Economic and Social Sciences

Degree conferred
Rerum Politicarum Doctor /
- Doctor of Philosophy in Economics (PhD)
- Doctor of Philosophy in Management (PhD)
- Doctor of Philosophy in Business Informatics (PhD)

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

Regulation
http://studies.unifr.ch/go/lX6Q7 (French and German only)

Application procedure
Candidates with Swiss qualifications
https://studies.unifr.ch/go/Ui3b4
Candidates with foreign qualifications
https://studies.unifr.ch/go/2KPbe

Fribourg profile
At the Faculty of Management, 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 management disciplines (e.g. financial management, accounting, HRM, marketing, corporate strategy, technology management, international management). These are organised according to the research fields of the professors of the Department. 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.

Professors eligible to supervise a doctoral thesis

Department of Economics

• Prof. Berno Büchel
Research fields:
– Industrial Organisation
– Network Science
– Law & Economics
– Applied Microeconomic Theory
– Applied Game Theory
– Digital Economy

Supervision of theses in English and German.

• 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:
– Growth Economics
– Distribution of Income and Wealth
– Human Capital Formation
– International Migration
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

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

  Supervision of theses in French and English.
Course offerings 22/23 | SS23  
Study programme description  
Doctorat

- 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  
- 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.

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  
- Philosophy of the Enterprise  
- Comparative Economic Systems  
- Finance and Real Economy Nexus  
- Entrepreneurship in theory and practice

Supervision of theses in French and English.

- Prof. Emmanuelle Fauchart
Research fields:
- Entrepreneurship  
- Innovation Management  
- Open Innovation  
- Start-ups  
- Small enterprises

Supervision of theses in French and English.

- Prof. Olivier Furrer
Research fields:
- Marketing services  
- Strategic marketing  
- Intercultural marketing

- Corporate-level strategy

Supervision of theses in French and English.

• Prof. Markus Gmür
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
Course offerings 22/23 | SS23

Study programme description

Doctorat

- Coordination of foreign subsidiaries
- Market selection
- Market entry strategies
- Internationalisation of services and services companies
- Internationalisation of retail companies
- Management in Emerging Markets

Supervision of theses in German and English.

- **Prof. Martin Wallmeier**
  
  Research fields:
  - Asset Management
  - Derivatives and Structured Financial Products
  - Asset Pricing
  - 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.

- **Prof. Hans-Georg Fill**
  
  Areas of specialisation:
  - Meta modeling
  - Conceptual modeling
  - Visualisation
  - Process management
  - Development of enterprise information systems

  Subjects of specific interest:
  - Semantic information systems
  - Blockchains and smart contracts
  - Application of virtual and augmented reality in enterprise modeling
  - Deviceless interaction for enterprise information systems

Supervision of theses in German and English.

- **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, RESful 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.

**Studies organisation**

**Structure of studies**

30 ECTS credits can be earned.

**Doctoral school**

- [https://szgerzensee.ch/courses/swiss-program-for-beginning-doctoral-students-in-economics](https://szgerzensee.ch/courses/swiss-program-for-beginning-doctoral-students-in-economics)
- [http://www.sspplus-phd.ch](http://www.sspplus-phd.ch)
- [http://www.gsrrm.ch](http://www.gsrrm.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 from a university recognised by the University of Fribourg.

Before applying for a doctorate the candidate must 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

Faculty of Management, Economics and Social Sciences
Dean's Office
Chantal Achermann
chantal.achermann@unifr.ch
http://studies.unifr.ch/go/en-sesm

**Doc- Postdoc-portal**

http://www.unifr.ch/phd