Physics

**Degree conferred**
Master of Science in Physics

**Languages of study**
Study 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

At master's level, this study programme in physics provides students with advanced courses and starts the process of specialisation. About half of the courses are compulsory and of general interest, the other half consists of more specialised elective courses. The master's thesis will be supervised by an active researcher and initiates students to the frontiers of research. At the master's level, about half of the courses are compulsory and of general interest, the other half consists of more specialised elective courses. Specialised lectures may also be taken at other universities, in particular Bern. It is recommended that you follow the specialised lectures in the field of your future master's thesis. Other lectures, at your discretion, are necessary to complete the requirements. The lectures are complemented by seminars on modern research topics and advanced laboratory work, colloquia and project in research group.

**Profile of the study programme**

Physics has been the main motor of the spectacular scientific and technological developments of the 20th century and will definitely continue to play a dominant role for the promotion of science at large in this century.

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**Compulsory courses:**

- Theoretical physics: Advanced statistical mechanics,
- Relativistic quantum mechanics, Field theory, Many-body theory;
- Condensed matter physics: Structure and dynamics of matter, Magnetism and quantum fluids, Soft condensed matter, Electrons in solids;
- Constituents of matter: Electrons and photons, Particle physics, Atomic spectroscopy, Modern optics.

**Elective courses:**

- Other courses: at the discretion of the student (for example, a course in Scientific English).

**Master's thesis**

**6 good reasons to study at the University of Fribourg:**

- International environment;
- Human scale of the Department of Physics;
- Excellent supervision of the students;
- Bilingualism (French/German) and master's level courses taught in English;
- The Department is composed of several relatively small research groups, each with its own specialty, therefore wide choice's possibility of subjects for the master's thesis;
- Proximity of the University of Bern, easy access to lectures on other topics.

**Learning outcomes and career openings**
The aim of the studies leading to the award of a Master of Science in Physics is to deepen knowledge and perfect competence in the chosen field and at the same time develop skills in scientific English. At the end of the study programme, you will have shown that you can apply your knowledge to accomplish a research project and will have learned how to work independently or how to integrate into an interdisciplinary research team. The award of the degree requires creative and self-critical talents as well as the ability to communicate ideas and work both in English and your native language.

The master's degree in Physics opens many doors, a natural choice being doctoral studies. A Ph.D. degree is necessary or advantageous if or continuing work in academic or industrial research positions. Teaching at secondary level is another obvious
choice (see «Teacher Education for Secondary Level»).
Learning scientific rigor, abstract thinking, experimental and
mathematical skills, the ability to describe concrete phenomena by
theoretical models, the ability to identify relevant variables, are skills
good standing in the search for employment in both the public
and private sectors. Branches where physicists are welcome
include machine and electronic industries, applied computing,
insurance companies, risk management and even financial
mathematics. Besides those typical careers, physicists frequently
appear in important managerial positions or in politics.

Studies organisation

Structure of studies

90 ECTS credits, 3 semesters

Curriculum

http://studies.unifr.ch/go/vBvMa

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 (30 ECTS credits) as part
of the Diplôme d'Enseignement pour les Ecoles de Maturité
(DEEM)/Lehrdiplom für Maturitätsschulen (LDM).

Contact

Faculty of Science and Medicine
Department of Physics
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