General and Swiss History of Modern Times

Degree conferred
Master of Arts in Historical Sciences: General and Swiss History of Modern Times

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, in German or in French and German. Some courses are offered in English.

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

Access to further studies
This master programme qualifies students for the doctoral programmes **History**, **Contemporary History**.

This master programme deals with early modern times, i.e. a time period when the foundation for modern Europe was laid which was nevertheless characterised by old European patterns of social interaction. Students become acquainted with the complicated network of political, economic and cultural exchanges of this era. Social, cultural, scientific, church, legal, music and art history approaches are used and connected.
The course in Fribourg is complemented by guest lectures, summer schools, talks by external experts, internships and field trips. One particularity is the early involvement of students in research: they are able to look over researchers' shoulders as they analyse sources, produce publications and defend theses, and participate by talking with them.

Profile of the study programme

In this master programme, the broad range of historic knowledge and methodological skills that were acquired through bachelor studies are deepened and expanded in an application-orientated manner. The focus of the course of study lies in the history of early modern times. Similar to the courses to acquire a master's in Renaissance Studies at English-language universities, the course thus also focuses on a time period when the foundation for modern Europe was laid which was nevertheless characterised by old European patterns of social interaction. In contrast to pure studies of the Renaissance, the master's in General and Swiss History of Modern Times also deals with the time of confessional disputes and the Enlightenment. The early modern times are not seen as a closed off era, but as a constituting phase that was open to development and whose individual elements and segments relate to each other. It is therefore discussed from multiple perspectives.

Social, cultural, scientific, church, legal, music and art history approaches are used and connected. In this sense, the Swiss Confederation is understood as an early modern era forum of interests, which only slowly acquired a profile and especially the ability to act. The study of Swiss history is therefore conducted within a European-global context. In addition to Switzerland, England, the transatlantic region, the Old Empire, the Spanish Empire and of course Italy come to the fore. Students are familiarised with the complex network of political, economic and cultural exchanges of the times, the dynamic changes in institutions and the staying power of the behavioural norms of the estate system. They gain insight into economic crises and dynastic rivalries, legal battles and duels, the daily life of peasants and artistic mastery.

The course of study in Fribourg is supplemented by visits from guest professors, the offer of summer schools and lectures by external experts. An exchange with other universities is expressly encouraged. A unique feature is the strong focus that is laid on the Italian Renaissance and its radiating effect. Excursions to the corresponding area play an important role in the teaching activities, as does the early integration of master's students into the research activity. Both passive and active participation in research colloquia are especially desired. The intense support that is generally provided to students at the University of Fribourg is especially strong for this master programme. Those who decide to pursue this study programme can not only look over the shoulders of researchers as they analyse source material, create publications and defend theses; they can also participate in this process by taking part in discussions.

Apart from these academic options, the competences that are acquired are well suited to a wide spectrum of professional activities. Particularly worth mentioning are the fields of journalism, publishing, management consulting and administration.

Studies organisation

Structure of studies

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

Curriculum

http://studies.unifr.ch/go/QgyUs *(French)*
http://studies.unifr.ch/go/l7ufr *(German)*

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.

Contact

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