Educational Sciences

Degree conferred
Bachelor of Science

Options
For information on the optional award of the distinction «Bilingual curriculum, French/German», please contact the relevant Department (see Contact).

Languages of study
Possibility to study in French, in German or in French and German. Some courses are offered in English.

Commencement of studies
Commencement of studies only in the Autumn Semester (September)

Access to further studies
Master

How do children, adolescents and adults learn? And how do they develop in a given social environment? It is to these educational questions that the educational sciences deliver a response. At the Bachelor level, the students acquire all-round theoretical knowledge of academic and social education, socialisation theory and educational psychology. They also learn quantitative and qualitative research methods and, through practical research and workshops as well as seminars geared to the professional context, how to apply the theoretical bases.

The study programme is specially designed to place equal importance on theoretical and systematic, historical and empirical approaches to educational research. The course is taught in collaboration with the teacher training department, which gives students additional knowledge of school teaching.

Profile of the study programme
The educational sciences deal with learning, developmental and socialisation processes and the global issue of social and academic education in children, adolescents and adults. The discipline is divided into General Education and Development and Socialisation during Childhood and Adolescence.

The programmes teach the theoretical bases of academic and social education, socialisation theory and educational psychology. The focus is on acquiring quantitative and qualitative research methods as well as all-round theoretical knowledge. At the same time, students have the chance of acquiring practical knowledge by taking part in research projects or workshops, doing work placements in an educational institution and consolidating their knowledge in seminars.

What doubtless sets the Bachelor’s degree offered at our department apart is that it places equal importance on theoretical and systematic, historical and empirical approaches to educational research. For example, besides teaching sound methods of social research, the course also investigates different systematic approaches and historical debates. The collaboration between this and the teacher training course gives students additional knowledge of school teaching (such as general didactics). Thanks to the broad array of block courses on offer, the department is regularly able to invite international and Swiss experts to teach specific courses, which significantly raises the range of subjects covered.

Once they have successfully completed their Bachelor’s degree, students can either embark upon a professional career immediately, take a gap year (e.g. study abroad, get work experience) or go on to do a Master’s degree.

The following career prospects are open to them:

- Project work in an educational context;
- Research-focused activities and duties in an educational or social context;
- Counselling and social work;
- Media and public relations.

Following their Bachelor’s degree, students can take a Master’s degree at the University of Fribourg’s Educational Sciences Department.

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/QExK (French)
http://studies.unifr.ch/go/aQQa (German)

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.
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 ECTS credits).

Contact

Faculty of Humanities
Department of Educational Sciences
Xavier Conus (French)
xavier.conus@unifr.ch
http://studies.unifr.ch/go/fr-educational-sciences
Dr Alex Knoll (German)
alex.knoll@unifr.ch
http://studies.unifr.ch/go/de-educational-sciences