Islam and Society

Degree conferred
Ph.D.

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
Possibility to study for a Master’s degree or for a PhD.

Profile of the study programme
The programme teaches skills related to the complex interactions between Islam and society. Through the examination of Islam, different fundamental issues relating to the self-understanding of European societies are broached from a new angle. On the one hand, based on social science or socio-philosophical theories and social practice, the course looks at the situation of Muslims in Europe. In relation with legal, political and social conditions, Islam is undergoing key transformation processes. On the other hand, it deals with the issue of how Islamic thought develops based on its multiple traditions of knowledge in the European context and how it is positioned in ethical, philosophical and social discourses. How was and how is the heritage of Islamic traditions of knowledge, matters of the religious self-understanding of Muslims are raised and solutions to meet social challenges are proposed and established. The programme is offered by the Swiss Centre for Islam and Society (SZIG) at the University of Fribourg.

Learning outcomes and career openings
The programme is for students seeking an in-depth qualification with practical content in relation to Islam and society. In many of today’s professional fields, skills connected to cultural and religious diversity are required. Therefore, the subject of Islam plays an important role for teachers, in health and social occupations, as well as for jobs in public administrations, culture, economy, finance and civic organisations. It is thus possible to combine the study programme with all major programmes. Graduates acquire skills which they can bring to different areas of activity. They can use their Islamic-legitimated practices in a wide range of traditions. They are able to critically analyse interfaces between Islam, politics, law and ethics and make comparisons between different country contexts. Lastly, they can assess to what extent Muslim organisations can be involved in civic areas of activity. In this way, and combined with knowledge from other study programmes, they can function as mediators in complex and controversial situations.

Studies organisation
Structure of studies
30 ECTS credits as a minor study programme

Curriculum
http://studies.unifr.ch/go/Kj19j (French)
http://studies.unifr.ch/go/mS38b (German)

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 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. 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.

Contact
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More than practically any other subject, Islam is a key conflict issue in European societies. In national and international politics, education and social services, there is a struggle to achieve constructive interaction between Islam and society. The «Islam and Society» programme, which is unique in Switzerland, teaches skills for a differentiated approach to complex debates, in which central matters of the religious self-understanding of Muslims are raised and solutions to meet social challenges are proposed and established. The programme is offered by the Swiss Centre for Islam and Society (SZIG) at the University of Fribourg.