Theology

Degree conferred
Bachelor of Theology

Options
Option of an award bearing the distinction «Bilingual curriculum» (French – German).

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
Master

In contrast to other university fields of study, theology has a guiding perspective of its own: it is fundamentally concerned with God and doctrine and thereby reflects its own position and that of the church in society. The critical work of theology is aimed at contributing to keeping the issues of value and truth alive in public discourse. The Faculty of Catholic Theology in Fribourg is the largest theological faculty in Switzerland and is characterised by a cosmopolitan spirit. The core of the theological education consists of the courses of study for training future priests and pastoral assistants as well as teachers at secondary level.

Profile of the study programme

Theology also differs from other areas of science because it has a guiding perspective of its own: it is fundamentally concerned with God and creatures, to the extent that it refers to God as their origin and goal. It reflects its own position and that of the church in society. Theologians share responsibility for sustainable development with a human face on our planet. In view of the deregulation in the religious and ethical area (fundamentalist and esoteric movements) and in search of a peaceful co-existence of religions and cultures, the critical work of theology has a valuable contribution to make in keeping the public discourse about values and truth alive.

In this broad context, the Faculty of Theology works in the service of the church as a community as well as its individual parts, and in the service of society. The questioning and research, which characterise theology and which operate using different scientific methods, have a critical constructive function.

The Faculty of Theology of the University of Fribourg is the largest theological faculty in Switzerland and one of two Catholic theological faculties that are integrated into a state university. It is subject to state law, as are the other faculties of the university, but at the same time it has the recognition of church authorities and is supported by the Dominican Order and the Swiss Conference of Bishops.

The complete bilingualism of the Faculty is unique in Europe. More than half of the professors and almost half of the students are from abroad. The faculty and university life are characterised by the spirit of a cosmopolitan Catholicism, giving prominence and recognition to Fribourg as a place of study.

In principle, students have the possibility of completing a part of their studies at a partner university or continuing them at a university that is a part of a network to which the University of Fribourg belongs.

Career openings
In view of the many theological fields, it makes sense to continue studies with a Master’s study programme at the Faculty of Theology.

For those students who are preparing for service within the Church, the Swiss dioceses offer a mandatory academic advice programme. It encompasses spiritual orientation, practice of living in community and specific elements of preparation for pastoral service. The regents of the seminaries of the dioceses act as contacts.

The core of the theological education consists of the courses of study for training future priests and pastoral assistants as well as teachers (see «Teacher Education for Secondary Level»). However, the study of theology also opens up career perspectives within public social and cultural facilities, the publishing industry, human resources, social work and psychological counselling, counselling centres for religion and worldview issues, adult education and journalism.

Studies organisation

Structure of studies
180 ECTS credits, 6 semesters

Curriculum

http://studies.unifr.ch/go/cOigT (French)
http://studies.unifr.ch/go/llH5R (German)

Admission

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/FH)
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

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

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). 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 Theology
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http://studies.unifr.ch/go/fr-theology (French)
http://studies.unifr.ch/go/de-theology (German)