Philosophy

Degree conferred
Philosophiae Doctor / Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)

Commencement of studies
An application for admission may be submitted at any time.

Regulation
http://studies.unifr.ch/go/dGLfK (French and German only)

Application procedure
Candidates with Swiss qualifications
http://studies.unifr.ch/go/0bJpN
Candidates with foreign qualifications
http://studies.unifr.ch/go/4a2qY/

Fribourg profile

Diversity in method and pluralism in the range of subjects and philosophical currents studied are the distinguishing features of the doctoral programme of the Department of Philosophy in the University of Fribourg. The Department regularly obtains research funding to promote doctoral studies as well as to create research groups drawing on the competence of the Department’s members as well as that of numerous experienced scholars. Professors in charge of specific domains of research supervise doctoral students who are given the opportunity to discuss their work in weekly colloquia as well as to participate in activities organised at the doctoral level in collaboration with other universities in Switzerland and abroad.

In the domain of ancient philosophy, theses can be supervised on Greek and Roman thought from the Pre-Socratic philosophers through to the Byzantine period. Equally, the reception of ancient philosophy during the Renaissance is a welcome subject. Research in the domain is concentrated on Platonic thought (Plato, the Old Academy, Middle Platonism, Plotinus, the late Neo-Platonists, Jewish and Christian Platonism). Research projects in metaphysics, cosmology and physics, the theory of knowledge, psychology, and ethics are encouraged. A command of ancient Greek and/or Latin is required. Doctoral candidates participate in the Doctoral School of Ancient and Medieval Philosophy organised every year in collaboration with the universities of Lausanne and Geneva.

In the domain of medieval philosophy, theses can focus on contemporary philosophy, phenomenology and «analytic» philosophy. Doctoral research and training are as much about the historical origins of these two traditions as about the theoretical examination of the questions they raise. Topics addressed in this context include the relationship between the subjectivity of experience and the objectivity of knowledge. These questions are analysed not only from the theoretical perspective, as part of the study of cognitive attitudes, but also from a more practical perspective, through an analysis of the rationality of action.

In the fields of ethics, political philosophy, aesthetics and philosophy of art, doctoral students receive individual support for their research projects, from their supervisor and from Faculty more generally. They are offered various opportunities to continue their training and present their thesis projects. Every semester, external speakers are invited to give lectures on chosen topics. The colloquia for advanced students are an opportunity for master’s and doctoral students to exchange ideas and present their respective research. In addition, doctoral students are supported in setting up workshops and symposia. The themes and fields of research are multiple: questions of value, ethics and meta-ethics, practical philosophy, history of political thought, philosophy of social sciences, aesthetics, the relationship between aesthetics and politics, subjectivity and society, philosophy of art, philosophy of perception, theories of media and technology, philosophy of culture.

Professors who are eligible to supervise theses

- Prof. Filip Karfik

Areas of specialisation:
- Plato
- Plotinus
- Metaphysics
- Psychology
- Cosmology
Faculty of Humanities  
Department of Philosophy  
Prof. Gianfranco Soldati  
gianfranco.soldati@unifr.ch  
http://studies.unifr.ch/go/fr-philosophy (French)  
http://studies.unifr.ch/go/de-philosophy (German)

Doc- Postdoc-portal  
http://www.unifr.ch/phd

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### Areas of specialisation:
- **Prof. Tiziana Suarez-Nani**
  - Metaphysics
  - Philosophy of nature and epistemology
  - Psychology
  - Cosmology
- **Prof. Gianfranco Soldati**
  - Phenomenology
  - Theory of knowledge
- **Prof. Martine-Nida-Rümelin**
  - Phenomenal consciousness
  - The identity and individuality of conscious individuals
- **Prof. Ralf Bader**
  - Ethics
  - Meta-ethics
  - Political philosophy
  - Decision theory
  - Axiology
- **Prof. Emmanuel Alloa**
  - Aesthetics and Philosophy of art
  - Phenomenology (German and French)
  - Philosophy of culture and of social sciences

### Studies organisation

#### Structure of studies

ECTS credits can be earned.

#### Doctoral school

https://philosophie.cuso.ch  
http://www.mediaevum.unifr.ch

#### Admission

In order to be admitted to a doctorate the candidate must have been awarded an academic **bachelor's and master's degree** or an equivalent qualification by an university recognised by the University of Fribourg.

Before applying for a doctorate the candidate must contact a **professor** who would be willing to supervise the thesis work.

There is **no general right** to be admitted to a doctorate.

*The respective conditions of admission for each doctoral study programme are reserved.*

### Contact

http://studies.unifr.ch/endocorat/phi/philosophy