UNIVERSITÉ DE FRIBOURG
UNIVERSITÄT FREIBURG

Curriculum for the award of the Degree of

Master Minor in Environmental Humanities and Ethics

Accepted by the Faculty of Science and Medicine on 14.04.2025

FACULTE DES SCIENCES ET DE MÉDECINE
MATHEMATISCH- NATURWISSENSCHAFTLICHE UND MEDIZINISCHE FAKULTÄT

CONTENTS

1 INTRODUCTION 3
1.1 Course Structure 3
1.2 Admission to the Programme of Study 3
1.3 Acquired Skills 3
1.4 Assessment of Courses and Acquisition of ECTS Credits 4
1.5 Teaching Languages 4
1.6 Ethics and Science 4
1.7 Regulations and Additional Information 4

2. MASTER MINOR 5
2.1 Teaching Units 5
2.1.1 Compulsory Teaching Unit 5
2.2 Examinations of the Master Minor and Validation 5

1 Introduction

The **Master Minor in Environmental Humanities and Ethics** specializes in environmental humanities and ethics. All modules consist of course units providing introductions and general overviews in the various fields of environmental ethics and governance with a humanist approach.

This curriculum introduces the course structure of the Master Minor study programme in Environmental Humanities and Ethics. It is based on the regulations of the Faculty of Science and Medicine as defined in the ***Règlement pour l'obtention des Bachelor of Science et des Master of Science de la Faculté des sciences et de médecine***, which entered into force on 30 May 2022 (hereafter called Regulation).

The Regulation of 30 May 2022 for the award of the Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees establishes a limit on the duration of Bachelor's and Master's studies, as well as of the Master Minor study programmes (see articles 11, 13 and 14) (https://www.unifr.ch/scimed/fr/rules/regulations).

1.1 Course Structure

The Master Minor study programme in Environmental Humanities and Ethics spans over four semesters and corresponds to a minimum of 30 ECTS credits.

The Master Minor can be chosen as a secondary programme for Master students whose curriculum calls for a Minor during their master studies. Students whose curriculum does not require a Minor during the Master may follow the programme as an "additional studies" programme.

The Master Minor study programme integrates courses in environmental humanities and ethics.

1.2 Admission to the Programme of Study

Acceptance to the Master Minor programme in Environmental Sciences and Humanities may be granted provided the following two conditions have been met by the applicant:

- The student is registered for a Master at the University of Fribourg and satisfies the University admission requirements as defined in the *Règlement concernant l'admission à l'Université de Fribourg* (https://www.unifr.ch/apps/legal/fr/document/274904),
- The student possesses a Bachelor degree from a Swiss University. It is recommended that the student has taken at least 30 ECTS in environmental sciences and/or environmental humanities during their Bachelor studies.

Candidates in possession of a Bachelor degree from abroad or of equivalent degrees (e.g. after graduating from an engineering school) can also be admitted to the Master Minor study programme by a decision of the Faculty of Science and Medicine to be made in each individual case.

1.3 Acquired Skills

The aim of the Master Minor in Environmental Humanities and Ethics is to complement knowledge acquired in the field of main studies with special competences in environmental ethics and governance, and especially ethical decision-making in practice. At the end of the programme, students will have shown that they understand the basic humanist and ethical underpinnings of environmental challenges and they can apply their competences to practical problems. The completion of the Master Minor requires creative and self-critical thinking as well as the ability to communicate ideas and work in English.

1.4 Assessment of Courses and Acquisition of ECTS Credits

Exercises are assessed following the criteria given at the beginning of each course. Admission to an exam corresponding to a lecture course can be subject to meet the requirements of the corresponding exercise class. **Assessment** of lectures is done by an oral and/or written exam, whose type and duration are regulated in the appendix to this curriculum. Exams take place during the official exam periods (sessions) in winter, summer, and autumn. Students register via the students' web portal MyUniFR (https://my.unifr.ch), within the stipulated delays for each exam according to the online procedure. Marks range from 6 (highest mark) to 1 (lowest mark). An exam marked below 4 can be repeated once at the next exam session at the earliest.

This curriculum comprises one validation package (the same regulations apply as for "a Minor at Bachelor level", see Art. 24 and 27 of the regulation).

The conditions for validation of ECTS credits are described in Art. 25 of the Regulation.

After the validation, upon request, the Dean's office will issue transcripts of records in which exam results and awarded credits are acknowledged (Art. 28 and 30 of the Regulation), provided the exam fee has been paid.

1.5 Teaching Languages

The course language will be in English. The most common language for exams and written assignments will be English.

1.6 Ethics and Science

Ethical principles are an integral part of a scientific education. Accepted international conventions must be respected during research and upon the writing of any scientific work, whether it is a project, a lecture, a thesis or a report. In particular, every external source of information (articles, lectures, web pages, etc.) must be correctly cited.

In this context, the Faculty has established the following compulsory course:
Detailed descriptions can be found at: https://www.unifr.ch/scimed/en/integrity

Basic orientation and research in the library
The aim is to learn about the specific objectives and methods of documentary research.

This course must be completed during the first semester of study. You will only be able to view your results after you have successfully completed this course and submitted the signed 'Declaration of Scientific Integrity' form.

1.7 Regulations and Additional Information

Detailed information about studying Environmental Sciences and Humanities can be found in the documents referenced on the web page http://www.unifr.ch/scimed/en/plans which can also be obtained from the Office of the University of Fribourg, Environmental Sciences and Humanities Institute, Chemin du Musée 4, CH-1700 Fribourg.

2. Master Minor

[Version 2025, validation packages : PV-SSE.0000056]

2.1 Teaching Units

2.1.1 Compulsory Teaching Unit

Environmental Humanities Module

Code	Course	Semester	tot. h.	ECTS
	***Compulsory courses*[1]**			
SSE.00432	Principles of environmental ethics (advanced), including reading seminar[2]	AS	56	6
SSE.00452	Responsibility in green political theory (advanced), including reading seminar[2]	AS	56	6
SSE.00470	Case studies in environmental sustainability	SS	28	3
	Elective courses			
SSE.00420	Justice in managing environmental challenges[2]		28	3
SSE.00450	Responsibilities for sustainability[2]		28	3
SSE.00455	Environmental Ethics for the Anthropocene[2]	AS / SS	28	3
SSE.00463	Environmental Humanities Colloquium II	AS/SS	28	3
SGG.00485	Environmental history	SS	28	3
SGG.00487	Issues in environmental ethics[2]	AS / SS	28	3
SGG.00477	Political ecology	SS	28	3
	Total			**30**

[1] To be followed in the first three semesters. Ideally, SSE.00432 or SSE.00452 is followed before SSE.00470 but they are no strict pre-requisite.

[2] Given every second year.

2.2 Examinations of the Master Minor and Validation

The teaching units of the *Environmental Humanities Module* are evaluated according to the modes described in the document “Modalités d’évaluation des UE des sciences de l’environnement”. The assessments of the *Humanities and Theology Module* takes place according to the information provided by the study plans of the concerned programs.

The **Master Minor in Environmental Humanities and Ethics** is completed upon the validation of all courses.