



The University of Fribourg, Switzerland

Facts and Figures

- 10,000 students
- Over 800 professors, lecturers and researchers
- 2500 support staff
- 14 academic disciplines
 - over 50 Bachelor's programmes
 - over 50 Master's and specialised Master's programmes
 - Doctoral and Postdoctoral research in all disciplines under the supervision of an experienced professor
- Founded in 1889
- 5 faculties
 - Humanities
 - Economics and Social Sciences
 - Law
 - Science and Medicine
 - Theology
- Some 20 internationally recognised research institutes
- Over 50 advanced studies programmes
- Over 500 cooperation agreements with partner universities in over 40 countries
- An international student community from 110 countries around the world



Studying at the University of Fribourg



A University Town *par excellence*

You won't find a separate campus in Fribourg: **the whole town is your campus!** With some 10,000 students living among a local population of 40,000 Fribourg is truly a university town like no other. The mixture of historic tradition dating back to the middle ages, brought to life by a vibrant student community, gives life in Fribourg a unique and incomparable charm.

Living in two languages: a chance not to be missed

Fribourg is Switzerland's only bilingual university. Here, you can choose from a wide range of study programmes in French or German – or in both. In addition, many subjects of importance for an international career are also taught in English. At Fribourg, being multilingual is not an academic pursuit – it's a way of life.

Studies tailored to the individual

At the University of Fribourg, nobody gets lost in the crowd. As part of a university community of just the right size, with a highly committed teaching body, you will have the benefit of individual guidance in choosing your academic path. The University's five faculties offer a wide range of study programmes you can tailor to your own individual needs and interests.

Centres of excellence and national research projects

The University of Fribourg also enjoys an excellent international reputation in the area of research. With their work in academic Centres of Competence and in research projects in all disciplines, our researchers continually contribute to the extension of the horizons of knowledge. In addition to numerous research projects supported by the Swiss National Fund (SNF), our University is also home to a National Centre of Competence and Research as well as several interdisciplinary research centres.

Immerse yourself in culture and nature

Fribourg is a medieval gem located in the heart of Switzerland. The town's historic centre boasts an impressive Gothic cathedral ringed by winding narrow cobblestone streets. Old stone bridges and picturesque squares provide a backdrop for lively restaurants and pubs, joining together to give life in Fribourg its unique romantic charm. Located at the foot of the Swiss Alps, less than 20 kilometres from the beautiful Lake Murten, Fribourg offers students a virtually limitless range of recreational and sports activities to pass their leisure time. Cultural life in Fribourg is dynamic and varied – concerts, events, museums and international festivals provide a mix of cultural attractions to suit every taste, enriching the life of all who live there.



Faculties

The University of Fribourg's five faculties offer you a choice of over 50 study, teaching and research programmes. They are complemented by numerous interdisciplinary institutes and advanced research centres.

The University's academic structure encourages direct and individualised communication between students and professors for a high-quality learning experience in an international and culturally diverse setting.



Faculty of Humanities

The Faculty of Humanities comprises seven departments, making it the largest of the University's five faculties. A proud defender of Fribourg's humanitarian values, the Humanities Faculty is the embodiment of the University's multilingual orientation and focus.

www.unifr.ch/lettres

Departments

- Philosophy
- Historical Sciences
- Art History and Musicology
- Social Sciences
- Pedagogy and Psychology
- Languages and Literature
- Multilingualism and Didactics of Foreign Languages
- Secondary II and II Education Training

Institutes

- General and Comparative Literature
- Curative Pedagogy
- Plurilingualism
- Medieval Studies
- Contemporary Swiss History
- Secondary School Training (IFE)

Research Centres

- Didactic Centre
- Language Centre
- Teaching and Research Centre for Secondary School Teaching (CERF)
- European Studies
- Test Development and Diagnosis
- Academic Centre for Early Childhood Education (ZeFF)

Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences

The Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences is distinguished by its use of the most advanced high-technology education and research methodologies, with a particular emphasis on practice-oriented interdisciplinary teaching.

www.unifr.ch/ses

Departments

- Management
- Economics
- Communication and Media Research
- Informatics (interfaculty)

Institutes

- Verbandsmanagement Institut VMI (Institute for Research on Management of Associations, Foundations and Co-operatives)
- International Institute of Management in Technology iimt

Faculty of Law

Fribourg's internationally renowned Faculty of Law continues a 250-year tradition of exceptionally broad-based, high quality legal education.

www.unifr.ch/ius

Departments

- Private Law
- Public Law
- Criminal Law
- International and Commercial Law

Institutes

- Swiss and International Construction Law
- Federalism
- European Law
- Religious Law
- Law and Economy
- International Business Law



Faculty of Science and Medicine

The Faculty of Science and Medicine promotes excellence in higher education and theoretical research in mathematics and a wide range of natural sciences, with a focus on the materials and life sciences, including medicine. It also makes a substantial contribution to the industrial and economic development of the City and the Canton of Fribourg.

www.unifr.ch/scimed

Departments

Section of Science

- Biology
- Chemistry
- Computer Sciences
- Geosciences
- Mathematics
- Medicine
- Physics
- Environmental Sciences

Section of Medicine

- Endocrinology, Metabolism and Cardiovascular System
- Neuroscience and Movement Sciences
- Oncology, Microbiology and Immunology
- Medicine and Community Health
- Medico-Surgical Specialties

Research Centres

- National Centre of Competence in Research for Bio-Inspired Materials (NCCR)
- Fribourg Centre for Nanomaterials (FriMat)
- National Reference Centre for the Early Detection and Monitoring of Antibiotic Resistance (NARA)

Institutes

- Institute of Family Medicine (IFM)
- **Adolphe Merkle Institue (AMI)** is an internationally renowned independent center for nanomaterials research; attached to the University of Fribourg's Faculty of Science. The AMI's focus on soft nanomaterials is unique due to its particular blend of fundamental and application-oriented research within a multidisciplinary setting. Backed by its own technology transfer office, and through collaborations with industrial partners, the AMI aims to stimulate innovation, foster industrial competitiveness and improve our quality of life.

Faculty of Theology

The University of Fribourg boasts Switzerland's largest Faculty of Theology. Fribourg is also the only public university in Switzerland – other than Lucerne – to have a faculty for Catholic theology. Interested students may also combine their theological studies with course offerings from the University's other faculties.

www.unifr.ch/theo

Departments

- Biblical Studies
- Patristic and Church History
- Science of Faith, Religions and Philosophy
- Moral Theology and Ethics
- Practical Theology

Research Centres

- Documents and Monuments of the Bible
- The Study of Ecumenism
- Theology in the Dominican Tradition
- Saint Thomas Aquinas Institute for Theology and the Culture
- Centre for Compared Pastoral Studies
- Study Centre for Faith and Society



Cross-Faculty Institutes

www3.unifr.ch/faculties/en/interfaculty.html

- Eastern and Central Europe
Theology, Law, Economics and Social Sciences, Humanities
- Ethics and Human Rights
Theology, Law, Economics and Social Sciences, Science and Medicine
- Environmental Sciences
Theology, Science and Medicine
- Family Research and Counselling
Theology, Law, Economics and Social Sciences, Humanities
- European Studies
Theology, Law, Economics and Social Sciences, Humanities
- Human Centered Interaction Science & Technology
Humanities, Science and Medicine
- Swiss Centre for Islam and Society
Theology, Law, Humanities
- Ancient and Byzantine World
Theology, Humanities

Cross-Institution Structures

- Research Institute of Multilingualism of the University of Fribourg and the Fribourg University of Teacher Education
- Joint Programme in Environmental Sciences with the University of Bern
- Joint Programme in Computer Sciences with the Universities of Bern and Neuchâtel
- Joint Programme in Osteuropastudien (in German) with the University of Bern



Degree Programmes

Study at the University of Fribourg is structured in three cycles:



- **Bachelor's:** general education, normally requiring three years of full-time study (six semesters), or 180 ECTS credit points.
- **Master's:** specialised studies requiring, as a rule, one and a half to two years of full-time study (three to four semesters), or 90 – 120 ECTS credit points.
- **Doctorate:** original individual research concluding with the presentation of a doctoral dissertation; admission is subject to an application procedure based on the specific conditions for admission of each faculty; there is no fixed length of time for completion of the degree.
- **Double Degree and Joint Degree Programmes:** The Faculty of Law and the Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences offer various double degree or joint degree programmes with universities in Europe and Asia.

Studies at the University of Fribourg are structured in accordance with the standards of the Bologna Process. Degrees awarded by the University of Fribourg are thus recognised throughout the European Higher Education Area, making it possible to pursue a Bachelor's degree at one university and continue with a Master's degree from another school.

ECTS

One year of studies is normally equivalent to 60 ECTS credit points; 1 ECTS credit point represents approximately 25–30 hours of work. The European Union's ECTS credit point system makes it possible to compare programmes at different universities. This facilitates mutual recognition of the degrees awarded by them, thereby simplifying the process of transferring from one university to another.



Languages

Located in a bilingual French and German speaking canton, the University of Fribourg is the only university in Switzerland to offer a complete programme of studies in both languages. Many courses, and even entire programmes, are also given in English.

This multilingual setting is a normal feature of daily life in Fribourg, both at the university and in the town, offering you not only a unique opportunity to learn another language and have contact with another culture, but also to gain a valuable advantage on the job market and for your future career.

www3.unifr.ch/studies/en/organisation

Language courses

The University of Fribourg Language Centre offers courses in French, German, English and Italian. Students also have the opportunity to take language classes that are incorporated into certain study programmes at the Faculties of Humanities, Economics and Social Sciences, Law and Science and Medicine.

For students who wish to learn a new language or just to brush up their language skills on their own, the Self-Access Centre for Language Learning can provide learning materials relating to specific course programmes or for independent self-study.

www.unifr.ch/centredelangues

Courses taught in English

The University of Fribourg offers courses taught in English in all five faculties, but the number of courses varies between faculties. The majority of courses taught in English are given at Master level. The faculty of Science and Medicine and the Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences also offer Master programmes fully taught in English.

The courses taught in English can easily be found in the course programme, filtered by the teaching language.

www.unifr.ch/timetable



Mobility Programme

The University of Fribourg hosts and sends out several hundred exchange students every year.

The University has a large number of exchange agreements based on the tuition waiver principle, meaning that exchange students or non-degree students remain enrolled in their home university while on an exchange. The stay can be for one or two semesters. The courses to be taken are chosen prior to arrival and are approved by the home coordinator and confirmed by their counterpart in Fribourg. All academic achievements during their stay are recognised by the home university.

A unique programme is offered before the beginning of the semester which combines traditional classroom teaching and out-of-class activities. Exchange students have the possibility of following a pre-semester language course to refresh their language skills in French or German. The aim is for them to gain confidence in expressing themselves in another language and also, by being immersed in their new surroundings, to gain a good understanding of how to organise their daily life. This preparation will enable them to feel more relaxed about the language challenge and to concentrate fully on their studies when the semester starts. The Erasmus Student Network also contributes to the newcomers' wellbeing .

Interested students are invited to consult the International Relations Office's website and to contact the office in charge of student mobility at their home university to find out about the conditions and procedures relating to studying abroad.

More information about the various programmes available in Switzerland or abroad and the list of our partners can be found on our website.

www.unifr.ch/international

The International Relations Office, in close collaboration with the Faculties, continually promotes the benefit of such an experience, raising awareness via social media as well as events organised in close collaboration with the student body. Former exchange students also provide strong support and most of them remain available to assist new cohorts.

Student Services

Welcoming and orientation meetings

Students are advised to arrive a few days prior to the start of either the French intensive course or the start of the semester, in order to get settled and familiarise themselves with the Fribourg University environment. Other orientation sessions may be offered during the semester, to assist, for example, in preparations for exams.

Course programme

The online course programme includes all courses given at the University of Fribourg and indicates the number of ECTS credit points, teaching language and course description. **www.unifr.ch/timetable**

Accommodation

The International Relations Office helps students to find suitable accommodation in Fribourg (a furnished room in a student residence, hostels, or private accommodation). Students will be provided with lists of addresses. Apartis, the foundation for student housing, provides a restricted number of furnished rooms for mobility students. **www.unifr.ch/apartis**

Disabilities

The University of Fribourg provides assistance to accommodate the special needs of students with disabilities. **www.unifr.ch/uni-info**

Digital identity

Upon arrival all students receive their personal login information granting them access to university computer facilities, including the internet and their university e-mail accounts.

Social and leisure activities

The University is home to various student societies and associations. The Erasmus Student Network (ESN) meets regularly and organises several events during the year. **fribourg.esn.ch**

Sports

All students enjoy access to the University sports facilities. **www.unifr.ch/sportuni**

Medical insurance

They should also verify that their insurance provides them with full coverage while they are abroad. Students from non EU/EEA countries must take out Swiss health insurance with a Swiss insurer of their choice, or have insurance from a company in their own country with offices in Switzerland. For detailed information, please check: **www.unifr.ch/mobility**

Civil liability insurance

All students participating in programs abroad must make sure that their civil liability insurance provides them with a coverage while studying abroad.

Visa and residence permit

For EU students: no visa is required. Upon arrival in Fribourg students must request a *Student Residence Permit*, which will be delivered to them by the "Service de la population et des migrants / Amt für Bevölkerung und Migration" within a few weeks. The cost is between CHF 95 and CHF 180 depending on your home country. Non-EU students must contact the Swiss Embassy in their country a few months (at least 3 months) before their departure. Upon request addressed to the International Relations Office, students will be provided with an attestation of their registration at our university.

Living expenses

Average monthly expenses: accommodations – CHF 450 to 600; food – CHF 400 to 600; public transportation (depending on location) – CHF 60 to 80 (many students have a bicycle); books and study materials – CHF 250 to 800 (annually); miscellaneous – CHF 200.

Fribourg at a Glance

Cultural diversity

The Old Town of Fribourg enjoys an extremely picturesque location in a bend of the Sarine River. The many mediaeval buildings with their Gothic facades – including the town’s landmark, the St. Nicholas Cathedral – constitute one of the most important architectural clusters of the kind in Europe. Many public places also display important works by well-known modern artists, including Jean Tinguely and Mario Botta. A rich variety of public and private museums in the town offer exhibits on a wide range of subjects, from modern art and cultural history to puppets and sewing machines. And, of course, chocolate also ranks high on the Fribourg cultural agenda: the famed Villars chocolate factory, now in operation over 100 years, is an architectural landmark in the modern section of town, while in the Old Town a traditional confectioner’s workshop provides a demonstration artisanal chocolate making. For more robust appetites, there are working breweries with restaurants attached, where you can have a meal and try out the local beer. Known as a cultural bridge between the German and French speaking parts of Switzerland, Fribourg is also home to 17 real bridges that add to the charm of a stroll through the city. The city’s oldest bridge dates to the 13th century; the newest, the La Poya Bridge, was opened in autumn 2014 and is now the longest cable-stayed bridge in Switzerland.

Festivals

Fribourg is home to a colourful array of festivals, including the now legendary FIFF “Festival International de Films de Fribourg”, the Belluard Festival for international contemporary art, the music festival “Les Georges”, the Festival international de Musiques sacrées, the International Folklore Festival and the International Organ Festival. These highlights offer students an extraordinary opportunity to expand their horizons in cultural encounters.

Fribourg’s hot-spots

In the evenings, visitors are spoiled for choice between theatre (Equilibre, Nuithonie, Le Bilboquet, Aula Magna of the University), jazz, rock, dancing (Fri-Son, Le Nouveau Monde, La Spirale) and much more besides – including the trendiest bars and restaurants (Banshees’ Lodge Pub, Le Soussol, Café de la Fonderie, Le xxème, Lapart, Café de l’Ancienne Gare, Le TM, Yatus, Les Menteurs).

Food and drink

Fribourg is a culinary oasis, host to many fine dining places in and around the city. For their daily needs, students can enjoy a wide choice of meals and snacks at the University dining hall and cafeteria.

Nature

From town and campus, out into the countryside. Leave the bustle of the city behind and bathe your senses in the magically wild, natural setting of the Gottéron valley. Take a stroll along the river, or follow the hiking trails in the conservation area around Lake Pérolles, and marvel as you stand beside the towering rock faces in the magnificent, protected natural setting.

Tradition

The “Bénichon” is annual three-day celebration with a tradition of many centuries. The name – from the Latin “benedicto” – refers to the religious origins of the festival, which began as a local celebration consecrating completion of the town’s new church. The Bénichon normally takes place in September. In November, the Fribourg carnival season begins, culminating with colourful parades, Guggenmusik, laughter, and fun filling the cobblestone streets of the Old Town before the coming of Lent. In early December, Fribourg celebrates its patron saint, jolly old St. Nicholas, each year as he rides through the town on a donkey waving to the crowd, while his helpers pass out sweets to the children lining his path.

This is also the season for the open-air Christmas market, where traditional pastries and crafts are on offer. And, of course, for keeping up the oldest student tradition of all, the many bistros, bars, and beer cellars through the Old Town are open all year round.

Security

Fribourg is a very safe place to live. In fact, Switzerland is known as one of the safest country in Europe. It is not a problem to walk alone on the street at night.



Contact



International Relations Office

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University of Fribourg

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twitter.com/unifr
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Faculty of Law's Erasmus and International Relations Office

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Dean's Office of the Faculty of Humanities

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www.unifr.ch/scimed | scimed@unifr.ch | +41 (0)26 300 88 84/85

Dean's Office of the Faculty of Theology

Avenue de l'Europe 20, 1700 Fribourg
www.unifr.ch/theo | decanat-theol@unifr.ch | +41 (0)26 300 73 70

Useful Addresses



Study Programme Information Office

studies.unifr.ch | studies@unifr.ch

Admissions and Registration Office for degree seeking students

www.unifr.ch/admission | +41 (0)26 300 7020

Language Centre

www.unifr.ch/centredelanguages | infocentredelanguages@unifr.ch | +41 (0)26 300 7999

Uni-Info

www.unifr.ch/uni-info | uni-info@unifr.ch | +41 (0)26 300 9590

Cantonal and University Library (BCU)

www.fr.ch/bcuf | bcu@fr.ch | +41 (0)26 305 1333

AGEF – Fribourg Students’ Association

www.unifr.ch/agef | agef@unifr.ch

ESN – Erasmus Student Network

Fribourg.esn.ch | esnfribourg@gmail.com | +41 (0)26 300 7027

Centre for Continuing Education

www.unifr.ch/formcont | formcont@unifr.ch | +41 (0)26 300 7347

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