Foreign Language Didactics

Degree conferred
Specialised Master of Arts in Foreign Language Teaching and Learning

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

Languages of study
Study in two languages, 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.

This Master programme, which is offered in cooperation with the Universities of Teacher Education (Haute Ecole Pédagogique [HEP]/Pädagogische Hochschule [PH]) of Fribourg and Zurich and with the University of Teacher Education and the University of Ticino, educates students about the various methods and approaches for teaching and learning foreign languages so that they can put these into practice, develop them further, and assess their usefulness for the different school levels (elementary through secondary II).

– Languages of study: German and French, which means that students will need to attend classes in both languages; some lectures may sometimes be given in English;
– Languages to specialise in: choice between German, French, English and Italian.

Students opting for the English or Italian option must have a solid grounding in this language, as well as in French and German.

The programme includes courses on language learning and teaching, multilingual competence, the social and political characteristics of multilingualism, multi-language didactics, applied linguistics and general didactics. It also includes a teaching internship and an exchange semester (for the English and Italian options). Some optional courses make it possible to specialise in certain areas.

Fribourg profile
The bilingual University of Fribourg is the only university in Switzerland to offer a Master programme in foreign language didactics. Situated on a language border, the city of Fribourg is the ideal location to gain a deeper insight in the language situation in French- and German-speaking Switzerland.

Close contacts are maintained with the «Multilingualism Studies», «German as a Foreign Language/German as a Second Language» and «French as a Foreign Language/French as a Second Language» programmes as well as with the Institute of Multilingualism. Jointly organised by the University and the University of Teacher Education, this Institute hosts the Swiss Confederation's Research Centre on Multilingualism. Here, students can attend regularly held lectures and workshops in which internationally renowned experts discuss foreign language learning and teaching as well as individual and societal multilingualism.

In the Documentation Centre of the Research Centre on Multilingualism (which is part of our library dedicated to second and foreign language learning), students will find a large number of pertinent publications and magazines and can solicit expert advice on autonomous learning.

Learning outcomes and career openings
Graduates possess in-depth knowledge of the theories and research methods in the field of foreign language didactics and the related fields. They are also able to apply this specialist theoretical knowledge when developing and designing research projects as well as in practical settings. They are aware of the requirements for modern foreign language instruction, and they can analyse and assess language courses in their own or in a foreign language, and they can work out suggestions for optimising teaching/learning arrangements.

Some of the professional fields open to holders of a Master's degree in Foreign Language Didactics are:

- Training future foreign language teachers, especially at universities of teacher education;
- Domestic and international language courses in adult
education and at universities and universities of applied sciences;
- Activities in connection with integration courses for migrants,
  exchange programmes and the promotion of multilingualism
  in professional environments, and more specifically in
  companies;
- Development work or work as intermediaries in government
  agencies, NGOs and publishing houses;
- Research and development work in the field of language
  teaching and learning;
- After receiving the Master's degree, graduates can enrol in a
  doctoral programme and go on to write a thesis in the field
  of foreign language didactics or multilingualism.

Note: Graduates are not automatically entitled to teach foreign
languages at state-run schools in Switzerland, be it at the
primary or at the secondary I or II levels.

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/Ceda (French)
http://studies.unifr.ch/go/laFGe (German)

Comments

A productive language level equivalent to level C1 of the Common
European Framework of Reference for Languages in French or
German (speaking and writing) is a minimum requirement to enrol
in this programme. Very good receptive skills should be attained in
the other language respectively. In general, the information in the
application suffices for the admission jury to estimate this level, so
no language certificates need to be included in the application
(though they may). Should a student's language level in one of the
languages prove to be slightly lower than this requirement, they will
be requested to attend a language course at the Language Centre
(see additional programme).

Admission

Master's degree programmes are built on the knowledge and
abilities that were acquired when obtaining a Bachelor’s degree.
The Master programme in Foreign Language Didactics has specific
admission requirements.

This study programme is aimed first and foremost holders of a
degree (Bachelor’s or Master's) from a Swiss university of
teacher education (or university). Holders of other degrees (for
example a Bachelor's degree in Language and Literature) may also
apply, but internships cannot be guaranteed in these cases (see
study plan). Under all circumstances, admission is based on
academic record. A jury decides on the applicant's admission and
the obligation to complete an additional programme (maximum
30 ECTS credits) or a prerequisite programme (maximum 60
ECTS credits).

Contact

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