Geography

Degree conferred
Master of Science in Geography

Options
Two options available:

- Dynamics in Glaciology and Geomorphology
- Nature, Society and Politics

Languages of study
Study in English

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

Access to further studies
Ph.D.

Profile of the study programme

Tuned to current environmental issues, this Master's programme enables students to understand and assess environmental systems and the relationship between nature and society. After studying a core module dealing with conceptual and theoretical bases, students choose a specialisation: either physical geography, which covers topics such as the cryosphere, glaciology or alpine geomorphology; or human geography, which explores subjects such as political ecology and management of natural resources along with their political and social dimensions. Students have a broad choice of seminars and conference cycles, as well as field work. The students also participate in research teams, notably in the context of their Master's thesis. The Unit of Geography is of human dimensions, which means that it is able to offer quality teaching and mentoring, with a genuinely professional qualification as the outcome.

Career openings

This study programme offers diverse career openings: teaching, research, administration and public institutions (local, cantonal, federal, international), urban and regional planning, environmental engineering consulting, sustainable development, regional development.

Structure of classes and lectures

The teaching is structured into four modules and is delivered through a combination of lectures, seminars, field work and conferences. The core module teaches the conceptual and theoretical bases of geography. Students are taught the different approaches to human and physical geography, as well as methods of collecting and analysing data. Three cycles of internal conferences offer students a chance to gain more in-depth knowledge of current research topics. A supporting module allows students to personalise their programme at the same time by pursuing courses related to their specialisation, either within the unit or faculty or externally, which are complementary to their discipline or interdisciplinary choices. Students conclude their studies with a Master's thesis under the supervision of a professor. A field trip is organised abroad in one of the teams' research regions (Morocco in 2009, Namibia in 2011, Central Asia in 2013).

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Studies organisation

Structure of studies

120 ECTS credits, 4 semesters

Curriculum

http://studies.unifr.ch/go/xZPll (French)
http://studies.unifr.ch/go/z3FE1 (German)

Admission

Master's degree programmes are built on the knowledge and abilities that were acquired when obtaining a Bachelor's degree.
Holders of a Bachelor's degree awarded from a Swiss university can be admitted to a Master's degree programme within the corresponding discipline (requires the acquisition of minimum 60 ECTS credits at Bachelor level in the corresponding discipline) without any additional requirements. The same applies to holders of a Bachelor's degree awarded by a foreign university, provided that the Bachelor's degree is recognised and considered equivalent by the University of Fribourg.

Holders of a Bachelor's degree awarded from a Swiss university or holders of a Bachelor's degree awarded by a foreign university, provided that the Bachelor's degree is recognised and considered equivalent by the University of Fribourg, can be admitted to a Master's degree programme within another discipline with prerequisites (must be successfully completed before starting the Master's degree programme) or additional requirements (can be completed during the Master's degree programme). According to existing agreements, holders of a Bachelor's degree awarded from a Swiss university of applied sciences can also be admitted with prerequisites or additional requirements.

The respective conditions of admission for each Master's degree programme are reserved.

Alternatives

Also offered as a minor study programme (30 ECTS credits) as part of the Diplôme d'Enseignement pour les Écoles de Maturité (DEEM)/Lehrdiplom für Maturitätsschulen (LDM).

Contact

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