The Social Work and Social Policy bachelor programme is based on the analysis of social issues and the consideration of possible solutions (advice, education, planning, social assistance, social insurance); the study of social policies (e.g. family and health policies, and social insurance); and the situational practice of the research methods studied, in relation to the analysis of social issues and/or social policies.

Profile of the study programme

The Social Work and Social Policy bachelor's degree is based on the analysis of social issues and the consideration of possible solutions (advice, education, planning, social assistance, organisational and administrative aspects, etc.). The study programme aims to provide basic training that is both general and thematic through the acquisition of knowledge, theories and methodological tools that are the foundations of any university course, and through specialisation in current challenges in social work and social policy. The programme is geared towards giving students the keys to understanding the far-reaching changes affecting how social work is shaped and the ability to (re-)design its conditions. Secondly, the course affords knowledge of existing social policy measures in Switzerland and abroad, and an understanding of their role in society and the economy.

Fribourg profile

From the outset, the Social Work and Social Policy study programme was shaped by the drive to teach students social work skills and above all to give them the tools for critical thinking so that they are able to analyse socially problematic situations, institutional environments in which they will act and the particular types of actions they will be expected to roll out. To achieve this, the course offered at Fribourg University is based on the critical acquisition of knowledge from the field of sociology and a reflective immersion in the situational practice of social work.

Learning outcomes and career openings

Skills

The Social Work and Social Policy bachelor programme is based on the analysis of social issues and the consideration of possible solutions (advice, education, planning, social assistance, organisational and administrative aspects, etc.). It stands out for its in-depth methodological and method training based on three key pillars:

1. The analysis of social issues with a view to gaining a critical understanding and the management of social issues (e.g. poverty, exclusion, drug abuse);
2. The study of social policies with a view to acquiring knowledge of the foundations, conditions and current challenges of social policies (e.g. family and health policies, and social insurance);
3. The practice of research methods in order to obtain a command of the various methodologies used in scientific study and in relation to the analysis of social issues and/or social policies.

Career openings

Following the three-year Social Work and Social Policy study programme, two types of career profiles are possible:
- Further academic study at master's level. Upon graduating from the master programme, students will be able to leverage their training in two fields (social work and social policy) and in terms of two types (scientific and practical). The wide-ranging scope of this master programme opens up a large number of career openings in many business sectors and in administrations, institutions, organisations and associations;
- Entry to the labour market. The Social Work and Social Policy bachelor's degree prepares students for professions in various fields (medical and social, legal, social, psycho-social, socio-educational, socio-economic, socio-cultural, etc.) or in a variety of sectors (assistance to young people and families, the enforcement of sentences, the health sector, the fields of social leadership, professional integration, social and vocational rehabilitation, social work with drug addicts, local social development projects, etc.).

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/3v29r (French)

Comments
This study programme may be chosen jointly with a study programme worth 60 ECTS credits in the «Social Sciences» domain.

Admission
The following Swiss school-leaving certificates grant admission to bachelor programmes at the University of Fribourg:

- Swiss academic Maturity Certificate
- Federal vocational or specialised Baccalaureate + supplementary examination of the Swiss Maturity Commission (passerelle)
- 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 recognised 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-swiss-certificates

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 or chemistry or physics)
5. Humanities and social sciences (geography or history or economics/law)
6. Elective (computer sciences or philosophy or 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/30 ECTS credits).

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