Theological Studies

Degree conferred
Philosophiae doctor in studiis theologicis / Doctor of Philosophy in theological studies (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
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.

The doctorate in theological studies focusses on students who have completed their studies in theology as a main programme (with a minor).

Professors who are eligible to supervise theses

Biblical studies

- Prof. Sigrid Eder
  Areas of specialisation:
  - Exegesis of the Old Testament

- Adj.Prof. Nesina Grütter
  Areas of specialisation:
  - Old Testament / Hebrew Bible
  - Semitic linguistics
  - Septuagint
  - Textual criticism
  - History of religions and materiality (Middle East and Eastern Mediterranean region)

- Prof. Gudrun Nassauer
  Areas of specialisation:
  - 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
  - Dialogue between religions
  - 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

- 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
  – 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. Bernard Schumacher
  Areas of specialisation:
  – Ethical, bioethical and societal issues

Moral theology and ethics

- Prof. Daniel Bogner
  Areas of specialisation:
  – General moral theology and ethics

- Prof. Didier Caenepeel
  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:

- 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. Talitha Cooreman-Guittin
  Areas of specialisation:
  – Pastoral and practical theology
  – Disability, old age, cognitive impairment
  – Spiritual care

- Prof. Astrid Kaptijn
  Areas of specialisation:
  – Canon law

- Prof. Michel Steinmetz
  Areas of specialisation:
  – Liturgy
  – Worship
  – Celebration of the Sacrements
  – Rites

Studies organisation

Structure of studies

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