Philosophy

Degree conferred
Master of Arts in Philosophy

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
Ph.D.

The master programme in philosophy allows students by its rigorous approach to deepen their understanding of the main issues and currents of Western philosophical tradition, from Antiquity to the contemporary period. An advanced programme is offered in the fields of Systematic Philosophy (epistemology and metaphysics; philosophy of language, of mind and of human sciences; ethics and political philosophy; aesthetics and philosophy of art) and History of Philosophy (ancient philosophy; medieval philosophy; modern and contemporary philosophy).
This programme is unique in Switzerland due to the richness and diversity of its methodological approach, to its broad systematic scope, to the optional possibility of bilingual studies and due to the particularly close ties existing at the Department of Philosophy in Fribourg between teaching and research activities.
Each semester, several international colloquia are organised and well-known philosophers from other Universities and countries invited to present their work. These activities allow students to get directly acquainted with central issues discussed in the ongoing international debate and to get into contact with researchers belonging to the international philosophical community.

Profile of the study programme

The master programme in Philosophy offers an in-depth approach to the main issues and currents of Western philosophical tradition, from Antiquity to the contemporary period. The course promotes the development of a critical mind and intellectual autonomy and provides the basic education and tools required by future teachers and philosophy teachers, as well as possibilities for doctorate-level research.

Fribourg profile
The Department of Philosophy of the University of Fribourg offers a master programme that is unique in Switzerland due to the wealth of methods used, the systematic scope, bilingual aspect and the close ties with the research activities of others in the field. The master programme offers advanced, in-depth training in the following fields:

- **Systematic Philosophy**: epistemology and metaphysics; philosophy of language, of mind and of human sciences; ethics and political philosophy; aesthetics and philosophy of art
- **History of Philosophy**: ancient philosophy; medieval philosophy; modern and contemporary philosophy

In addition to a broad bilingual course, the Department of Philosophy of the University of Fribourg also constitutes an important research centre in the fields of the History of Philosophy and Systematic Philosophy. Within this framework, several international research colloquia and conferences are organised each semester, bringing master's students together with the philosophical community.

Learning outcomes and career openings
In addition to having in-depth knowledge of philosophical issues and a good grasp of specific methodological tools, students who successfully complete the master programme will also have the ability to think, analyse, summarise and criticise, qualities that form the basis for all debates. Master studies give students the opportunity to put into practice the tools and knowledge acquired during the bachelor course on more advanced and more specific issues. Students will have had the opportunity to perfect their rhetorical and argumentative skills on a variety of scientific philosophy subjects. Holders of a master's degree will be able to demonstrate the quality, relevance, rigour and creativity of their work.

In addition to research and education, a course in philosophy provides career opportunities in a number of fields that require a high level of intellectual training. The specific skills developed through studying philosophy, such as analysis, argumentation and writing skills, or the ability to deal with complex problems independently and creatively, are appreciated in a variety of fields:

- Non-governmental organisations (e.g .national and international Red Cross);
- Cantonal and federal administrative departments in Switzerland (fields of culture, politics, diplomacy, migration);
- Human resources;
- Journalism and media;
- Consultancies (world of finance, medical professions, culture);
- Communication and public relations;
- Consultants/experts in subjects related to ethics;
- Adult education;
- Executive positions.

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/Rvrsm *(French)*
http://studies.unifr.ch/go/w99Kh *(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.

Alternatives

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

Contact

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