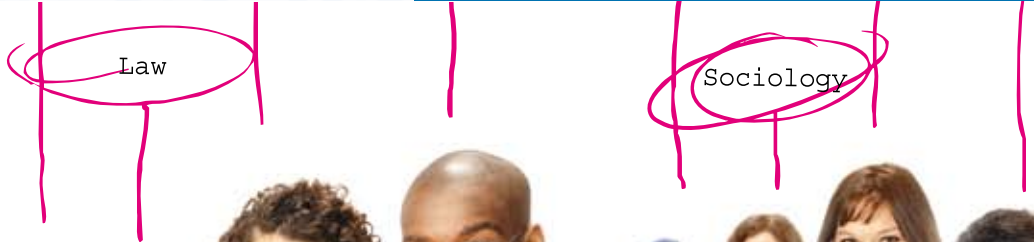


UNIVERSITÉ DE FRIBOURG / UNIVERSITÄT FREIBURG

# STUDY IN FRIBOURG







## WELCOME TO FRIBOURG

By choosing Fribourg, you have opted to study at a university that is unique in Switzerland and in Europe by virtue of its French and German bilingualism. Genuinely international, and proud of its humanist tradition, the University of Fribourg is a true image of contemporary Switzerland: modern and multi-cultural. Its five Faculties offer a high standard of teaching in an atmosphere of academic excellence. With its 10,000 students, Fribourg will enchant you with its university town charm and magnificent quality of life.

I shall be delighted to welcome you here very soon

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "G. Vergauwen". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Guido Vergauwen, Rector



## A MODERN UNIVERSITY STEEPED IN TRADITION

**With approximately 10,000 students and over 200 professors representing more than 110 countries, the University of Fribourg has an unmistakably international atmosphere. Its five Faculties (Schools), with study programmes taught in both French and German, offer a welcoming intellectual environment in a truly bilingual institution.**

- **The University**

The first step towards creating a formal university was taken with the establishment of the Academy of Law in 1763. Later, in 1889, through the effective stewardship of a local, visionary political leader, Georges Python, the authorities of the canton of Fribourg agreed to found what would become the first university of a Catholic canton in Switzerland.

- **An International Institution**

The University of Fribourg is Switzerland's only bilingual institution for tertiary education. The impressive growth of the number of students in the last 30 years is a true indication of the University's dynamism; during the past 15 years, its student body has more than doubled. Compared to other universities in Switzerland, the proportion of students in the University of Fribourg from outside the canton is particularly high – a clear indication that its reputation transcends regional boundaries.

Approximately 50% of the student population has German as their mother tongue, 29% has French, and 8% Italian. The variety of nationalities among students and professors generates an intellectually stimulating atmosphere. The University of Fribourg is a truly international institution; as much as 20% of the student body and almost one third of its teaching staff hail from abroad.

- **Capturing the Spirit of Fribourg**

The University continues to enjoy a friendly, family-like atmosphere despite its recent impressive growth. Bilingual Fribourg, with the ambience typical of a university town, fosters enjoyable interpersonal contact and encourages stimulating encounters with scholars and students of all ages



## STUDYING AND TEACHING

**Following four years of intense planning and construction, the new campus of “Pérolles 2” was inaugurated in autumn 2005. It has enabled several thousand students to pursue their studies in a modern environment enhanced by the latest technological innovations.**

### ● Pérolles 2: A Modern, Sober and Elegant Campus

The new campus of Pérolles 2 is one of the University's most recent responses to the steady growth of the student body over the past 15 years. The brainchild of the architectural firm of B. Braissant-Hiltbrunner-Schmid, it embodies an astonishing blend of function, elegance and comfort. It is a veritable work of art, whose beauty has been captured by Anne Blanchet of Geneva in her *chef d'œuvre* “The Bridge of Lights.”

Pérolles 2 is a major step towards the expansion of the University. It provides work-spaces for an additional 2,200 people, thereby considerably improving the quality of life at the University. Pérolles 2 has turned the plateau on which the campus is situated into a marvellous ensemble for education, research and innovation. Several of the University's Faculties – including, for instance, the Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences, the Faculty of Sciences, and the International Management Institute – are now only a 10 minute walk from the centre of the University.

### ● The Avant-Garde Architecture of Miséricorde

The main building of the University, Miséricorde, constitutes another major centre of learning and research. The work of Denis Honegger, one of Le Corbusier's students, Miséricorde stands out for its purity of form, harmonious integration with natural and human environments, choice of building material, and revolutionary design (reinforced concrete, devoid of both plaster and paint). Its significance in 20th century Swiss architecture has given Miséricorde official status as a protected historical monument.

Inaugurated in 1941 as the University's main building, Miséricorde boasts auditoriums, work rooms, libraries and offices for the Faculties of Arts, Theology, and Law, as well as the magnificent 800-seat *aula magna*.



## A BILINGUAL UNIVERSITY PAR EXCELLENCE

**Situated in the heart of Switzerland and Europe, Fribourg (Freiburg in German), nestled at the foot of the Prealps, is on the linguistic border between the French and German speaking parts of the country. This privileged geographical location makes Fribourg a natural bridge between different languages and cultures. Studying at the University of Fribourg offers a unique opportunity for students to learn several languages.**

- **Bilingualism: A Tradition and a Competitive Advantage**

Walking through the corridors of the University, one will commonly hear conversations in Chinese, English, Italian, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, and other languages in addition to the official languages of French and German.

Unique among Swiss institutions of higher learning, the University of Fribourg is the bilingual university *par excellence*. French and German are equally encouraged and one can study in either language, or in both, thus benefiting from the intercultural insights of two distinct languages. Many who choose to study in Fribourg go there precisely to polish their skills in a second language, as well as to graduate with a bilingual diploma, which represents a significant competitive advantage in today's global job market.

- **Improve Your Knowledge of Languages Step by Step**

Bilingualism is not, however, a prerequisite for acceptance to the University. One may study in the language of one's choice. The University's Centre for Language Learning and Research (CERLE/LeFoZeF) offers both traditional language courses and pro-

grammes for students who wish to improve their languages for specific purposes. The CERLE/LeFoZeF also has a media centre and library with a substantial and sophisticated array of resources for self-directed learning of a number of modern languages.

- **Language Tandems**

The CERLE/LeFoZeF organizes language tandems at the University for pairs of students, each of whom has a different mother tongue. The aim of this popular system is for students to improve their skills in the non-native language, but they also gain cross-cultural understanding in the multi-lingual context. Each partner in turn takes on the role of teacher or student. Together they set the pace and rhythm of their learning, agreeing together on the frequency, location, objectives and themes of their meetings.



- **Bilingualism: An Option, Not an Obligation**

While the University curriculum is available in both French and German, and students can choose to study in either, students who wish to can graduate with the special mention "bilingual" on their diploma, provided they complete at least 40% of their study programme in the second language.

The option to pursue bilingual studies varies according to the Faculty and subject of study. The Faculties of Theology, Law, and Economics and Social Sciences offer full bilingual curricula in French and German. The Faculty of Arts offers this possibility for certain subjects, e.g. Languages and Literature courses are offered in either French or German. In the Faculty of Sciences, the courses are taught partly in French and partly in German.

- **«Bilingue plus»: Advanced Bilingual Studies**

In autumn 2004, the Faculty of Law introduced a highly specialized and competitive programme called "bilingue plus." "Bilingue plus" offers students the chance to

acquire higher-level language skills required in bilingual environments. For instance, alongside their regular bilingual law studies, small groups of students of the Faculty take intensive language courses relating to specific subjects. The "bilingue plus" programme includes studies in history, political culture and other subjects. This programme allows students to meet prominent and influential leaders from the cultural, economic or political *milieux* in Switzerland and abroad.

- **English: The Language of Scientific and Scholarly Exchange**

In addition to the national languages, special attention is given to English. Experience has clearly shown that using English in addition to French and German constitutes a decisive advantage for Fribourg graduates.



## WELL-CONNECTED TO NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL NETWORKS

**The University of Fribourg is part of a strategic network of professionals and partnerships throughout the world. For students and teachers, the benefits from the ideas and resources exchanged through such alliances are particularly useful in teaching and research.**

### • Culture *sans* Borders

An institution that emphasizes the propagation of knowledge without borders, the University of Fribourg cooperates with universities worldwide in the areas of teaching and research. Both students and teachers have a wide choice in studying abroad and/or working on international projects. The University has committed to about 40 conventions with foreign institutions and signed 150 Erasmus/Socrates projects. It also has numerous cooperation agreements with universities in Central and Eastern Europe.

### • Bologna-Compliant Programmes

The University of Fribourg was one of the first in Switzerland to implement the Bologna Declaration, whose aim is to harmonize Europe's various university programmes. The European Credit Transfer System (ECTS), which is a system of transferable academic credits for programmes under the Bologna Declaration, maintains the quality and number of students choosing to be mobile under the Declaration. The curricula, which are modular and allow specializations, are spread over three years for a bachelor's degree, with an additional one and a half years thereafter for a master's degree.

In accordance with the expectations of the Bologna reforms, the University of Fribourg has implemented new instruments and tools to measure the quality of its programmes.

### • The University Network in Central Switzerland: BeNeFri

The University strongly encourages cooperation, both at the international level and regionally within Switzerland. Together with the Universities of Bern and Neuchâtel, the University of Fribourg has formed the BeNeFri network in central Switzerland. This network forms a third centre of competence. (The other two are those of Zurich and Geneva-Lausanne.) In 1993, these three university centres of competence, including their 25,000 students, formalized a tripartite collaboration by signing a convention whose objective was to coordinate teaching and research. This allows students of these universities to benefit from a wider range of programmes, affording increased mobility and interaction with their BeNeFri partners. As a result of the conventions signed to date, a student can attend courses or seminars or take exams in any partner university for subjects not taught at one's base university.



## THE FACULTY OF THEOLOGY

The University of Fribourg's Faculty of Theology is Switzerland's largest; together with that of Lucerne, it is one of only two Roman Catholic Theology Faculties that form part of a state university. The Dominican Order (*Ordo Praedicatorum*) has special responsibilities within the Faculty and constitutes one third of the professors in the Faculty.

Theology is a very wide field today; many of its specializations call for an interdisciplinary approach. It interacts with many subjects in other disciplines and offers numerous non-ecclesiastical career opportunities.

The Faculty, with five departments and five interdisciplinary institutes, has three competence centres within the theme, "Catholic Theology faced with Science, Religion and Culture." These are: "Documents and Monuments of the Bible," "The Theology of Ecumenism," and "Theology in the Dominican Tradition."

The Faculty's international reputation in advanced research draws a large number of PhD students. Its teaching staff and students have given the Faculty a leading position in addressing today's ecclesiastical and social challenges as well as prominence in the ecumenical approach.

**For further information  
please contact:**

*Faculty of Theology Décanat  
Miséricorde – Av. de l'Europe 20  
CH–1700 Fribourg  
T +41 (0)26 300 73 70  
[www.unifr.ch/theo/](http://www.unifr.ch/theo/)  
[decanat-theol@unifr.ch](mailto:decanat-theol@unifr.ch)*



## THE FACULTY OF LAW

The University of Fribourg's Faculty of Law is one of the most renowned in Switzerland and, with 1,900 students, the country's second largest law school. It is the only Faculty in Switzerland which offers students the opportunity to complete their studies in French and German. Some 25% of the students choose this bilingual option, while a number of even more ambitious students choose the intensive, advanced "bilingue *plus*" programme in the non-native language and culture.

In addition to the traditional offerings in national law, including constitutional law, administrative law, private law, penal law and procedures, the Faculty also covers international law, including International Public Law and European Law.

Other general subjects such as Roman Law, The History of Law, The Philosophy of Law, and Political Economy, are taught in the general education programmes.

Special mentions can be obtained at the master's level, particularly in European law and Religious law.

The programmes place an emphasis on practice, which is achieved through exercises in the bachelors' programmes and intensive interactive courses in the masters' programmes.

**For further information  
please contact:**

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Miséricorde - Av. de l'Europe 20  
CH - 1700 Fribourg  
T +41 (0)26 300 80 00 / 02  
[www.unifr.ch/droit](http://www.unifr.ch/droit)  
[decanat-droit@unifr.ch](mailto:decanat-droit@unifr.ch)*



## THE FACULTY OF ECONOMICS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

The Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences at the University of Fribourg is divided into a number of subsections: Economics is made up of Political Economics, Management, and Information Systems, while Social Sciences is composed of Media and Communication Sciences.

The Faculty, with its 2,300 students, is multilingual and has a strongly international atmosphere. Within the Faculty, students' academic progress is closely monitored. To prepare students for their later professional roles in multilingual environments, language courses are offered (English, French, and German). The Faculty enjoys the benefits of a reliable network of contacts in partner universities throughout the world. Students can choose from five programmes at the bachelor level, and five at the master level.

To allow professional managers to learn and train while working, the Faculty offers international executive management programmes for graduate students, primarily MBA programmes in Executive Technology Management and in the Management of Non-Profit Organizations.

**For further information  
please contact:**

*Faculty of Economics and  
Social Sciences  
Boulevard de Pérolles 90  
CH-1700 Fribourg  
T +41 (0)26 300 82 00  
[www.unifr.ch/ses](http://www.unifr.ch/ses)  
[decanat-ses@unifr.ch](mailto:decanat-ses@unifr.ch)*



## THE FACULTY OF ARTS

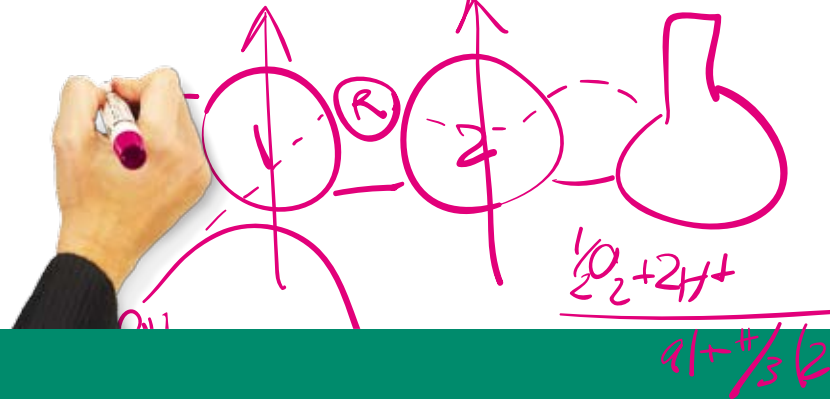
With over 4,000 students, the Faculty of Arts is the largest in the University. Linguistically pluralistic and strongly humanistic in nature, the Faculty explores relationships between past and present cultures. The Faculty's offerings are wide-ranging: from human sciences, philosophy, historical sciences, languages and literature, to pedagogy, psychology and certain aspects of social sciences.

The Faculty of Arts offers bachelor's or master's degrees in numerous programmes; one may study in either French or German. Language and literature are taught in their respective languages (Italian, Spanish, English or Russian). Graduates in bilingual programmes obtain diplomas with the special mention "Bilingual."

The Faculty is extremely well connected to other universities throughout the world and participates in numerous European exchange programmes. Language students in these programmes are strongly encouraged to study a minimum of six months to a year at another European university.

**For further information  
please contact:**

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Miséricorde - Av. de l'Europe 20  
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T +41 (0)26 300 75 00 / 01  
[www.unifr.ch/lettres](http://www.unifr.ch/lettres)  
[lettres@unifr.ch](mailto:lettres@unifr.ch)*



## THE FACULTY OF SCIENCE

Since its creation in 1896 the Faculty of Science has contributed significantly to the economic and industrial development of the canton and town of Fribourg.

The Faculty is composed of seven departments, and offers nine programmes: biochemistry, biology, biomedicine and chemistry, earth science, geography, computer science, mathematics and physics. Well-integrated with international research networks, the Faculty's significant proportion of PhD candidates indicates the high quality of its research. The Faculty of Science also participates in numerous publications jointly with foreign universities.

Its 1,200 students enjoy excellent support from their professors, who share a close relationship with their students. In addition to theory, practical work is a priority, and the students are provided with first-class materials and equipment.

Each department is known for its strengths in specific domains. For the Biology Department, it is the genetics of development, in the Chemistry Department, intelligent and functional materials, in Geology, global environmental changes, in Computer Science, the relationship between man and machine, in Mathematics, analysis and application, in Medicine, neuronal and cerebral control of behaviour, and in Physics, the physics of condensed materials.

**For further information  
please contact:**

*Faculty of Science Décanat  
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CH-1700 Fribourg  
T +41 (0)26 300 84 50  
[www.unifr.ch/science](http://www.unifr.ch/science)  
[sciences@unifr.ch](mailto:sciences@unifr.ch)*



## FRIBOURG – A UNIVERSITY TOWN *PAR EXCELLENCE*

**Fribourg is both a very young town and an ancient city: young because 10,000 of the 40,000 inhabitants are students, ancient because of its medieval heritage and its antique traditions. It is an animated urban centre with special charm and cachet.**

- **A Cultural Jewel**

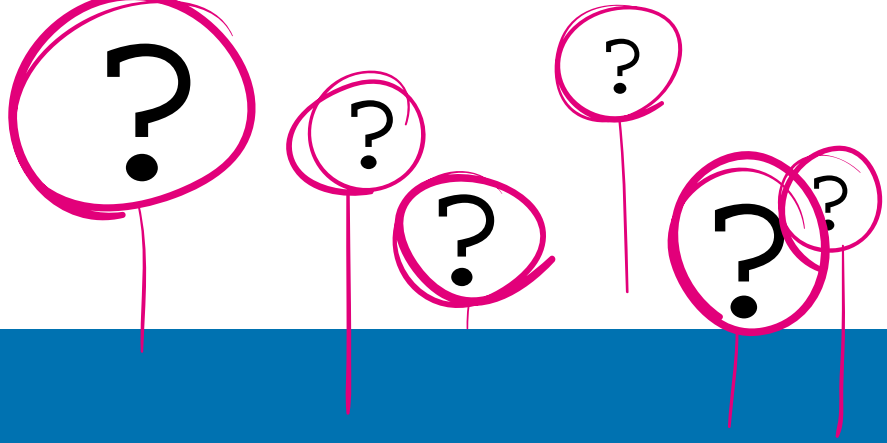
An archetypical university town offering a high quality of life and an environment particularly conducive to study and research, Fribourg is located on the river Sarine, at the base of spectacularly steep cliffs that were formed by the passage of glaciers long ago. Founded in 1157 by the Duke of Zähringen, the old part of town, with its Gothic cathedral, narrow streets, wooden and stone bridges, museums, cafés and picturesque places, constitutes one of the most beautiful, and best-preserved, medieval ensembles in Europe. The numerous students that live in the town contribute to the vibrant rhythm of life in Fribourg and are an integral part of its unique atmosphere.

- **Feast for the Senses**

A multitude of festivals and events contribute to the cultural life of Fribourg – the International Film Festival, the Bollwerk/Belluard Festival, the annual International Folklore Festival of Fribourg, and the Medieval Weeks. During the summer, music is abundant, with annual festivals for jazz, guitar, and religious music. One can also enjoy events for smaller audiences – poetry readings or concerts in the student center, the Centre Fries. Numerous little cafés and restaurants offer first-class delicacies. Fribourg is also

a fantastic starting point for excursions to The Way of St James, the Cistercian abbey of Hauterive and the charming lake of Gruyère, near the world-famous cheese makers. The region is a paradise for sports enthusiasts; it has more than 500 km of bicycling routes and 2,000 km of signposted hiking trails. Winter sports abound too, as there are hundreds of kilometres of ski trails less than an hour away.

Fribourg is easily accessible by road and rail. Geneva and Zurich airports, for instance, are only about 90 minutes away by train; it takes only 40 minutes to get to Lausanne and only 20 minutes to the nation's capital, Bern.



## HELPFUL INFORMATION

**The University of Fribourg believes that it is essential to make its students' stay as comfortable as possible, and the University's administration services are available to respond to all queries.**

- **Registration and Costs**

For admission to the University, applicants should have an official Swiss degree or a recognized equivalent. Additional information can be obtained at the University of Fribourg Admissions and Registration Office. Applications may also be made online at [www.unifr.ch/admission](http://www.unifr.ch/admission).

- **Opening Horizons: Mobility and Exchanges**

As a result of bilateral and multilateral agreements, students of the University of Fribourg can spend one or two semesters in another tertiary-level school. Such stays are a unique opportunity to hone one's skills in a foreign language, broaden one's cultural vision and sensitivity and make new contacts. The University recognizes the duration of study and accepts credits for courses taken abroad. A framework agreement is also in place with other Swiss universities, with established rules for recognition of the relevant semesters, courses, exams and academic degrees as well as transfers to another school.

- **For One and All**

The University ensures that adequate infrastructure is available for all students at all times. There are numerous libraries, reading rooms, computer rooms and a foreign-language media centre on campus. Institutions for social advice, grants, study and career guidance, psychological counselling, a nursery, and spiritual guidance, support the students in their day-to-day life. The AGEF (General Students' Association) helps students find jobs, lodging or even books.

- **Mens Sana In Corpore Sano**

The University Sports Institute offers a range of classes in 30 different sports: from aqua fit, Tai Ji Quan and indoor cycling to kayak, tennis and Capoeira. The "Mountain and Sports" programme includes activities like snow-shoe walking (at night when there is a full moon), rock climbing on weekends and canyoning. ([www.unifr.ch/sport](http://www.unifr.ch/sport)). Musical talent finds expression in choirs and in the University of Fribourg and city



orchestras. There are many associations promoting leisure activities or facilitating professional apprenticeships and internships, such as the International Association of Students in Economic and Commercial Sciences (AIESEC), the European Law Students' Association (ELSA) and Spectrum, the student magazine.

- **Affordable lodgings**

The cost of living in Fribourg is lower than in many other Swiss cities. About CHF 1500 (around € 1,000) per month should cover living and study expenses. An affordable room in a foyer or a residential community is not difficult to find within city limits. The "REST," a student housing service, rents bedrooms for about CHF 365 – in its own buildings, or helps students find accommodation elsewhere and deals with rental arrangements. For more details: [www.unifr.ch/rest](http://www.unifr.ch/rest).



UNIVERSITÉ DE FRIBOURG / UNIVERSITÄT FREIBURG

## ADDRESS BOOK

## Main Address:

### University of Fribourg

Miséricorde – Avenue de l'Europe 20  
CH–1700 Fribourg  
T +41(0)26 300 71 11  
F +41(0)26 300 97 00  
[www.unifr.ch](http://www.unifr.ch)

## Useful Addresses:

### Rectorat

Miséricorde – Avenue de l'Europe 20  
CH–1700 Fribourg  
T +41 (0)26 300 70 02  
[rectorat@unifr.ch](mailto:rectorat@unifr.ch)  
[www.unifr.ch/rectorat/](http://www.unifr.ch/rectorat/)

### Communication & Marketing

Miséricorde – Avenue de l'Europe 20  
CH–1700 Fribourg  
T +41 (0)26 300 70 34  
[marcom@unifr.ch](mailto:marcom@unifr.ch)  
[www.unifr.ch/scm/](http://www.unifr.ch/scm/)

## Counselling and Support for Students:

### Admissions and Registration

Miséricorde – Avenue de l'Europe 20  
CH–1700 Fribourg  
T +41 (0)26 300 70 20  
[admission@unifr.ch](mailto:admission@unifr.ch)  
[www.unifr.ch/admission](http://www.unifr.ch/admission)

### International Relations

Miséricorde – Avenue de l'Europe 20  
CH–1700 Fribourg  
T +41 (0)26 300 70 47  
[international@unifr.ch](mailto:international@unifr.ch)  
[www.unifr.ch/international](http://www.unifr.ch/international)

### Counselling and Support for Students

Miséricorde – Avenue de l'Europe 20  
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T + 41 (0)26 300 70 14  
[acadinfo@unifr.ch](mailto:acadinfo@unifr.ch)  
[www.unifr.ch/acadinfo](http://www.unifr.ch/acadinfo)

### Social Counselling and Subsidies

8a, G. de Techtermann Street  
CH–1700 Fribourg  
T +41 (0)26 300 71 60  
[social@unifr.ch](mailto:social@unifr.ch)  
[www.unifr.ch/social](http://www.unifr.ch/social)

### Psychological Counselling

Avenue de Beauregard 13  
CH–1700 Fribourg  
T +41 (0)26 300 70 41  
[conseilpsychologique@unifr.ch](mailto:conseilpsychologique@unifr.ch)  
[www.unifr.ch/cpe](http://www.unifr.ch/cpe)

### Gender Equality Office

Miséricorde – Avenue de l'Europe 20  
CH–1700 Fribourg  
T +41 (0)26 300 70 40  
[www.unifr.ch/fem](http://www.unifr.ch/fem)

### Catholic Community

8a, G. de Techtermann Street  
CH–1700 Fribourg  
T +41 (0)26 300 70 40  
[kug@unifr.ch](mailto:kug@unifr.ch)  
[www.unifr.ch/kug/](http://www.unifr.ch/kug/)

### Protestant Community (EUG)

8a, G. de Techtermann Street  
CH–1700 Fribourg  
T +41 (0)26 300 71 74  
[eug@unifr.ch](mailto:eug@unifr.ch)  
[www.unifr.ch/eug](http://www.unifr.ch/eug)

### **Help for Physically Challenged Students**

Service of admission and inscription  
Miséricorde – Avenue de l'Europe 20  
CH–1700 Fribourg  
T +41 (0)26 300 70 20  
admission@unifr.ch  
[www.unifr.ch/admission](http://www.unifr.ch/admission)

### **General Students' Association of Fribourg (AGEF)**

Miséricorde – Avenue de l'Europe 20  
CH–1700 Fribourg  
T +41 (0)26 300 73 12  
agef@unifr.ch  
[www.unifr.ch/agef](http://www.unifr.ch/agef)

### **Micromus (Computer Services)**

Miséricorde – Avenue de l'Europe 20  
CH–1700 Fribourg  
T +41 (0)26 300 73 18  
micromus@unifr.ch  
[www.unifr.ch/micromus](http://www.unifr.ch/micromus)

### **Juridical Services for Students**

Av. de Beauregard 11  
CH–1700 Fribourg  
T +41 (0)26 300 81 17  
[www.unifr.ch/etudier/services/conseil/servicejuridiqueF.html](http://www.unifr.ch/etudier/services/conseil/servicejuridiqueF.html)

## **Infrastructure:**

### **Cantonal and University Library**

Rue Joseph-Piller 2  
CH–1700 Fribourg  
T +41 (0)26 305 13 33  
bcu@fr.ch  
[www.fr.ch/bcu/](http://www.fr.ch/bcu/)

### **Student Lodging («REST»)**

Rue de l'Hôpital 4  
CH–1700 Fribourg  
T +41 (0)26 300 73 13  
rest@unifr.ch  
[www.unifr.ch/rest/](http://www.unifr.ch/rest/)

### **Nursery**

4, G. de Techtermann Street  
CH–1700 Fribourg  
T +41 (0)26 300 71 77  
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### **Centre Fries**

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UNIVERSITÉ DE FRIBOURG / UNIVERSITÄT FREIBURG

universitas friburgensis