

## German as a Foreign Language / German as a Second Language

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### Degree conferred

Master of Arts in Languages and Literatures: German as a Foreign Language/German as a Second Language

### Languages of study

Study in German

### Commencement of studies

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

### Access to further studies

Ph.D.

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At the heart of this master programme lies the question of how the German language is learned and imparted as a foreign or second language within the context of multilingualism. Students learn to analyse the development of linguistic, communicative and intercultural competences as well as aspects of interaction in teaching. And they learn to relate these concepts to practice. The master programme also includes class visits and practical experience in the mentoring of learners. In addition, students have the possibility of focusing on individual areas, for example, in the areas of Multilingualism and Multilingual Language Teaching Research or German as a second language/migration.

The bilingual University of Fribourg is the only university in Switzerland that offers this master programme. Moreover, the study programme benefits from the close contacts with the Research Centre on Multilingualism.

### Profile of the study programme

At the centre of the master study programme *German as a Foreign Language/German as a Second Language* (German acronyms DaF/DaZ) are the issues regarding the acquisition and imparting of the German language as a foreign or second language within the context of multilingualism. Students are familiarised with the methods of empirical research in order to carry out studies into the status and development of linguistic, communicative and (inter-)cultural competences and interaction in teaching. They learn to analyse language learning contexts, language teaching and language learning materials as well as evaluation instruments and to critically evaluate curricula and teaching/learning methods and adapt them to specific contexts.

The courses offered in the master programme deal with the subdisciplines of DaF/DaZ: language acquisition and language teaching, German linguistics, and the culture and literature of the German-speaking world. After the study of the basics of acquisition and learning theory, students focus on the question of what constitutes good teaching. They sit in on DaF lessons and they gain

practical experience in the mentoring of students learning German. Finally, the master programme provides the opportunity to focus on individual areas, for example, on the areas of Multilingualism and Multilingual Language Teaching Research, language teaching and learning research, or German as a second language/migration.

### Fribourg profile

The bilingual University of Fribourg is the only university in Switzerland that offers a master programme in German as a Foreign and Second Language. The location of the city at the language border makes it possible for students to gain insight into the DaF context of French-speaking Switzerland as well as the DaZ context of German-speaking Switzerland.

Close contacts are maintained with the **Institute of Multilingualism** at the University of Fribourg and the University of Teacher Education, Fribourg, which in 2010 was designated the Competence Centre for Multilingualism of the Federal Government. There, students can attend the regularly held public lectures and the workshops with international experts on the topics of language acquisition, teaching foreign languages, and individual and social multilingualism.

In the **Documentation Centre of the Research Centre on Multilingualism**, which is affiliated with the foreign language library of the university, the students can find a variety of relevant publications and magazines, as well as expert advice that supports autonomous learning.

At the **Language Centre** of the university, interested students can enrol in courses in French, Italian, English and German (language competence in German of at least C1 at the beginning of the master's studies is, however, required). The Self-Learning Centre that is affiliated with it also offers a rich selection of materials for learning further languages or expanding existing language competences.

### Learning outcomes and career openings

Successful graduates of the course of study have knowledge of theories and research methods in the field of German as a foreign language/German as a second language and its reference sciences. They have also gained in-depth knowledge of the German language and its use, as well as special areas of the field of study, such as examination and testing. In addition, the students are able to apply this theoretical specialised knowledge, both in the development and realisation of research designs and in practical situations. They know the requirements for teaching foreign languages in a modern way and they can analyse and evaluate their own and others' foreign language courses and develop recommendations for optimising teaching/learning arrangements.

The master programme prepares students for working as a resource person and language mediator for German as a foreign language/German as a second language, both nationally and internationally. It especially enables the student to teach the German language and culture from a foreign perspective, plan, execute and evaluate language lessons and learning arrangements for different target groups, and participate in the development of curricula, teaching/learning materials and evaluation tools. The master programme *German as a Foreign Language/German as a Second Language* (major and minor) is equivalent to the modules «Educational work with adults», «Foreign and second language education» and «Migration and interculturality» of the Swiss

«Certificate for language teachers in the field of integration» (cf. <https://www.fide-info.ch/en/zertifikat>). The master programme is also a basis for research activities in the area of language teaching and language research, as it is carried out at the Institute of Multilingualism. For students who wish to pursue an academic career, the Ph.D. programme «Multilingualism: Acquisition, Education and Society», which is offered by the Institute, provides an ideal framework for continuing their studies with individual focuses.

Some of the main professional fields for persons with a master's degree in DaF/DaZ:

- National and international German courses in adult education, at universities and universities of applied science;
- Activities in connection with integration courses, exchange programmes, occupational and in-house language improvement;
- Development work or intermediation work in public authorities, NGO's, publishers;
- Research activities in institutions such as the Institute of Multilingualism or the Research Centre on Multilingualism.

## Studies organisation

### Structure of studies

90 ECTS credits + 30 ECTS credits as an option in a minor study programme freely chosen or in a specialisation programme, 3-4 semesters

### Curriculum

<http://studies.unifr.ch/go/laFd2>

### Comments

Language competence in German of at least C1 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages at the beginning of the master's studies is required.

### 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.*

Holders of a bachelor's degree awarded by a Swiss university in German Language and Literature or German Linguistics are also admitted to this master programme without any preconditions.

### Alternatives

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

## Contact

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