

Slavic Studies

Degree conferred

Bachelor of Arts

Languages of study

Study in two languages, in French and German. A number of lectures will be in Russian or Polish.

Commencement of studies

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

Access to further studies

Master

The Slavic domain of the University of Fribourg places a particular emphasis on Russian and Polish culture. At Switzerland's oldest academic chair for Slavic studies, students get to know the literary and cultural history of these two countries in the context of philosophy, religious thought, visual arts, film and popular culture. They learn at least one Slavic language: Russian, Polish or Bosnian/Croatian/Montenegrin/Serbian. Fribourg offers optimum student care and support, as course groups are small and students benefit from the accessibility of their teachers.

Apart from close cooperation with the Institute of Slavic Languages and Literatures in Bern, where students have free access to linguistic programmes and language courses in particular, well-established partnerships exist with universities in Russia and Poland. This makes it easy to organise semesters abroad. There is also the opportunity of attending Russian summer courses in Moscow and St. Petersburg.

Seminars and lectures in Slavic studies are held in German and French, language courses in Russian or Polish.

Profile of the study programme

Slavic studies are the gateway to an extremely diversified and vibrant sphere of culture, which stretches from Central Europe to East Asia. Focal points of Slavic studies in Fribourg are Russian and Polish culture. Our seminars and lectures give students a foundational knowledge of the literary and cultural history of these two countries. We are particularly interested in the interrelations between the cultures. We look at literature and language in the context of philosophy, religious thought, visual arts, film and popular culture. Students learn at least one Slavic language: Russian, Polish or Bosnian/Croatian/Montenegrin/Serbian (no previous knowledge of the language is required).

Fribourg profile

The oldest Slavic Department in Switzerland

An academic chair for Slavic languages and literatures was

established in Fribourg at the university's foundation in 1889. This makes us the oldest Slavic Department in Switzerland. Today the focus of our teaching and research is mainly on Russian and Polish literature and culture, particularly of the 19th–to 21st centuries. Seminars on Serbian, respectively Croatian/Bosnian/Montenegrin literature are also held on a regular basis. Small course groups allow for optimum student care and support. Teaching staff are on hand, easily accessible and provide rapid, substantial feedback.

Bilingual Slavic studies

Seminars and lectures are held in German and French. In recent years, issues of translation and intercultural transfer have become the focus of concentration for literary and cultural research. In Fribourg we are there for our students, not just on the level of theory, but also in everyday teaching and learning practice. We are the only university in the world to offer Slavic studies with a bilingual curriculum in both German and French. Interchange between the languages, and above all openness for discussion and the research fields of various Slavic and non-Slavic countries, inspire students and teachers alike.

Effective network of Eastern European competence

We maintain close ties with the Institute of Slavic Languages and Literatures in Bern, which in particular offers linguistic programmes and language courses in Russian and the South Slavic languages (Bosnian/Croatian/Montenegrin/Serbian, Bulgarian).

Besides Slavic studies, the University of Fribourg also offers a remarkable array of expertise in Eastern European skills in a wide variety of fields, ranging from social anthropology to theology (with the Institute of Ecumenical Studies) and from political science to Byzantine studies. And unique in the whole of Switzerland are especially the lectures and seminars on Eastern European cultural philosophy.

Study abroad programme

We organise Russian summer courses in Moscow and St. Petersburg on a regular basis. We have well-established partnerships with universities in Russia and in Poland (Erasmus). This makes it easy to plan and carry out periods of study abroad.

Learning outcomes and career openings

Learning outcomes

Graduates in Slavic studies are competent users of at least one Slavic language. They have a fundamental knowledge of Slavic literature, culture and linguistics. They possess intercultural competence and are familiar with the society and everyday culture of Russia, Poland and/or other Slavic countries.

Career openings

Besides continued study at master's degree level, this opens up a wide range of careers to our graduates. The countries of Central and Eastern Europe and Southeast Europe have gained increasingly in importance in recent years. This applies to business and politics as well as to culture. Concrete employment opportunities are available in the following areas: science and research, media, cultural cooperation, diplomatic service, federal administration, international authorities and enterprises, and international organisations including NGOs.

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/cvx5l> (French)
<http://studies.unifr.ch/go/8S-ys> (German)

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/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>. 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>

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/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

Faculty of Humanities
Department of European Studies and Slavic Studies
Eliane Fitzé
eliane.fitze@unifr.ch
<http://studies.unifr.ch/go/fr-slavicstudies> (French)
<http://studies.unifr.ch/go/de-slavicstudies> (German)