Speech-language therapy assesses and diagnoses disorders of language, speech, fluency, voice, swallowing, and written language and carries out appropriate therapies, supportive trainings, and counseling sessions with affected children, adolescents, and adults.

The bachelor programme provides education in the scientific and practical competencies necessary to work in educational and clinical settings. The programme is interdisciplinary and provides students with expert knowledge in speech and language pathology as well as basic knowledge in areas such as special education, linguistics, medicine, and psychology. Placements and written assignments round off the programme.

The University of Fribourg is the only university in German-speaking Switzerland to offer a degree course in speech and language therapy. Further distinguishing features include the following:

- The programme is interdisciplinary and provides students with expert knowledge in speech and language pathology as well as basic knowledge in areas such as special education, linguistics, medicine, and psychology.
- Placements and written assignments complement the programme.
- The University of Fribourg is the only university in German-speaking Switzerland to offer a degree course in speech and language therapy.
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- Placements and written assignments round off the programme.

Fribourg profile

The programme of speech and language therapy in Fribourg has a strong national and international reputation, particularly attributable to consistent interlinking of subject-specific and practical training content. The programme provides students with a professional qualification, and they are firmly anchored in the university infrastructure. This facilitates the integration of current theoretical and empirical findings from relevant related sciences into speech and language therapy studies and promotes cooperation between researchers and teaching staff from disciplines such as speech and language pathology, special education, linguistics, and psychology.

In addition to gaining a scientific grounding in the subject, a diverse spectrum of teaching and learning methods further enhance the high quality of the well-designed speech and language therapy curriculum. Classical study elements such as lectures and seminars are complemented by target-specific courses. These are designed to give prospective speech and language therapists effective support and help them improve their reflective and critical thinking, communication, organisational, and specific practical skills (self-awareness courses, placements, case reports, supervision) as well as the ability to take the initiative. A well-established tutorial system assures students of individual care and support on their path to the successful completion of their degree studies.

Learning outcomes and career openings

The academic diploma in speech and language therapy provides graduates with a professional qualification which entitles them to assess and diagnose disorders of communication, language, speech, fluency, voice, swallowing, and written language in children, adolescents, and adults. It further qualifies them to plan, carry out, and evaluate therapeutic, supportive, and counselling interventions for persons with communication impairments.

The university diploma, which is recognised by the Swiss Conference of Cantonal Ministers of Education (EDK), opens up a wide range of career options in the area of educational and clinical speech and language pathology. Apart from genuine speech and language therapy activities in fields such as early education, mainstream school (outpatient centre), special schools, hospitals, rehabilitation clinics, or private practice, speech and language therapists can also be involved in the practical training of students (placement supervision) after acquiring a minimum of two years' professional experience.

The university diploma in speech and language therapy (bachelor) is the formal admission requirement for continued academic study (master) in special education, speech and language therapy/logopaedics, or in the neighbouring disciplines of speech and language therapy, such as linguistics or education (in Switzerland and abroad).

Studies organisation

Structure of studies

- Bachelor of Arts
- Study in German
- Commencement of studies: Autumn Semester (September)
- Access to further studies: This bachelor programme qualifies students for the master programme Special Education – Option: Speech-Language Therapy.

Fribourg profile

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180 ECTS credits, 6 semesters

Curriculum

http://studies.unifr.ch/go/AC34U (German only)

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): http://studies.unifr.ch/go/en-admission-swiss-certificates

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 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: http://studies.unifr.ch/go/en-admission-countrylist

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.

Special admission requirements

Candidates wishing to be admitted to the Bachelor of Arts in Speech and Language Therapy must satisfy both:

a) the admission requirements under Art. 6 of the Regulation on the Recognition of University Degrees in Speech and Language Therapy and University Degrees in Psychomotor Therapy of 3 November 2000;

b) and the following special admission requirements:

1. Certification by a speech pathologist that the candidate's vocal organs, hearing and voice are normal;
2. Certification by a speech therapist that the candidate has normal language ability, articulation and elocution, and vocal suitability;
3. Perfect command of spoken and written German (speech therapy assessment);
4. Confirmation of having completed a three-week career guidance course (78 lessons) in an approved speech therapy service.

Contact

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http://studies.unifr.ch/go/fr-specialeducation (French)
http://studies.unifr.ch/go/de-specialeducation (German)