Christianity and Religious Studies

Degree conferred
Bachelor of Arts in the Study of Religions

Options
Option of an award bearing the distinction «Bilingual curriculum» (French – German).
Two options available:

- As a full major (180 ECTS credits)
- As a major (120 ECTS credits) with freely chosen minors

Languages of study
Possibility to study in French, in German or 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
Master

In the study of religions at the Faculty of Theology, multifaceted perspectives are taken into consideration: historical, philosophical, sociological, ethnological and also psychological. But the special feature of the prospectus from Fribourg lies in its access to religion as a faith. Here, the role of religions, especially in a pluralistic and multi-cultural society, is analysed with scientific methods and an interreligious dialogue is promoted in a constructive and critical way. Not only is knowledge imparted, but one’s own position is also clarified and deepened in the dialogue between the religions. This study programme can be pursued as a full major study programme or with minors, with a view to later providing a field of activities that is as wide as possible. In addition, the environment constitutes a great plus: The Faculty of Catholic Theology in Fribourg is the largest theological faculty in Switzerland and it is characterised by a cosmopolitan spirit.

Profile of the study programme

In the modern age, religion, with its consolations and empty promises, was suspected of impeding the efforts of the enlightenment and humanity’s social progress. Nowadays, we live in a «religion-friendly» society, which is characterised by a renewed interest in «religious phenomena». But the new role of religion in a pluralistic and multicultural society is far from unambiguous. Religions carry a potential for conflict, yet they push for peace. They resist secularisation, yet at the same time they strengthen it, for they are the expression of a faith and therefore have a neutralising effect on public life.

The study of religions can be structured from many points of view: historical, philosophical, sociological, ethnological, social science, psychological, statistical, etc. The Faculty of Theology takes this diversity of methods into consideration, but at the same time, because of its character as a science of faith, it has access to religion as a creed. It also has scientific methods of analysis at its disposal and supports and promotes both a critical and constructive interreligious dialogue.

With this competence, the Faculty of Theology offers courses of study that not only convey knowledge, but also make it possible to clarify and deepen one’s own standpoint in the dialogue between religions and with religions.

This Bachelor is offered as a full major study programme. Together with freely chosen minors, it can also be especially suitable for students who would like to work within a broader theological, religious or social field.

The Faculty of Theology of the University of Fribourg is the largest theological faculty in Switzerland and one of two Catholic theological faculties that are integrated into a state university. It is subject to state law, as are the other faculties of the university, but at the same time it has the recognition of church authorities and is supported by the Dominican Order and the Swiss Conference of Bishops. The complete bilingualism of the Faculty is unique in Europe. More than half of the professors and almost half of the students are from abroad. The faculty and university life are characterised by the spirit of a cosmopolitan Catholicism, giving prominence and recognition to Fribourg as a place of study.

Career openings
School, adult education, child and youth work, advice programmes for students, academic careers, media work, the publishing industry, solidarity work, peace brokers.

Organisation des études

Structure of studies
180 ECTS credits, 6 semesters
or
120 ECTS credits + 60 ECTS credits in one or two minor study programmes freely chosen, 6 semesters

Curriculum
http://studies.unifr.ch/go/Ls2WE (French/German only)

Admission

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

- Swiss academic Maturity Certificate
- Swiss professional Maturity Certificate 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):
https://www.swissuniversities.ch/en/services/admission-to-universities/schweizerische-ausweise/

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:
https://www.swissuniversities.ch/en/services/admission-to-universities/countries/

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 (60/30 ECTS credits).

Contact

Faculty of Theology
Dean's Office
decanat-theol@unifr.ch
http://www.unifr.ch/theo