Study of Religion

Degree conferred
Philosophiae doctor in studiis religiosis / Doctor of Philosophy in the Study of Religion (PhD)

Commencement of studies
An application for admission may be submitted at any time.

Regulation
http://studies.unifr.ch/go/nVIBN *(French and German only)*

Application procedure
Candidates with Swiss qualifications
https://studies.unifr.ch/go/Ui3b4
Candidates with foreign qualifications
https://studies.unifr.ch/go/2KPbe

Fribourg profile

In the modern age, religion, with its promises and perceived platitudes, is under suspicion of inhibiting endeavours to educate humans and speed up social progress. In the meantime, we live in a «religion friendly» society, characterised by new-found interest in «religious phenomena». So, the new role of religions in a pluralist and multicultural society is everything but clear. They provide potential for conflict and at the same time urge peace. They oppose secularisation and encourage it at the same time, as they are the expression of a confession and therefore promote neutralisation of the public.

The Faculty of Theology in Fribourg is the largest theology Faculty in Switzerland integrated into a state university. It is subject to national law, like the other University Faculties, but in addition is acknowledged by the Church and is supported by the Dominican Order and the Swiss Bishops Conference.

The Faculty of Theology takes into consideration the variety of methods, but at the same time, as a science of faith, approaches religion as a confession and uses scientific resources to analyse and provide critical and constructive support to stimulate interreligious dialogue.
The Faculty of Theology offers study programmes which not only impart knowledge, but also lead to students clarifying and deepening their own position in the dialogue of religions and with religions.

Professors who are eligible to supervise theses

Biblical studies

- **Prof. Sigrid Eder**

Areas of specialisation:
– Exegesis of the Old Testament

- **Adj.Prof. Nesina Grütter**

Areas of specialisation:
– Old Testament / Hebrew Bible
– Semitic linguistics
– Septuagint
– Textual criticism
– History of religions and materiality (Middle East and Eastern Mediterranean region)

- **Prof. Gudrun Nassauer**

Areas of specialisation:
– New Testament

- **Prof. Philippe Lefebvre**

Areas of specialisation:
– Old Testament
– Relationship between the Bible (Christianity) and culture, the Bible and literature, cinema

- **Prof. Thomas Schumacher**

Areas of specialisation:
– Exegesis of the New Testament

Patristics and Church History

- **Prof. Mariano Delgado**

Areas of specialisation:
– Church and society in Latin America
– Church and society in Europe in general, with a focus on Germany, Austria, Switzerland and Spain
– Dialogue between religions
– Religion and violence
– Religion and migration
– Multiculturalism
– Christianity/Church and politics

- **Adj.Prof. Gregor Emmenegger**

Areas of specialisation:
– Patristics and the history of the Church

- **Prof. Paul-Bernard Hodel**

Areas of specialisation:
– History of the Church in the Middle Ages, modern and contemporary times

- **Prof. Franz Mali**

Areas of specialisation:
– Early Christianity
– History of Christianity in the East, particularly in the Middle East

Faith and Religious Studies, Philosophy

- **Prof. Bernhard Blankenhorn**

Areas of specialisation:
– Dogmatic theology

- **Prof. Emmanuel Durand**

Areas of specialisation:
– The question of God
– The Trinity
– Christ
– Creation

- **Prof. Barbara Hallensleben**

Areas of specialisation:
– Ecumenical questions
– Churches in the East
– Theology and spirituality of Churches in the East
– Questions on faith and the teachings of the Catholic Church
– Questions concerning the promotion of research

- **Prof. Veronika Hoffmann**

Areas of specialisation:
– Dogmatic theology
– German-language theological currents of the 20th century
– The theological reception of Charles Taylor and Paul Ricoeur
– The doctrine of salvation
– Faith and religious indifference

- **Prof. Joachim Negel**

Areas of specialisation:
– Fundamental theology

- **Adj.Prof. Bernard Schumacher**

Areas of specialisation:
– Ethical, bioethical and societal issues

Moral theology and ethics

- **Prof. Daniel Bogner**

Areas of specialisation:
– General moral theology and ethics

- **Prof. Didier Caenepeel**

Areas of specialisation:
– Special moral theology and Christian social ethics

- **Prof. Hansjörg Schmid**

Areas of specialisation:
– Islam and society, interreligious ethics

- **Prof. Luc-Thomas Somme**

Areas of specialisation:
– General moral theology and ethics

- **Adj.Prof. Markus Zimmermann**

Areas of specialisation:
– Foundation of Christian social ethics
– Theological bioethics
– Equal distribution of health
– Decisions at the end of life
– Ethics of palliative care
– Work and social security
– Migration and integration

Practical theology

- **Prof. Talitha Cooreman-Guittin**

Areas of specialisation:
– Pastoral and practical theology
– Disability, old age, cognitive impairment
– Spiritual care

- **Prof. Astrid Kaptijn**

Areas of specialisation:
– Canon law

- **Prof. Michel Steinmetz**

Areas of specialisation:
– Liturgy
– Worship
– Celebration of the Sacrements
– Rites

Studies organisation

Structure of studies

No ECTS credits can be earned.

Doctoral school

https://theologie.cuso.ch/
https://studies.unifr.ch/go/theo-progdoctoral-swissuniversities

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 Theology
Dean's Office
decanat-theol@unifr.ch
http://studies.unifr.ch/go/fr-theology *(French)*
http://studies.unifr.ch/go/de-theology *(German)*

Doc- Postdoc-portal

http://www.unifr.ch/phd