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# Master of Arts (MA) in Digital Humanities

## GENERAL OUTLINE

### Objectives

This 120-credit Master's course, offered jointly by the Faculty of Arts, Faculty of Social and Political Sciences and Faculty of Theology and Sciences of Religions, offers an interdisciplinary approach to theoretical and methodological knowledge aimed at developing an informed and critical view of the uses of digital technologies and the discourse associated with them, alongside the IT skills appropriate for the needs of the human and social sciences. The knowledge and know-how gained during the course include a reflection on the issues of digital cultures in a disciplinary pathway.

### Career prospects

The knowledge acquired in the field of digital humanities is an advantage in numerous areas of the labour market, from research (digitisation, data management and analysis, inventory, communication of results, etc.), publishing, advertising, communication, journalism, heritage conservation organisations (collection, cataloguing, visualisation, virtual museums, etc.), arts, cultural mediation, teaching (pedagogical tools, raising civic awareness, media training, images and information technology and communication), and sociology (analysis of social practices on the internet and in advertising, measurement and accounting tools, communicating and creating a collective memory, etc.). Engaging in dialogue with IT specialists has become a central issue in project management in all these areas. The course, which includes a number of optional classes delivered at EPFL, gives you the basis for this dialogue and gives you the opportunity to use your knowledge in an innovative way that reflects the concerns of the contemporary environment.

| le savoir vivant |

## understanding the current issues of digital technologies

### GENERAL INFORMATION

**Organisers**  
Faculty of Arts: [www.unil.ch/lettres](http://www.unil.ch/lettres)  
Faculty of Social and Political Sciences: [www.unil.ch/sps](http://www.unil.ch/sps)  
Faculty of Theology and Sciences of Religions: [www.unil.ch/fts](http://www.unil.ch/fts)

**Degree awarded**  
Master of Arts (MA) in Digital Humanities

**ECTS credits**  
120

**Duration**  
4 semesters

**Teaching language**  
French. Recommended level: C1

**Contact**  
Ms. Chloé Hoffmann  
Coordinator of the MA in Digital Humanities  
[coordination-ma-hn@unil.ch](mailto:coordination-ma-hn@unil.ch)

**More information**  
[www.unil.ch/lettres/master/humanites-numeriques](http://www.unil.ch/lettres/master/humanites-numeriques)

### EDUCATIONAL CONTENT

The common core of culture, society and digital humanities offers you the opportunity to acquire practical, theoretical and epistemological knowledge relating to the design, operation and uses of digital techniques. At a practical level, you will familiarise yourself with the principles of software design and development – in particular from the perspective of its application to issues and topics in the human and social sciences – so that you are sufficiently proficient to engage in dialogue with professionals (engineers, developers, editors, webmasters, graphic designers, etc.). The optional modules also give you the opportunity to develop skills in IT according to the needs associated with the topics studied in specific disciplines or your dissertation work. Some classes can be selected from the range of courses offered under the Master of Science in Digital Humanities programme at EPFL.

In addition to practical know-how, you will gain interpretation skills to help you decipher the cultural, social and political issues raised by the characteristics of digital tools. Indeed, day-to-day use of IT can make it seem self-evident, a perception that needs to be overcome by examining the logic that underpins its structure and functionality, making the technical object intelligible from a historical, ideological and social perspective.

In terms of skills, with regard to the ability to theorise about the issues of digital culture, particular objects of study or corpuses support an examination of the specific characteristics of digital technologies in respect of the conditions that govern the production, dissemination and reception/consumption of texts (factual, literary, scientific, etc.), sound (voice, music, etc.) and images (pictures, photographs, television, cinema, maps, cartoons, video games, etc.).

The respective contributions of the human and social sciences are both differentiated and problematised from an interdisciplinary perspective, but also addressed in terms of convergence, particularly in relation to media analysis – and more generally, an examination of the culture industry – viewed from the perspective of both the form of the messages communicated and through social practices and actors.

**Examinations**  
The first module is assessed through two exams and two marked validations. Programme courses are validated by seminar papers or exams.

**Mobility**  
Students have the possibility of studying for one semester in a partner institution, or carrying out field work abroad.

### SYLLABUS

**Common core in cultures, societies and digital humanities: 60 credits**

**Disciplinary programme: 60 credits**, made up of courses in one discipline (30 credits) and a Master's dissertation (30 credits), selected from courses offered by the Faculty of Arts, Faculty of Social and Political Sciences or Faculty of Theology and Sciences of Religions.

**Dissertation**  
Your dissertation forms part of your disciplinary programme and is jointly supervised by a lecturer from the discipline and a specialist in digital humanities. It will take a critical approach to digitally related issues from a theoretical perspective and/or in terms of research tools. Technical knowledge of the topic is supplemented by an epistemological reflection on the conceptual foundations of knowledge of digital culture.

### Scheme of the Master of Arts in Digital Humanities Course (120 ECTS credits)

Common Core		Disciplinary Programme	
4	<b>Cultures, Societies and Digital Humanities</b> 60 ECTS	<b>Dissertation*</b> 30 ECTS	
3		<b>Disciplinary Courses</b> 30 crédits	
2			
1			

Semesters  
\* The dissertation forms part of the disciplinary programme and takes a critical approach to digitally related issues..

### PRACTICAL INFORMATION

**Admission requirements**  
The candidate must be a holder of a Bachelor of Arts, a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, a Bachelor of Arts in Social Sciences, a Bachelor of Arts in the Study of Religions or a Bachelor of Theology of the University of Lausanne, or a title judged to be equivalent; he or she must continue at Master's level with the discipline(s) studied during the Bachelor's course for a minimum of 60 credits.

If you do not fulfil these requirements, please submit an application to the Admissions Service to check your eligibility.

**Final enrolment dates**  
It is possible to start the MA in Digital Humanities in the autumn or the spring semester.

Applications must be submitted to the Admissions Department before 30 April (Autumn semester) or 30 November (Spring semester): [www.unil.ch/immat](http://www.unil.ch/immat)

Candidates needing a visa to study in Switzerland must apply for enrolment at least two months prior to the deadlines indicated above.

**Start of courses**  
Autumn semester: mid-September  
Spring semester: mid-February  
Academic calendar: [www.unil.ch/central/calendar](http://www.unil.ch/central/calendar)

**Part-time Master's degree**  
Under certain conditions, a Master programme can be followed part-time. See [www.unil.ch/formations/master-temps-partiel](http://www.unil.ch/formations/master-temps-partiel).

**General information on studies, guidance**  
[www.unil.ch/soc](http://www.unil.ch/soc)

**Career prospects**  
[unil.ch/perspectives/unil-et-apres](http://unil.ch/perspectives/unil-et-apres)

**Accommodation and financial assistance**  
[www.unil.ch/sasme](http://www.unil.ch/sasme)

**International**  
[www.unil.ch/international](http://www.unil.ch/international)