

University of Fribourg – Switzerland

Factsheet 2025/26 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 25.08.2025 – 12.09.2025
Welcome and Orientation Day 12.09.2025
Lecture Period 15.09.2025 – 19.12.2025
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 02.02.2026 – 13.02.2026

Welcome and Orientation Day	13.02.2026
Lecture Period	16.02.2026 – 29.05.2026
Examination Period	End of May until July, depending on the faculty
Easter Break	03.04.2026 – 12.04.2026

Language Requirements and Courses

Main Teaching Languages	French and German: most study programmes can be taken in French, German, or a combination of both (bilingual). Courses taught in English are mainly offered on the 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 B2 level.
Pre-semester – Intensive Language Courses	An intensive French 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: 25.08. - 12.09.2025; 90 hours / 6 credits / CHF 400.- • 2 weeks before the spring semester: 02. - 13.02.2026; 60 hours / 4 credits / CHF 270.- An intensive German 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 levels A1 to C2. They are free of charge for all students. Online registration opens two weeks before the beginning of the semester (fall semester: September 1, 2025; spring semester: February 2, 2026). First, the 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	Learning outcomes 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	Taking more than 30 ECTS per semester is not recommended. There is no official minimum of ECTS required by the University of Fribourg, but a reasonable workload of at least 15 ECTS is expected. Students should indicate on their Learning Agreement if they conduct any thesis research. We expect incoming students to choose the majority of their courses in the study field of the exchange agreement they were nominated through. 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. More information: Learning Agreement

Transcript of Records Transcripts of records are issued to each student:

- Around mid-March for the Fall Semester
- Around mid-July for the Spring Semester or the Academic Year

If a student submits a paper after the examination period, the issue of the Transcript of records will be therefore delayed.

Nomination and Application Procedure

Nomination Procedure To nominate their students, IROs are asked to fill out the provided Excel sheet and send it by email to international-incoming@unifr.ch.

The Excel template can be downloaded under the following link: [University of Fribourg – Nomination Sheet](#)

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 the 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 intensive language courses.

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.

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

Students (for example 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 travel to and from Fribourg by train or bus can request a unique *Green Travel Top Up* of CHF 100.-. The travel receipt(s) for the outward journey must be sent by e-mail to the IRO (international-incoming@unifr.ch) within the first 3 weeks of the semester.

Practical Information

Visa Application Most non-EU or non-EFTA citizens need a visa for their exchange stay at Unifr. Please read the information on our website carefully and start the visa procedure as early as possible as it 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 here: [Accommodation](#)

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

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

Choose the University of Fribourg

University Sports <https://www.unifr.ch/campus/en/activities/sports.html>

Cultural and Social Life <https://www.unifr.ch/campus/en/activities/culture-and-social-life.html>

City and Surroundings <https://www.unifr.ch/studies/en/choose-fribourg/life-in-fribourg.html>

Fribourg Tourism www.fribourgtourisme.ch

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Subject to change