Eastern European Studies

Degree conferred
Master of Arts in Eastern European Studies
Universities of Fribourg and Berne

Languages of study
Study in two languages, in French and German. A number of lectures will be 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 «Eastern European Studies» is a multilingual interfaculty, interuniversity programme offered by the Universities of Fribourg and Berne.
Students attend classes at both universities. Seminars are also regularly held by researchers from Eastern European countries. The languages of instruction are German, French and English. The syllabus consists of lectures on contemporary history, cultural studies (Slavic studies and history of ideas) and social sciences (political science and social anthropology). The focus is on the 20th century and on current issues. Students learn at least one of the region's languages during their course of study.
The *Interfaculty Institute for Central and Eastern Europe* at the University of Fribourg has numerous contacts to lecturers and researchers from the region. The Institute's research projects and mandates give students ample opportunity to put what they have learned into practice.

Profile of the study programme

The master programme «Eastern European Studies» is a multilingual interfaculty, interuniversity multilingual programme. The Universities of Fribourg and Berne have pooled their diverse Eastern European competences to produce this unique offer. The *Interfaculty Institute for Central and Eastern Europe* at the University of Fribourg has an extensive network with contacts to lecturers and researchers from the region. The Institute's numerous research projects and mandates give students ample opportunity to put what they have learned into practice. Seminars are regularly held by researchers from Eastern European countries.

The syllabus consists of lectures on contemporary history, cultural studies (Slavic studies and history of ideas) and social sciences (political science and social anthropology). Lectures and seminars take place in Fribourg and Berne. The focus is on the 20th century and on current issues. Students learn at least one language from the region during their studies (Russian, Polish, Bosnian/Croatian/Montenegrin/Serbian, Ukrainian etc.). Modularisation, intensive support and interdisciplinarity are key features of the programme.

Almost half (about 340 million) of the over 700 million Europeans live in Eastern Europe. The region is known for its diversity of languages, cultures, ethnicities and religions. It has grown steadily in political and economic importance in recent years. Students acquire the necessary linguistic, specialist and methodical competences to look at Eastern Europe in all its facets, analyse the current developments in the region, and place them in their political, social, historical and cultural context.

Fribourg profile
The master programme offers the possibility of deepening and expanding knowledge of Eastern European studies by acquiring specialist knowledge of states and societies of Central and Eastern Europe.

The programme of studies provides students with a knowledge of:
– Political, historical, social, literary and cultural issues of Eastern European countries and regions in the 20th and 21st centuries;
– The theories and history of Eastern European studies;
– Relevant methods of the studies of Eastern Europe.

Teaching is mainly in German or French. Some lectures are also held in English. There is mutual recognition of the lectures and seminars in the Eastern Europe Studies programme offered by the Universities of Fribourg and Berne.

Learning outcomes and career openings
This programme provides students with the competences to work on academic questions independently: the aim is to enable them to carry out skilled and complex tasks in research, business and the public sector. Graduates of this interdisciplinary programme acquire an all-round knowledge and understanding of Eastern Europe, are familiar with the problems of the region, and are capable of analysing them. They obtain specialist knowledge and linguistic skills which qualify them for employment in areas such as the diplomatic service, international organisations, journalism, non-governmental organisations, and commercial enterprises operating in Eastern Europe, etc.

Studies organisation

Structure of studies

90 ECTS credits + 30 ECTS credits in a minor study programme freely chosen or in a specialisation programme, 4 semesters

Curriculum

http://studies.unifr.ch/go/qdtqv *(French)*
http://studies.unifr.ch/go/OKTj8 *(German)*

Comments

In principle, students in the major study programme «Eastern

European Studies» are free to choose minor study programmes at the two universities of Fribourg and Berne. However, the combination of a major and a minor study programme in Eastern European Studies is not allowed.

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 and as a specialisation programme (30 ECTS credits).

Contact

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