Social Anthropology

Degree conferred
Bachelor of Arts

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.

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

Access to further studies
This Bachelor programme qualifies students for the Master programme Culture, Politics and Religion in Pluralist Societies.

Anthropology is the science of man in society. Through analysing local communities and studying social relationships, this Bachelor's programme will provide you with the means to understand transformations in society, regardless of whether the society is exotic, traditional, Western or contemporary. The analysis of current anthropological debates will allow students to understand new forms of organisation, co-operation and conflict, migration phenomena, urban life, health systems, religious movements, tourism, and the use of new technologies.

The teaching is nourished by research carried out by teachers in Europe and Asia. In addition, you will be taught by sociologists and political scientists whose lessons in socio-political studies are enriched with inter-disciplinary exchanges with sociologists and political scientists whose lessons in socio-political studies are included in the study plan.

At the University of Fribourg, teachers specialise in political, economic and religious anthropology. Study is nourished by the research they carry out, mainly in Europe (southern, central and eastern Europe) and in Asia (India and Malaysia). The Bachelor programme concerns the history, theories and main concepts of anthropology; it analyses current anthropological debate, which is studied in a variety of geographical and cultural contexts.

At Fribourg, the specific approach to Social Anthropology is further enriched with inter-disciplinary exchanges with sociologists and political scientists whose lessons in socio-political studies are included in the study plan.

In addition, the Chair benefits from a vast collaborative network in the fields of education and research, which allows students and professors to interchange with many universities and institutions. Different activities with external experts and students are proposed during the course, such as summer schools, excursions, visits to ethnographic museums, etc.

Lectures are provided in German, French, and occasionally in English. With a view to providing a broad academic approach, teaching is influenced by German, French and Anglo-American academic traditions, thus opening up multiple perspectives in the subject, in line with new requirements of the practice of anthropology in modern worlds.

Profile of the study programme

What is Social Anthropology?
Social Anthropology can be defined as the science of cultural and social diversity, and in general as the science of man in society. Initially focused on exotic and traditional societies, it now also concentrates on Western and contemporary societies. It is not restricted to the analysis of local communities; it also studies the social relationships that urban and rural populations weave locally, nationally and internationally.

To connect the universal and the particular, the local and the global, Social Anthropology adopts a comparative approach. It uses specific qualitative methods, which focus on ethnographical fieldwork and, in particular, involve participant observation and the use of in-depth interviews. Information obtained provides clarification on living conditions and the point of view of the social group studied, and also feeds thinking on the particularity and the diversity of cultures and, at the same time, emphasises the unity of mankind.

Anthropology provides tools with which it is possible to understand the transformations that take place in modern society. Its subjects of study include new forms of organisation, co-operation and conflict, migration phenomena, relationship with the environment, urban life, different forms of social and political involvement, body practices and representations, health systems, new religious movements, tourism, co-operation in development, rituals and the use of new technologies.

Today, the discipline explores synergies between fundamental research and professional practices.

Fribourg profile
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Learning outcomes and career openings
Training in Social Anthropology may be put to use in a wide variety of professional activities. Skills acquired during the course are useful for university research and can also be put to use in many other contexts: to co-ordinate a social or educational project; to contribute to assessing a political or organisational action; to steer or co-ordinate a group, an association, etc. Consequently, the professional sectors are multiple and varied: associations, social intervention, companies, human resources, consultancy, inter-cultural mediation, NGOs, cantonal and federal associations in Switzerland, Confederation services, diplomatic services, journalism and education.

Organisation des études
Structure of studies

120 ECTS credits + 60 ECTS credits in a minor study programme freely chosen, 6 semesters

Curriculum

http://studies.unifr.ch/go/NXJf7 (French)
http://studies.unifr.ch/go/jHFob (German)

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 Arts and Humanities
Social Anthropology
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http://studies.unifr.ch/go/fr-socialanthropology (French)
http://studies.unifr.ch/go/de-socialanthropology (German)