Theological Studies

Degree conferred
Philosophiae doctor in studiis theologicis / Doctor of Philosophy in theological studies (PhD)

Commencement of studies
An application for admission may be submitted at any time.

Regulation
http://studies.unifr.ch/go/nVIBN (French and German only)

Application procedure
Candidates with Swiss qualifications
http://studies.unifr.ch/go/QHF-I
Candidates with foreign qualifications
http://studies.unifr.ch/go/CRu5v

Fribourg profile
The Faculty of Theology in Fribourg is the largest faculty theology in Switzerland and one of two Catholic theology faculties integrated into a state university. It is subject to national law, like the other University faculties, but in addition is acknowledged by the Church and is supported by the Dominican Order and the Swiss Bishops Conference.

Theology differs from other scientific fields insofar as it has its own unique outlook: it deals primarily with God and humans, to the extent they refer to God as their origin and purpose. It reflects its own position as well as that of every Church in the community. Theologians share the responsibility for the planet’s sustainable development with a human face. In light of the deregulation of religion and ethics (fundamentalist and esoteric movements) and the search for a peaceful world where different religions and cultures can coexist, theology plays a critical role in engaging a discourse on the question of truth and values.

From this perspective, the Faculty of Theology serves the Church as a community, as well as its individual members, and also serves society as a whole. The issues explored through the study of theology using a variety of scientific research methods play a critically constructive role.

The doctorate in theological studies focusses on students who have completed their studies in theology as a main programme (with a minor).

Professors who are eligible to supervise theses

- Prof. François-Xavier Amherdt
  Areas of specialisation:
  - Pastoral issues

- Prof. Daniel Bogner
  Areas of specialisation:
  - General moral theology and ethics

- Prof. Thierry Collaud
  Areas of specialisation:
  - Special moral theology and Christian social ethics

- Prof. Benoît-Dominique de La Soujeole
  Areas of specialisation:
  - Dogmatic theology

- Prof. Mariano Delgado
  Areas of specialisation:
  - History of the Church
  - Church and society in Latin America
  - Church and society in Europe in general, with a focus on Germany, Austria, Switzerland and Spain
  - Dialogue between religions
  - Religion and violence
  - Religion and migration
  - Multiculturalism
  - Christianity/Church and politics

- Prof. Luc Devillers
  Areas of specialisation:
  - Origins of Christianity
  - Canonical gospels

- Prof. Gilles Emery
  Areas of specialisation:
  - The question of God
  - The Trinity
  - Christ
  - Creation
  - The Christian vision of mankind
  - Life after death

- PD Dr. Gregor Emmenegger
  Areas of specialisation:
  - Patristics and the history of the Church

- Prof. Patrick Goldman
  Areas of specialisation:
  - Biblical studies

- Prof. Barbara Hallensleben
Areas of specialisation:
- Ecumenical questions
- Churches in the East
- Theology and spirituality of Churches in the East
- Questions on faith and the teachings of the Catholic Church
- Questions concerning the promotion of research

- **Prof. Paul-Bernard Hodel**

Areas of specialisation:
- History of the Church in the Middle Ages, modern and contemporary times

- **PD Dr. Philippe Hugo**

Areas of specialisation:
- Hebrew Bible
- Greek Septuagint Bible

- **Prof. Astrid Kaptijn**

Areas of specialisation:
- Canon law

- **Prof. Martin Klöckener**

Areas of specialisation:
- Liturgy
- Worship
- Celebration of the Sacraments
- Liturgical periods and celebrations, Church year
- Rites
- Prayer
- Piety
- Popular piety
- Liturgical space, construction and furnishing of churches

- **Prof. Philippe Lefebvre**

Areas of specialisation:
- Bible
- Relationship between the Bible (Christianity) and culture, the Bible and literature, cinema

- **Prof. Salvatore Loiero**

Areas of specialisation:
- Pastoral theology

- **Prof. Franz Mali**

Areas of specialisation:
- Early Christianity
- History of Christianity in the East, particularly in the Middle East

- **Prof. Joachim Negel**

Areas of specialisation:
- Fundamental theology

- **Prof. François-Xavier Putallaz**

Areas of specialisation:
- Ethical, bioethical and societal issues

- **PD Dr. Hansjörg Schmid**

Areas of specialisation:
- Islam and society, interreligious ethics

- **PD Dr. Bernard Schumacher**

Areas of specialisation:
- Ethical, bioethical and societal issues

- **Prof. Thomas Schumacher**

Areas of specialisation:
- Exegesis of the New Testament

- **Prof. Michael Sherwin**

Areas of specialisation:
- Spirituality
- Moral development
- Virtue ethics
- The theology of charity
- Philosophy and psychology of love

- **Prof. Hans-Ulrich Steymans**

Areas of specialisation:
- Exegesis of the Old Testament

- **Prof. Helmut Zander**

Areas of specialisation:
- Comparative history of religions and interreligious dialogue

- **Prof. Markus Zimmermann**

Areas of specialisation:
- Foundation of Christian social ethics
- Theological bioethics
- Equal distribution of health
- Decisions at the end of life
- Ethics of palliative care
- Work and social security
- Migration and integration

**Studies organisation**

**Structure of studies**

No ECTS credits can be earned.

**Doctoral school**

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**Admission**

In order to be admitted to a doctorate the candidate must have been awarded an academic Bachelor's and Master's degree or an equivalent qualification by a university recognised by the University of Fribourg.
Before applying for a doctorate the candidate should contact a **professor** who would be willing to supervise the thesis work.

There is **no general right** to be admitted to a doctorate.

*The respective conditions of admission for each doctoral study programme are reserved.*

**Contact**

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Theological Studies  
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[http://www.unifr.ch/theo](http://www.unifr.ch/theo)

**Doc- Postdoc-portal**

[http://www.unifr.ch/phd](http://www.unifr.ch/phd)