German Language and Literature

Degree conferred
Philosophiae Doctor in Lingua et Litteris germanicis / Doctor of Philosophy in German Language and Literature (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/4a2qV

Fribourg profile
The Department of German at Fribourg offers a doctoral training in the three areas of study: linguistics, medieval studies and literature. German Studies' doctoral students therefore have the full range of study areas from which to choose their research subject. The subjects of the theses are arranged individually. They may be connected to current research projects financed by third parties. However, intensive discussions are held with the PhD advisor to find the subject, taking into account the interests of both sides. The theory and methods implemented in the Department of German at Fribourg are focused on the one hand on historical and cultural studies (in particular medieval studies and literature) and on the other hand on social-cognitive studies (in particular linguistics). In general, theses are written in German.

The main research fields of German Linguistics are language use, language variation and language acquisition, sociolinguistic and perceptual dialectology and sociolinguistic and contact linguistic issues from a synchronic or diachronic perspective. Alongside intensive personal support, there are three further types of support available to doctoral students. (1) A regular research conference, which in spring is also accessible to doctoral students from other universities. CUSO, offers the opportunity to exchange with a large international research network and from internal workshops. Doctoral students will also be supported in launching debates on their area of research in domestic and international meetings. (3) Lastly, the network of western Swiss universities, CUSO, offers the opportunity to exchange with students from other universities.

Professors who are eligible to supervise theses
German Linguistics

- Prof. Helen Christen

Areas of specialisation:
- Variational linguistics with emphasis on social dialectology
- Language change
Course offerings 20/21 | AS20
Study programme description
Doctorat

- Folk linguistics
- Gender linguistics
- Swiss language situation
  - Prof. Regula Schmidlin

Areas of specialisation:
- Acquisition of writing skills
- Lexicography
- Phraseology
- Language variation and language standardisation
- Language and age

German Medieval Studies
- Prof. Martina Backes

Areas of specialisation:
- Literature from the Late Middle Ages and the Early Modern Era, in particular the history and development of novels
- 12th to 15th-century poetry
- German-French literature relations
- Middle Age manuscript and book culture
- Regional history of literature of the German-speaking south-west
  - Prof. Eckart Conrad Lutz

Areas of specialisation:
- Mediality and identity
- Text, image and diagram
- Processes of writing, reading and cognition
- Education and conversation
- Courtly culture and its proponents in the Middle Ages
  - PD Dr Stefan Matter

Areas of specialisation:
- Literature of the high and late Middle Ages
- Spiritual Literature
- Manuscript Studies and History of the Book
- Word and Image Studies
- Transmission of Texts

German Literature
- Prof. Arnd Beise

Areas of specialisation:
- Literature and history
- Intermediality
- Thematology
- History of drama
- Edition philology
  - Prof. Sabine Haupt

Areas of specialisation:
- German and French literature from the 18th to 21st centuries
- Literature and picture media
- Literature and natural science
- History of ideas/Discourse analysis
- Literature and politics
  - Prof. Tom Kindt

Areas of specialisation:
- Theory of literature, in particular interpretation theory
- Theory of humour and history of comedy
- Narrative theory
- Literary modernism
- History of German studies
  - Prof. Ralph Müller

Areas of specialisation:
- Contemporary literature, in particular Swiss literature
- Poetry and rhetoric
- Genre theory and spelling
- Lyricology and narratology
- Digital humanities, corpus stylistics, cognitive poetics

Studies organisation
Structure of studies
No ECTS credits can be earned.

Doctoral school

https://deutsch.cuso.ch
https://medieval.cuso.ch
https://www3.unifr.ch/germanistik/de/forschung/forschungskolloquium/.html
https://www3.unifr.ch/mediaevum/de/studium/doktorat.html

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

Faculty of Humanities
Department of German
Sylvia Kilchör
sylvia.kilchoer@unifr.ch
http://studies.unifr.ch/go/de-german (German)

Doc- Postdoc-portal

http://www.unifr.ch/phd