Psychology

Degree conferred
Master of Science in Psychology

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

Various strands available:
- Cognitive Neuroscience
- Clinical Psychology and Health Psychology
- Developmental and School Psychology
- Work and Organisational Psychology

Languages of study
Possibility to study in French, in German or in French and German. Some courses are offered in English.

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

Access to further studies
This master programme qualifies students also for the doctoral programme Medical Sciences

The master’s in Psychology aims to provide students with a deeper theoretical understanding of a number of domains in Psychology. You will gain knowledge of the principle scientific concepts and methodologies from several domains in Psychology, further understand the application of these concepts and methods in diverse settings (e.g. hospitals, organisations, schools, and research) and gain practical expertise. With this knowledge, on completing the master’s you will therefore be prepared to enter various fields in Psychology: Clinical, Health, Organisational, Educational, Neuropsychology and Human Factors and Ergonomics. The master’s also provides a sound base for beginning a PhD in Psychology, or collaborating in research projects. The teaching provision in the master’s is distinguished by the individual nature of the supervision provided for students. Class sizes remain small, while at the same time registrations for each subject are not restricted. The wide range of external contributors from research and applied domains also enriches the teaching and learning experience of the master’s.

Profile of the study programme

The teaching provision comprises four different strands:

1. The Cognitive Neuroscience strand provides an understanding of the neurocognitive mechanisms that underpin human behaviour. Students will further their knowledge of recent research and acquire a high level of methodological competences to allow them to conduct quality research in cognitive neuroscience. Students will conduct a research project in cognitive neuroscience. Students will also have the option to complete research training in a clinical or industrial environment, or in an area of research linked to psychology. On completing the course, students will be prepared for a number of professional career options, including academic research, health organisations, neuropsychology, neuromarketing and neurodevelopment.

2. The Clinical Psychology and Health Psychology strand addresses the main factors in psychological health and their physiological basis. Students will further their knowledge in key aspects of health, and the relationship between psychological and physical health. The course covers health at all ages in the lifespan and focuses on the role of the family and interpersonal relationships in particular. Students must complete a research project. For the project you will collaborate with one of the groups in Clinical Psychology on one of their current research topics. Students also have the option to complete an internship at the Centre of Psychotherapy and the Centre of Psychological Counselling at the Institute for family research and counseling. This training gives you the opportunity to gain theoretical and practical knowledge which will prepare you for future practice in a hospital, clinic, counselling centre, institute of public and preventative health, or for academic research.

3. The Developmental and School Psychology strand addresses the changes and different stages of development experienced throughout the lifespan. Students will further their knowledge of recent theory and research about development and learning in typical and clinical child groups. Students will complete a research project in developmental or schools psychology. You will also have the option to complete an internship in a school, or clinic, or to participate in a research project in a related area. On completing the programme you will be prepared for a professional career in a number of different environments, such as an institute for children and adolescents, a schools psychological service, an institute for public health, or for academic or applied research.

4. The Work and Organisational Psychology strand covers the central themes of Work and Organisational Psychology, focussing on ergonomics and occupational health. Students will further their theoretical and methodological knowledge regarding diagnostics and intervention at the workplace. Students will complete a research project in the domain of their choice, either in a workplace environment or in the laboratory. You will also have the option to complete an internship to allow you to put into practice the skills and knowledge you have acquired. On completing the programme you will be able to choose a professional career in a variety of domains, such as product development, consultancy, or health promotion.
Structure of studies

90 ECTS credits + 30 ECTS credits in a specialisation programme, 
4 semesters

Curriculum

http://studies.unifr.ch/go/NhZN1 (French) 
http://studies.unifr.ch/go/N7sL2 (German)

Admission

Master's degree programmes are built on the knowledge and 
abilities that were acquired when obtaining a bachelor's degree.

Holders of a bachelor's degree awarded by a Swiss university are 
admitted to a master's degree programme without any 
preconditions if they have earned 60 or 90 ECTS credits – 
depending on the chosen master's degree programme – within the 
corresponding discipline. However, additional requirements can be 
required. The same applies to holders of a bachelor's degree 
awarded by a foreign university, provided that the bachelor's degree 
is recognised and considered equivalent by the University of 
Fribourg.

Holders of a bachelor's degree awarded by a Swiss or a foreign 
university, provided that the bachelor's degree is recognised and 
considered equivalent by the University of Fribourg, who do not fulfil 
this condition can be admitted to a master's degree programme with 
preconditions (which must be successfully completed before 
starting the master's degree programme) and/or additional 
requirements (which can be completed during the master's degree 
programme). The preconditions and/or additional requirements may 
not exceed 60 ECTS credits in total. The same applies to holders of 
a bachelor's degree awarded by a Swiss university of applied 
sciences, according to existing agreements.

The respective conditions of admission for each master's degree 
programme are reserved.

Alternatives

Also offered as a minor study programme and as a specialisation 
programme (30 ECTS credits).

Contact

Faculty of Humanities 
Department of Psychology 
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http://studies.unifr.ch/go/en-psychology