Musicology and History of Opera

Degree conferred
Bachelor of Arts

Options
For information on the optional award of the distinction «Bilingual curriculum» (French – German), please contact the relevant Department (see Contact).

Languages of study
Study in two languages, in French and German

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

Access to further studies
Master

This Bachelor’s programme will have you studying the forms, functions and significances of musical expression in a variety of cultures, focusing primarily on European music from the Middle Ages to the present day. In coming to Fribourg to study Musicology and History of Opera, you will profit from the tradition of the oldest musicology teaching programme in Switzerland and one of the very first set up in Europe. We also serve as a highly active research centre in this field of study, both on a national and European scale. This programme promotes studying music as a language, including its connection to codes used in other forms of expression and its role in complex systems such as opera, religious rites, cinema, and audio-visual broadcasting in contemporary societies.

Moreover, Musicology at the University of Fribourg is one of the most active music research centres in Switzerland as well as in Europe.

The Musicology and History of Opera curriculum consists of a Bachelor's degree programme (3 years) and a Master's degree programme (2 years). As is tradition at the University of Fribourg, the courses and seminars are taught partly in French and partly in German. Students are welcome to take courses in both languages, but are allowed to write their coursework and pass their exams in the language of their choice (French, German or Italian).

The course requirements for the Bachelor's degree programme include introductory courses (history, bibliography, notation, music theory), seminars analysing musical works, music and visual art courses, and thematic courses. Thanks to the BENEFRI network, students can also attend lectures at the Musicology Institute at the University of Berne, and ethnomusicology courses at the University of Neuchatel.

Students are also encouraged to participate in research activities and in music-related events organised by the programme for the wider public: symposiums, conferences, commented concerts and operas, film clubs, etc.

Learning outcomes and career openings
The main career opportunities available to musicology students, in particular after they have obtained a Master's degree, include:

- Researcher (Swiss National Fund projects, universities, music schools);
- Teacher: middle schools, high schools, universities, music schools (music history);
- Journalist: radio, print press;
- Music librarian, museum curator (musical instrument museums, music collections in historical museums, etc.);
- Musical archivist (municipal and cantonal archives, RISM associate, national sound archives, etc.);
- Music publishing associate;
- Associate in an organisation that promotes music (SUISA, ProHelvetia, etc.);
- Manager or public relations agent for orchestras or festivals; editor of concert hall programmes; stage or floor manager in opera houses;
- Musician (further to studies at a higher music education institute such as HEM).

Studies organisation

Structure of studies
120 ECTS credits + 60 ECTS credits in a minor study programme freely chosen, 6 semesters

Curriculum

http://studies.unifr.ch/enbachelor/artmus/musicology
Alternatives

Also offered as a minor study programme (60/30 ECTS credits).

Contact

Faculty of Humanities
Musicology and History of Opera
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http://studies.unifr.ch/go/fr-musicology (French)
http://studies.unifr.ch/go/de-musicology (German)