Christianity and Religious Studies

Degree conferred
Master of Arts in the Study of Religions

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

Two options available:
- As a single major (120 ECTS credits)
- As a major (90 ECTS credits) with a freely chosen minor (30 ECTS credits)

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
Ph.D.

In the studies of religion at the Theological Faculty, 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 multicultural 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 a minor, 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 modern times, 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 pluralist 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 several points of view: historical, philosophical, sociological, ethnological, social science, psychological, statistical, etc. The Theological Faculty takes this diversity of methods into consideration, but at the same time, due to 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 Master is offered as a full major study programme. Together with a freely chosen minor, 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
120 ECTS credits, 4 semesters
or
90 ECTS credits + 30 ECTS credits in a minor study programme freely chosen, 4 Semester

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

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 (30 ECTS credits).

Contact

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