The study of geography provides students with a deeper understanding of processes in nature and society and their increasingly complex interrelationships. Geography is a discipline of great social relevance. For this reason, students are required to address current issues concerning the environment, such as climate change, urbanisation or scarcity of resources.

Students acquire knowledge in the three main branches of geography: human geography, physical geography and geographical information systems. In addition to this they have to write their own research paper.

The geography course at the University of Fribourg pays particular attention to the relevance and concrete applications of the knowledge students have acquired. The study programme provides them with scientifically-grounded, practice-oriented qualifications which open the door to appropriate career opportunities.

Learning outcomes and career openings

The aim of the Bachelor's course is to give students a scientifically-grounded, practice-oriented qualification which is relevant to their future professional career and opens up suitable employment opportunities. Special emphasis is placed on the relevance and application of the skills they have acquired. In the two subject areas human and physical geography, students acquire a comprehensive fundamental knowledge and understanding of the relationships between nature and society and their influence on the various spheres. Applying the scientific methods they have learned, such as geographical information systems, graduates are also capable of analysing spatial problems on various levels of scale and assessing, interpreting and evaluating the significance of various aspects from different perspectives in order to deduce possible solutions. By preparing a research paper, students learn, with close supervisory assistance, how to examine scientific and socially relevant questions independently.

By building consistently on the contents of these common study foundations, students acquire a broad range of basic geographical knowledge in physical geography, human geography and geographical information systems. At the end of their studies they are optimally qualified to work in diverse areas of business, administration or science. Geographers generally find employment in their preferred field of activity without any delay.

Organisation des études

Structure of studies

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

Curriculum

http://www.unifr.ch/science/plans/plans_e.php

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 can be found at:
http://studies.unifr.ch/en/bachelor/sci/geography
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

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