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 (French and German only)

Application procedure
Candidates with Swiss qualifications
http://studies.unifr.ch/go/0bJpN
Candidates with foreign qualifications
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.

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; precariousness; 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 Martínez
  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 system); 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**

Faculty of Humanities  
Department of Social Sciences  
Prof. Esther González Martínez  
esther.gonzalezmartinez@unifr.ch  
Prof. Francesca Poglia Miletì  
francesca.poglia@unifr.ch  
Prof. Muriel Surdez  
muriel.surdez@unifr.ch  
Brigitte Hirschi Lizzola  
brigitte.hirschi@unifr.ch  
http://studies.unifr.ch/go/fr-sociology (French)  
Prof. Monica Budowski  
monica.budowski@unifr.ch  
Prof. Michael Nollert  
michael.nollert@unifr.ch  
PD Dr. Marina Richter  
sopa@unifr.ch  
Etienne Raemy  
etienne.raemy@unifr.ch  
http://studies.unifr.ch/go/de-sociology-socialwork (German)

**Doc- Postdoc-portal**

http://www.unifr.ch/phd