

University of Fribourg – Switzerland

Factsheet 2023/24 for European Partners

University

Official Name Université de Fribourg / Universität Freiburg
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Website www.unifr.ch
Get to Know Us [Short Video](#) and [Brochure](#)

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Academic Calendar and Important Deadlines

Website www.unifr.ch/apps/calacad

Fall Semester

Nomination Deadline 30th April (if possible)
Application Deadline 31st May
Intensive Language Course 28.08.2023 – 15.09.2023
Welcome and Orientation Day 15.09.2023
Lecture Period 18.09.2023 – 22.12.2023
Examination Period Mid-December until February, depending on the faculty

Spring Semester

Nomination Deadline 30th September (if possible)
Application Deadline 31st October
Intensive Language Course 05.02.2024 – 16.02.2024

Welcome and Orientation Day	16.02.2024
Lecture Period	19.02.2024 – 01.06.2024
Examination Period	End of May until July, depending on the faculty
Easter Break	29.03.2024 – 07.04.2024

Language Requirements and Courses

Main Teaching Languages	French and German: almost all study programmes can be studied in French and German or bilingual English taught courses are mainly offered on Master level
Language Requirements	No official certificate is required. Student must have sufficient oral and written proficiency in the study language(s) corresponding to the courses they have listed on their learning agreement. Please check the teaching language of each course in the course catalogue. The minimum expected level to succeed at taking notes and writing papers is B1 upon arrival in Fribourg (Common European Framework of Reference for Languages). Students who need a visa for Switzerland need a level B2.
Pre-semester – Intensive Language Courses	A French intensive course for different levels including a programme of cultural and sports activities is organised before the semester starts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 weeks before the fall semester: 28.08. -15.09.2023; 90 hours / 6 credits / CHF 400.- • 2 weeks before the spring semester: 05. - 16.02.2024; 60 hours / 4 credits / CHF 270.- A German intensive fresh-up course is organized at the same time in collaboration with a local language school. More information: Pre-Semester Intensive Courses
Language Center at the University	During the semester language courses are offered in French, German, Italian and English at level A1 to C2. They are free of charge for all students. Online registration opens from two weeks before the beginning of the semester (fall semester: September 4, 2023; spring semester: February 5, 2024). First students have to pass an online placement test and can then register for a course at their level. More information: Language Centre .

Courses and Grades

Course Programme	www.unifr.ch/timetable Different filters can be used to facilitate the search (semester, language, level etc.).
Grading System	Students are assessed either by oral or written exams or by papers. The credit system is based on the European Credit Transfer System ECTS. One ECTS credit corresponds to a workload of 25 to 30 hours. More information: Credit and Grading System
Credit Load	More than 30 ECTS per semester are not recommended. There is no minimum of ECTS required by the University of Fribourg, but a reasonable workload is expected. Students should indicate on their Learning Agreement if they do any thesis research. Exchange students usually take fewer courses if they study in a foreign language. This has to be discussed prior to departure with the home coordinator.
Transcript of Records	Transcripts of records are issued to each student: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Around mid-March for the Fall Semester - Around mid-July for the Spring Semester or the Academic Year If a student writes a paper after the examination period, the issue of the Transcript of records will be therefore delayed.

Nomination and Application Procedure

Nomination Procedure IROs send their nominations by email to international-incoming@unifr.ch with the name and surname of the student, gender, nationality, date of birth, email address, field of study, level of study and study period. **New: IROs are asked to indicate if the student receives an Erasmus+ mobility grant (international mobility) from the home university for the stay at the University of Fribourg.**

Deadlines for the nominations: end of April for the fall semester and end of September for the spring semester. Exceptions are possible.

Application Procedure After reception of the nomination an online application link is sent to the student by email. This is a personal link, which can be used only once.

For stays starting in fall application links are sent starting from March; for stays during the spring semester, they are sent starting from September.

The student has to upload the following documents:

1. Summary of the application, signed by the student and her or his home coordinator
2. Course list or learning agreement (to be found in the online application)
3. Official transcript of former records
4. Europass language passport (to be found in the online application)
5. Curriculum vitae
6. Check list (to be found in the online application)
7. Copy of the passport

At the end of the application procedure students find the information regarding the application for housing (Apartis residencies) and the pre-semester language intensive course.

SEMP Scholarship

Beneficiary Students who attend the University of Fribourg as part of the *Swiss European Mobility Programme* are entitled to a scholarship funded by the Swiss Confederation and paid by Unifr.

Exception Students who receive an Erasmus+ scholarship from their home university, are not eligible for a SEMP scholarship.

Amount Students receive either CHF 440.- or CHF 380.- depending the country of their home university, for each month they spend in Fribourg for their studies (max. 5 months per semester).

Doctoral students staying less than 3 months but at least 60 days receive a grant for three and a half months.

More information: [SEMP Scholarship](#)

Green Travel Top Up

Exchange students who take the train or bus for their onward and/or return journey to Fribourg, receive a unique *Green Travel Top Up* of CHF 100.-. The tickets must be presented to the IRO at Unifr.

Practical Information

Visa Application Most non-EU or -EFTA citizens need a visa for their exchange stay at Unifr. Please read carefully the information on our website and start as early as possible the visa procedure which can take 3-4 months. More information: [Visa](#)

Housing A limited number of furnished rooms with shared bathroom and kitchen are available at the student residencies Apartis. The application for these rooms is integrated in the application process. Find other options and more information: [Accommodation](#)

Living Costs The living costs in Switzerland are higher than in many others European countries, but in Fribourg they are lower than in other Swiss cities. More information: [Budget](#)

Health Insurance All students must have a health insurance. A civil liability insurance is highly recommended. More information: [Insurance](#)

Choose the University of Fribourg

- University Sports** <https://www3.unifr.ch/campus/en/activities/sports.html>
- Cultural and Social Life** <https://www3.unifr.ch/campus/en/activities/culture-and-social-life.html>
- City and Surroundings** <https://www3.unifr.ch/studies/en/choose-fribourg/life-in-fribourg.html>
- Fribourg Tourism** www.fribourgtourisme.ch
- Instagram IRO** www.instagram.com/unifr_international
- Facebook IRO** www.facebook.com/UnifrInternational
- Instagram Unifr** www.instagram.com/unifribourg
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Subject to change