Philosophy

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
Master

The main characteristics of the Bachelor programme in philosophy at the University of Fribourg is – in addition to the diversity of its philosophical orientation – the possibility of bilingual studies (which is an option, not an obligation) and the structure of the Bachelor programme around two axes:

The courses taught in History of Philosophy includes antique, medieval, modern and contemporary philosophy. The courses taught in Systematic Philosophy comprises complementary disciplines, such as philosophy of language, of mind and of human sciences, epistemology and metaphysics, ethics and political philosophy, and philosophy of culture and aesthetics. These subjects introduce students to the main authors, texts and currents of Western philosophy. The historical approach consists in analysing different philosophical notions by situating them in their cultural context, in order to reconstitute the origins, development and relationships among such notions. The systematic approach leads to the establishment of interactions with the many forms of Western philosophy.

Within the framework of Bachelor studies, relative freedom is given to students who want to invest in their studies and develop a specific profile by embarking on a course centred on a common core with a high number of optional courses. Another major advantage of the philosophy course at Fribourg is the bilingual aspect. Students can attend lessons in French or German, or in both languages.

Profile of the study programme

Philosophy covers complex, fundamental questions, most of which have been the subject of discussion since Antiquity. It comprises different complementary disciplines, most of which are represented in philosophy studies at the University of Fribourg: metaphysics, epistemology, philosophy of the mind, philosophy of language, ethics and political philosophy, aesthetics and philosophy of culture. In addition to these different systematic approaches, at the University of Fribourg, particular attention is paid to the study of philosophy in its historical dimension, with particular focus on Antiquity and the Middle Ages.

Fribourg profile

Due to its size, the diversity of studies, the wealth of scientific activities and bilingual courses, the University of Fribourg offers a Bachelor study programme in philosophy that is unique in Switzerland. Studies are structured around two main axes:

- **History of Philosophy** comprises antique, medieval, modern and contemporary philosophy. These subjects introduce students to the main authors, texts and currents of Western philosophy. The historical approach consists in analysing different philosophical notions by situating them in their cultural context, in order to reconstitute the origins, development and relationships among such notions. This approach leads to the establishment of interactions with the many forms of Western philosophy;

- **Systematic Philosophy** comprises philosophy of language, of the mind and of human sciences, epistemology and metaphysics, ethics and political philosophy, philosophy of culture and aesthetics. These subjects introduce students to the themes and questions inherent to current philosophical debate. The purpose of the systematic approach is to engage in direct research for solutions to philosophical problems. To do this, it is necessary to understand how the specific issues of a problematic field interrelate, and to clearly perceive the advantages and disadvantages of the different positions within a given field. Analysis and assessment of arguments, notably with the use of logical tools, plays a central role in this approach.

Within the framework of Bachelor studies, relative freedom is given to students who want to invest in their studies and develop a specific profile by embarking on a course centred on a common core with a high number of optional courses. Another major advantage of the philosophy course at Fribourg is the bilingual aspect. Students can attend lessons in French or German, or in both languages.

Learning outcomes and career openings

Students who successfully complete a Bachelor study programme will have in-depth knowledge of philosophical issues in the historical context and how they relate to each other. They will also have a good grasp of specific methodological tools, such as how to reconstruct, interpret and assess an argument, or how to write complex argumentative texts.

A course in philosophy provides opportunities in a number of sectors that require a high level of intellectual training. The specific skills developed through studying philosophy, such as analysis, argumentation and writing skills, or the ability to deal with complex problems independently and creatively, are appreciated in a variety of fields:

- Non-governmental organisations;
- Federal and cantonal administrative departments in Switzerland;
- Human resources;
- Journalism and media;
- Consultancies (world of finance, medical professions,
culture);  
- Communication and public relations.

**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/Rvrsm (French)  
http://studies.unifr.ch/go/w99Kh (German)

**Admission**

The following [Swiss school-leaving certificates](http://studies.unifr.ch/go/en-admission-swiss-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-swiss-certificates](http://studies.unifr.ch/go/en-admission-swiss-certificates)

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](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](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.

**Alternatives**

Also offered as a minor study programme (60/30 ECTS credits).

**Contact**

Faculty of Humanities  
Department of Philosophy  
Prof. Gianfranco Soldati  
gianfranco.soldati@unifr.ch  
[http://studies.unifr.ch/go/fr-philosophy](http://studies.unifr.ch/go/fr-philosophy) (French)  
[http://studies.unifr.ch/go/de-philosophy](http://studies.unifr.ch/go/de-philosophy) (German)