Special Education

Degree conferred
Master of Science in Special Education

Options
An Option **Speech-Language Therapy** is proposed within this master programme (study in German only).

Languages of study
Possibility to study in French or in German

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

Access to further studies
Ph.D.

If you are interested in acquiring strong research skills and a broad, diversified knowledge of special education, this master programme will prepare you to become a specialist in all of the current issues in this field. The programme studies alterity, difference, disability, normality, life trajectories, the mediation of knowledge, and the creation of environments that promote the development of personal qualities.
Benefiting from a dual humanist and scientific tradition, the course develops a deeper understanding of the issues and transformations in special education, enabling you to choose and develop tools for assessment and intervention and to establish research scenarios.
This master programme provides very high added value in a career path, especially as it is one of the only French-speaking university courses to offer in-depth training in special education in Switzerland and abroad.
An Option *Speech-Language Therapy* is proposed within this master programme. The Option *Speech-Language Therapy* (study in German only) is intended for candidates witch a degree in speech-language therapy, who would like to deepen their knowledge and gain advanced qualifications in the field of speech-language therapy. The choice of this option leads to a mention on the master's diploma.

Profile of the study programme

This master programme is a university course that facilitates the development of strong research skills and broad diversified knowledge in the field of special education.

The course is intended for students who already have some experience in special education, or in related disciplines, and who wish to develop, enrich and diversify their perception of the whole field of special education, and the conceptual frameworks and methods of approaching such.

The course is distinct from the Specialised Master of Arts in Special Needs Education: Orientation Remedial Education at School, which focuses more on special teaching in the school environment. The generalist nature of the training proposed by this master programme will be appreciated by those who wish to explore special education beyond the walls of the classroom and study its deployment in pre-, para- and post-school periods and contexts, and environments outside of the school (community and family).

The course calls for students to reflect on alterity, difference, disability, normality, life trajectories, educational posture, mediation of knowledge, the creation and organisation of favourable environments to allow any individual struggling with developmental difficulties to develop personal qualities and to integrate into community.

Fribourg profile
This master programme is based on a solid scientific tradition that has been established at the University of Fribourg for nearly three-quarters of a century. It is one of the only French-speaking university courses to offer in-depth training and research training in the field of special education in Switzerland and abroad.

The training offered in the context of this master programme benefits from a dual humanist and scientific tradition. There are ongoing collaborations with the Departments of education sciences and psychology.

Learning outcomes and career openings
This degree programme prepares students to become specialists in all of the current issues in special education.

Student successfully completing the programme will:

- know the challenges and changes currently affecting special education, and the implications of these developments at national and international levels;
- have a solid knowledge of the various cross-disciplinary theoretical fields relating to special education and will be able to place the contributions from each of these disciplines (education sciences, psychology, sociology, etc.);
- be able to carry out a conceptual analysis and summarise the theoretical knowledge relating to issues in special education.

He/she will be able to:

- assess, select and/or create tools for assessment and intervention in the field (adaptation of learning programmes, organisation of the environment, etc.);
- translate strategic intentions into operational measures respecting professional ethics;
- develop research scenarios using qualitative and/or quantitative research methods, respecting research ethics (observation, experimentation, investigation, single cases designs, etc.).

The training is appropriate to careers in both teaching and research:

- Training and research positions (universities, higher education establishments, research centres);
- Management in specialised educational institutions;
- Management in cantonal or federal administrations;
- Positions with regional or national associations for the protection and representation of people with disabilities.

The current paradigm of social participation and education for all makes the master in special education a degree with very high added value in a professional career path.

Option Speech-Language Therapy
The Option *Speech-Language Therapy* within the Master of Science in Special Education (study in German only) is intended for candidates witch a degree in speech-language therapy, who would like to deepen their knowledge and gain advanced qualifications in the field of speech-language therapy. The four modules of this programme allow acquiring advanced research and methodology skills as well as diversified (psycho-)linguistic and cognitive knowledge in the field of special education and speech-language therapy from a practical perspective. This master programme includes a dissertation about speech-language therapy issues.
The condition for admission to this master programme is an academic bachelor's degree with professional qualification in speech-language therapy, which is recognised by the Swiss Conference of Cantonal Ministers of Education (EDK).

The Master programme Option *Speech-Language Therapy* can be taken while employed (part-time studies).

Studies organisation

Structure of studies

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

Curriculum

https://studies.unifr.ch/go/1I (*French*)
https://studies.unifr.ch/go/1J (*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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