General and Swiss History of Modern Times

Degree conferred
Master of Arts in Historical Sciences: General and Swiss History of Modern Times

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. Some courses are offered in English.

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

Access to further studies
This Master programme qualifies students for the Doctoral programmes History, Contemporary History.

This Master programme deals with early modern times, i.e. a time period when the foundation for modern Europe was laid which was nevertheless characterised by old European patterns of social interaction. Students become acquainted with the complicated network of political, economic and cultural exchanges of this era. Social, cultural, scientific, church, legal, music and art history approaches are used and connected. The course in Fribourg is complemented by guest lectures, summer schools, talks by external experts, internships and field trips. One particularity is the early involvement of students in research: they are able to look over researchers' shoulders as they analyse source material, create publications and defend theses; they can also participate in this process by taking part in discussions.

Apart from these academic options, the competences that are acquired are well suited to a wide spectrum of professional activities. Particularly worth mentioning are the fields of journalism, publishing, management consulting and administration.

The course of study in Fribourg is supplemented by visits from guest professors, the offer of summer schools and lectures by external experts. An exchange with other universities is expressly encouraged. A unique feature is the strong focus that is laid on the Italian Renaissance and its radiating effect. Excursions to the corresponding area play an important role in the teaching activities, as does the early integration of Master's students into the research activity. Both passive and active participation in research colloquia are especially desired. The intense support that is generally provided to students at the University of Fribourg is especially strong for this Master's programme. Those who decide to pursue this study programme can not only look over the shoulders of researchers as they analyse source material, create publications and defend theses; they can also participate in this process by taking part in discussions.

This Master programme deals with early modern times, i.e. a time period when the foundation for modern Europe was laid which was nevertheless characterised by old European patterns of social interaction. Students become acquainted with the complicated network of political, economic and cultural exchanges of this era. Social, cultural, scientific, church, legal, music and art history approaches are used and connected. In this sense, the Swiss Confederation is understood as an early modern era forum of interests, which only slowly acquired a profile and especially the ability to act. The study of Swiss history is therefore conducted within a European-global context. In addition to Switzerland, England, the transatlantic region, the Old Empire, the Spanish Empire and of course Italy come to the fore. Students are familiarised with the complex network of political, economic and cultural exchanges of the times, the dynamic changes in institutions and the staying power of the behavioural norms of the estate system. They gain insight into economic crises and dynastic rivalries, legal battles and duels, the daily life of peasants and artistic mastery.

Apart from these academic options, the competences that are acquired are well suited to a wide spectrum of professional activities. Particularly worth mentioning are the fields of journalism, publishing, management consulting and administration.

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

Curriculum
http://studies.unifr.ch/go/QyvUs (French)
http://studies.unifr.ch/go/t7ufG (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 can be admitted to a Master's degree programme within the
corresponding discipline (requires the acquisition of minimum 60 ECTS credits at Bachelor level in the corresponding discipline) without any additional requirements. The same applies to 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.

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.

Contact

Faculty of Humanities
Department of History
Prof. Claire Gantet (French)
claire.gantet@unifr.ch
http://studies.unifr.ch/go/fr-history
Kathrin Graf (German)
kathrin.graf@unifr.ch
http://studies.unifr.ch/go/de-history