This interdisciplinary Master programme is unique in Switzerland. It offers original and innovative training that combines the disciplines of sociology, social anthropology and religious studies. It aims to study developments in diverse and globalised societies resulting from socio-economic changes, the transformation of nation-states and population mobility. Students acquire the knowledge and skills to explain changes in the political, legal and religious spheres and to understand recent developments in social relations. The programme offers three options. Students select one option upon registering for the course:

1. Social and Cultural Dynamics: this option focuses on understanding the complexities of contemporary societies, particularly in Europe and Switzerland. Using ethnographic methods, students study the rules and challenges of "living together" and diversity in all its dimensions (social, cultural, economic, political, etc.), equipping them with the skills to manage these issues in their future careers.

2. Political and Normative (Dis)order: in this option students address a wide range of contemporary issues focused on politics, norms and law. The sessions identify the multiplicity of power dynamics at work, which have repercussions for individuals and collective entities alike. Drawing from different case studies, the analyses take into account different types of issues (political, economic, social, etc.) to which conflicts and negotiations refer. Combining empirical studies and theoretical reflections, this option also tackles a critical analysis of anthropological knowledge and the anthropologist's position in the processes of observation and analysis.

3. Religion and Society: this option is largely inspired by social anthropology. Students consider a wide range of contemporary issues dealing with politics, norms and law. The sessions focus on the interactions and communication within political, legal and health institutions, and to evaluate changes in the labor sector. Interactive sessions and qualitative empirical research techniques conducted within institutions and with the populations under study train students in the use of individual interviews, focus groups and life stories, institutional document analysis and audio-visual techniques.

This Master programme is cross-cutting: it combines methods of sociology, social anthropology and religious studies in an innovative way, making it a unique course of study in Switzerland. Composed of interdisciplinary modules and one option (to be selected), it provides the analytical and methodological tools which are key to understanding developments in diverse and globalised societies.

**Languages of study**
Study in two languages, 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**
Ph.D.
study programme description

Master

methods and theories from social sciences such as sociology, anthropology and history, the option promotes understanding and analysis of religion at the level of individuals, groups, organisations, institutions as well as societies as a whole. Issues relating to religious diversity, pluralism and social integration are central to this option, with a focus on globalisation-linked trends. It takes an interdisciplinary, cross-cutting approach to examining intersection of religion and questions involving youth, the media, gender issues, transnationalisation, economics, politics, identity, recognition, health, education and the role of religion in the public sphere, in the West and elsewhere. Teaching units address theoretical and empirical approaches, with an emphasis on group discussions and individualised seminar papers.

Career prospects
Given its interdisciplinary focus, this Master’s programme provides access to a variety of professional contexts, and the knowledge and skills acquired meet the needs of today's labour market. Graduates have a command of the organisational, relational, cultural, identity and communication issues that arise within different types of groups and institutions:

- Non-governmental organisations and charities;
- Social and cultural institutions (prevention, project management, promotion, museums);
- Associations, interest groups, political parties;
- Private companies (human resources, communication, training);
- Public, cantonal and federal administrations (scientific collaborations, evaluation);
- Journalism and the media;
- Public relations, diplomatic services;
- Training;
- Research and scientific expertise, academic careers.

Studies organisation

Structure of studies
90 ECTS credits + 30 ECTS credits as an option in a minor study programme freely chosen or in a specialisation programme, 3-4 semesters

Curriculum
http://studies.unifr.ch/go/cXSaG (French)
http://studies.unifr.ch/go/Uk25K (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 or 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, can be admitted to a Master's degree programme within another discipline with prerequisites (must be successfully completed before starting the Master's degree programme) or additional requirements (can be completed during the Master's degree programme). 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.

The respective conditions of admission for each Master's degree programme are reserved.

Alternatives
Also offered as a minor study programme and as a specialisation programme (30 ECTS credits).

Contact

Faculty of Humanities
Culture, Politics and Religion in Pluralist Societies

Social and Cultural Dynamics option
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Political and Normative (Dis)order option
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Religion and Society option
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http://studies.unifr.ch/go/fr-social-sciences (French)
http://studies.unifr.ch/go/de-social-sciences (German)