History of Modern Times

Degree conferred
Bachelor of Arts

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 Bachelor programme qualifies students for the Master programmes General and Swiss History of Modern Times, History, Contemporary History.

In the History of Modern Times Bachelor programme, students deal with the time period from the 16th to the 20th century. Special consideration is thereby given to the development of social norms, the transformation of social networks and the new possibilities of self-expression during this era. The changing images of social order (or disorder) and the functionality of social systems are compared and related to each other.

A special characteristic of the study programme in Fribourg is the early specialisation and in-depth study of the developments between the 16th and 20th century. This allows for a depth of focus in the studies that has not been reached in this way before. From the very start, students are given the opportunity to relate the issues of the 20th and the 21st centuries to those from the emerging modern era. They learn to view current and historical problems based on their historical background and methodically get to the heart of them. They learn to weigh different opinions of research against each other, illuminate sources in a critical way, arrange facts, formulate problems and defend theses.

The study of modern and contemporary societies is characterised by an intensity of support that cannot be guaranteed by any other German-language university. Here, lecturers can deal with questions and suggestions from students quickly and extensively. Another special feature is the possibility of absolving a bilingual course of study.

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On gaining a Bachelor degree, graduates are free to pursue further specialisation and produce their first scientific work.

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

Profile of the study programme
The search for the roots of societal institutions, cultural sign systems, economic rules and political conflicts constitute a core interest of historical sciences; another one is the analysis of the otherness of past societies and how they saw themselves and others. As is the case for other study programmes of historical sciences, the study of modern and contemporary societies is intended to give the graduates knowledge and techniques that enable them to become scientifically active in these fields of research.

This goal is attained in a way that is only offered in this form in Fribourg. Instead of a late focusing on an era and a wide offer of methods, this study programme focuses on early specialisation and an in-depth study of the developments between the 16th and 20th century. It combines looking at history up until today with an analysis of those early modern structures that were a precondition for it. Special consideration is thereby given to the development of social norms, the transformation of social networks and the new possibilities of self-expression. The changing image of social order (or disorder) and the functionality of social systems are compared and related to each other. This allows for a depth of focus in the studies that has not been reached in this way before. From the very start, students are given the opportunity to relate the issues of the 20th and the 21st centuries to those from the emerging modern era. They gain the ability to view current and historical problems based on their historical background and methodically get to the heart of them. They learn to weigh different opinions of research against each other, illuminate sources in a critical way, arrange facts, formulate problems and defend theses.

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Studies organisation
Structure of studies
120 ECTS credits + 60 ECTS credits in a minor study programme freely chosen, 6 semesters

Curriculum
http://studies.unifr.ch/go/QgyUs (French)
http://studies.unifr.ch/go/l7ufr (German)

Comments
It is not possible to choose both this study programme and a programme in the fields of History and Contemporary History.

Admission
The following Swiss school-leaving certificates grant admission to Bachelor programmes at the University of Fribourg:

- Swiss academic Maturity Certificate
- Swiss vocational or specialised Baccalaureate 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/PH)

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.

Contact

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