumn Semester (September) or in the Spring Semester (February)

Access to further studies
This bachelor programme qualifies students for the master programme **Social Problems, Social Policy and Risk Prevention**.

This bachelor programme will equip you with the necessary skills and critical perspective to assess socially problematic situations, institutional environments in which you will take action and the particular types of actions you will be expected to roll out. As the programme is based on the analysis of social issues and the consideration of possible solutions, you will gain an understanding of the far-reaching changes that affect social policy and will master the conditions of social work. You will also gain knowledge of existing social policy measures in Switzerland and abroad, and their role in society and the economy.
The methodological and method training provided is based on three key pillars: the analysis of social issues (e.g. poverty, exclusion, drug abuse), the study of social policies (e.g. family and health policies, and social insurance) and the situational practice of the research methods studied, in relation to the analysis of social issues and/or social policies.

Profile of the study programme

The Social Work and Social Policy bachelor's degree is based on the analysis of social issues and the consideration of possible solutions (advice, education, planning, social assistance, organisational and administrative aspects, etc.). The study programme aims to provide basic training that is both general and thematic through the acquisition of knowledge, theories and methodological tools that are the foundations of any university course, and through specialisation in current challenges in social work and social policy.
The programme is geared towards giving students the keys to understanding the far-reaching changes affecting how social work is shaped and the ability to (re-)design its conditions. Secondly, the course affords knowledge of existing social policy measures in Switzerland and abroad, and an understanding of their role in society and the economy.

Fribourg profile
From the outset, the Social Work and Social Policy study programme was shaped by the drive to teach students social work skills and above all to give them the tools for critical thinking so that they are able to analyse socially problematic situations, institutional environments in which they will act and the particular types of actions they will be expected to roll out. To achieve this, the course offered at Fribourg University is based on the critical acquisition of knowledge from the field of sociology and a reflective immersion in the situational practice of social work.

Learning outcomes and career openings
Skills
The Social Work and Social Policy bachelor programme is based on the analysis of social issues and the consideration of possible solutions (advice, education, planning, social assistance, organisational and administrative aspects, etc.). It stands out for its in-depth methodological and method training based on three key pillars:

1. The analysis of social issues with a view to gaining a critical understanding and the management of social issues (e.g. poverty, exclusion, drug abuse);
2. The study of social policies with a view to acquiring knowledge of the foundations, conditions and current challenges of social policies (e.g. family and health policies, and social insurance);
3. The practice of research methods in order to obtain a command of the various methodologies used in scientific study and in relation to the analysis of social issues and/or social policies.

Career openings
Following the three-year Social Work and Social Policy study programme, two types of career profiles are possible:
– Further academic study at master's level. Upon graduating from the master programme, students will be able to leverage their training in two fields (social work and social policy) and in terms of two types (scientific and practical). The wide-ranging scope of this master programme opens up a large number of career openings in many business sectors and in administrations, institutions, organisations and associations;
– Entry to the labour market. The Social Work and Social Policy bachelor's degree prepares students for professions in various fields (medical and social, legal, social, psycho-social, socio-educational, socio-economic, socio-cultural, etc.) or in a variety of sectors (assistance to young people and families, the enforcement of sentences, the health sector, the fields of social leadership, professional integration, social and vocational rehabilitation, social work with drug addicts, local social development projects, 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/3v29r *(French)*

Comments

This study programme may be chosen jointly with a study programme worth 60 ECTS credits in the «Social Sciences» domain.

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/30 ECTS credits).

Contact

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http://studies.unifr.ch/go/fr-socialwork