The German master course comprises three disciplines: German Linguistics, German Mediaeval Studies and Modern German Literature. Together, they investigate and teach the function of language and the variable tradition of speech and writing in society (linguistics), German language and literature from the early Middle Ages to the start of the Modern period (mediaeval studies), and literary communication processes in German from Humanism and the Reformation to the present (modern literature).

In the master programme, students can focus on areas of particular interest to them in any of these disciplines, but must attend courses in all three.

The master programme in German Mediaeval Studies covers different literary genres of the early, high and late mediaeval period and as broad a variety of methodical approaches as possible. A block seminar by a visiting professor, part of the «Freiburger Gastprofessur für Germanistische Mediävistik» event, focuses on comparative studies, especially in relation to Romansch and German literature of the Middle Ages and early Modern period. Students also have the possibility of specialising in codicology and transmission history (in collaboration with the Manuscript Research Centre) or in comparative literature (German mediaeval literature in a European context). Current literary, media and cultural theory is discussed in master seminars and the Mediaeval Studies Research Colloquium; the colloquium of the Mediaeval Institute is devoted to interdisciplinary discussions.

In Modern German Literature, literary texts and narratives in all media are investigated in the light of both their historical contexts and systematic features, since the 16th century. This applies, for example, to issues regarding general rhetoric, how literary genres function, analysis of themes of individual literary works and groups of works, relationships to other literature and arts, etc. The profile of the Fribourg Modern German Literature includes focal points in the areas of methodological reflection and intermedial literary analysis. Due to the special linguistic and cultural location of Freiburg-Fribourg, comparative issues are of great importance.

Studies organisation

Structure of studies

90 ECTS credits + 30 ECTS credits as an option in a minor study programme freely chosen, 3 to 4 semesters

Curriculum

http://studies.unifr.ch/go/rC-uD (German)

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 fulfil 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.

Alternatives

Also offered as a minor study programme (30 ECTS credits).

Contact

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