European Studies

Degree conferred
Master of Arts in European Studies

Options
For information on the optional award of the distinction «Bilingual curriculum, French/German», please contact the relevant Domain (see Contact).

Languages of study
Study in two languages, in French and German. A number of lectures will be in English.

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

Access to further studies
Ph.D.

This programme offers a comprehensive knowledge of contemporary Europe focusing on historical, political and cultural aspects. Taking an interdisciplinary, academic, critical perspective, the master programme in European Studies at the University of Fribourg provides a wide range of courses and scientific approaches, raising important questions about Europe’s integration process, and presenting current political ideas and issues, with an emphasis on the role of the actors who, for more than sixty years, have worked unceasingly for European unity.

Alongside the basic study modules, the specialisation programme includes two interdisciplinary options: the first focuses on the social and historical aspects of contemporary Europe (economics, law, history, social sciences), and the second on the European cultural space (languages and literatures, theology, philosophy, art history and musicology).

Most courses are taught either in French or German, or bilingually. There are a few teachings in English.

Profile of the study programme

The master programme in European Studies at the University of Fribourg imparts knowledge about the process of European integration from an interdisciplinary perspective. It addresses in particular the political and historical processes that gave rise to European integration after 1945, as well as their embeddedness in social structures.

The master programme is aimed at Swiss and international students who wish to study European integration in its contemporary historical, political and social dimensions.

The European Studies programme at the University of Fribourg illuminates European political developments and poses questions about the European integration process. Students look at the actors who are committed to or doubt the unity of Europe and analyse the discourses and ideas that have given rise to processes of political integration. Understanding Europe better also means perceiving it in all its facets and analysing it in depth. Students acquire content knowledge as well as analytical skills that prepare them for a professional career as future leaders in Switzerland and Europe.

Fribourg profile
As a bilingual programme (also including courses in English) at the only German- and French-speaking university in Switzerland, European Studies is characterised by this transcultural and multilingual environment. This is an important pedagogical and scientific feature of the master programme. The main focus of the master programme is on the social sciences. The courses offered are also based on proven areas of competence of the University of Fribourg in the fields of European law, economics as well as cultural studies.

Basic modules
The two-year master programme consists of four basic modules dealing with the politics and history of European integration on the one hand and with legal, economic and cultural challenges of contemporary Europe on the other. In terms of specialisation, students have a choice between two interdisciplinary options: The first focuses on social and historical aspects of contemporary Europe, with specialised modules on economics, law, history and social sciences. The second is oriented towards European culture and examines languages and literature, theology, philosophy, art history and musicology.

Bilingual studies
As a study programme based at a bilingual university, the Fribourg Master of Arts in European Studies imparts in particular the ability to understand Europe also in its linguistic, cultural, social and religious diversity. It aims to provide graduates with a deeper understanding of the politics and history of European integration. In this sense, the master programme promotes the formation of a European civic understanding. With the exception of a few courses in English, the European Studies courses are taught in French and German.

Learning outcomes and career openings
A comprehensive, Europe-based programme of study focusing on politics, history, and culture provides students with methodological as well as practical skills that they can apply in a variety of careers—whether in public or private institutions, in international and regional organisations, in academic teaching and research, or in cultural institutions or the media.

Studies organisation

Structure of studies
90 ECTS credits + 30 ECTS credits in a minor study programme freely chosen or in a specialisation programme, 4 semesters

Curriculum
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 fulfill 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 and as a specialisation programme (30 ECTS credits).

Contact

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