

English Language and Literature

Degree conferred

Bachelor of Arts

Languages of study

Study 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 study programme covers all major fields of Anglophone literature from England and the United States, English linguistics, and the historical forms of the English language from Beowulf to the English we use today. Writing skills and an interdisciplinary approach are key aspects of the study programme. Students have an opportunity to learn about medieval women, act in plays, do linguistic fieldwork on contemporary forms of English discourse, study the relations between English literature and other media or its links to technology, discover the rich intellectual world of the English and European Renaissance, and investigate the American Western or meet contemporary American poets. Students in Linguistics may work on English as a world language or as the language of social media. Students in Literature are invited to cross-enroll in classes offered by the Institute of Comparative Literature. Scholars of international acclaim are regularly invited to give talks. There are also exchange partnerships with universities in Nebraska, Mississippi, Arizona, and Southampton.

Profile of the study programme

What are we like?

Did you know that **English** is the largest language department in the multilingual world of the University of Fribourg? Our five professors have pursued international careers taking them to different parts of the world. They are deeply committed to their teaching and research. Doctoral and post-doctoral assistants support the teaching programme while continuing to pursue their own research.

What do we do?

We offer a solid, comprehensive curriculum ranging across all major fields of Anglophone literature in England and the United States, English linguistics, and the historical forms of the English language from Beowulf, through Chaucer and Shakespeare to the English we speak and write today. Interdisciplinary work is key to our identity at Fribourg. Our professors publish their research in peer-reviewed journals and with internationally renowned presses such as Oxford

University Press, Manchester University Press, Elsevier and the University Press of Virginia. They are involved in prestigious international research projects in England, in Germany, in the United States, and in Australia.

In addition, they contribute to and organise regularly national and international conferences as well as to events offered by the Institute of Comparative Literature (*Institut de littérature générale et comparée/Institut für Allgemeine und Vergleichende Literaturwissenschaft*), which was founded by a member of the Department of English.

What can you do here?

Our students come from Switzerland and abroad, and English is our exclusive language of communication in the hallways as well as in the classroom. Studying with us gives you the opportunity to learn about medieval women, act in plays, do linguistic field work in sociolinguistics, study English literature and its relations to other media and/or technology, discover the rich intellectual world of the English and European Renaissance, and investigate the American Western or meet contemporary American poets. You will meet scholars of international acclaim who are regularly invited to give talks at our University. We have exchange partnerships with universities in Nebraska, Mississippi, Arizona, and Southampton, in particular for first- and second-year BA students. Our students have won literary prizes and published their manuscripts. They have enjoyed intensive weeks of theatre-going in London, and performed in Renaissance plays and shot films in Oxford Colleges. Others have won travel awards to academic conferences from Albuquerque to Puerto Rico. Students in Linguistics embark on real-world empirical studies involving online questionnaires and experiments. They may also participate in the workshops organised by the nationally recognised Research Centre on Multilingualism (*Centre scientifique de compétence sur le plurilinguisme/Wissenschaftliches Kompetenzzentrum für Mehrsprachigkeit*). Students in Literature are invited to cross-enroll in classes offered by the Institute of Comparative Literature (*Institut de littérature générale et comparée/Institut für Allgemeine und Vergleichende Literaturwissenschaft*).

How will you learn?

Our study plan makes sure that you experience all the facets of the world of English literature and linguistics, not just a sliver here and there. A good academic programme offers you more than content: it gives you methodology, bibliography, theory, and the tools to think like a professional. We also give close attention to your writing skills. Those who work with literary texts are most effective when they manage to transmit their ideas clearly, distinctly, and persuasively. When you get ready to write your BA thesis, professors will help you along the way with their dedicated supervision of your project.

When pedagogically appropriate, we may offer intensive weekend seminars for some of our classes. In these seminars, students and professors meet in a congenial setting to investigate a subject in detail. And for those who want more, there are opportunities for graduate and doctoral study down the road.

Where will you go from here?

Our bachelor and master programmes are designed to fit together. We want you to get the full benefit of five years of study in Fribourg, with all its diversity, to see you succeed with a master's thesis which

– who knows – might turn out to be publishable. Many of our recent graduates have secured employment in the Swiss school system. When you complete your master's degree, you can choose from among French-speaking or German-speaking teacher education programmes right here in Fribourg. Other graduates work internationally, in journalism, communication, event management, as well as the world of publishing, or in non-profit or governmental organisations.

Studies organisation

Structure of studies

120 ECTS credits + 60 ECTS credits in a minor study programme freely chosen, 6 semesters

Curriculum

<http://studies.unifr.ch/go/TaufR> (French/German)

Admission

The following **Swiss school-leaving certificates** grant **admission to bachelor programmes** at the University of Fribourg:

- Swiss academic Maturity Certificate
- Federal vocational or specialised Baccalaureate + supplementary examination of the Swiss Maturity Commission (passerelle)
- 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 recognised Swiss school-leaving certificates** is to be found on the webpages of swissuniversities (*in French and German only*): <https://studies.unifr.ch/go/fr-admission-swisscertificates>;

<https://studies.unifr.ch/go/de-admission-swisscertificates>

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, among other things, 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
2. Second language
3. Mathematics
4. Natural sciences (biology or chemistry or physics)
5. Humanities and social sciences (geography or history or economics/law)
6. Elective (computer sciences or philosophy or 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://studies.unifr.ch/go/en-admission-countries>. In addition, foreign candidates must present **proof of sufficient language skills in French or German**.

All guidelines are available at (*only in French and German*): <https://studies.unifr.ch/go/adm-guidelines>

The assessment of foreign school-leaving certificates is based on the «Recommendations for the Assessment of Foreign Upper Secondary School-Leaving Certificates» adopted by the Chamber of universities of swissuniversities on 11.11.2021 (<https://studies.unifr.ch/go/swissuniversities21fr>; <https://studies.unifr.ch/go/swissuniversities21de>). 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
Department of English
Marie-Pierre Meyer-Stephens
marie-pierre.meyer-stephens@unifr.ch
<http://studies.unifr.ch/go/en-english>