If you are interested in the Italian language and literature, the acquisition of methods and competences to analyse poetry and prose will help you to appreciate literary masterpieces of Italian tradition, from Dante and Petrarca, to Leopardi and Montale, right through to contemporary literature. This Bachelor's programme provides also an introduction to Italian philology and to the history of the Italian language, while specific lectures on literary history focus on the key moments of the all tradition, from Middle Ages to 20th century. Armed with this knowledge, you will be able to critically analyse all Italian literary texts. This course mainly features seminars, which encourage active participation and learning. All lectures, seminars, exercises and exams are delivered in Italian. At the University of Fribourg, this course follows the principles of the school of analysis founded by eminent researchers, such as Gianfranco Contini, Giuseppe Billanovich and Giovanni Pozzi.

Profile of the study programme

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, the Italian subject area follows 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.

Theoretical perspectives aim to approach the different literary genres, both in poetry and prose. Rigorous learning of metrics, rhetoric, stylistics, narratology and history of language make up the bases for all literary approaches and research. In both teaching and research, members of staff are attentive to the constitutive role that the Italian language and culture play in Switzerland and to the literary and intellectual heritage they possess.

Fribourg profile

The Bachelor's study programme offers teaching in literature and philology characterised by its attention to the specific methods of analysing poetry and prose. An introduction to Italian philology and to the history of the language provides the necessary knowledge with which to handle all literary texts. Lectures on the history of literature provide the essential references to Italian tradition; in addition, specific lessons offer an approach to all of the key moments in this history, involving a critical comparison of the masterpieces in Italian, from Dante and Petrarca, to Leopardi and Montale. Several lectures and seminars also provide the opportunity to explore the multiple facets of the contemporary language and literature.

From the first semester, teaching is mainly in the form of seminars, which encourages active participation and learning on the part of students and stimulates them to develop their potential through individual work or work in small groups. Throughout the three-year Bachelor's course, students will have the possibility of choosing from several lectures and seminars each semester within the same module. Lectures and seminars are in Italian. Students must also write their work and take their exams in Italian.

Learning outcomes and career openings

The Bachelor's course is organised into basic modules (lectures and seminars to analyse poetry and prose) and orientation modules (philology and history of the language, contemporary language, literary history, etc.). With the skills acquired at the end of the Bachelor's course, students will be able to work independently on ancient and contemporary literary works and have a critical approach to Italian literature. Mastery of several analytical instruments is essential for understanding the structures and functions of the language and texts.

This study programme opens up possibilities in a number of professions, in addition to teaching, for example written journalism, audio-visual media (radio, TV, Internet), the book and publishing sectors, archives and libraries, translation, administration, organisation of cultural events, etc.

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/psz3q
Comments

Basic knowledge of Latin is required. Students who did not take this language at an academic upper secondary school can attend the special lessons that are built into the curriculum.

Admission

The following Swiss school-leaving 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

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-countrylist

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). 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 Italian
Dr Sandra Clerc
sandra.clerc@unifr.ch
http://studies.unifr.ch/go/it-italian