Economic and Social Sciences

Degree conferred
Rerum Politicarum Doctor / 
- Doctor of Philosophy in Economics (PhD) 
- Doctor of Philosophy in Management (PhD) 
- Doctor of Philosophy in Business Informatics (PhD)

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

Regulation
http://studies.unifr.ch/go/Ix6Q7 (French and German only)

Application procedure
Candidates with Swiss qualifications
https://studies.unifr.ch/go/U3b4
Candidates with foreign qualifications
https://studies.unifr.ch/go/2KpBw

Fribourg profile
At the Faculty of Management, Economics and Social Sciences, candidates can participate in a doctoral programme in the different subfields of the economic sciences – management, economics or information systems.

The Department of Management offers doctoral studies in all management disciplines (e.g. financial management, accounting, HRM, marketing, corporate strategy, technology management, international management). These are organised according to the research fields of the professors of the Department. You can find a list of the research fields here: http://www.unifr.ch/bwl/en/research. During their doctoral studies, candidates usually write research articles, give presentations at academic conferences in Switzerland and abroad, publish articles and participate in various courses (e.g. doctoral seminars, method courses).

The Department of Economics offers doctoral studies in all fields of economics (e.g. microeconomics, macroeconomics, econometrics). Ph.D. students regularly participate in doctoral programmes offered by the Study Center Gerzensee:
- Swiss Program for beginning doctoral students in economics, Gerzensee (see DOCTORAL SCHOOL)
- Advanced Courses in Economics for Doctoral Students, Gerzensee (see DOCTORAL SCHOOL)

Moreover, Ph.D. students regularly participate and present in the departmental seminar series:
- Departmental Research Seminar
- Departmental Ph.D. Seminar

The Department of Informatics of the University of Fribourg offers doctorates in the fields of information management and computer science. Information management should be understood in the broadest sense of the term as comprising both information systems and decision-support systems. During their studies, Ph.D. students can participate in doctoral schools (such as the CUSO doctoral programmes in computer science or statistics and applied probability), or in specialist seminars in operational research. Consequently, doctoral theses may cover themes such as the Internet of Things/Web of Things, or decision support systems for managers through the application of operational research, fuzzy logic or applied statistics models.

Professors eligible to supervise a doctoral thesis

Department of Economics

- Prof. Berno Büchel
  Research fields:
  - Industrial Organisation
  - Network Science
  - Law & Economics
  - Applied Microeconomic Theory
  - Applied Game Theory
  - Digital Economy
  Supervision of theses in English and German.
- Prof. Christelle Dumas
  Research fields:
  - Development microeconomics
  - Applied econometrics
  - Empirical health, labour, education economics and demographics
  Additional courses:
  Other courses (health economics, econometrics) provided as workshop or block lectures, at University of Fribourg or in Switzerland.
  Supervision of theses in French and English.
- Prof. Reiner Eichenberger
  Research fields:
  - Public Economics
  - Political Economics
  - Public Choice
  - Economic Policy
  - Behavioural Economics
  Supervision of theses in German and English.
- Prof. Volker Grossmann
  Research fields:
  - Growth Economics
  - Distribution of Income and Wealth
  - Human Capital Formation
  - International Migration
Study programme description

Doctorat

- Health Economics
- Economics of Ageing
- Bequest Taxation

Supervision of theses in German and English.

- **Prof. Philippe Gugler**

  Research fields:
  - Competition Policy
  - Competitiveness issues (economic policy, clusters, quality of the business environment; competitiveness of regions and cities)
  - Multinational enterprises (MNEs)/international business (competitiveness of locations to attract FDI)
  - Role of home country competitive advantages in the competitiveness of MNEs
  - Public policies regarding competitiveness

  Supervision of theses in French and English.

- **Prof. Holger Herz**

  Research fields:
  - Industrial Organisation
  - Organisational Economics
  - Behavioural Economics
  - Experimental Economics
  - Innovation and Entrepreneurship

  Additional courses:
  Doctoral Program in Behavioral Economics and Experimental Research, CUSO (see DOCTORAL SCHOOL).

  Supervision of theses in French and English.

- **Prof. Martin Huber**

  Research fields:
  - Empirical labour, health, and education economics
  - Microeconometric methods for causal inference
  - Policy/treatment evaluation

  Additional courses:
  Ph.D. Program in Public Health of the Swiss School of Public Health (see DOCTORAL SCHOOL); Ph.D. courses offered by the Global School in Empirical Research Methods (see DOCTORAL SCHOOL).

  Supervision of theses in German and English.

- **Prof. Thierry Madiès**

  Research fields:
  - Policy Public economics
  - Public finance
  - Political Economics
  - New economic geography
  - International taxation
  - Economics of secessions
  - Experimental economics
  - Applied game theory
  - Economics of innovation

  Supervision of theses in French and English.

- **Prof. Sergio Rossi**

  Research fields:
  - Monetary Theory and Policy
  - Inflation
  - Financial Stability and Crises
  - Bank Regulations
  - Payment and Settlement Systems
  - Exchange Rate Regimes and Global Imbalances
  - European Monetary Integration
  - History of Monetary Thought

  Supervision of theses in English, German, French and Italian.

- **Prof. Mark Schelker**

  Research fields:
  - Public Economics
  - Public Finance
  - Political Economics
  - Law and Economics
  - New Institutional Economics
  - Applied Econometrics

  Additional courses:
  Other courses (public economics, econometrics) taught as workshops or block lectures at universities in Switzerland or abroad.

  Supervision of theses in French, German and English.

**Department of Management**

- **Prof. Silke Bambauer-Sachse**

  Research fields:
  - Price management
  - Online marketing
  - Complaint management

  Supervision of theses in German, French and English.

- **Prof. Michael Burkert**

  Research fields:
  - Strategy implementation with management control systems
  - Corporate governance
  - Incentive systems
  - Cost accounting and cost accounting systems

  Additional courses:
  Swiss Doctoral Program Network in Accounting Research (see DOCTORAL SCHOOL) and other courses (econometrics, experimental research in accounting) taught as workshops or block lectures at universities in Switzerland or abroad.

  Supervision of theses in German and English.

- **Prof. Eric Davoine**

  Research fields:
  - International and cross-national comparative HRM
Course offerings 23/24 | SS24
Study programme description
Doctorat

Globalisation processes and HRM
International mobility
Managerial cognition
French-German Intercultural Management
Evaluation of HR processes
Top management careers
Gender and career

Projects:
Swissness and HRM in the watch making industry
Context effects and HRM in MNC subsidiaries
HRM in MNC subsidiaries in Switzerland, Ukraine and Lebanon
Career anchors within global MNCs: generation and gender effects
Globalisation of Swiss top management profiles
Integration of highly skilled migrants in Swiss companies
Competencies gained through international student mobility
Impacts of new communication technologies on managerial practices
Gender issues in international dual careers

Additional courses:
PhD Seminar of Department of Management; PhD seminar of RHO Chair with guest researchers; LIVES NCCR PhD seminar; Ad-hoc method seminars from Swiss universities.

Prof. Paul H. Dembinski
Research fields:
Non-market environment of business
Very Large Enterprises in the World Economy
Global Value Chains – Structure & Meaning from macro & enterprise perspective
The economic fabric of Switzerland
Ethics in Business and Finance
Epistemology of Economics, management and Finance
Philosophy of the Enterprise
Comparative Economic Systems
Finance and Real Economy Nexus
Entrepreneurship in theory and practice

Supervision of theses in French and English.

Prof. Emmanuelle Fauchart
Research fields:
Entrepreneurship
Innovation Management
Open Innovation
Start-ups
Small enterprises

Supervision of theses in French and English.

Prof. Olivier Furrer
Research fields:
Marketing services
Strategic marketing
Intercultural marketing

Supervision of theses in French and English.

Prof. Markus Gmürr
Research fields:
NPO Management
Social Entrepreneurship
Third Sector Studies

Projects:
Member Value Optimisation in Associations and Co-operatives
Typologies of Social Entrepreneurship in international comparison
Entrepreneurial Not-for-profit Management
Third sector labour markets and career patterns of npo executives
Corporate philanthropy and intersectoral cooperation
Professionalisation in fundraising

Supervision of theses in German and English.

Prof. Rudolf Grünig
Research fields:
Corporate-level strategy
Strategy planning process
Internationalisation strategies

Projects:
Member Value Optimisation in Associations and Co-operatives
Typologies of Social Entrepreneurship in international comparison
Entrepreneurial Not-for-profit Management
Third sector labour markets and career patterns of npo executives
Corporate philanthropy and intersectoral cooperation
Professionalisation in fundraising

Supervision of theses in German and English.

Prof. Dušan Isakov
Research fields:
Finance
Business finance
Business governance
Financial markets
Dividend policy
Financial decisions and performance of family businesses
Executive remuneration

Supervision of theses in German and English.

Prof. Franck Missonier Piera
Research fields:
Governance role of accounting information
Valuation role of accounting data
Determinants & consequences of analysts’ forecast errors
Role and consequences of IPSAS (International Public Sector Accounting Standards)
Environmental disclosure

Supervision of theses in French and English.

Prof. Dirk Morschett
Research fields:
Headquarters-subsidiary relationships

Supervision of theses in German and English.
Course offerings 23/24 | SS24
Study programme description
Doctorat

– Coordination of foreign subsidiaries
– Market selection
– Market entry strategies
– Internationalisation of services and services companies
– Internationalisation of retail companies
– Management in Emerging Markets

Supervision of theses in German and English.

• Prof. Martin Wallmeier

Research fields:
– Asset Management
– Derivatives and Structured Financial Products
– Asset Pricing
– Firm Valuation
– Information Implied in Option Prices
– Behavioral Finance

Additional courses:
Ph.D. courses offered by the VHB (Verband der Hochschullehrer für Betriebswirtschaft), Swiss Finance Institute, Swiss Doctoral Program Network in Accounting Research.

Supervision of theses in German and English.

Department of Informatics (interfaculty)

• Prof. Laurent Donzé

Areas of specialisation:
– Survey statistics
– Fuzzy statistics
– Statistical modeling
– Imputation of missing data in complex enquiries
– Evaluating economic policy programmes
– Problems related to evaluation of wage gaps

Subjects of specific interest:
– Hedonic methods, notably for constructing price indices
– Fuzzy statistics methods

Supervision of theses in French, German and English.

• Prof. Bernard Ries

Areas of specialisation:
– Combinatorial optimisation
– Structural and Algorithmic Graph Theory
– Decision Support
– Complexity Theory
– Mathematical Modeling

Subjects of specific interest:
– Modeling and solving real world problems using graph theory and combinatorial optimisation
– Analysing the computational complexity of graph theoretical problems
– Analysing the structure of graphs in order to provide efficient algorithms

Supervision of theses in French, German and English.

• Prof. Hans-Georg Fill

Areas of specialisation:
– Meta modeling
– Conceptual modeling
– Visualisation
– Process management
– Development of enterprise information systems

Subjects of specific interest:
– Semantic information systems
– Blockchains and smart contracts
– Application of virtual and augmented reality in enterprise modeling
– Deviceless interaction for enterprise information systems

Supervision of theses in German and English.

• Prof. Jacques Pasquier Rocha

Areas of specialisation:
– Applying and improving software engineering techniques to build modular and extensible software architectures for challenging application domains
– Frameworks for integrating and coordinating heterogeneous software components (legacy applications, micro-services, objects populating the Internet of Things, RESTful web services, etc.) and humans in complex distributed systems

Supervision of theses in French and English.

• Prof. Marino Widmer

Areas of specialisation:
– Quantitative models and methods of operational research with their applications in manufacturing and logistics
– Combinatorial optimisation, in particular scheduling theory
– Heuristic and metaheuristic methods
– Simulation methods
– Decision support systems

Subjects of specific interest:
– Operational Research: General Applications for Small and Medium Enterprises
– Supply chain and distribution management
– Production planning and control in industry and services
– Design and control of systems in manufacturing and logistics

Supervision of theses in French and English.

Studies organisation

Structure of studies

30 ECTS credits can be earned.

Doctoral school
https://szgerzensee.ch/courses/swiss-program-for-beginning-doctoral-students-in-economics
https://szgerzensee.ch/courses/advanced-courses-in-economics-for-doctoral-students-and-faculty-members
http://www.sspplus-phd.ch
http://www.gsrm.ch
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

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http://studies.unifr.ch/go/en-sesm

Doc- Postdoc-portal

http://www.unifr.ch/phd