Economic and Social Sciences

Degree conferred
Rerum Politicarum Doctor

Commencement of studies
An application for admission may be submitted at any time.

Regulation
http://studies.unifr.ch/go/C0ZPa (French and German only)

Application procedure
Candidates with Swiss qualifications
http://studies.unifr.ch/go/QHF-l
Candidates with foreign qualifications
http://studies.unifr.ch/go/CRu5v

Fribourg profile

At the Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences, candidates can participate in a doctoral programme in the different subfields of the economic sciences – management, economics or information systems.

The Department of Management offers doctoral studies in all business management disciplines (e.g. financial management, accounting, personnel management, marketing, corporate level strategy, technology management, international management). These are organised according to the research fields of the departmental professors. You can find a list of the research fields here: http://www.unifr.ch/bwl/en/research. During their doctoral studies, candidates usually write research articles, give presentations at academic conferences in Switzerland and abroad, publish articles and participate in various courses (e.g. doctoral seminars, method courses).

The Department of Economics offers doctoral studies in all fields of economics (e.g. microeconomics, macroeconomics, econometrics). Ph.D. students regularly participate in doctoral programmes offered by the Study Center Gerzensee:
– Swiss Program for beginning doctoral students in economics, Gerzensee (see DOCTORAL SCHOOL)
– Advanced Courses in Economics for Doctoral Students, Gerzensee (see DOCTORAL SCHOOL)
Moreover, Ph.D. students regularly participate and present in the departmental seminar series:
– Departmental Research Seminar
– Departmental Ph.D. Seminar

The Department of Informatics of the University of Fribourg offers doctorates in the fields of information management and computer science. Information management should be understood in the broadest sense of the term as comprising both information systems and decision-support systems.

During their studies, Ph.D. students can participate in doctoral schools (such as the CUSO doctoral programmes in computer science or statistics and applied probability), or in specialist seminars in operational research. Consequently, doctoral theses may cover themes such as the Internet of Things/Web of Things, or decision support systems for managers through the application of operational research, fuzzy logic or applied statistics models.

Please consult this link for further details about the activities of the departments and chairs:
http://studies.unifr.ch/go/g5tPd

Professors eligible to supervise a doctoral thesis

Department of Economics

• Prof. Christelle Dumas
  Research fields:
  – Development microeconomics
  – Applied econometrics
  – Empirical health, labour, education economics and demographics

  Additional courses:
  Other courses (health economics, econometrics) provided as workshop or block lectures, at University of Fribourg or in Switzerland.

  Supervision of theses in French and English.

• Prof. Reiner Eichenberger
  Research fields:
  – Public Economics
  – Political Economics
  – Public Choice
  – Economic Policy
  – Behavioural Economics

  Supervision of theses in German and English.

• Prof. Volker Grossmann
  Research fields:
  – The Macroeconomics of Housing
  – Distribution of Income and Wealth
  – Human Capital Formation
  – International Migration
  – Health Economics
  – Economics of Ageing
  – Bequest Taxation

  Supervision of theses in German and English.

• Prof. Philippe Gugler
  Research fields:
  – Competition Policy
  – Competitiveness issues (economic policy, clusters, quality of the
business environment; competitiveness of regions and cities)
– Multinational enterprises (MNEs)/international business
(competitiveness of locations to attract FDI)
– Role of home country competitive advantages in the
competitiveness of MNEs
– Public policies regarding competitiveness

Supervision of theses in French and English.

• Prof. Holger Herz
Research fields:
– Industrial Organisation
– Organisational Economics
– Behavioural Economics
– Experimental Economics
– Innovation and Entrepreneurship

Additional courses:
Doctoral Program in Behavioral Economics and Experimental
Research, CUSO (see DOCTORAL SCHOOL).

Supervision of theses in German and English.

• Prof. Martin Huber
Research fields:
– Empirical labour, health, and education economics
– Microeconometric methods for causal inference
– Policy/treatment evaluation

Additional courses:
Ph.D. Program in Public Health of the Swiss School of Public
Health (see DOCTORAL SCHOOL); Ph.D. courses offered by the
Global School in Empirical Research Methods (see DOCTORAL
SCHOOL).

Supervision of theses in German and English.

• Prof. Thierry Madiès
Research fields:
– Policy Public economics
– Public finance
– Political Economics
– New economic geography
– International taxation
– Economics of secessions
– Experimental economics
– Applied game theory
– Economics of innovation

Supervision of theses in French and English.

• Prof. Sergio Rossi
Research fields:
– Monetary Theory and Policy
– Inflation
– Financial Stability and Crises
– Bank Regulations
– Payment and Settlement Systems
– Exchange Rate Regimes and Global Imbalances
– European Monetary Integration
– History of Monetary Thought

Supervision of theses in English, German, French and Italian.

• Prof. Mark Schelker
Research fields:
– Public Economics
– Public Finance
– Political Economics
– Law and Economics
– New Institutional Economics
– Applied Econometrics

Additional courses:
Other courses (public economics, econometrics) taught as
workshops or block lectures at universities in Switzerland or abroad.

Supervision of theses in French, German and English.

Department of Management

• Prof. Silke Bambauer-Sachse
Research fields:
– Price management
– Online marketing
– Complaint management

Supervision of theses in German, French and English.

• Prof. Michael Burkert
Research fields:
– Strategy implementation with management control systems
– Corporate governance
– Incentive systems
– Cost accounting and cost accounting systems

Additional courses:
Swiss Doctoral Program Network in Accounting Research (see
DOCTORAL SCHOOL) and other courses (econometrics,
experimental research in accounting) taught as workshops or block
lectures at universities in Switzerland or abroad.

Supervision of theses in German and English.

• Prof. Eric Davoine
Research fields:
– International and cross-national comparative HRM
– Globalisation processes and HRM
– International mobility
– Managerial cognition
– French-German Intercultural Management
– Evaluation of HR processes
– Top management careers
– Gender and career

Projects:
– Swissness and HRM in the watch making industry
– Context effects and HRM in MNC subsidiaries
Doctorat

Descriptif de programme d'études

– HRM in MNC subsidiaries in Switzerland, Ukraine and Lebanon
– Career anchors within global MNCs: generation and gender effects
– Globalisation of Swiss top management profiles
– Integration of highly skilled migrants in Swiss companies
– Competencies gained through international student mobility
– Impacts of new communication technologies on managerial practices
– Gender issues in international dual careers

Additional courses:
PhD Seminar of Department of Management; PhD seminar of RHO Chair with guest researchers; LIVES NCCR PhD seminar; Ad-hoc method seminars from Swiss universities.

Supervision of theses in French and English.

• Prof. Paul H. Dembinski

Research fields:
– Non-market environment of business
– Very Large Enterprises in the World Economy
– Global Value Chains – Structure & Meaning from macro & enterprise perspective
– The economic fabric of Switzerland
– Ethics in Business and Finance
– Epistemology of Economics, management and Finance
– Comparative Economic Systems
– Finance and Real Economy Nexus
– Entrepreneurship in theory and practice

Supervision of theses in French, English, German, Spanish and Polish.

• Prof. Olivier Furrer

Research fields:
– Marketing services
– Strategic marketing
– Intercultural marketing
– Corporate-level strategy

Supervision of theses in French and English.

• Prof. Markus Gmürr

Research fields:
– NPO Management
– Social Entrepreneurship
– Third Sector Studies

Projects:
– Member Value Optimisation in Associations and Co-operatives
– Typologies of Social Entrepreneurship in international comparison
– Entrepreneurial Not-for-profit Management
– Third sector labour markets and career patterns of npo executives
– Corporate philanthropy and intersectoral cooperation
– Professionalisation in fundraising

Supervision of theses in German and English.

• Prof. Rudolf Grünig

Research fields:
– Corporate-level strategy
– Strategy planning process
– Internationalisation strategies

Supervision of theses in German, French and English.

• Prof. Dušan Isakov

Research fields:
– Finance
– Business finance
– Business governance
– Financial markets
– Dividend policy
– Financial decisions and performance of family businesses
– Executive remuneration

Additional courses:
Block courses given in Swiss universities or abroad as well as some courses offered by the Swiss Finance Institute.

Supervision of theses in French and English.

• Prof. Franck Missonier Piera

Research fields:
– Governance role of accounting information
– Valuation role of accounting data
– Determinants & consequences of analysts’ forecast errors
– Role and consequences of IPSAS (International Public Sector Accounting Standards)
– Environmental disclosure

Supervision of theses in French and English.

• Prof. Dirk Morschett

Research fields:
– Headquarters-subsidiary relationships
– Coordination of foreign subsidiaries
– Market selection
– Market entry strategies
– Internationalisation of services and services companies
– Internationalisation of retail companies

Projects:
– Consumer ethnocentrism towards foreign retailers
– Internationalisation of online retailers
– Divestment: Leaving foreign markets

Supervision of theses in German and English.

• Prof. Stephanie Teufel

Supervision of theses in German and English.

• Prof. Martin Wallmeier

Research fields:
– Asset Management
– Derivatives and Structured Financial Products
– Asset Pricing

http://studies.unifr.ch/endoctoral/eco/management,doctorat/eco/economics,doctorat/eco/infoysystems,doctorat/eco/accountingfinance,doctorat/eco/europeanbusiness
– Firm Valuation
– Information Implied in Option Prices
– Behavioral Finance

Additional courses:
Ph.D. courses offered by the VHB (Verband der Hochschullehrer für Betriebswirtschaft), Swiss Finance Institute, Swiss Doctoral Program Network in Accounting Research.

Supervision of theses in German and English.

**Department of Informatics** (interfaculty)

- **Prof. Laurent Donzé**
  
  Areas of specialisation:
  – Imputation of missing data in complex enquiries
  – Evaluating economic policy programmes
  – Problems related to evaluation of wage gaps

  Subjects of specific interest:
  – Hedonic methods, notably for constructing price indices
  – Fuzzy statistics methods, notably the influence of fuzzy methods on the statistical properties of data

  Supervision of theses in French, German and English.

- **Prof. Bernard Ries**
  
  Areas of specialisation:
  – Combinatorial optimisation
  – Structural and Algorithmic Graph Theory
  – Decision Support
  – Complexity Theory

  Subjects of specific interest:
  – Modeling and solving real world problems using graph theory and combinatorial optimisation
  – Analysing the computational complexity of graph theoretical problems
  – Analysing the structure of graphs in order to provide efficient algorithms

  Supervision of theses in French, German and English.

- **Prof. Andreas Meier**
  
  Areas of specialisation:
  – Applying Fuzzy Logic for Managerial Decision Making

- **Prof. Jacques Pasquier Rocha**
  
  Areas of specialisation:
  – Applying and improving software engineering techniques to build modular and extensible software architectures for challenging application domains
  – Frameworks for integrating and coordinating heterogeneous software components (legacy applications, micro-services, objects populating the Internet of Things, RESTful web services, etc.) and humans in complex distributed systems

  Supervision of theses in French and English.

- **Prof. Marino Widmer**
  
  Areas of specialisation:
  – Quantitative models and methods of operational research with their applications in manufacturing and logistics
  – Combinatorial optimisation, in particular scheduling theory
  – Heuristic and metaheuristic methods
  – Simulation methods
  – Decision support systems

  Subjects of specific interest:
  – Operational Research: General Applications for Small and Medium Enterprises
  – Supply chain and distribution management
  – Production planning and control in industry and services
  – Design and control of systems in manufacturing and logistics

  Supervision of theses in French and English.

**Organisation des études**

**Structure de l'étude**

30 ECTS credits can be earned.

**Doctoral school**

[http://www.szgerzenssee.ch/courses/doctoral/swiss-program](http://www.szgerzenssee.ch/courses/doctoral/swiss-program)
[http://www.szgerzenssee.ch/courses/doctoral/advanced-courses](http://www.szgerzenssee.ch/courses/doctoral/advanced-courses)
[http://www.sshphplus-phd.ch](http://www.sshphplus-phd.ch)
[http://www.gserm.ch](http://www.gserm.ch)
[https://behavioural-research.cuso.ch](https://behavioural-research.cuso.ch)
[https://statistique.cuso.ch](https://statistique.cuso.ch)

**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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Dean’s Office
Alvaro Baragiola
alvaro.baragiola@unifr.ch
[http://studies.unifr.ch/go/en-economicsocialsciences](http://studies.unifr.ch/go/en-economicsocialsciences)

**Portail doc/postdoc**

[http://www.unifr.ch/phd](http://www.unifr.ch/phd)