

Musicology and History of Opera

Degree conferred

Master of Arts in Historical Sciences: Musicology and History of Opera

Options

For information on the optional award of the distinction «Bilingual curriculum, French/German», please contact the relevant Department (see Contact).

Languages of study

Study in two languages, 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

Ph.D.

This master programme proposes an investigation of the techniques, methods and functions of historical and critical approaches to music in an interdisciplinary perspective. It is concerned with the relations between music and texts, between music and the stage, and music and the visual arts, particularly in the case of film music and opera production. The study programme also offers themed courses and seminars on musical analysis as related to different periods in the history of Western music.

During their master's studies, students will follow courses and seminars partly in French and partly in German. They are encouraged to take an interest in the research and popularisation activities which are organised by the Department. The various examinations can be taken in one of three languages: French, German or Italian. Students also have the possibility of writing their master's thesis in one of the three languages.

Profile of the study programme

The master in musicology at the University of Fribourg is distinctive because of its interdisciplinary perspective and through its questioning of the techniques, methods and functions of the discipline (specific seminars cover methods and investigations). In particular, the programme proposes complementary studies of the relations between music and texts, the stage and the visual arts, especially in the cases of film music and opera productions. Along with these courses, which are specific to the University of Fribourg, the musicology programme also offers themed courses and seminars on advanced musical analysis as related to different periods in the history of western music.

The studies for a master in musicology can be accomplished in one and a half to two years. The students who follow the study programme are to write a master's thesis at the end of their degree course. The subject can be chosen from a wide range of questions, possibly in relation to research and pedagogical traditions in musicology at the University of Fribourg.

Classes and seminars, as is traditional at the University of Fribourg, are given partly in French and partly in German. Although students are encouraged to follow classes in both languages, they may submit their written work in either and take their examinations in the language of their choice (French, German or Italian).

Students are also encouraged to participate in research activities and in music-related events organised by the Department for the wider public: symposia, conferences, commented concerts and operas, film clubs, etc.

Learning outcomes and career openings

Graduates with a master's in musicology are principally recruited as:

- Researchers (Swiss National Fund projects, universities, university schools of music);
- Teachers: secondary schools, middle schools, universities, university schools of music, (the history of music);
- Journalists: radio and the written press;
- Musical librarians, museum curators (in instrument museums, in history museums with musical collections, etc.);
- Musical archivists (municipal or canton archives, collaborator for RISM, the national sound library, etc.);
- Music publishing associates;
- Associates in an organisation that promotes music (SUISA, ProHelvetia, etc.);
- Managers or public relations officers for orchestras and festivals; editors of concert hall programmes; managers, stage or floor managers in opera houses;
- Musicians (further to studies at a university school of music).

Studies organisation

Structure of studies

90 ECTS credits + 30 ECTS credits as an option in a minor study programme freely chosen or in a specialisation programme, 3 to 4 semesters

Curriculum

<https://studies.unifr.ch/go/p> (French)

<https://studies.unifr.ch/go/q> (German)

Comments

A new curriculum will be in force starting from the autumn semester 2025.

Admission

Master's degree programmes are built on the knowledge and abilities that were acquired when obtaining a bachelor's degree.

Holders of a bachelor's degree awarded by a Swiss university are admitted to a master's degree programme without any preconditions if they have earned 60 or 90 ECTS credits – depending on the chosen master's degree programme – within the corresponding discipline. However, additional requirements can be required. The same applies to holders of a bachelor's degree awarded by a foreign university, provided that the bachelor's degree is recognised and considered equivalent by the University of Fribourg.

Holders of a bachelor's degree awarded by a Swiss or a foreign university, provided that the bachelor's degree is recognised and considered equivalent by the University of Fribourg, who do not fulfil this condition can be admitted to a master's degree programme with preconditions (which must be successfully completed before starting the master's degree programme) and/or additional requirements (which can be completed during the master's degree programme). The preconditions and/or additional requirements may not exceed 60 ECTS credits in total. The same applies to holders of a bachelor's degree awarded by a Swiss university of applied sciences, according to existing agreements.

The respective conditions of admission for each master's degree programme are reserved.

Alternatives

Also offered as a minor study programme (30 ECTS credits).

Contact

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<http://studies.unifr.ch/go/fr-musicology> (French)
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