Culture, Politics and Religion in Pluralist Societies

Degree conferred
Master of Arts in Social Sciences: Culture, Politics and Religion in Pluralist Societies

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

Three specialisations available:
- Politics, Government and Civil Society
- Cultural Diversity and Social Identity
- Challenges in Contemporary Religion

Languages of study
Study in two languages, in French and German

Commencement of studies
Commencement of studies in the Autumn Semester (September) or in the Spring Semester (February)

Access to further studies
Ph.D.

If you are interested in social, cultural, religious and political plurality in contemporary societies, this Master's programme will provide you with the tools to analyse inter-ethnic, inter-religious and inter-generational relations and to understand political change. The Master's programme is interdisciplinary and combines approaches from social anthropology, the study of religions, sociology and political science in an original and innovative way.

The subject matter is current and addressed through field and case studies, and concrete and empirical examples.

The specialisations (one choice) enable you to adapt the programme to your previous training, personal interests or professional goals.

The courses are conducted in French and German (some courses are bilingual).

Fribourg profile
A choice of the following specialisations is proposed:
- Politics, Government and Civil Society
  This specialisation is mainly based on the theoretical and methodological approaches of political science and social anthropology, with some input from sociology and the study of religions. Based on qualitative and quantitative research methods, the course focuses on various figures, institutions and political processes, studied in western (Europe, Central and Eastern Europe) and non-western (South Asia, South-East Asia) contexts;
- Cultural Diversity and Social Identity
  This specialisation presents knowledge and analytical tools, derived mainly from sociology and social anthropology, enabling the understanding and management of issues related to the plurality and complexity of contemporary societies. Social and cultural diversity is studied from the standpoint of new life styles, inter-ethnic and intergenerational relations, and relations between genders, and from the standpoint of identity reconstruction. Focusing on the acquisition of concrete research methods and techniques, the subject matter is addressed by means of empirical research carried out within the populations concerned (young people, migrants, professionals, women, organisations, groups, etc.);
- Challenges in Contemporary Religion
  This specialisation offers an in-depth analysis of religion as a structuring element in contemporary societies (more specifically in Europe and in Switzerland). Religions are addressed in all their diversity from the perspective of social science, anthropology and history. In addition to an in-depth knowledge of religious traditions, this option provides essential tools for the decoding and analysis of the links between religious issues and the cultural, social and political spheres.

Learning outcomes and career openings

Learning outcomes
This Master's programme enables the acquisition of tools to handle complex issues from an interdisciplinary perspective, combining viewpoints and approaches that are usually kept separate. It aims to train students to carry out empirical and historical research in social sciences, through a range of research methods that are suited to the analysis of current issues.
Career openings
Given its interdisciplinary emphasis, this Master's programme provides access to various professional environments; the knowledge and skills acquired meet the requirements of the current employment market. They enable the management of organisational, relational, communicational, cultural and identity issues which arise within different types of groups and institutions: non-governmental and charitable organisations; social Institutions (prevention, monitoring of projects, supervision); cultural institutions (organisation of events, museums); associations, interest groups, political parties; private enterprise (human resources, communication, training); public, cantonal and federal administration (scientific collaboration, evaluation); journalism and media; public relations; training; diplomatic services; research and scientific assessment activities; academic careers.

Organisation des études
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
http://studies.unifr.ch/go/gNFm5 (French)
http://studies.unifr.ch/go/lxh8R (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 from a Swiss university can be admitted to a Master’s degree programme within the corresponding discipline (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
Faculty of Arts and Humanities
Culture, Politics and Religion in Pluralist Societies
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