Education / Psychology

Degree conferred
Bachelor of Science

Options
For information on the optional award of the distinction «Bilingual curriculum» (French – German), please contact the relevant Department (see Contact).

Languages of study
Possibility to study in French, in German or in French and German.

Commencement of studies
Commencement of studies only in the Autumn Semester (September)

Access to further studies
Master

The unusual feature of this bachelor’s degree programme is that it is made up of equal parts of the psychology and educational sciences programmes. It is aimed first and foremost at students wishing to teach the elective «Education/Psychology» in academic upper secondary schools. In psychology, you will first of all study the aspects of cognition and emotion, with an introduction to clinical diagnostic and treatment methods, as well as research methods and tools. In education, you will study issues of learning, performance and pupils’ behaviour, as well as education in the family.

This course is geared towards teaching and the emphasis is placed first and foremost on the historical and theoretical aspects of these two disciplines. You are advised to choose another subject in addition to this.

Profile of the study programme
This programme is designed first and foremost to teach students the basic skills in both disciplines (education and psychology) so that they will be able to teach the key ideas and concepts to academic upper secondary school pupils who have opted for the elective «Education/Psychology». With this objective in mind, it is best studied in addition to another subject, such as philosophy, languages, history, geography, sport, or another scientific discipline. However, you can choose this subject in addition to another social science, for example special education, sociology, social work or anthropology, in order to acquire a balanced mix of as many disciplines of this type as possible, or to be able to choose one of them as a priority at the master’s degree level.

Half of this programme is made up of elements from the psychology programme and the other half of topics from the educational sciences programme. The psychology topics cover the aspects of cognition and emotion, with an introduction to clinical diagnostic and treatment methods, as well as research methods and tools. In education, the emphasis is on issues of learning, performance and pupils’ behaviour in the classroom, as well as on education in the family in an increasingly multicultural society. Understandably, owing to its structure this programme cannot be combined either with a minor in psychology or with the educational sciences programme.

Fribourg profile
Geared first and foremost to the teaching of these two disciplines to academic upper secondary school pupils, the education/psychology course places less emphasis on methodology and practice than psychology or educational sciences studies proper, but rather on the historical and theoretical aspects of these two disciplines. At Fribourg University, students can take the education/psychology course in French or in German. They can also take it in both languages; in that case they will learn about educational approaches and thinkers in these two major cultures and gain a command of the specialised vocabulary in both languages simultaneously. This option is not only personally enriching; it also allows students to apply for jobs in schools throughout Switzerland, including in the bilingual cantons.

Learning outcomes and career openings
Students choosing this discipline will be aspiring first and foremost to a subsequent teaching career in academic upper secondary schools («écoles de maturité/Maturitätsschulen») or vocational secondary schools («écoles de culture générale/Fachmittelschulen»). However, since only a few hours are allocated to it in schools, students are advised to choose an additional subject with many more hours allocated to it if they are thinking of teaching full-time.

While choosing this programme at the bachelor level gives students access to the Master in Educational Sciences, it does not give them direct access to a Master in Psychology as there are too many aspects which need to be caught up.

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/HhKeX (French)
http://studies.unifr.ch/go/zmTkP (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 ECTS credits).

Contact

Faculty of Humanities
Education/Psychology
Xavier Conus (French)
xavier.conus@unifr.ch
http://studies.unifr.ch/go/fr-educationalsciences
Dr. Alex Knoll (German)
alex.knoll@unifr.ch
http://studies.unifr.ch/go/de-educationalsciences