Italian literary and philological studies at the University of Fribourg have a long tradition, marked notably by the work of eminent scholars such as Gianfranco Contini, Giuseppe Billanovich and Giovanni Pozzi. In Fribourg, they founded an authoritative school of analysis of literary texts which, using methods of philological research and formalist criticism, has achieved and continues to achieve extremely original results. Within the language and literature department, Italian studies follow the principles of this school, characterised by attention to ties between the theoretical and historical aspects of literary experience.

The historical dimension, which concerns the eight centuries of Italian literary production, is managed by two professors who, based on rigorous research and taking into account the most recent orientations of criticism, offer courses about the period from the Middle Ages through to the Renaissance and about the modern and contemporary period, from the 16th to 20th centuries. A third professor focuses on philology of literary texts and on the history of the language.

The Master’s study programme has a dual purpose: on the one hand, it provides teaching specifically in the literary field and, on the other, it offers access to the multitude of cultural aspects related to everything that Italy represents, in an interdisciplinary context that encourages links with the fields of history, art history, philosophy (medieval in particular) and musicology.

Fribourg profile
The Master’s study programme develops the characteristic traits of the University of Fribourg’s teaching methods. Students are encouraged to perfect their abilities to work autonomously and to interact in small groups within the framework of research seminars. The main strength of the programme is based on textual research and on the historical and cultural dimension of literature (between philology and critical interpretation). In particular, texts and subjects in the field of humanism and Renaissance, on the one hand, and on the other the modern and contemporary fields, especially poetic, are the subject of intense consideration.

The development of different aspects of Italian culture, well represented in the faculty’s range of subjects, is the second avenue of the Master’s course. If desired, this programme may be combined with teaching in the pedagogy of literature; complementary linguistics modules may also be chosen in collaboration with the University of Bern. Teaching is provided in Italian; teaching outside of the field stated in the interdisciplinary modules is provided in French or German; however, tests and seminar work may be carried out in Italian.

The study programme includes writing a thesis under the supervision of one of the three professors, which develops the methods and subjects covered in the curriculum.

Learning outcomes and career openings
The skills acquired at the end of the Master’s programme will allow students to undertake personal research, often orientated towards editing and commenting on ancient and modern texts. To this effect, the programme provides a strict connection between literary historiography, critical interpretation and textual philology. The critical skills and advanced analytical tools acquired guarantee the necessary knowledge for the advanced study of all literary production in the Italian language and the provision of reasoned and original comments. The theoretical perspectives examined throughout the Master’s course allow students to develop their own critical thinking on the approaches and methods of Italian studies and thus to develop their positions in contemporary scientific debate.

Excellent Master’s results may lead to Ph.D. studies. A doctoral school in Italian studies, in collaboration with the Universities of Geneva and Lausanne, was started up in 2013. Holders of a Master of Arts in Languages and Literatures Italian from the University of Fribourg can access to Teacher Education for Academic Upper Secondary Schools (DEEM/LDM); in addition, they can put their expertise to management roles in the world of culture, written journalism, in the field of audio-visual media (radio, TV and Internet), in the book and publishing sectors, in archives and libraries, and in the fields of translation, administration, etc.

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/psz3q

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 and as a specialisation programme (30 ECTS credits).

Contact

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