

# University of Fribourg - Switzerland Factsheet 2026/27 For Exchange Partners Outside Europe

University	
<b>Official Name</b>	Université de Fribourg / Universität Freiburg
<b>Address</b>	Avenue de l'Europe 20; 1700 Fribourg; Switzerland ( <a href="#">Google Maps</a> )
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.unifr.ch">www.unifr.ch</a>
<b>Get to Know Us</b>	<a href="#">Video</a> and <a href="#">Virtual Tour</a>
International Relations Office	
<b>Address</b>	University of Fribourg - Campus "Miséricorde" - Avenue de l'Europe 20 – CH-1700 Fribourg - Switzerland, Office # 4059 A – B
<b>Contacts</b>	Phone: (+) 41 26 300 70 47 <a href="mailto:international-incoming@unifr.ch">international-incoming@unifr.ch</a>
<b>Websites</b>	For incoming students: <a href="http://www.unifr.ch/mobility">www.unifr.ch/mobility</a> Course programme : <a href="https://www.unifr.ch/timetable/">https://www.unifr.ch/timetable/</a>
<b>Social Medias</b>	Instagram: <a href="https://www.instagram.com/unifr_international">https://www.instagram.com/unifr_international</a> Facebook: <a href="http://www.facebook.com/UnifrInternational">www.facebook.com/UnifrInternational</a>
Academic Calendar and Important Dates	
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.unifr.ch/apps/calacad">www.unifr.ch/apps/calacad</a>
<b>Recommended arrival date</b>	24 to 48 hours prior to Welcome and Orientation Day. Students are responsible for finding out how to collect the key to their chosen accommodation.
<b>Welcome and Orientation Day</b> is compulsory for all Incoming students	<p><b>Fall Semester</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monday, August 24, 2026, for the participants registered at the pre-semester intensive language courses.</li> <li>Thursday, September 10, 2026, for the others.</li> </ul> <p><b>Spring Semester</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monday, February 8, 2027, for the participants registered at the pre-semester intensive language courses.</li> <li>Friday, February 19, 2027, for the others.</li> </ul>
<b>Fall Semester – Lecture Period</b>	September 14 - December 18, 2026, equivalent to 14 weeks
<b>Spring Semester – Lecture Period</b>	February 22 – June 4, 2027, equivalent to 15 weeks
<b>Term breaks</b>	Christmas Break: December 19, 2026 - January 3, 2027 Easter Break: March 26, 2027 - April 4, 2027

<b>Examination Period</b>	<p>Fall Semester: between December and February Spring Semester: between May and July</p> <p>The exam schedule varies across faculties. Therefore, it is the student's responsibility to verify the relevant dates and seek clarification if needed.</p>
<b>Academic Information</b>	
<b>Main Teaching Languages</b>	French and German: almost all the study programmes can be studied in French and German or bilingual. Most English-taught courses are offered at Master's level.
<b>Language Requirements</b>	<p>Exchange students are not required to submit a language certificate when applying to the University of Fribourg. However, they must demonstrate sufficient oral and written proficiency in the language(s) of the courses listed in their Learning Agreement. Please consult the <a href="#">course catalogue</a> to verify the teaching language of each course. A minimum level of <b>B2</b> (<a href="#">Common European Framework of Reference for Languages</a>) is recommended to ensure the ability to take notes and write academic papers.</p> <p><b>Important:</b> Students are required to provide proof of a <b>B2 level</b> in the language of instruction when applying for a visa. An official language proficiency certificate (such as TOEFL, IELTS, or Cambridge) must be submitted at this stage. More information: <a href="#">Language Requirements</a></p>
<p><b>Pre-Semester - Intensive Language Courses</b> tailored for exchange students</p> <p>The information is available and can be checked when filling in the online application on the INSCRUNI tool.</p>	<p>A French intensive course for different levels including a programme of cultural and sports activities is organised before the semester starts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 weeks before the fall semester: 24.08 -11.09.2026 (90 hours / 6 credits / CHF 400.-)</li> <li>• 2 weeks before the spring semester: 08.02 - 19.02.2027 - (60 hours / 4 credits / CHF 270.-).</li> </ul> <p>A German intensive fresh-up course is organized at the same time in collaboration with a local language school. More information : <a href="#">Pre-Semester Intensive Courses</a></p>
<b>Language Center at the University</b>	<p><b>During the semester</b>, 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. First students have to pass an online placement test and can then register for a course at their level. More information : <a href="#">Language Centre</a></p>
<b>Grading System</b>	<p>Students are assessed either by oral or written exams, and/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.</p> <p>More information: <a href="#">Credit and Grading System</a></p>
<b>Credit Load</b>	<p>More than 30 ECTS per semester are not recommended. There is no official minimum of ECTS required by the Unifr, but a reasonable workload of at least 15 ECTS is expected. We expect incoming students to choose most 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: <a href="#">Learning Agreement</a>.</p>
<b>Transcript of Records</b>	<p>Transcripts of records are issued to each student:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Around end-February for the Fall Semester</li> <li>• Around mid-July for the Spring Semester or the Academic Year</li> </ul> <p>If a student writes a paper after the examination period, the issue of the Transcript of records will be therefore delayed.</p>

<b>Course Programme</b>	<a href="http://www.unifr.ch/timetable">www.unifr.ch/timetable</a> Different filters can be used to facilitate the search (semester, language, level etc.). The course programme is updated <b>every June</b> . Students send us: 1. The <i>Provisional Course List</i> with the application and is based on the course programme of the previous academic year. 2. The <i>Learning Agreement</i> based on the updated course programme until July 31 <sup>st</sup> .
<b>Nomination and Application Procedure</b>	
<b>Nomination Deadline</b>	Deadline for the Fall Semester or Academic Year: <b>March 15</b> (if possible) Deadline for the Spring Semester: <b>September 15</b> (if possible)  <i>Exceptions are possible. Please let us know by email if you intend to nominate your students at a later date.</i>
<b>Nomination Procedure</b>	To nominate students, we ask IROs to send an email to <a href="mailto:international-incoming@unifr.ch">international-incoming@unifr.ch</a> including the following details: student's first and last name, gender, nationality, date of birth, email address, field of study, level of study, and intended study period (Fall Semester, Spring Semester, or Academic Year).
<b>Application Deadline</b>	Deadline for the Fall Semester of Academic Year: <b>March 31</b> . Deadline for the Spring Semester: <b>September 30</b> .
<b>Application Procedure</b>	After reception of the nomination, an <b>online application link</b> is sent to the student by email. This is a personal link, which can be used only once. <u>The student has to upload the following documents:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Learning Agreement or provisional course list</li> <li>• Official Transcript of former records</li> <li>• List of courses attended at the time of the application</li> <li>• Proof of language proficiency (language test result if possible or Europass - this is a self-assessment of language proficiency)</li> <li>• Checklist</li> <li>• Copy of the passport</li> </ul> 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.
<b>Confirmation of placement and deadline</b>	The student will receive an email containing a <b>Letter of Acceptance</b> as a non-degree-seeking student under the bilateral agreement. This document is essential for the visa application process.  <b>For the Fall Semester of Academic Year: is expected early May.</b> <b>For the Spring Semester: is expected early November.</b>
<b>Practical Information</b>	

## Visa Application

### Visa Application

Please apply early as procedure can take up to 3 months

Information on **our website**:  
[Practical Information: Visa](#)

According to the procedure, the student applies for the visa at the Swiss Embassy or Consulate in the home country. This request is forwarded to the Cantonal authority in Fribourg for approval and then sent back to the Embassy or Consulate with the Cantonal authority's decision.

For the visa application, the student must submit the **following documents**:

1. The **letter of confirmation (attestation)** is attached to the placement confirmation email and is also available on the MyUnifr student online portal.
  2. A letter in which the student **commits himself to leave Switzerland** after his/her study period.
  3. A **course list** for his/her study period at our university.
  4. A brief **résumé** with the schools attended and certificates if any, description of the current studies, the languages learned, and if applies to internships and/or professional engagements, etc. It also must include the objectives of the study period, which is an exchange study period, and that the aim is not to obtain a university degree or university certificate at the end of the exchange study period. The stay is within a degree delivered in the home country.
  5. **Proof of financial resources**: CHF 21'900.- for the whole academic year or CHF 10'950.- for a semester. This must be evidenced by a bank statement from either a Swiss bank or a bank in the applicant's home country with a representation in Switzerland. Please consult the list of the officially accredited banks by the FINMA (Swiss Financial Market Supervisory Authority). The bank account must be in the student's name.
  6. **Proof of language proficiency**: Students do not need to submit a language certificate when applying to Unifr. But all students are required to demonstrate that they have attained a **B2 level** in the language of instruction when applying for a visa. At this stage, they must therefore provide an official language proficiency certificate (TOEFL, IELTS or Cambridge).
- ➔ Be aware that the Swiss diplomatic/consular mission may request further documentation or other guarantees (e.g., a language test at the embassy).

**Documents submitted with the visa application must be translated into French or German. Documents in English will not be accepted by the Immigration Office of the Canton of Fribourg.**

For more information, please visit [and+ website](#) and [Visa](#)

## Accommodation

- A limited number of furnished rooms with shared bathrooms and kitchens are pre-booked for exchange students at the student residencies [APARTIS](#) (partner of the IRO).
- 4 to 6 bedrooms per flat.
- The application for these rooms is integrated in the application process.
- Students must pay a room deposit before they receive the rental contract.
- Find other options and more information: [Accommodation](#)

## Health Insurance

- For non-EU and EFTA countries: the coverage must be for illness, accidents in Switzerland and repatriation to the home country.
- Enrolment in a health insurance plan in Switzerland is compulsory.

- We strongly advise the student to choose the following insurance: [www.swisscare.com](http://www.swisscare.com) and [www.scorestudies.ch](http://www.scorestudies.ch).
- More information: [Insurance](#)

## Studies & Disability

The University of Fribourg can accommodate students with special needs upon individual request. We encourage coordinators to inform us of any known disabilities when nominating their students. Students should submit their request for disability-related adjustments as early as possible by following the instructions provided during the online application process. Please note that the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Office needs several weeks to review the request and decide on possible adjustments. Further information and contact details can be found here: [Studies and Disability](#)

## 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](#)

## Safety

Fribourg offers a very safe environment both during the day and at night, allowing students to feel completely secure throughout their stay. More information: [Worldtravel Index](#)

## Welcome Guide

A welcome guide is sent to students in July for the Fall Semester and Academic Year and in January for the Spring Semester. It can also be found on our [website](#).

Additional information: [www.studyinswitzerland.plus/why-switzerland/](http://www.studyinswitzerland.plus/why-switzerland/)

## 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>
- Student organisation Erasmus Student Network *ESN Fribourg*: <https://fribourg.esn.ch/> and <https://www.instagram.com/esnfribourg/>
- City and Surroundings <https://www.unifr.ch/studies/en/choose-fribourg/life-in-fribourg.html>
- Fribourg Tourism [www.fribourgtourisme.ch](http://www.fribourgtourisme.ch) and MySwitzerland
- Instagram Unifr [www.instagram.com/unifribourg](https://www.instagram.com/unifribourg)
- Facebook Unifr [www.facebook.com/unifribourg](https://www.facebook.com/unifribourg)
- LinkedIn Unifr <https://ch.linkedin.com/school/university-of-fribourg/>
- Youtube <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCx74T4l0XqjFLcdlCavnoXQ>

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Subject to change