Social Anthropology

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
Possibility to study in French, in German or 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
This Bachelor programme qualifies students for the Master programme Culture, Politics and Religion in Pluralist Societies.

Social anthropology analyses social and cultural phenomena in today's world in order to understand and explain them in all their diversity and complexity. This discipline examines socio-cultural practices, beliefs and institutions, which are intertwined in different ways at the local, national, regional and global levels. Concerning the methodology, social anthropology is characterised by long-term ethnographical research. This kind of research typically involves acquiring the local language, observing and participating in the daily life of the group being studied.

Profile of the study programme

What is social anthropology?
Social anthropology explores human action as a whole, including its political, legal, moral, religious, economic, social and material dimensions. In doing so, it offers tools for understanding changes in contemporary society. The topics studied include new forms of organisation, cooperation and conflict, ethnicity and nationalism, different legal systems, migration phenomena, human interaction with the environment, urban life, different forms of social and political mobilisation, new religious movements, tourism, rituals and the use of new technologies.

One of its main features is its specific qualitative methods, involving fieldwork and in particular participant observation and in-depth interviews. The information thus obtained sheds light on the living conditions and perspectives of the social group studied. More generally it also provides food for thought concerning the particularities and diversity of different cultures while at the same time emphasising human commonalities.
The following Swiss school-leaving certificates grant admission to Bachelor programmes at the University of Fribourg:

- Swiss academic Maturity Certificate
- Swiss professional Maturity Certificate in conjunction with the supplementary exam certificate from the Swiss Maturity Commission
- Bachelor Degree from a Swiss university, from an accredited Swiss university of applied sciences (HES/FH) or from a Swiss university of teacher education (HEP/PH)

A complete list of all further recognized Swiss school-leaving certificates is to be found on the webpages of swissuniversities (in French and German only): [http://studies.unifr.ch/go/en-admission-swisscertificates](http://studies.unifr.ch/go/en-admission-swisscertificates)

Foreign upper secondary school-leaving certificates are recognised only if they correspond substantially to the Swiss Maturity Certificate. They must qualify as general education. Foreign school-leaving certificates are considered to be general education if the last three years of schooling include at least six general education subjects, independent from each other, in accordance with the following list:

1. First language (native language)
2. Second language
3. Mathematics
4. Natural sciences (biology, chemistry or physics)
5. Humanities and social sciences (geography, history or economics/law)
6. Elective (an additional language or an additional subject from category 4 or 5)

The general admission requirements to the Bachelor programmes at the University of Fribourg for holders of foreign school-leaving certificates as well as the admission requirements for individual countries are to be found on the webpages of swissuniversities: [http://studies.unifr.ch/go/en-admission-country-list](http://studies.unifr.ch/go/en-admission-country-list)

In addition, foreign candidates must present proof of sufficient language skills in French or German.

The assessment of foreign school-leaving certificates is based on the «CRUS Recommendations for the Assessment of Foreign Upper Secondary School-Leaving Certificates, 7 September 2007» ([http://studies.unifr.ch/go/crus07en](http://studies.unifr.ch/go/crus07en)). The admission requirements are valid for the respective academic year. The Rectorat of the University of Fribourg reserves the right to change these requirements at any time.

Alternatives

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

Contact

Faculty of Humanities
Social Anthropology
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[http://studies.unifr.ch/go/fr-socialanthropology](http://studies.unifr.ch/go/fr-socialanthropology) (French)
[http://studies.unifr.ch/go/de-socialanthropology](http://studies.unifr.ch/go/de-socialanthropology) (German)