Eastern European Studies

Degree conferred
Master of Arts in Social Sciences: Eastern European Studies

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.

The Master's programme in Eastern European Studies is a multilingual interfaculty, interuniversity programme offered by the Universities of Fribourg and Berne. Students attend classes at both universities. Seminars are also regularly held by researchers from Eastern European countries. The languages of instruction are German, French and English. The syllabus consists of lectures on contemporary history, cultural studies (Slavic studies and cultural philosophy), political science and social anthropology. The focus is on the 20th century and on current issues. Students learn at least one of the region's languages during their course of study.

The Interfaculty Institute for Central and Eastern Europe at the University of Fribourg has numerous contacts to lecturers and researchers from the region. The Institute's research projects and mandates give students ample opportunity to put what they have learned into practice.

Profile of the study programme

The Master's programme in Eastern European Studies is a multilingual interfaculty, interuniversity multilingual programme. The Universities of Fribourg and Berne have pooled their diverse Eastern European competences to produce this unique offer. The Interfaculty Institute for Central and Eastern Europe at the University of Fribourg has an extensive network with contacts to lecturers and researchers from the region. The Institute's numerous research projects and mandates give students ample opportunity of putting what they have learned into practice. Seminars are regularly held by researchers from Eastern European countries.

The syllabus consists of lectures on contemporary history, cultural studies (Slavic studies and cultural philosophy), political science and social anthropology. Lectures and seminars take place in Fribourg and Berne. The focus is on the 20th century and on current issues. Students learn at least one language from the region during their studies (Russian, Polish, Czech, Croatian/Serbian/Bosnian, Slovenian or Bulgarian). Modularisation, intensive support and interdisciplinarity are key features of the programme.

Almost half (about 340 million) of the over 700 million Europeans live in Eastern Europe. The region is known for its diversity of languages, cultures, ethnicities and religions. It has grown steadily in political and economic importance in recent years. Students acquire the necessary linguistic, specialist and methodical competences to look at Eastern Europe in all its facets, analyse the current developments in the region, and place them in their political, social, historical and cultural context.

Fribourg profile

The Master's programme offers the possibility of deepening and expanding knowledge of Eastern European studies by acquiring specialist knowledge of states and societies of Central and Eastern Europe.

The programme of studies provides students with a knowledge of:
– Political, historical, social, literary and cultural issues of Eastern European countries and regions in the 20th and 21st centuries;
– The theories and history of Eastern European studies;
– Relevant methods of Eastern European research.

Teaching is mainly in German or French. Some lectures are also held in English. There is mutual recognition of the lectures and seminars in the Eastern Europe Studies programme offered by the Universities of Fribourg and Berne.

Learning outcomes and career openings

This programme provides students with the competences to work on academic questions independently: the aim is to enable them to carry out skilled and complex tasks in research, business and the public sector. Graduates of this interdisciplinary programme acquire an all-round knowledge and understanding of Eastern Europe, are familiar with the problems of the region, and are capable of analysing them. They obtain specialist knowledge and linguistic skills which qualify them for employment in areas such as the diplomatic service, international organisations, journalism, non-governmental organisations, and commercial enterprises operating in Eastern Europe, etc.

Studies organisation

Structure of studies

90 ECTS credits + 30 ECTS credits as an option in a minor study programme freely chosen or in a specialisation programme, 3-4 semesters

Curriculum

[Links to French and German versions of the curriculum]

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 branch of studies (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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