Study of Religion

Degree conferred
Philosophiae doctor in studiis religiosis / Doctor of Philosophy in the study of Religion (PhD)

Commencement of studies
An application for admission may be submitted at any time.

Regulation
http://studies.unifr.ch/go/nVIBN (French and German only)

Application procedure
Candidates with Swiss qualifications
http://studies.unifr.ch/go/0bJpN
Candidates with foreign qualifications
http://studies.unifr.ch/go/4a2qV

Fribourg profile
The Faculty of Theology in Fribourg is the largest theology faculty in Switzerland and one of two Catholic theology faculties integrated into a state university. It is subject to national law, like the other University faculties, but in addition is acknowledged by the Church and is supported by the Dominican Order and the Swiss Bishops Conference.

In the modern age, religion, with its promises and perceived platitudes, is under suspicion of inhibiting endeavours to educate humans and speed up social progress. In the meantime, we live in a «religion friendly» society, characterised by new-found interest in «religious phenomena». So, the new role of religions in a pluralist and multicultural society is everything but clear. They provide potential for conflict and at the same time urge peace. They oppose secularisation and encourage it at the same time, as they are the expression of a confession and therefore promote neutralisation of the public.

Doctoral students can specialise in a variety of topics: history, philosophy, sociology, ethnology, social science, psychology, statistics, etc. The Faculty of Theology takes into consideration this variety of methods, but at the same time, as a science of faith, approaches religion as a confession and uses scientific resources to analyse and provide critical and constructive support to stimulate interreligious dialogue.

The Faculty of Theology offers study programmes which not only impart knowledge, but also lead to students clarifying and deepening their own position in the dialogue of religions and with religions.

Professors who are eligible to supervise theses

- Prof. François-Xavier Amherdt
- Prof. Daniel Bogner
- Prof. Thierry Collaud
- Prof. Benoît-Dominique de La Soujeole
- Prof. Mariano Delgado
- Prof. Luc Devillers
- Prof. Gilles Emery
- PD Dr. Gregor Emmenegger
- Prof. Patrick Goldman

Areas of specialisation:
- Pastoral issues
- Parishes and dioceses, religious education and catechism
- Theology and humanities, particularly psychology and sociology
- Public Relations
- General moral theology and ethics
- Special moral theology and Christian social ethics
- Dogmatic theology
- History of the Church
- Church and society in Latin America
- Church and society in Europe in general, with a focus on Germany, Austria, Switzerland and Spain
- Dialogue between religions
- Religion and violence
- Religion and migration
- Multiculturalism
- Christianity/Church and politics
- Origins of Christianity
- Canonical gospels
- Patristics and the history of the Church
- Biblical studies
Areas of specialisation:
– Ecumenical questions
– Churches in the East
– Theology and spirituality of Churches in the East
– Questions on faith and the teachings of the Catholic Church
– Questions concerning the promotion of research

• Prof. Paul-Bernard Hodel
Areas of specialisation:
– History of the Church in the Middle Ages, modern and contemporary times

• PD Dr. Philippe Hugo
Areas of specialisation:
– Hebrew Bible
– Greek Septuagint Bible

• Prof. Astrid Kaptijn
Areas of specialisation:
– Canon law

• Prof. Martin Klöckener
Areas of specialisation:
– Liturgy
– Worship
– Celebration of the Sacrements
– Liturgical periods and celebrations, Church year
– Rites
– Prayer
– Piety
– Popular piety
– Liturgical space, construction and furnishing of churches

• Prof. Philippe Lefebvre
Areas of specialisation:
– Bible
– Relationship between the Bible (Christianity) and culture, the Bible and literature, cinema

• Prof. Salvatore Loiero
Areas of specialisation:
– Pastoral theology

• Prof. Franz Mali
Areas of specialisation:
– Early Christianity
– History of Christianity in the East, particularly in the Middle East

• Prof. Joachim Negel
Areas of specialisation:
– Fundamental theology

• Prof. François-Xavier Putallaz
Areas of specialisation:
– Ethical, bioethical and societal issues

• PD Dr. Hansjörg Schmid
Areas of specialisation:
– Islam and society, interreligious ethics

• PD Dr. Bernard Schumacher
Areas of specialisation:
– Exegesis of the New Testament

• Prof. Michael Sherwin
Areas of specialisation:
– Spirituality
– Moral development
– Virtue ethics
– The theology of charity
– Philosophy and psychology of love

• Prof. Hans-Ulrich Steymans
Areas of specialisation:
– Exegesis of the Old Testament

• Prof. Helmut Zander
Areas of specialisation:
– Comparative history of religions and interreligious dialogue

• Prof. Markus Zimmermann
Areas of specialisation:
– Foundation of Christian social ethics
– Theological bioethics
– Equal distribution of health
– Decisions at the end of life
– Ethics of palliative care
– Work and social security
– Migration and integration

Studies organisation
Structure of studies

No ECTS credits can be earned.

Doctoral school

Admission

In order to be admitted to a doctorate the candidate must have been awarded an academic Bachelor's and Master's degree or an equivalent qualification by a university recognised by the University
of Fribourg.

Before applying for a doctorate the candidate should contact a professor who would be willing to supervise the thesis work.

There is no general right to be admitted to a doctorate.

The respective conditions of admission for each doctoral study programme are reserved.

Contact

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Study of Religion
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