

# UAS Department of nursing sciences Fribourg

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The Department of nursing sciences Fribourg (HEdS-FR) is part of the University of Applied Sciences Western Switzerland (HES-SO), which teaches more than 17'000 students in seven cantons, all of which cover common or specific fields of education.

The Department of nursing sciences Fribourg has evolved from the former school of nursing, which was founded at the beginning of the last century. It has steadily developed over the years. Benefitting from its advantageous geographic situation at the crossroads of the linguistic and cultural pathways, it offers a high quality higher vocational education in either French, German or bilingually, leading to a Bachelor of Science HES-SO in Nursing. This degree is in line with the Bologna agreement and is recognised internationally. The HEdS-FR also participates actively in the development of the discipline, the Master and the doctorate programs in Nursing Sciences.

In addition to the basic education, the HEdS-FR promotes various activities in the field of applied research and development as well as in continuing education. It provides a choice of services to its numerous health and social partners. The activities are maintained in seven specific professional subjects: long-term care, mental health, caring for relatives, acute somatic situations, old people, health promotion and higher vocational education.

The University of Applied Sciences Department of nursing sciences Fribourg works together - in Switzerland and abroad – with other universities of applied sciences (UAS) in the health sector and with the three UAS with which it forms the HES-SO//Fribourg. Furthermore, it participates in different working groups on the regional, national and international level. This allows the HEdS-FR to play a significant part in the development of the education of nurses and the discipline of Nursing Sciences. Additionally, it perfectly meets the needs of its different health partners.

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## THE MISSION OF A UAS

The Swiss federal law on the UAS of 6 October 1995 determines the basic principles governing the universities of applied sciences, their status and their missions.

- **Basic education**

The education provided by the UAS is practically-oriented, preparing students for professional careers which require the application of knowledge and scientific methods.

- **Continuing education - postgraduate studies**

In addition to studies leading to a degree in the academic system, the UAS also offer advanced professional courses enabling students to gain more in-depth knowledge and skills, or to acquire new ones.

- **Applied research and development, services provided**

The UAS are active in the field of applied research and development, maintaining close cooperation with scientific and health organizations. Their own teaching also benefits from the integration of the results of this work. The UAS provide support for the use of this research and provide services to third parties (companies, cultural, social or health institutions).

- **National and international relations**

The universities of applied sciences work together with other academic and research institutions in Switzerland and abroad.

## STUDYING IN FRIBOURG

There is more to Switzerland than mountains and chocolate. Located in the heart of Europe, the country is an excellent place to live, work and study. The Department of nursing Sciences Fribourg is situated in the canton of Fribourg, which hosts three other UAS - merged under the name of HES-SO//Fribourg - as well as a university.

Fribourg, famous for its university and its bilingualism (French / German), offers a high quality of living and has the best conditions for studies and research. As an actual

university town, Fribourg has always put education first. The cultural, artistic and nightlife in Fribourg has been highly influenced by the presence of the students.

## THE SWISS EDUCATION SYSTEM

The Swiss education system is enriched by its diversity, each of the 26 cantons being responsible for all aspects of education in its territory. The first nine years, comprising a primary and a secondary level I, are mandatory.

Students then can choose to continue their studies at secondary level II either in academic upper secondary schools, specialized middle schools or in vocational training.

Tertiary education is provided by both the traditional universities, including the cantonal universities and the Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich and Lausanne, and the universities of applied sciences (UAS). While traditional universities focus mainly on pure research, the universities of applied sciences emphasize applied research. The master programs offered by universities of applied sciences differ from those of traditional universities through their clear practical orientation which provides valuable experience gained through project-related education.

The country's official languages are German, French, Italian and Romansh. English is the first language for business and research in Switzerland, something which makes it easy for English speakers to settle down in this country.

Further information:

[www.hes-so.ch](http://www.hes-so.ch)

[www.fribourg.ch](http://www.fribourg.ch)

[www.ch.ch](http://www.ch.ch)