Culture, Politics and Religion in Pluralist Societies

This interdisciplinary Master programme is unique in Switzerland. It offers original and innovative training that combines the disciplines of sociology, social anthropology and religious studies. It aims to study developments in diverse and globalised societies resulting from socio-economic changes, the transformation of nation-states and population mobility. Students acquire the knowledge and skills to explain changes in the political, legal and religious spheres and to understand recent developments in social relations. The programme offers three options. Students select one option upon registering for the course: 1. Social and Cultural Dynamics: this option studies the rules and challenges of «living together» and diversity in all its dimensions (social, cultural, economic, political, etc.), equipping students with the skills to manage these issues in their future careers; 2. Political and Normative (Dis)order: in this option students address a wide range of contemporary issues focused on politics, norms and law; 3. Religion and Society: this option investigates and analyses religion as a defining element of contemporary societies from an interdisciplinary Religious Studies perspective.

This course of study, which promotes field research and unique learning experiences, can be taken in French, German or both languages to obtain the «Bilingual Curriculum» distinction.

Profile of the study programme

Degree conferred
Master of Arts in Social Sciences: Culture, Politics and Religion in Pluralist Societies

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

Three options available:

- Social and Cultural Dynamics
- Political and Normative (Dis)order
- Religion and Society

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
Ph.D.
methods and theories from social sciences such as sociology, anthropology and history, the option promotes understanding and analysis of religion at the level of individuals, groups, organisations, institutions as well as societies as a whole. Issues relating to religious diversity, pluralism and social integration are central to this option, with a focus on globalisation-linked trends. It takes an interdisciplinary, cross-cutting approach to examining the intersection of religion and questions involving youth, the media, gender issues, transnationalisation, economics, politics, identity, recognition, health, education and the role of religion in the public sphere, in the West and elsewhere. Teaching units address theoretical and empirical approaches, with an emphasis on group discussions and individualised seminar papers.

Career prospects
Given its interdisciplinary focus, this Master’s programme provides access to a variety of professional contexts, and the knowledge and skills acquired meet the needs of today’s labour market. Graduates have a command of the organisational, relational, cultural, identity and communication issues that arise within different types of groups and institutions:

- Non-governmental organisations and charities;
- Social and cultural institutions (prevention, project management, promotion, museums);
- Associations, interest groups, political parties;
- Private companies (human resources, communication, training);
- Public, cantonal and federal administrations (scientific collaborations, evaluation);
- Journalism and the media;
- Public relations, diplomatic services;
- Training;
- Research and scientific expertise, academic careers.

Studies organisation

Structure of studies
90 ECTS credits + 30 ECTS credits as an option in a minor study programme freely chosen or in a specialisation programme, 3-4 semesters

Curriculum
http://studies.unifr.ch/go/cXSaG (French)
http://studies.unifr.ch/go/Uk25K (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 from a Swiss university or 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, can be admitted to a Master's degree programme within another discipline with prerequisites (must be successfully completed before starting the Master's degree programme) or additional requirements (can be completed during the Master's degree programme). According to existing agreements, holders of a Bachelor's degree awarded from a Swiss university of applied sciences can also be admitted with prerequisites or additional requirements.

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

Faculty of Humanities
Culture, Politics and Religion in Pluralist Societies

Social and Cultural Dynamics option
Prof. Muriel Surdez
muriel.surdez@unifr.ch

Political and Normative (Dis)order option
Luisa Piart
luisa.piart@unifr.ch

Religion and Society option
Dr. Ansgar Joedicke
ansgar.joedicke@unifr.ch

http://studies.unifr.ch/go/fr-social-sciences (French)
http://studies.unifr.ch/go/de-social-sciences (German)