Study of Religion

Degree conferred
Philosophiae doctor in studiis religiosis / Doctor of Philosophy in the study of Religion (PhD)

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

Regulation
http://studies.unifr.ch/go/nVIBN (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
In the modern age, religion, with its promises and perceived platitudes, is under suspicion of inhibiting endeavours to educate humans and speed up social progress. In the meantime, we live in a «religion friendly» society, characterised by new-found interest in «religious phenomena». So, the new role of religions in a pluralist and multicultural society is everything but clear. They provide potential for conflict and at the same time urge peace. They oppose secularisation and encourage it at the same time, as they are the expression of a confession and therefore promote neutralisation of the public.

The Faculty of Theology in Fribourg is the largest theology Faculty in Switzerland integrated into a state university. It is subject to national law, like the other University Faculties, but in addition is acknowledged by the Church and is supported by the Dominican Order and the Swiss Bishops Conference.

The Faculty of Theology takes into consideration the variety of methods, but at the same time, as a science of faith, approaches religion as a confession and uses scientific resources to analyse and provide critical and constructive support to stimulate interreligious dialogue.

Professors who are eligible to supervise theses

Biblical studies
- Dr Gudrun Nassauer

Areas of specialisation:
- New Testament
  - PD Dr Philippe Hugo
  - Prof. Philippe Lefebvre
  - Prof. Thomas Schumacher

Areas of specialisation:
- Bible
  - Relationship between the Bible (Christianity) and culture, the Bible and literature, cinema

Patristics and Church History
- Prof. Mariano Delgado
  - Adj.Prof. Gregor Emmenegger

Areas of specialisation:
- Church and society in Latin America
- Church and society in Europe in general, with a focus on Germany, Austria, Switzerland and Spain
- Dialogue between religions
- Religion and violence
- Religion and migration
- Multiculturalism
- Christianity/Church and politics

Faith and Religious Studies, Philosophy
- Prof. Gilles Emery

Areas of specialisation:
- The question of God
- The Trinity
- Christ
- Creation
– The Christian vision of mankind
– Life after death

*Prof. Barbara Hallensleben*

Areas of specialisation:
– Ecumenical questions
– Churches in the East
– Theology and spirituality of Churches in the East
– Questions on faith and the teachings of the Catholic Church
– Questions concerning the promotion of research

*Prof. Veronika Hoffmann*

Areas of specialisation:
– Dogmatic theology
– German-language theological currents of the 20th century
– The theological reception of Charles Taylor and Paul Ricoeur
– The doctrine of salvation
– Faith and religious indifference

*Prof. Joachim Negel*

Areas of specialisation:
– Fundamental theology

*Adj.Prof. François-Xavier Putallaz*

Areas of specialisation:
– Ethical, bioethical and societal issues

*Adj.Prof. Bernard Schumacher*

Areas of specialisation:
– Ethical, bioethical and societal issues

*Prof. Helmut Zander*

Areas of specialisation:
– Comparative history of religions and interreligious dialogue

*Prof. Daniel Bogner*

Areas of specialisation:
– General moral theology and ethics

*Prof. Thierry Collaud*

Areas of specialisation:
– Special moral theology and Christian social ethics

*Prof. Hansjörg Schmid*

Areas of specialisation:
– Islam and society, interreligious ethics

*Adj.Prof. Markus Zimmermann*

Areas of specialisation:
– Foundation of Christian social ethics
– Theological bioethics

– Equal distribution of health
– Decisions at the end of life
– Ethics of palliative care
– Work and social security
– Migration and integration

*Practical theology*

*Prof. François-Xavier Amherdt*

Areas of specialisation:
– Pastoral issues
– Parishes and dioceses, religious education and catechism
– Theology and humanities, particularly psychology and sociology
– Public Relations

*Prof. Astrid Kaptijn*

Areas of specialisation:
– Canon law

*Prof. Martin Klöckener*

Areas of specialisation:
– Liturgy
– Worship
– Celebration of the Sacrements
– Liturgical periods and celebrations, Church year
– Rites
– Prayer
– Piety
– Popular piety
– Liturgical space, construction and furnishing of churches

*Prof. Salvatore Loiero*

Areas of specialisation:
– Pastoral theology

*Studies organisation*

*Structure of studies*

No ECTS credits can be earned.

*Doctoral school*

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*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 Theology
Dean's Office
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http://studies.unifr.ch/go/fr-theology (French)
http://studies.unifr.ch/go/de-theology (German)

Doc- Postdoc-portal

http://www.unifr.ch/phd