Eastern European Studies

Degree conferred
Bachelor of Arts in Eastern European Studies
Universities of Fribourg and Berne

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
Master

The bachelor programme «Eastern European Studies» is a joint
programme of the University of Fribourg and the University of Bern.
The two universities have combined their diverse Eastern European
competences to produce this unique offer. Students attend classes in Fribourg as well as in Berne. The
languages of instruction are German and French. Some lectures
are also held in English. The syllabus consists of lectures on
contemporary history, cultural studies (Slavic studies and history of
ideas) and social sciences (political science and social
anthropology). The focus is on the 20th century and on current
issues. Students learn at least one of the region’s languages during
their course of study, with a choice of Russian, Polish,
Bosnian/Croatian/Montenegrin/Serbian, Ukrainian etc.. This
programme provides intensive student care and support.

Profile of the study programme

The bachelor programme «Eastern European Studies» is a
multilingual interfaculty, interuniversity programme. The Universities
of Fribourg and Berne have combined their diverse Eastern European
competences to produce this unique offer. The
Interfaculty Institute for Central and Eastern Europe
at the University of Fribourg has an extensive network with contacts to
lecturers and researchers from the region. The Institute's numerous
research projects and mandates give students ample opportunity of
putting what they have learned into practice. Seminars are regularly
held by researchers from Eastern European countries.

The syllabus consists of lectures on contemporary history, cultural
studies (Slavic studies and history of ideas) and social sciences
(political science and social anthropology). Lectures and seminars
take place in Fribourg and Berne. The focus is on the 20th century
and on current issues. Students learn at least one language from
the region during their studies (Russian, Polish,
Bosnian/Croatian/Montenegrin/Serbian, Ukrainian etc.).

Modularisation, intensive support and interdisciplinarity are key
features of the programme.

Almost half (about 340 million) of the over 700 million Europeans
live in Eastern Europe. The region is known for its diversity of
languages, cultures, ethnicities and religions. It has grown steadily
in political and economic importance in recent years. Students
acquire the necessary linguistic, specialist and methodical
competences to look at Eastern Europe in all its facets, analyse
the current developments in the region, and place them in their political,
social, historical and cultural context.

Fribourg profile
The programme of studies provides students with a knowledge of:
– Political, historical, social, literary and cultural issues of Eastern
European countries and regions in the 20th and 21st centuries;
– The theories and history of Eastern European studies;
– Relevant methods of Eastern European research.

Teaching is mainly in German or French. Some lectures are also
held in English. There is mutual recognition of the lectures and
seminars in the Eastern Europe Studies programme offered by the
Universities of Fribourg and Berne.

Learning outcomes and career openings
This programme provides students with the competences to work
on academic questions independently: they have access to current
research discussions in the multidisciplinary field of Eastern
European studies. Graduates of this interdisciplinary programme
acquire an all-round knowledge and understanding of Eastern
Europe, are familiar with the problems of the region, and are
capable of analysing them. The programme qualifies graduates for
employment in areas such as the diplomatic service, international
organisations, journalism, non-governmental organisations, and
commercial enterprises operating in Eastern Europe, etc.

Studies organisation

Structure of studies
120 ECTS credits + 60 ECTS credits in a minor study programme
freely chosen, 6 semesters

Curriculum
http://studies.unifr.ch/go/gpltov (French)
http://studies.unifr.ch/go/OKT8 (German)

Comments
In principle, students in the major study programme «Eastern
European Studies» are free to choose minor study programmes at
the two universities of Fribourg and Bern. However, the combination
of a major and a minor study programme in Eastern European
Studies is not allowed.

Admission
The following Swiss school-leaving certificates grant admission
to bachelor programmes at the University of Fribourg:

- Swiss academic Maturity Certificate
- Federal vocational or specialised Baccalaureate + supplementary examination of the Swiss Maturity Commission (passerelle)
- Bachelor Degree from a Swiss university, from an accredited Swiss university of applied sciences (HES/FH) or from a Swiss university of teacher education (HEP/PH)

A complete list of all further recognised Swiss school-leaving certificates is to be found on the webpages of swissuniversities (in French and German only): [https://studies.unifr.ch/go/fr-admission-swisscertificates](https://studies.unifr.ch/go/fr-admission-swisscertificates); [https://studies.unifr.ch/go/de-admission-swisscertificates](https://studies.unifr.ch/go/de-admission-swisscertificates)

Foreign upper secondary school-leaving certificates are recognised only if they correspond substantially to the Swiss Maturity Certificate. They must qualify as general education. Foreign school-leaving certificates are considered to be general education if, among other things, the last three years of schooling include at least six general education subjects, independent from each other, in accordance with the following list:

1. First language
2. Second language
3. Mathematics
4. Natural sciences (biology or chemistry or physics)
5. Humanities and social sciences (geography or history or economics/law)
6. Elective (computer sciences or philosophy or an additional language or an additional subject from category 4 or 5)

The general admission requirements to the bachelor programmes at the University of Fribourg for holders of foreign school-leaving certificates as well as the admission requirements for individual countries are to be found on the webpages of swissuniversities: [https://studies.unifr.ch/go/en-admission-countries](https://studies.unifr.ch/go/en-admission-countries)

In addition, foreign candidates must present proof of sufficient language skills in French or German.

All guidelines are available at (only in French and German): [https://studies.unifr.ch/go/adm-guidelines](https://studies.unifr.ch/go/adm-guidelines)

The assessment of foreign school-leaving certificates is based on the «Recommendations for the Assessment of Foreign Upper Secondary School-Leaving Certificates» adopted by the Chamber of universities of swissuniversities on 11.11.2021 ([https://studies.unifr.ch/go/swissuniversities21fr](https://studies.unifr.ch/go/swissuniversities21fr); [https://studies.unifr.ch/go/swissuniversities21de](https://studies.unifr.ch/go/swissuniversities21de)). The admission requirements are valid for the respective academic year. The Rectorat of the University of Fribourg reserves the right to change these requirements at any time.

Alternatives

Also offered as a minor study programme (60 ECTS credits).

Contact

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