Sociology

**Degree conferred**
Philosophiae Doctor in Sociologia / Doctor of Philosophy in Sociology (PhD)

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

**Regulation**
[http://studies.unifr.ch/go/dGLfK](http://studies.unifr.ch/go/dGLfK) (French and German only)

**Application procedure**
- Candidates with Swiss qualifications: [http://studies.unifr.ch/go/0bJpN](http://studies.unifr.ch/go/0bJpN)
- Candidates with foreign qualifications: [http://studies.unifr.ch/go/4a2qV](http://studies.unifr.ch/go/4a2qV)

**Fribourg profile**
The Department of Social Sciences and the Department of Social Work, Social Policy and Global Development supervise doctoral theses in various fields of sociology. Broad expertise in methods to support research is available. Doctoral theses encompass both basic research and applied research. Supervision takes place either individually and/or within a doctoral programme.

The following doctoral programmes are available in Sociology: the English-speaking programme PROWEL (Social Problems and Social Welfare), the French-speaking programme Programme Doctoral Romand en Sociologie (PDRS), financed by the Conférence Universitaire de Suisse Occidentale (CUSO), and the English, German and French-speaking programme Migration and Postcoloniality Meet Switzerland.

Doctoral students regularly present their work in the frame of the programme, and receive comments and feedback from international experts, professors and their colleagues. They also have the opportunity of building a national and international network. Doctoral students are encouraged and supported to present their results at national and international conferences.

Content, methods and language of the thesis work are agreed with the supervising professor, supervising assistant professor.

**Professors who are eligible to supervise theses**
- **Prof. Monica Budowski**
  - Areas of specialisation:
    - Social inequalities and cultural differences; poverty; precariosity; vulnerability
    - Welfare regimes; social policy and social security in countries of the Global South
    - Families, households and gender; life events and life courses
    - Health and social support; quality of life; social quality
    - Qualitative and quantitative methods; longitudinal analyses; comparative methods
  - Theses can be supervised in German, English, Spanish or French.
  - **Prof. Esther González Martinez**
    - Areas of specialisation:
      - Language and society. Analysis of practices and social interactions
      - Communication and work activities in an institutional context, particularly regarding health, justice and education; nursing work
      - Ethnomethodology; analysis of conversation, multimodal analysis, video ethnography
  - Theses can be supervised in French, English or Spanish.
- **Prof. Michael Nollert**
  - Areas of specialisation:
    - Welfare production, social state, social security, social networks
    - Economic sociology, labour market, voluntary work, interest intermediation
    - Social conflicts, cultural differences, delinquency, self-injurious behaviour
    - Quantitative methods; qualitative comparison analysis (QCA); network analysis
  - Theses can be supervised in German or English.
- **Prof. Francesca Poglia Mileti**
  - Areas of specialisation:
    - Migration and interethnic relations. Social categorisations and identities
    - Youth and intergenerational relations
    - Economic, work and political sociology
    - Health and gender
  - Theses can be supervised in French, English or Italian.
- **PD Dr. Marina Richter** (in co-direction)
  - Areas of specialisation:
    - Practices and policies of migration and transnationality
    - Judicial system (penal and correctional systems); administrative detention and other forms of confinement
    - Gender and intersectionality
    - Qualitative methods, evaluation research
  - Theses can be supervised in German, Spanish or English.
- **Prof. Muriel Surdez**
  - Areas of specialisation:
    - Sociology of professional groups, work and public policy. Changing professional careers and identities
    - State reforms, new public management and work of public
servants, particularly in food safety policies and agricultural policies – Construction of public problems and political sociology (political socialisation, interest groups)

Theses can be supervised in French or English.

**Studies organisation**

**Structure of studies**

No ECTS credits can be earned.

**Doctoral school**

https://sociologie.cuso.ch  
http://studies.unifr.ch/go/phd-prowel  
http://studies.unifr.ch/go/phd-migration-and-postcoloniality-meet-switzerland

**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 must 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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**Doc- Postdoc-portal**

http://www.unifr.ch/phd