French as a Foreign Language / French as a Second Language

Degree conferred
Master of Arts in Languages and Literatures: French as a Foreign Language/French as a Second Language

Languages of study
Study in French

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 «French as a foreign language/French as a second language» (FLE/FLS) focuses on a consolidation of the didactic and linguistic aspects of language learning and FLE/FLS teaching in a multilingual context. Students learn to master empirical research methods, enabling them to analyse language development, communication and intercultural skills, and the role of interaction in an educational context. They also learn how to apply these theoretical notions to practical cases. The study programme includes practical internships.

Profile of the study programme

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Fribourg profile

Situated on a language border, the city of Fribourg is the ideal location to observe how French is practised as a second language in French-speaking Switzerland and as a foreign language in German-speaking Switzerland.

We enjoy close ties with the nearby Institute of Multilingualism of the University and the Fribourg University of Teacher Education, which in 2010 was designated the Confederation's Research Centre on Multilingualism (RCM). Students can take part in regular conferences and workshops attracting specialists from across the globe, on topics related to foreign language acquisition and teaching, or on characteristics of multilingualism on the individual and societal level.

At the Research Centre on Multilingualism's documentation centre, which is attached to the University's Foreign Language Library, students enjoy access to many publications and specialist reviews in this field. In addition, they can receive professional advice to assist them in independent learning.

Interested students can also take lessons in French, Italian, English and German at the University's Language Centre. The Self-Access Centre also boasts a full range of media to learn many other languages or to perfect specific language skills.

Learning outcomes and career openings

Graduates from this course enjoy in-depth theoretical and methodological knowledge in the field of FLE/FLS, in terms of didactics and linguistics and the processes inherent in the learning of second or foreign languages. They are able to put this specialist theoretical knowledge into practice, both through the development and completion of research projects and in actual teaching situations. They are aware of the requirements of modern foreign language teaching, know how to analyse and assess language teaching in their own language or in a foreign language, and can submit proposals for the optimisation of learning methods. In other words, this Master's programme provides training for the profession of FLE/FLS expert, in Switzerland and abroad.

The programme considers the French language and the culture in French-speaking regions from an international standpoint, to enable graduates to prepare, organise and assess the language teaching and learning methods intended for various target groups, and to take part in the creation of curricula, learning aids and assessment tools. This Master's programme also provides an introduction to research in the field of language learning and teaching as conducted at the Institute of Multilingualism. The Institute also offers students who wish to pursue an academic career the option of a doctoral programme, providing the ideal environment for further study in an even more specialised field.

The career opportunities for graduates of the FLE/FLS Master's degree are in the following fields:

– Language teaching in Switzerland and abroad as part of adult learning courses and in universities and other graduate schools;  
– Activities concerning integration classes, exchange programmes and the promotion of multilingualism in professional environments, and more specifically in companies;  
– Activities concerning the development of linguistic expertise and competences with government authorities, NGOs, international organisations and publishers;  
– Scientific collaboration in research centres such as the Institute of Multilingualism or the Research Centre on Multilingualism.

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
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

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French as a Foreign Language/French as a Second Language
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