History Didactics and Public History

Degree conferred
Specialised Master of Arts in History Didactics and Public History

Languages of study
Study in German

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

The conveying of history to a wider public has become increasingly important in recent years. The Master programme in History Didactics and Public History acknowledges the great interest of individuals and society as a whole in history and memory, as well as the growing importance of museums, memorial sites and other historical places of education and experience. It prepares graduates for the scholarly teaching of history in higher education, as well as for research-based presentation and communication of history and memory in a broader, public context. Graduates who successfully complete the Master degree can aspire to careers in higher education or teacher training, in museums, at memorial sites, in archives, publishing houses or the media.

Profile of the study programme

The course covers three fields of study: (1.) History didactics, culture of history and memory, (2.) Practices of communication and research in history didactics, (3.) Contemporary history and public history. The central focus of this study programme is history didactics. It deals with questions of historical consciousness, the culture of history and memory, and history teaching. Questions of how to communicate history both in schools and in the public sphere are treated from theoretical, research and practical points of view.

In the field entitled «Practices of communication and research in history didactics», students deal with the study, questions, methods and findings of research. It includes theoretical and methodological considerations of how history is perceived, as well as practical exercises and critical reflections of different media, museal and other public forms of history presentation.

The third field, «Contemporary and public history», focuses on historical-scientific questions, taking into account the public, social and communicative dimensions of the dealing with history. The themes and topics relate particularly to contemporary history and focus on European history as well as regional and Swiss history. Particular importance is placed on oral history and visual history.

Fribourg profile
The programme is run by the University of Fribourg and the