Eastern European Studies

Degree conferred
Bachelor of Arts

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

Languages of study
Study in two languages, in French and German. A number of lectures will be in English.

Commencement of studies
Commencement of studies in the Autumn Semester (September) or in the Spring Semester (February)

Access to further studies
Master

The Bachelor's programme in Eastern European Studies is a multilingual interfaculty, interuniversity programme. The Universities of Fribourg and Berne have combined their diverse Eastern European competences to produce this unique offer. Students attend classes in Fribourg as well as in Berne. The languages of instruction are German and French. Some lectures are also held in English. The syllabus consists of lectures on contemporary history, cultural studies (Slavic studies and cultural philosophy), political science and social anthropology. The focus is on the 20th century and on current issues. Students learn at least one language from the region during their studies (Russian, Polish, Czech, Croatian/Serbian/Bosnian, Slovenian or Bulgarian). Modularisation, intensive support and interdisciplinarity are key features of the programme.

Almost half (about 340 million) of the over 700 million Europeans live in Eastern Europe. The region is known for its diversity of languages, cultures, ethnicities and religions. It has grown steadily in political and economic importance in recent years. Students acquire the necessary linguistic, specialist and methodical competences to look at Eastern Europe in all its facets, analyse the current developments in the region, and place them in their political, social, historical and cultural context.

Fribourg profile
The programme of studies provides students with a knowledge of:

- Political, historical, social, literary and cultural issues of Eastern European countries and regions in the 20th and 21st centuries;
- The theories and history of Eastern European studies;
- Relevant methods of Eastern European research.

Teaching is mainly in German or French. Some lectures are also held in English. There is mutual recognition of the lectures and seminars in the Eastern Europe Studies programme offered by the Universities of Fribourg and Berne.

Learning outcomes and career openings
This programme provides students with the competences to work on academic questions independently: they have access to current research discussions in the multidisciplinary field of Eastern European studies. Graduates of this interdisciplinary programme acquire an all-round knowledge and understanding of Eastern Europe, are familiar with the problems of the region, and are capable of analysing them. The programme qualifies graduates for employment in areas such as the diplomatic service, international organisations, journalism, non-governmental organisations, and commercial enterprises operating in Eastern Europe, etc.

Profile of the study programme
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• 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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Eastern European Studies
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