European Studies

Degree conferred
Master of Arts in European Studies

Options
For information on the optional award of the distinction «Bilingual curriculum, French/German», please contact the relevant Department (see Contact).

Languages of study
Study in two languages, in French and German. A number of lectures will be 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.

This programme aims to provide comprehensive knowledge of contemporary Europe focusing on historical, political and cultural aspects. Taking an interdisciplinary, academic, critical perspective, the Master in European Studies at the University of Fribourg offers a wide range of courses and scientific approaches, raising important questions about Europe’s integration process, and presenting current political ideas and issues, with an emphasis on the role of the actors who, for more than fifty years, have worked unceasingly for European unity.

Alongside the basic study modules, the specialisation programme includes two interdisciplinary options: the first focuses on the social and historical aspects of contemporary Europe (economics, law, history, social sciences), and the second on the European cultural space (languages and literatures, theology, philosophy, art history and musicology).

Most courses are taught either in French or German, or bilingually. There are a few teachings in English.

Profile of the study programme

The objective of the European Studies programme at the University of Fribourg is to provide a better understanding of Europe and of European integration in terms of its history, politics, culture, and society.

European Studies embraces an interdisciplinary approach and offers a wide range of courses and scientific approaches suitable for future Swiss managers on the European stage, or for foreign students who wish to understand the role of Switzerland and other countries within Europe. The programme is in tune with a pluralistic, open Europe, embracing the whole spectrum of human and political values that are the strength of the European integration project.

Taking an academic and critical perspective, European Studies at the University of Fribourg analyses ideas, processes and institutions, raising questions about Europe’s integration and presenting knowledge of current trends and issues, with an emphasis on the role of the actors who, for more than fifty years, have worked unceasingly for European unity.

Improved understanding of Europe implies better analysis, better perception and better identification of the important aspects. It involves providing students with the vital constructive and critical sense that they will need not only in their studies but also in their future careers.

Fribourg profile

Taught at one of the only bilingual universities in Europe, in French and German, the Master in European Studies benefits from an intercultural, multilingual environment, giving it an educational and scientific character that is unique to Switzerland. With its particular focus on the Arts and Humanities, it is based on a series of renowned areas of competence of the University of Fribourg’s teaching and research: Contemporary History, Politics and Social Sciences.

Basic modules

The two years of study consist of the basic modules that cover Europe's history and integration policy, and various legal, political, economic and cultural issues. In terms of specialisation, students have a choice between two interdisciplinary options. The first focuses on social and historical aspects of contemporary Europe, with specialised modules on economics, law, history and social sciences. The second is oriented towards European culture and examines languages and literature, theology, philosophy, art history and musicology.

Bilingual studies

Pursuing university studies in a bilingual environment located at the meeting point of two important cultural regions in Switzerland and Europe, students will benefit from linguistic, cultural, social, ethical and religious diversity. In this way they will acquire a deeper understanding of the process of Europe’s construction which gives plurality of citizenship its proper place.

With the exception of a few courses in English, the European Studies programme is taught in French and German.

Learning outcomes and career openings

The programme’s objective is to enable the acquisition of a comprehensive knowledge of contemporary Europe focusing on historical, political and cultural aspects. The practical and methodological skills acquired during the programme will facilitate graduates’ entry to the working place in both public and private institutions, in international and regional organisations and inter- and cross-cultural associations, in the media, in communication and marketing, and in research and higher education.

Studies organisation

Structure of studies

90 ECTS credits + 30 ECTS credits in a minor study programme freely chosen or in a specialisation programme, 4 semesters
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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