Geography

**Degree conferred**
Master of Science in Geography

**Options**
Two options available:
- Dynamics in Glaciology and Geomorphology
- Nature, Society and Politics

**Languages of study**
Study 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.

Tuned to current environmental issues, this Master’s programme enables students to understand and assess environmental systems and the relationship between nature and society. After studying a core module dealing with conceptual and theoretical bases, students choose a specialisation: either physical geography, which covers topics such as the cryosphere, glaciology or alpine geomorphology; or human geography, which explores subjects such as political ecology and management of natural resources along with their political and social dimensions. Students have a broad choice of seminars and conference cycles, as well as field work. The students also participate in research teams, notably in the context of their Master’s thesis. The human dimensions of this unit (around 30 research scientists) and the drive of the research groups provide a supportive, quality environment for all the students.

**Structure of classes and lectures**
The teaching is structured into four modules and is delivered through a combination of lectures, seminars, field work and conferences. The core module teaches the conceptual and theoretical bases of geography. Students are taught the different approaches to human and physical geography, as well as methods of collecting and analysing data. Three cycles of internal conferences offer students a chance to gain more in-depth knowledge of current research topics. A supporting module allows students to personalise their programme at the same time by pursuing courses related to their specialisation, either within the unit or faculty or externally, which are complementary to their discipline or interdisciplinary choices. Students conclude their studies with a Master’s thesis under the supervision of a professor. A field trip is organised abroad in one of the teams’ research regions (Morocco in 2009, Namibia in 2011, Central Asia in 2013).

**Career openings**
This study programme offers diverse career openings: teaching, research, administration and public institutions (local, cantonal, federal, international), urban and regional planning, environmental engineering consulting, sustainable development, regional development.

**Studies organisation**

**Structure of studies**
120 ECTS credits, 4 semesters

**Curriculum**
[http://studies.unifr.ch/go/zPll (French)]
[http://studies.unifr.ch/go/z3FE1 (German)]

**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 by a Swiss university are admitted to a master's degree programme without any preconditions if they have earned 60 or 90 ECTS credits – depending on the chosen master's degree programme – within the corresponding discipline. However, additional requirements can be required. 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 by a Swiss or a foreign university, provided that the bachelor's degree is recognised and considered equivalent by the University of Fribourg, who do not fulfil this condition can be admitted to a master's degree programme with preconditions (which must be successfully completed before starting the master's degree programme) and/or additional requirements (which can be completed during the master's degree programme). The preconditions and/or additional requirements may not exceed 60 ECTS credits in total. The same applies to holders of a bachelor's degree awarded by a Swiss university of applied sciences, according to existing agreements.

The respective conditions of admission for each master's degree programme are reserved.

Alternatives

Also offered as a minor study programme (30 ECTS credits) as part of the Diplôme d’Enseignement pour les Ecoles de Maturité (DEEM)/Lehrdiplom für Maturitätsschulen (LDM).

Contact

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