Theology

Degree conferred
Sacrae theologiae doctor

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

Regulation
[Links to French and German regulations]

Application procedure
Candidates with Swiss qualifications
[Link to application process for Swiss candidates]
Candidates with foreign qualifications
[Link to application process for foreign candidates]

Fribourg profile
The Faculty of Theology in Fribourg is the largest theological 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.

Theology differs from other scientific fields insofar as it has its own unique outlook: it deals primarily with God and humans, to the extent they refer to God as their origin and purpose. It reflects its own position as well as that of every Church in the community. Theologians share the responsibility for the planet's sustainable development with a human face. In light of the deregulation of religion and ethics (fundamentalist and esoteric movements) and the search for a peaceful world where different religions and cultures can coexist, theology plays a critical role in engaging a discourse on the question of truth and values.

From this perspective, the Faculty of Theology serves the Church as a community, as well as its individual members, and also serves society as a whole. The issues explored through the study of theology using a variety of scientific research methods play a critically constructive role.

Professors who are eligible to supervise theses

Biblical studies
- Prof. Sigrid Eder
  Areas of specialisation:
  - Exegesis of the Old Testament
  - New Testament
- Prof. Philippe Lefebvre
  Areas of specialisation:
  - Old Testament
  - Relationship between the Bible (Christianity) and culture, the Bible and literature, cinema
- Prof. Thomas Schumacher
  Areas of specialisation:
  - Exegesis of the New Testament

Patristics and Church History
- Prof. Mariano Delgado
  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
  - Interreligious dialogue
  - Religion and violence
  - Religion and migration
  - Multiculturalism
  - Christianity/Church and politics
- Adj.Prof. Gregor Emmenegger
  Areas of specialisation:
  - Patristics and the history of the Church
- Prof. Paul-Bernard Hodel
  Areas of specialisation:
  - History of the Church in the Middle Ages, modern and contemporary times
- Prof. Franz Mali
  Areas of specialisation:
  - Early Christianity
  - History of Christianity in the East, particularly in the Middle East

Faith and Religious Studies, Philosophy
- Prof. Bernhard Blankenhorn
  Areas of specialisation:
  - Dogmatic theology
- Prof. Emmanuel Durand
  Areas of specialisation:
  - The question of God
  - The Trinity
  - Christ
  - Creation
Course offerings 23/24 | SS24
Study programme description
Doctorat

• 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

Moral theology and ethics

• 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

• Prof. Luc-Thomas Somme
Areas of specialisation:
– General moral theology and 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. Salvatore Loiero
Areas of specialisation:
– Pastoral theology

• Prof. Michel Steinmetz
Areas of specialisation:
– Liturgy
– Worship
– Celebration of the Sacraments
– Rites

Studies organisation

Structure of studies

No ECTS credits can be earned.

Doctoral school
https://theologie.cuso.ch
https://studies.unifr.ch/go/theo-progdoctoral-swissuniversities

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