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-1
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 Sacrements
– 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

Organisation des études
Structure of studies
No ECTS credits can be earned.

Doctoral school

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

**Portail doc/postdoc**

http://www.unifr.ch/phd