# Slavic Studies

**Degree conferred**
Master of Arts in Languages and Literatures: Slavic Studies

**Languages of study**
Study in French and German. Courses are occasionally offered in Russian or Polish.

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

**Access to further studies**
Ph.D.

The master programme in Slavic studies at the University of Fribourg offers the opportunity of intensive analysis of cultural developments and traditions in the Slavic world, especially in Russia and Poland. The emphasis is on the period from the 19th to the 21st century. Students examine literature, philosophy and cultural criticism with regard to their relevance for contemporary social constellations and current political tendencies. The languages of instruction are German and French. Occasionally, we offer seminars in Russian or Polish. There are frequent visits from guest lecturers from the Slavic region.
The University of Fribourg offers a wide range of Eastern European exchange programmes, research projects and academic and cultural events organised by various institutes. This gives our students the possibility of interdisciplinary exchange and a chance to broaden their academic and their personal horizons.

## Profile of the study programme

The master programme in Slavic studies offers the opportunity to analyse definitive cultural developments and traditions in the Slavic world, especially in Russia and Poland. Our main emphasis is on the period from the 19th to the 21st century. We examine literature, philosophy and cultural criticism with regard to their relevance for contemporary social constellations and current political tendencies. Our programme includes the «great» texts and authors as well as occurrences at the fringe of the cultural landscapes and mainstream. In a «transfer module», students have the opportunity to work on current, research-related issues in an interdisciplinary manner and/or gain insight into Slavic studies-related professional fields through an internship.
The languages of instruction are German and French. Occasionally, we offer seminars in Russian. This gives our students access to expert discussions and academic networks in German-speaking and French-speaking countries. We regularly invite guest lecturers from the Slavic region (Russia, Poland) in order to give our students maximum on-site contact with the Russian and Polish cultures.

**Fribourg profile**
*Individual student care and development of competences*
It is our aim to create a working atmosphere for our students which is both inspiring and challenging. Student care and support are excellent thanks to our small course sizes: Teaching staff are accessible and provide rapid, substantial feedback. In discussions with experienced researchers, our students learn to develop academic questions and work on research activities independently. We attach great importance to linguistic and cultural competence, and are happy to arrange periods of study abroad at one of our partner universities in Eastern Europe.

*Academic networking*
As a relatively small unit we maintain close ties with other areas of the University of Fribourg (Eastern European Studies, Comparative Literatures, Contemporary History, etc.). Above all, we cooperate with our sister institute at the University of Bern, especially with regard to their linguistic programmes and language courses in Russian, Ukrainian and Bosnian/Croatian/Montenegrin/Serbian.

*Interdisciplinary exchange*
Eastern European research has a long tradition at the University of Fribourg: We are the oldest Slavic Department in Switzerland (since the university's foundation in 1889). Today our university offers a wide variety of Eastern European exchange programmes and research projects. The Institute for Central and Eastern Europe and the Institute of Ecumenical Studies organise academic and cultural events on a regular basis. This gives our students the possibility of interdisciplinary exchange and a chance to broaden their academic and their personal horizons.

**Learning outcomes and career openings**
*Learning outcomes*
Graduates in Slavic studies have a fundamental knowledge of Russian and/or Polish culture and are able to describe and interpret current phenomena against the background of historical developments. They are acquainted with the methods of Slavic literary studies and/or linguistics and are capable of developing and working on academic questions independently. They are familiar with the language and everyday culture of at least one Slavic country.

*Career openings*
Relations with the countries of Central and Eastern Europe and Southeast Europe have gained increasingly in importance in recent years. This has resulted in career opportunities for graduates of Slavic studies in the following areas: science and research, journalism/media, cultural cooperation, diplomatic service, federal administration, international authorities and enterprises, international organisations including NGOs, and teaching Russian at Baccalaureate schools.

## 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/OlVB1 *(French)*
http://studies.unifr.ch/go/IZ758 *(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.*
Students with a knowledge of at least one Slavic language at level A2 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages will be admitted.

**Alternatives**

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

## Contact

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