Social anthropology analyses social and cultural phenomena in today's world in order to understand and explain them in all their diversity and complexity. This discipline examines socio-cultural practices, beliefs and institutions, which are intertwined in different ways at the local, national, regional and global levels. Concerning the methodology, social anthropology is characterised by long-term ethnographical research. This kind of research typically involves acquiring the local language, observing and participating in the daily life of the group being studied.

Profile of the study programme

What is social anthropology?
Social anthropology explores human action as a whole, including its political, legal, moral, religious, economic, social and material dimensions. In doing so, it offers tools for understanding changes in contemporary society. The topics studied include new forms of organisation, cooperation and conflict, ethnicity and nationalism, different legal systems, migration phenomena, human interaction with the environment, urban life, different forms of social and political mobilisation, new religious movements, tourism, rituals and the use of new technologies.

One of its main features is its specific qualitative methods, involving fieldwork and in particular participant observation and in-depth interviews. The information thus obtained sheds light on the living conditions and perspectives of the social group studied. Moreover it also provides food for thought concerning the particularities and diversity of different cultures while at the same time emphasising human commonalities.

Fribourg profile
By analysing local communities and studying social relationships, the Bachelor programme in Social Anthropology at the University of Fribourg allows students to understand changes in society, whether western or non-western, near or far. At the University of Fribourg, the courses cover the history, theories and major concepts of anthropology. Current issues of anthropological debates are addressed in a variety of geographical and cultural contexts. Activities such as conferences, excursions, visits to museums and summer schools are organised regularly.

Moreover, students have the advantage, rarely offered elsewhere, of multiple perspectives that combine research traditions from the German, French, Italian and English-speaking worlds. The curriculum can be followed in German, French, or bilingually. Staff members teach political, legal, economic and environmental anthropology, based on their research in Europe, Africa and Asia.

The Bachelor programme in Social Anthropology at the University of Fribourg offers students a basis in the discipline as well as deeper insights into specific areas which will help them understand contemporary social and cultural issues. It also provides multidisciplinary training in the social sciences, which enables students to pursue a Master's degree or seek a professional career.

Learning outcomes and career openings
Training in Social Anthropology may be put forth in a wide variety of professional activities. It offers tools that can be applied in various work contexts: to co-ordinate a social or educational project; to contribute to assessing a political or organisational action; to steer or co-ordinate a group, an association, etc. Consequently, the professional sectors are multiple and varied: associations, social intervention, companies, human resources, consultancy, inter-cultural mediation, NGOs, cantonal and federal associations in Switzerland, Confederation services, diplomatic services, journalism and education. The skills acquired during these studies are also relevant to research activities, scientific expertise or an academic career.

Organisation des études
Structure of studies
120 ECTS credits + 60 ECTS credits in a minor study programme freely chosen, 6 semesters

Curriculum
http://studies.unifr.ch/go/NXJf7 (French)
http://studies.unifr.ch/go/jHFob (German)

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 is to be found on the webpages of swissuniversities (in French and German only):

https://www.swissuniversities.ch/en/services/admission-to-universities/schweizerische-ausweise/

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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Social Anthropology
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