

## French Language and Literature

---

### Degree conferred

Philosophiae Doctor in Lingua et Litteris gallicis / Doctor of Philosophy in French Language and Literature (PhD)

### Commencement of studies

An application for admission may be submitted at any time.

### Regulation

<http://studies.unifr.ch/go/dGLfK> (French and German only)

### Application procedure

#### Candidates with Swiss qualifications

<https://studies.unifr.ch/go/Uj3b4>

#### Candidates with foreign qualifications

<https://studies.unifr.ch/go/2KPbe>

---

## Fribourg profile

The Department of French offers a doctorate in French Literature (from the Middle Ages to contemporary times) and French Linguistics.

The programme offers an opportunity to approach the entire spectrum of language and literature in all its manifestations from a variety of perspectives and in a spirit of dialogue and close collaboration between the professors and doctoral students, and with the Department's international partners.

Consequently, doctoral theses written here can work on of numerous areas, including:

### French literature (from the 9<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> century)

- Poetic and thematic approaches
- Critical editions of literary texts (also, online publishing)
- History of theatre and drama
- Literary theory
- Interdisciplinary approaches
- Intercultural, post-colonial and global approaches

Most members of the teaching staff (Prof. Th. Hunkeler, Prof. C. Bourqui, Prof. J. Lachat, Prof. M. Uhlig) are also willing to supervise theses in the realm of comparative literature.

Prof. M. Uhlig also accepts theses in Gallo-Roman philology.

### French linguistics

- Morphosemantic properties of lexical units, polysemy
- Nominal typology, semantic corpus annotation
- Neology
- Expression of space and time in language and discourse

- Verbal constructions
- Micro-syntax and macro-syntax
- Pragmatics
- Linguistic variation
- Spoken French
- Enunciation

Co-supervision of theses, including international co-supervision, is possible in most cases, whether in French literature or linguistics.

Throughout their thesis, doctoral students work as an integral part of skilled research teams made up of professors, postdocs and other doctoral students and receive coaching in the following forms:

- Teaching events specific to the University of Fribourg: research seminars and doctoral colloquia, both intra- and interdisciplinary; doctoral events held in collaboration with partner universities abroad
- Participation in the CUSO (Conférence Universitaire de Suisse Occidentale) doctoral schools in the fields of French literature, language sciences and medieval studies, and in the Swiss universities doctoral schools of language sciences, comparative literature and medieval studies
- Integration into the everyday activities of the Department of French

### Professors who are eligible to supervise theses

#### French literature

- **Prof. Claude Bourqui**

Areas of specialisation:

- Literature of the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries
- History of theatre (16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> century)

- **Prof. Thomas Hunkeler**

Areas of specialisation:

- European Modernism and Avant-Garde Movements
- Contemporary Literature and Theatre
- Literary Theory and Comparative Literature
- Swiss Literature in French (20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries)
- Renaissance Literature (16<sup>th</sup> century)

- **Prof. Jacob Lachat**

Areas of specialisation:

- French Literature (19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries)
- French and European Romanticism
- Writings of History
- Writings of the Self (Diaries and Memoirs)
- Literature and Representations of Work

- **Prof. Timothée Léchat**

Areas of specialisation:

- French Literature of the long 18<sup>th</sup> century (1680-1830)
- Poetry
- Press and Literature

- Literature and Natural Sciences
- Literary and Cultural History of French-speaking Switzerland

- **Prof. Marion Uhlig**

Areas of specialisation:

- Medieval French Literature
- Visual Poetry, Wordplay, and Word Games
- Collected Manuscripts and Collections of Embedded Fables
- Travel Literature
- Literary Theory and Narratology

### French linguistics

- **Prof. Gilles Corminboeuf**

Areas of specialisation:

- Micro-syntax and macro-syntax
- Pragmatics
- Linguistic variation
- Spoken French
- Enunciation

- **Prof. Richard Huyghe**

Areas of specialisation:

- Nominal semantics
- Morphological derivation
- Syntax

### Studies organisation

#### Structure of studies

No ECTS credits can be earned.

#### Doctoral school

<https://francais.cuso.ch>  
<https://langage.cuso.ch>  
<https://medieval.cuso.ch>

#### Admission

In order to be admitted to a doctorate the candidate must have been awarded an academic **bachelor's and master's degree** or an equivalent qualification from a university recognised by the University of Fribourg.

Before applying for a doctorate the candidate must contact a **professor** who would be willing to supervise the thesis work.

There is **no general right** to be admitted to a doctorate.

*The respective conditions of admission for each doctoral study programme are reserved.*

### Contact

Faculty of Humanities  
Department of French  
Dr Matthieu Corpataux  
[matthieu.corpataux@unifr.ch](mailto:matthieu.corpataux@unifr.ch)

<http://studies.unifr.ch/go/fr-french>

### Doc- Postdoc-portal

<http://www.unifr.ch/phd>