



Why should you study in France?

CHOOSE FRANCE
2024-2025 GUIDE



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A vibrant higher education system

The higher education landscape in France is rich and diverse, offering a wide variety of programmes that are adapted to all academic backgrounds and aspirations. Prospective students must identify their educational goals in order to choose the right institution and programme, whether at the undergraduate, graduate or postgraduate level. The more the selected programme lines up with a candidate's background, the higher the chances are for admission.

The nationally accredited degrees issued by higher education institutions in France are academically and professionally recognised throughout the European Union, and are a part of the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS).

- **National universities and schools award national diplomas and degrees that have the same value**, regardless of the type of institution.

- **Engineering degrees** are nationally recognised as an equivalent to a master's degree. Schools that award these degrees are accredited by the Commission des titres d'ingénieur (CTI).

- **Nationally recognised business and management schools have similar accreditations.** Their programmes are

accredited by the Management Degree Evaluation Commission (CEFDG), by labels or by international accreditation bodies.

- **Art and design schools** also have national certifications and are registered with the National Repertory of Professional Certifications (RNCP)/ France Compétences:

www.francecompetences.fr/recherche_certificationprofessionnelle

Keep in mind:

- In France, you can get a nationally recognised degree in two years.
- Students who hold a graduate level degree can pursue PhD studies.
- The ENIC-NARIC centres can provide a statement of comparability to students who have obtained a degree in their home country.

ENIC-NARIC Network: <https://www.enic-naric.net/>

ENIC-NARIC France:
<https://www.france-education-international.fr/en/hub/reconnaissance-de-diplomes>

Memo:

(Student notes)

Baccalaureate or equivalent – Entering higher education

9th year	2 semesters (1 year of study, for a total of 9 years after obtaining the baccalaureate or equivalent)	• National PhD in Medicine	Since the 2021 academic year, the University Bachelor's of Technology professional degree (<i>Bachelor universitaire de technologie</i>, BUT) has been offered by University Institutes of Technology (IUTs). These programmes have 180 ECTS and are equivalent to bachelor's degrees. The University Diploma of Technology (<i>Diplôme universitaire de technologie</i>, DUT) is an intermediary degree awarded to students who have obtained 120 ECTS in the BUT programme.		
8th year	PhD 6 semesters (3 years of study, for a total of 8 years after obtaining the baccalaureate or equivalent) 180 ECTS	• PhDs PhDs can be pursued at graduate schools within universities after first obtaining a master's degree or equivalent			
7th year					
6th year	2 semesters (1 year of study, for a total of 6 years after obtaining the baccalaureate or equivalent) 60 ECTS	• National PhD in dental surgery • National PhD in pharmacy	BUSINESS & ENGINEERING	• Advanced Master's Degree (<i>Mastère Spécialisé®</i> , MS) • Executive MBA	HMONP (professional credential for independent architectural practice)
5th year	MASTER'S 4 semesters (2 years of study, for a total of 5 years after obtaining the baccalaureate or equivalent) 120 ECTS	• Master's degree • Engineering degree		• Master of Business Administration (MBA) • Master of Public Administration (MPA) • Engineering degrees • Degrees from business schools • <i>Grande École</i> degrees	• Higher National Diploma of Plastic Art Expression (DNSEP) • National Diploma in Architecture (DEA) • Degrees from specialised schools (healthcare, social sciences, tourism, etc) • Higher Diploma of Applied Art (DSAA)
4th year					
3rd year	BACHELOR'S 6 semesters (3 years after obtaining the baccalaureate or equivalent) 180 ECTS	• Bachelor's degrees • Professional bachelor's degrees • University Bachelor's of Technology programmes (BUT)	GRANDES ÉCOLES		• National Diploma of Art (DNA) • National Diploma of Art and Design (DNMADE) • Diploma of Architectural Studies (DEEA)
2nd year	• Higher Technical Certificate (BTS) • Higher Technical and Agricultural Certificate (BTSA)	• University Diploma of Technology (DUT): an intermediary undergraduate programme associated with the University Bachelor's of Technology (BUT) • University Diplomas of Scientific and Technical Studies (DEUST)		• Admission into the first year of a <i>Grande École</i> programme • Preparatory Course for Admission into a <i>Grande École</i> (CUPGE) • University Preparatory Course for Admission into a <i>Grande École</i>	• Diploma of Art (DMA) • Higher Technical Certificate (BTS) • Higher Technical and Agricultural Certificate (BTSA)
1st year	4 semesters (2 years after obtaining the baccalaureate or equivalent) 120 ECTS				

*European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) credits: a system of cumulative academic credits transferable throughout Europe (60 ECTS represents one year).

<https://education.ec.europa.eu/education-levels/higher-education/inclusive-and-connected-higher-education/european-credit-transfer-and-accumulation-system>

How can you register in a higher education institution in France?

STUDENTS FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION

• Registration in L1: The Parcoursup platform

Students who are nationals of European Union Member States must apply for the first year of a bachelor's programme (L1) using the Parcoursup platform. International students seeking to enrol in the first year of undergraduate study at institutions with selective admission procedures must complete the Parcoursup pre-registration process, even if they hold a French baccalaureate or an equivalent diploma. Examples of these institutions and programmes are

the University Institutes of Technology (IUTs), two-year technical programmes (STS), CPGE programmes, CUPGE programmes and institutions that do not use the DAP preliminary request for admission process.

List of programmes that require registration on Parcoursup:

www.parcoursup.fr

• Registration in L2, L3, M1, M2 and PhD programmes:

Registration is done by following the three steps in **the frame below**.

THE THREE-STEP REGISTRATION PROCESS

Applicable for:

- Students who are not covered under the Études en France procedure
- EU students wishing to register in L2, L3, M1, M2 and PhD programmes

1. Obtain proof of admission from the chosen institution

2. Complete the administrative registration procedures

This is done with your institution once you arrive in France. You will have to pay tuition at this step. You will receive your certificate of enrolment and your student card as proof that you have registered.

3. Register for classes

During the academic registration process, you will: choose the times for compulsory classes, select electives and learn about exams.

Memo:

(Student notes)

• Registering for a master's programme: The Mon Master platform

Students who are nationals of European Union Member States must apply for a master's programme using the Mon Master platform. Students of other nationalities or those residing in a country that is not covered by the Études en France online procedure must also apply using Mon Master.

The Mastère Spécialisé®, a label awarded by the Conférence des Grandes Écoles, is a university diploma, while the Master of Business Administration (MBA) is a diploma awarded by private business schools.

These diplomas are not nationally accredited master's degrees and are not accessible on the Mon Master platform.

List of nationally accredited master's degrees for which use of the platform is required:

www.monmaster.gouv.fr

Keep in mind:

There is no official system of equivalence between foreign and French diplomas.

Foreign applicants must request recognition of their diploma when they apply to a French institution. The applicant's experience in the proposed field of study may also be taken into consideration. **Decisions on admission and equivalence are the exclusive purview of the admitting institution.**

Evaluation of foreign diplomas:

ERIC-NARIC network (France):

<https://www.france-education-international.fr/en/hub/reconnaissance-de-diplomes>

ENIC-NARIC France :

<https://www.france-education-international.fr/en/expertises/enic-naric>



STUDENTS FROM OUTSIDE THE EUROPEAN UNION

Countries covered by the Études en France procedure

Students residing in one of the 69 countries covered by the Études en France procedure must apply through their local Campus France office to study in France*. This procedure begins in October or November based on the country, and it follows a set timeline. Through the online platform, students can:

- Create a single online application for several institutions.
- Track the progress of their application, from the initial request up to the issuance of their visa.
- Interact with Campus France.

The procedure ends with a personalised interview where students can present their career goals and sit a French test, where applicable. The Études en France procedure covers the preliminary request for admission (DAP) for enrolment in the first year of undergraduate study, as well as the visa application process.

www.campusfrance.org > Students > Studying in France > How to Apply

Countries outside of the Études en France procedure

• Registration in L1: The preliminary request for admission (DAP)

Students who hold a high school diploma that wish enrol in the first year of undergraduate study must contact the co-operation and culture department of the French Embassy in their country of residence to complete a preliminary request for admission (*demande d'admission préalable*, DAP).

Students registering for the first year of undergraduate study at a university must complete the 'white file' (*dossier blanc*), while those registering for the first year of an architecture school are to complete the 'yellow file' (*dossier jaune*). The DAP procedure is generally open from the beginning of December to the end of February. For more information, contact the French Embassy in your country.

Exceptions: For enrolment in institutions that have selective admission requirements such as the IUTs, STS, CPGEs, CUPGEs and institutions that are not covered by the DAP procedure, students must apply using Parcoursup:

www.parcoursup.fr

• Registration in L2, L3, M1, M2 and PhD programmes: Registration is done in three steps.

See page 14

* The full list of countries is available on the Campus France website:

www.campusfrance.org > Students > Studying in France > How to Apply

Memo:

(Student notes)

How much is tuition in France?

Tuition in France's public higher education institutions is among the lowest in the world, with a large portion of the actual cost being subsidised by the government (between €10,000 and €15,000 per year per student).

STUDENTS FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION

Are you a student from France, the European Union, the European Economic Area or Switzerland? The French government will cover a majority of the cost to study in a public university or institution.

The tuition for 2024-2025 is as follows:

- €175 per year for bachelor's programmes.
- €250 per year for master's programmes.
- €618 per year for engineering programmes at institutions under the purview of the French Ministry of Higher Education and Research*.
- €391 per year for PhD programmes.

*Excluding specific engineering programmes.

STUDENTS FROM OUTSIDE THE EUROPEAN UNION

Your tuition fees will be different if:

- You are registering for a bachelor's, master's or engineering programme in a Ministry of Higher Education and Research-run institution for the first time in the 2024-2025 academic year.

The tuition fees to be paid are:

- €2,850 per year for bachelor's programmes.
- €3,879 per year for master's programmes.
- €391 per year for PhD programmes.

A wide variety of scholarships and tuition exemptions are available. For more information, visit your institution's website or Campus France's website:

www.campusfrance.org > Students > Studying in France > Scholarship programmes

Keep in mind:

Tuition is higher in private institutions. For example, tuition in business and management schools can vary between €6,000 and €18,000 per year.

Which short degree programmes are available?

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

Among the conditions for entering the labour force are advanced technical and critical thinking skills, as well as operational expertise. To meet these requirements, a number of undergraduate-level national diplomas were created to produce professionals equipped with theoretical and practical skills.

HIGHER TECHNICAL CERTIFICATE (BTS)

The Higher Technical Certificate (Brevet de Technicien Supérieur, BTS) is a nationally recognised professional diploma (120 ECTS credits). The diploma has some 90 specialisations such as plastic arts, industry, production, services, agriculture (the BTSA) and more. Students interested in obtaining a BTS are required to join two-year technical programmes (STS), which are offered by public and private high schools. Graduates of BTS programmes will be immediately operational and join the labour force as specialised technicians.



List of BTS specialisations:

<https://www.cidj.com/s-orienter/diplomes>

The Higher Technical and Agricultural Certificate (BTSA) offers 16 specialisations in the area of food and agriculture.

<https://www.campusfrance.org/en/resource/brevet-de-technicien-superieur-bts>

Memo:

(Student notes)

Keep in mind:

The ATS: Advanced technician preparatory courses.

The *Adaptation technicien supérieur* (ATS) is a set of one-year economic and scientific preparatory courses that prepare holders of a BTS, BTSA or the BUT to enter specialised schools in the field of engineering, agronomy, veterinary sciences or business.

University Diploma of Scientific and Technical Studies (DEUST)

The DEUST is a two-year programme that allows students to quickly enter the job market and even pursue additional undergraduate study. DEUSTs are offered by universities and confer 120 ECTS. Some 30 DEUST programmes are offered in a range of fields: construction, environment and waste management, health and fitness, etc.

PROFESSIONAL BACHELOR'S PROGRAMMES

After two years of higher education, students can opt for a one-year professional bachelor's programme. These programmes are often managed by University Institutes of Technology (IUT), which offer 24 specialisations under their University Bachelor's of Technology (BUT). The many internship opportunities and experienced teaching staff from the corporate world make these programmes one of the best ways to launch one's career. 173 professional bachelor's degrees are on offer in a diverse range of fields, such as agriculture, business, industry, management, services, etc

More information on professional bachelor's programmes:

www.enseignementsup-recherche.gouv.fr > Enseignement supérieur >

Formations et diplômes > Licence professionnelle

STUDY IN FRANCE

BREVET DE TECHNICIEN SUPÉRIEUR (BTS)

Postsecondary training centers and the technical sections of many secondary schools offer the higher technical certificate known as the Brevet de Technicien Supérieur (BTS), a 2-year French national diploma in 88 specialty areas. More than 240 000 students are enrolled in BTS programs. New technical support functions are emerging and expanding in every sector of the economy in connection with the work of engineers, researchers, and top management in government, finance, and business. BTS programs respond to the need for personnel with the appropriate technical skills and competences, training students to begin their career immediately after receiving their diploma.



The BTS curriculum is built on a common base of vocational, technological, and general skills deemed essential for successful performance in a given occupation. Over the course of the 2-year curriculum, students gain professional qualifications in commercial and industrial specialties, agriculture services, or applied arts.

Service specialties account for the greatest share of BTS enrollments. The competences gained in BTS programs respond to the globalization of economic activity and modern production systems that demand in-

WHY PURSUE A BTS?

- **It's a short, focused program of training**
Earning a BTS requires 2 years of post-secondary study in a public or private secondary school (lycée), or in a vocational training center.
- **You can specialize in a particular field**
Programs combine academic instruction with practical training sponsored by active professionals.
- **After graduation, you'll move quickly and directly into working life.**
- **You'll receive support**
BTS candidates spend 14 to 18 weeks each year in internships coordinated by a faculty tutor.
- **You'll learn about the world of work.**
The modules that offer BTS programs organize practical training opportunities in partnership with businesses. These businesses are potential employers.

education and training requirements articulated by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the International Labour Organization (ILO). General instruction that includes the study of related technologies and sciences, [and] the acquisition of practical skills, attitudes, understanding, and knowledge relevant to the tasks presented in various sectors of economic and social life".

(Technical and Vocational Education and Training for the 21st century).

STUDY IN FRANCE

LES LICENCES PROFESSIONNELLES

Since 2000, the professional Licence has enabled students who have completed 2 years of postsecondary education to earn a career-oriented bachelor's-level degree after 1 year of intensive additional study. Programs are based on partnerships involving universities and other institutions of higher learning, businesses, and professional groups. The defining features of the degrees are practical internships and the prominent instructional role of practicing professionals. Because they are widely recognized in the job market as one of the best ways for students to prepare for a career, (93% job placement rate for graduates), more than 52,000 students enrolled in Licence professionnelle programs.



Designed to prepare students to enter the workforce directly after graduation, the Licence professionnelle responds to the demand for qualifications between the higher technical level and the engineer-executive level.

Since 2015, Licence professionnelle degrees in 173 different areas have been created for occupations in every field, including agricultural and industrial production, service sector commerce and administration, transportation, and personal and corporate services. Teaching provided partly by university faculty but principally by practicing professionals is complemented by hands-on learning through internships. The most popular programs are in business and retailing, followed by communication and industrial production.

Research indicates that graduation and placement rates in professional Licence programs are very high: 85% of students earn their degree within a year of their enrollment and quickly find a job. Even better rates are recorded for students who earned their secondary diploma (baccalauréat) in a scientific or technical field.

PROFESSIONAL LICENSE PROGRAMS ARE IDEALLY SUITED FOR STUDENTS WHO...

- **...seek a professional degree at the bachelor's level (3 years of postsecondary study)**
Professional Licence programs are open to students who have successfully completed 2 years of university study. Programs require 1 year of study and carry 60 credits under the European Credit Transfer System.
- **...want to focus on a specific field**
Instruction in professional Licence programs combines academic and professional perspectives, insights, and knowledge. What students learn in the classroom they quickly apply in their internships.
- **...wish to be supported in their efforts**
Students in professional Licence programs participate in guided projects. A faculty tutor guides small groups (4-6 students) in their project work.
- **...are looking for immediate exposure to the business world**
Every student completes an internship of 12-16 weeks inside a firm or organization. During this internship, students carry out a project with the support of a faculty tutor.
- **...want to jump-start their career**
Professional Licence programs are designed for quick entry into professional life. Few students spend another academic program after earning their professional Licence. (An intervening period of professional employment is generally required).

Why should you study in a university?

A total of **75 universities and 17 major institutions across France** are funded by the government. They all award nationally recognised degrees and diplomas that have the same academic value regardless of institution or location. Around a quarter of institutions are now private.

UNIVERSITIES PROVIDING TRAINING IN ALL DISCIPLINES

Programmes are available in the sciences (mathematics, chemistry, physics, biology, etc.), technology (information technology, engineering, electronics, automation, robotics, materials science, etc), literature, languages, art, humanities, law, economics, management, medicine, sports and more.

ALL LEVELS ARE REPRESENTED AND HAVE A NATIONALLY RECOGNISED DIPLOMA

Bachelor's (3 years), **Master's** (Bachelor's + 2 years, for a total of 5 years), **PhD** (Master's + 3 years, for a total of 8 years). See the map of universities and major institutions in France.

www.enseignementsup-recherche.gouv.fr/cid88022/acces-aux-universites-par-cartedynamique-dataviz.html

- **Technical training programmes**, with University Institutes of Technology (IUT).

- **173 professional bachelor's degrees**.

- **Business management programmes with business management institutes**, with business management institutes (IAE).

- **Political science and economics** with 10 political science institutes (IEP), including Sciences Po Paris.

- **More than 20% of engineering degrees** are taught in graduate schools.

There are more than **3,800 nationally recognised master's programmes covering over 8,000 specialisations**. There are more than **600 programmes taught in English**.

<http://taughtie.campusfrance.org/>

<https://www.monmaster.gouv.fr/recherche?layout=1>

Memo:

(Student notes)





RESEARCH, THE DRIVING FORCE OF UNIVERSITIES

Universities are fundamental places of learning and research. They ensure that their training programmes reflect technological innovations and keep pace with scientific discoveries.

In universities across the country, the 281 graduate schools managed by over 100,000 researchers impart functional research skills in collaboration with the more than 1,200 research laboratories, together awarding over 14,000 PhDs per year.

INSTITUTIONAL AND SCIENTIFIC GROUPS

Some institutions form groups to coordinate training programmes and research strategies among member universities, schools and research bodies. The 8 ComUE and 14 public experimental institutions (établissements publics expérimentaux, EPE) aim to strengthen synergies among stakeholders and boost their attractivity abroad.

A ComUE (community of universities and institutions) is authorised to award nationally recognised diplomas, primarily at the graduate and postgraduate levels.

EPEs are the result of further combination of groups. They are authorised to award nationally recognised diplomas at the undergraduate, graduate and postgraduate levels.

Bachelor's degrees

A bachelor's degree is a nationally recognised university diploma issued following three years of higher education after the baccalaureate or equivalent. Bachelor's degrees have 4 main categories and 45 subcategories.

To find out how to register, see the information starting on page 44 on 'How to register'

A standard bachelor's programme is separated into six semesters over three years. Each semester gives students 30 ECTS. An entire bachelor's degree represents 180 credits. The 20 to 30 hours of learning are spread out among lectures, tutorials, projects, etc. The three years are spent mastering the curriculum.

- L1: mastering fundamental skills and expertise.
- L2: consolidating knowledge.
- L3: specialisation based on students' career goals.

Programmes are characterised by continuous assessments and/or a final exam. Holders of a standard bachelor's degree tend to pursue a master's degree (for a total of five years of higher education).

STUDENTS FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION

Are you a student from France, the European Union, the European Economic Area or Switzerland? The French government will cover a majority of the cost to study in a public university or institution. The tuition for bachelor's programmes in 2024-2025 is €175 per year.

STUDENTS FROM OUTSIDE THE EUROPEAN UNION

Your tuition fees will be different if:

- The 2024-2025 academic year is your first time registering for a bachelor's programme.
- You are studying in a Ministry of Higher Education and Research-run institution.
- Your main place of residence is outside of France.

The government will cover two-thirds of the cost of your programme. The tuition for bachelor's programmes in 2024-2025 is €2,850 per year.

Partial or total exemptions may be available based on the institution in question. Visit your institution's website.

Memo:

(Student notes)



CAREER GUIDANCE

• The SCUIO IP:

The Joint University Department for Professional Information, Guidance and Integration (SCUIO IP) provides information on training programmes, highlights career prospects and helps students to select programmes, find internships, write CVs, etc.

Keep in mind:

MULTIDISCIPLINARY BACHELOR'S PROGRAMMES

There has been an increase in the number of double bachelor's programmes (programmes with two specialisations or majors), as these are highly sought after by students. These programmes have two (or more) specialties, such as law and art history, humanities and sciences, mathematics and business, economics and sociology, etc. Admission into these programmes often requires a strong academic record. Some double programmes give students an additional degree thanks to partnerships with one or more universities in Europe.

For more information, contact your institution.

Master's degrees

Following a bachelor's degree (180 ECTS) or equivalent, students opt for a nationally recognised master's degree, which is a graduate level diploma awarded by higher education institutions and accredited by the French Ministry of Higher Education and Research. There are 3,500 programmes and 8,000 specialisations.

Master's programmes are divided into two years of study, Master 1 and Master 2, and confer 120 ECTS credits.

MON MASTER

www.monmaster.gouv.fr

Mon Master is a national platform that lists all the nationally recognised master's programmes offered by accredited institutions.

STUDENTS FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION

If you are a national of the European Union, the European Economic Area or Switzerland, the French government will cover a large portion of the cost to study in a public institution. The tuition for master's programmes in 2024-2025 is €275 per year. Programmes taught in English, as well as in certain fields such as engineering, may charge higher tuition, varying between €1,000 to more than €6,000 per year. EU nationals must apply to programmes using the **Mon Master** platform.

Applications take place online between the end of February to the end of March.

The application timeline is available here: www.monmaster.gouv.fr/calendrier

STUDENTS FROM OUTSIDE THE EUROPEAN UNION

The French government will cover at least two-thirds of the cost of your programme. If your institution does not apply any exemptions, you will have to pay €3,879 for the 2024-2025 academic year. The **Mon Master** platform is only for candidates residing in France or the European Economic Area (including Andorra, Switzerland and Monaco), as well as non-EU nationals who are not covered by the **Études en France** procedure.

International candidates who are covered by the **Études en France** procedure are to apply using the **Études en France** platform.

Memo:

(Student notes)

Master's degrees are highly valued on the job market, as evidenced by the 90% employment rate of new graduates in France.

Graduate level training also provides a pathway into the world of research, as students will have already learned about research methodologies, written a thesis and passed their viva voce exam by presenting the results of a complex research project before a jury of specialists.

A master's degree can be used to apply to a PhD programme with a graduate school, which are affiliated with universities or other accredited institutions.

Keep in mind:

The **Mastère Spécialisé®**, a label awarded by the Conférence des Grandes Écoles, is a university diploma that is not to be confused with the nationally recognised master's degrees. Although it is not a nationally accredited master's degree, it is still recognised on the job market.

The *Master of Business Administration (MBA)* is a diploma awarded by private institutions. The government is not involved in the course content vetting process. It is not a nationally accredited master's degree.



To access the available master's programmes, see:

The master's degree catalogue (M1, M2 and postgraduate):
<https://cataloguelm.campusfrance.org/master/#/catalog>

The *Programs Taught in English* catalogue:
<https://taughtie.campusfrance.org>

PhD programmes

All students holding a master's degree or equivalent can apply for a PhD programme. After at least three years of study and passing a viva voce exam, students will be awarded their PhD.

PhD candidates in France receive their postgraduate training at research units, which are affiliated with an ED graduate school (école doctorale). Each candidate is supervised by one or more thesis advisors. The programme lasts for three years (or more for certain disciplines) and ends with a viva voce exam. **Interested candidates are to register with a graduate school.**

Candidates must first secure funding before registering in a PhD programme.

Our Research in France collection gives an overview of PhD studies in France:

- A how-to guide for PhDs: specially written for international students, this guide explains how to pursue PhD studies step by step: www.campusfrance.org > Researchers > Resource centre > Panorama of Higher Education in France > Degrees
- The degree brochures highlight aspects specific to PhD studies:

'PhD Studies in France' > www.campusfrance.org > Researchers > Resource centre > Panorama of Higher Education in France > Degrees > PhD studies in France

'International Joint PhD Supervision and Double/Dual Degrees' > www.campusfrance.org > Researchers > Resource centre > Panorama of Higher Education in France > Degrees > International joint PhD supervision and double/dual degrees

IN FRANCE,

38 % of PhD candidates are international students

Keep in mind:

France Excellence Eiffel scholarship programme

The Eiffel scholarship programme is a tool developed by the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs to enable the country's higher education institutions to attract the best international students at the graduate and postgraduate levels. Thanks to the programme, the future international decision-makers in the public and private sectors can be trained in priority areas of study. It also aims to attract international students aged no more than 27 years for the graduate level, and no more than 32 years for the postgraduate level.

Find all the necessary information here: www.campusfrance.org > Institutional > The Eiffel programme

Memo:

(Student notes)

Grandes Écoles and post-secondary schools

GRANDES ÉCOLES

The concept of a *grande école* is specific to France. They were created in parallel with the university system at the start of the 19th century to provide teaching at a high professional level. *Grandes Écoles* come in many forms and include engineering schools, business schools, the Écoles Normales Supérieures (ENS), national veterinary schools, École Polytechnique, and École Nationale des Ponts et Chaussées ParisTech. These *Grandes Écoles* are characterised by highly selective entrance exams and are recognised for their high standard of training.

Grandes Écoles award institution specific diplomas (requiring up to five years of post-secondary study), some of which are nationally recognised master's degrees.

They also have intermediary diplomas and offer programmes with varying specialisations: Bachelor's programmes (3 or 4 years of post-secondary study), Master of Business Administration (MBA), Mastère Spécialisé® - MS (1 year of study after a master's degree) and Master of Science (MSc).

Find out more:

www.cge.asso.fr/presentation-des-msc

In the past, admission into a *grande école* was through an entrance examination taken after two years of preparatory classes, leaving three years to complete the degree. Many schools now admit applicants immediately after secondary school for degree programmes lasting three or five years.

A parallel system of admissions **specifically for international students exists** and is based on the institution's recognition of the applicant's prior training. In this case, international students complete two to five years at the *grande école*, depending on the degree of recognition they receive.

For more information, see the Conférence des grandes écoles (CGE): www.cge.asso.fr

Six French schools are among the top 10 Master's in Management programmes for 2024.
(Financial Times 2024)

More information on degrees is available on the Campus France website:

www.campusfrance.org > Resource centre > Panorama of Higher Education and Research in France

Which field of study is right for you?

Programmes in medicine and health

MEDICINE

Programmes in medicine follow the European educational system and are separated into three cycles of at least three years each. Medical programmes partner universities with one of the 31 regional hospital centres in France. In the first year, students have two options: (i) they can follow a specific programme known as PASS, a health-related curriculum that offers courses in another field; or (ii) they

can enrol in a standard bachelor's programme provided that it offers the L.AS track, which allows students to access health-related and medical degrees. Eligible bachelor's programmes include law, economics and management, literature, life sciences, health, etc. In both cases, the first year is accessible to students holding a baccalaureate or equivalent, preferably in science.

HOW CAN INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS STUDY MEDICINE?

First-year students who are not citizens of the European Union, the European Economic Area or Switzerland must apply using the preliminary request for admission (DAP) procedure.

Exemptions exist for international students who wish to continue their studies in France if they have studied or are studying in the areas of medicine, pharmacy, dentistry or midwifery.

[https://services.dgesip.fr/fichiers/Annexe - modalites d acces etudes de sante en France pour candidats hors UE.pdf](https://services.dgesip.fr/fichiers/Annexe_-_modalites_d_acces_etudes_de_sante_en_France_pour_candidats_hors_UE.pdf)

For admission into the third cycle of training (postgraduate), French Embassies around the world organise medical residency examinations.

Programmes leading to two specialised medical diplomas – **the DFMS** (diplôme de formation médicale spécialisée, one to two years of study), and the **DFMSA** (diplôme de formation médicale spécialisée approfondie, 6 months to 1 year of study) – are open to candidates with foreign medical credentials.

For more information, contact the French Embassy in your country.

These programmes all require a minimum level of B2 in French under the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages.

Memo:

(Student notes)

- First year of the bachelor's in medicine, midwifery, dentistry, pharmacy and physiotherapy (MMOPK PASS) programme, with electives in another field

Successful completion of the common first-year programme in a university faculty or department of medicine, midwifery, dentistry, pharmacy or physiotherapy entitles students to sit one of five distinct examinations for admission to the second year. Students may sit no more than two examinations. Completing the PASS year also entitles students to apply for programmes in other healthcare-related fields.

- First year of a bachelor's degree in any field with the L.AS track

Successful completion of the first year of a bachelor's degree in any discipline that also offers the L.AS health track enables students to apply for admission to the second or third year of the first (undergraduate) cycle of programmes in medicine, pharmacy, dentistry or midwifery if they have a minimum 60 or 120 ECTS credits, including 10 credits from medical courses.

Students are admitted to the second year of study based on their exam results, their academic performance in their PASS or L.AS studies, and additional oral examinations where applicable. Each university provides information on assessments so students can prepare in advance.

Note: Students may apply twice to the medical programmes below following one to three years of undergraduate study (L1, L2 or L3), not counting repeated years.



Medicine: PASS or L.AS + 9 years (general medicine), PASS or L.AS + 10 to 12 years (specialisations).

Midwifery: PASS or L.AS + 5 years.

Dentistry: PASS or L.AS + 6 years (dentist, dental surgeon), PASS or L.AS + 8 or 9 years (specialisations or research).

Pharmacy: PASS or L.AS + 6 years (retail or industrial), PASS or L.AS + 9 years (specialisations).

HEALTHCARE AND SOCIAL WORK PROGRAMMES

As with medical programmes, schools specialising in healthcare and social work are selective. Upon completing these programmes, students are awarded national diplomas, which are mandatory for professional practice.

Physiotherapy: The National Diploma in Massage and Physiotherapy is a four-year programme comprising a first year of university study and three years in a physiotherapy training institute.

Nursing: The National Diploma in Nursing is a three-year programme available at one of the many institutes of nursing training (IFSI). Specialisations may require further training.

Speech therapy: The Speech Therapy Certificate is a five-year programme offered at universities.

Osteopathy: A diploma in osteopathy can be obtained in five years by enrolling in a school accredited by the French Ministry of Labour, Solidarity and Health.



Keep in mind:

Campus France has a diverse range of degree brochures covering healthcare programmes: www.campusfrance.org

> Resource centre > Panorama of Higher Education and Research in France > Field of study

Memo:

(Student notes)

PROGRAMMES IN LAW

Law programmes are primarily offered at universities. These programmes follow the European system of being divided into 3, 5 or 8 years of training.

An M1 or M2 is required for admission into higher legal education programmes, particularly for students interested in becoming magistrates, lawyers, notaries, etc.

Apart from these long and highly selective programmes, students can take short courses, the DUT in legal education or the third year of a professional bachelor's programme.

Double bachelor's degrees

Double bachelor's degrees are particularly tailored to the increasingly diverse world of law and its specialisations. In these highly selective and demanding programmes, students will spend six semesters taking courses in two distinct areas, culminating in the award of their bachelor's degree.

Starting in the first year, students will take courses in law as well as in one of the following fields: biotechnology, political science, economics, social science, art history, English, etc.

For more information, visit your institution's website.

Engineering programmes

France has more than 200 public and private engineering schools that cover all areas of the profession. The master's in engineering is nationally accredited and holders of this degree can also pursue a PhD. Engineering programmes vary based on institution, and may either be general or specialised (with a focus on agronomy, chemistry, biology, computer science, etc). In public institutions, tuition for a master's in engineering for the 2024-2025 academic year starts at **€618 per year**.

Conference of Deans of French Schools of Engineering: www.cdefi.fr

Commission des titres d'ingénieur - CTI: www.cti-commission.fr (list of accredited programmes)

Engineering programmes in France:

www.campusfrance.org > Resource centre > Panorama of Higher Education and Research in France > Degrees



Business and management

Some 50 business and management schools benefit from accreditations from a number of certification bodies. These include certifications from the French Ministry of Higher Education and Research, registration with the Conférence des Grandes Écoles (CGE) and national recognition of master's degrees.

A majority of the schools have decided to join together and create a single entrance exam for admission to their programmes. Some programmes are accessible to recent high school graduates.

These schools are primarily private, with tuition ranging from €6,000 to €18,000 per year.

Commission for the assessment of management programmes and degrees (Commission d'évaluation des formations et diplômes de gestion): www.cefdg.fr

Business and management programmes in universities: the IAE business management institute network

Business schools in the IAE (*instituts d'administration des entreprises*) network award bachelor's, master's and PhD degrees, along with MBAs and university diplomas, in all areas of business and management.

Some schools and degree programmes carry the CGE, EQUIS, AACSB and AMBA labels, which point to their international standard of quality and recognition.

Grandes Écoles also take the form of public administration schools, military schools, *écoles normales supérieures* (ENS), agronomy schools and veterinary schools.

Memo:

(Student notes)

Écoles Normales Supérieures

There are four *écoles normales supérieures*, namely ENS Lyon, ENS Rennes, ENS de Paris (Ulm), and Paris Saclay (the former Cachan school).

ENS schools produce high-level teachers and researchers in all scientific and literary disciplines. Each school organises its own admission exams for international students.

National veterinary schools

There are four national veterinary schools in France. They are in Paris (Maisons-Alfort), Lyon, Nantes and Toulouse. Students at all levels can sit one of the four joint entrance examinations. At the end of the programme, students receive the nationally recognised PhD in veterinary science.

Art and design

Art and design schools in France offer undergraduate and graduate programmes spanning three to five years that cover fine art, applied art, and other aspects of the art industry. Both public and private schools have solid reputations in the professional world. They are all highly selective, and admission requires sitting an exam and submitting a portfolio. As it relates to degrees and schools, a distinction is made between 'applied art' and 'art and design'.

Nearly 50 public art and design schools award nationally recognised degrees. Private schools, along with schools affiliated with the Chambers of Commerce and Industry (CCI), known as 'consular schools', award certificates and other diplomas, some of which are accredited by the National Directory of Professional Certifications (RNCP).

www.francecompetences.fr

They are all highly selective, and admission requires sitting an exam and submitting a portfolio.

PUBLIC ART AND DESIGN SCHOOLS: NATIONAL DEGREES

Placed under the purview of the French Ministry of Culture, 45 art and design schools organise their own entrance examinations for holders of the baccalaureate (or equivalent) and provide training in three-year (DNA) or five-year (DNSEP) cycles. Admission directly to the second or third year of programmes is also possible.

List of public art schools:

www.campusart.org

NATIONAL ART SCHOOLS: INSTITUTION-SPECIFIC DIPLOMAS

These highly selective schools award diplomas recognised as master's degrees in the fields of applied art, plastic art, visual art, design/creation, textile design, industrial design and photography:

- École nationale supérieure des arts décoratifs (ENSAD) – www.ensad.fr
- École nationale supérieure des beaux-arts (ENSBA) – <https://beauxartsparis.fr/fr>
- École nationale supérieure de la création industrielle (ENSCI - Les Ateliers) – www.ensci.com
- École nationale supérieure de la photographie (ENSP) – www.ensp-arles.fr
- Le Fresnoy - Studio national des arts contemporains – www.lefresnoy.net

Two schools offer training spanning two to four years in cinema and theatre, and are accessible after two years of higher education:

- École nationale supérieure des arts et techniques du théâtre (ENSATT) – www.ensatt.fr
- La Fémis - École nationale supérieure des métiers de l'image et du son (ENSMIS) – www.femis.fr

PUBLIC APPLIED ART SCHOOLS

Public applied art schools offer nationally recognised degrees in specific areas. Their three-year DNMADE programme and the five-year DSAA programme allow graduates to enter the labour market and work in graphic design (single and multimedia), spatial design (interior architecture, living spaces, scenography), fashion, textile and environmental design, product and service design, and other related areas in the industry (textiles, jewellery, books, glass, ceramics, etc.):

<https://designetmetiersdart.fr>

Three public schools provide highlevel training to students interested in learning about the cultural aspects of art (art history, mediation, etc) and how art can be protected (cultural conservation, architecture of historic monuments, restoration, etc.).

- École du Louvre (EDL), Paris: www.ecoledulouvre.fr
- École nationale des chartes (ENC), Paris: www.chartes.psl.eu
- Institut national du patrimoine (INP), Paris: www.inp.fr

PRIVATE ART SCHOOLS

Many private schools offer undergraduate and graduate training programmes spanning three to five years. These programmes are often costly. These schools award institution-specific diplomas that may be accredited and recognised by the National Directory of Professional Certifications (RNCP).

www.francecompetences.fr

DEGREES IN ART AND CULTURE

www.campusfrance.org > Resource centre
> Panorama of Higher Education in France > Degrees

CONSERVATORIES

Conservatories work in partnership with universities to offer undergraduate, graduate and postgraduate training in music, dance, drama and more.

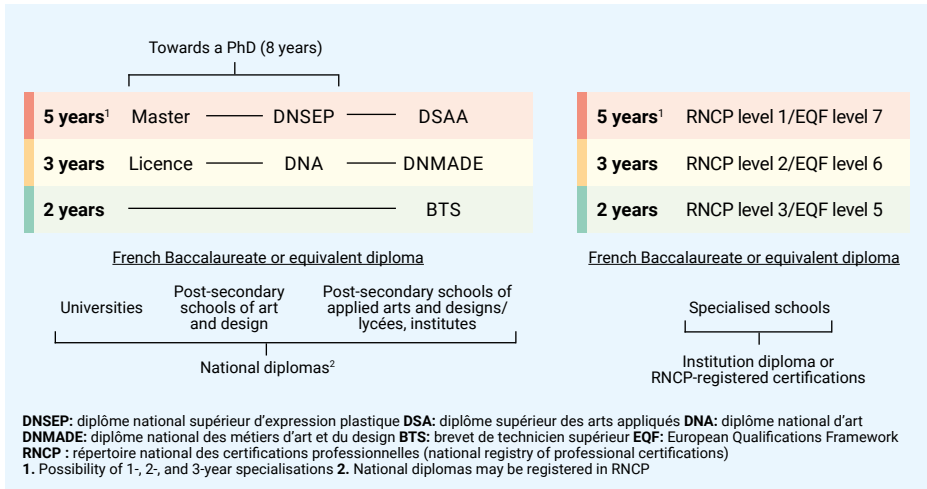
List of conservatories:

<https://www.culture.gouv.fr/fr/> >
Enseignement supérieur et Recherche >
L'enseignement supérieur > L'enseignement supérieur du spectacle vivant: conditions d'accès, écoles, diplômes

Memo:

(Student notes)

Recognised degrees in art and culture



Common application for programmes in art, fashion, design, music, 3D design, architecture, etc.

The CampusArt network offers a selection of more than **695** programmes at the preparatory, undergraduate, graduate and postgraduate levels.

International students can use a common application to apply to all the institutions in the network and track their progress up to admission.

Memo:

(Student notes)

National architecture schools

PROGRAMMES IN ARCHITECTURE

Programmes in architecture are broken down into undergraduate, graduate and postgraduate studies.

- After three years of undergraduate study, students will receive the **Diploma of Architectural Studies (DEEA)**.
- After two years of graduate study, students will receive the **National Diploma of Architecture (DEA)**.
- Following a sixth year of study and an internship, students can obtain the **HMONP professional credential for independent architectural practice**. This is the only credential authorising architects to file construction requests.
- After one to two years of postgraduate study based on the chosen field, students can obtain diplomas in **specialised and advanced architecture (DSA)**, national higher education diplomas, or **diplomas specific to architecture schools (DPEA)**.

Some schools have **architecte-engineering** programmes in partnership with engineering schools. Graduates of such programmes will receive national certification as both architects and engineers. Following a nationally recognised master's programme (or equivalent), interested students can pursue the **three-year PhD in architecture at a graduate school**. There are currently 300 PhD candidates in architecture.

The 22 schools of architecture award nationally recognised degrees or their equivalent.

• INSA Strasbourg, a public institution: www.insa-strasbourg.fr

• École spéciale d'architecture (ESA), a private institution: www.esa-paris.fr

• Architecture and landscaping

Three architecture and landscaping schools offer the **nationally recognised graduate diploma in landscaping (DEP)**. To apply to these three-year programmes, students must pass an entrance exam – jointly organised by the three schools – and must have already completed two years of higher education.

• École nationale supérieure d'architecture et de paysage de bordeaux (ENSAPB): www.bordeaux.archi.fr

• École nationale supérieure d'architecture et de paysage de Lille (ENSAPL): www.lille.archi.fr

• École nationale supérieure de paysage Versailles-Marseille (ENSP): www.ecole-paysage.fr

DEGREES IN ARCHITECTURE

www.campusfrance.org > Panorama of Higher Education and Research in France > Degrees

How can you fund your studies in France?

A wide variety of scholarships, grants and financial aid are within reach to fund your studies and research in France.

Scholarships from the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs

The French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs offers a number of scholarships covering health insurance, living expenses, tuition, travel expenses, and more.

www.diplomatie.gouv.fr > Coming to France > Studying in France > Finance your studies/ Scholarships

SCHOLARSHIPS FROM FRENCH EMBASSIES

French government scholarships are awarded for academic study, internships, and language learning in France. All candidates, regardless of their country of residence or type of scholarship, must apply through the co-operation and culture department of the French Embassy in their country of residence before their departure and at least one year in advance.

SPECIFIC SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMMES

The Excellence-Major scholarships are awarded to international graduates of French high schools abroad who received a grade of 'Bien' or 'Très bien' on their baccalaureate. Funding can be used for programmes up to the master's level.

www.aefe.fr > AEFE > Dispositif Excellence-Major

The Excellence Eiffel scholarships are awarded to graduate and postgraduate students for double or joint programmes in the fields of science and technology, social sciences, the humanities and other priority areas.

The France Excellence Eiffel scholarship is awarded for 12 to 36 months maximum.

<https://www.campusfrance.org/en/the-france-excellence-eiffel-scholarship-program>



La demande de visa

Visa applications are handled by the French Embassy in your country of residence.

It is recommended that you apply as early as possible and, in all cases, at least two months before the start of classes.

Long-stay visas allow students to study in France for more than three months.

There are several types of long-stay visas. **The VLS-TS long-stay visa, a visa equivalent to a residence permit**, allows students to live in France for one year without having to request an additional permit. However, students must validate their visa within three months of their arrival to France. To validate your visa, visit:

<https://administration-etrangers-en-france.interieur.gouv.fr/particuliers/#/>

The long-stay visa with an obligation to request a residence permit within two months of arrival is for Algerian citizens and students who qualify for the *Passeport talent* – Researcher visa, among others.

For more information:

<https://france-visas.gouv.fr/web/france-visas/visa-de-long-sejour>

In certain situations, students may be granted a temporary long-stay visa. This visa type is not renewable and does not confer the same rights and privileges as the VLS-TS. A special ‘Student - Mobility’ visa is granted to students participating in EU programmes, multilateral programmes involving mobility in one or more EU Member States, or programmes governed by an agreement between two or more educational institutions in at least two EU Member States.

For more information:

www.campusfrance.org > Students > Getting organised > Visas and residence permits

When visas expire, students are to request a residence permit to continue living in France. Algerian students must request a residence permit from the Préfecture during their first year in France.

Memo:

(Student notes)

Keep in mind:

Students can begin applying for their visa once they have obtained proof of admission from their institution. Nationals of the European Union, the European Economic Area and Switzerland do not require visas. Following the first year with a VLS-TS visa, students may be granted a multiyear visa to continue their studies. Students who are minors must request a 'school-going minor' visa. They are not required to request a residence permit in France until they turn 18.

PAPERLESS ADMINISTRATIVE PROCESSES

The visa granting process has been simplified:

- Your visa application is a top priority in consulates
- The France-Visas portal will facilitate your administrative procedures by allowing you to easily upload supporting documents.
- Once in France, you can validate your visa online without having to physically go to an office.



70 COUNTRIES ARE COVERED BY THE MANDATORY ÉTUDES EN FRANCE PROCEDURE

For these countries, a separate procedure to apply to French institutions is in place. This procedure must be followed to obtain a visa.

After meeting with Campus France and obtaining proof of admission from an institution, students can apply for their visa and track their progress on their Campus France account.

The full list of countries is available on the Campus France website:

www.campusfrance.org > Students > Studying in France > How to Apply

Feel free to visit the official France-Visas website for all the information necessary to prepare for your studies in France:

<https://france-visas.gouv.fr/en/web/france-visas/home>

SHORT-STAY SCHENGEN VISAS

Short-stay visas allow holders to reside in the Schengen Area for no more than three months, in accordance with applicable legislation. Holders of this visa do not require a residence permit in France. Applicants must wait six months before they can apply for a new shortstay visa.

Students who wish to participate in a language programme or any other short course can apply for this visa type.

THE 'STUDENT EXAMINATION' SHORT-STAY VISA

This visa type allows students to attend an interview or sit an entrance examination for an educational institution. If students are successful, they can request a renewable, one-year residence permit from the Préfecture without having to return to their home countries.

Keep in mind:

A tourist visa, regardless of type, can never be converted into a student visa, whether in France or another country in the European Union.

Memo :

(Student notes)

The 2021–2027 Erasmus+ European exchange programme

Erasmus+ is the European Union's mobility and co-operation programme for education and training. It is open to everyone.

When you participate in Erasmus+, you can benefit from a supervised mobility programme as part of an agreement between two higher education institutions in Europe and the world.

How does it work? You will receive a scholarship from the European Union to cover a portion of your living expenses. The amount covered by the scholarship varies based on the cost of living in the destination of study.

www.erasmusplus.fr

www.generation-erasmus.fr

Instagram: @gen.erasmus

Twitter: @gen_erasmus @ErasmusplusFR

Facebook: Génération Erasmus

Youtube: Génération Erasmus

If you wish to pursue a master's degree that has a study abroad component, you can opt for an Erasmus Mundus Joint Master's programme. These programmes, organised by at least three higher education institutions in different countries, exist in all disciplines and award scholarships to the best students from around the world. These master's programmes require two semesters of study in at least two different institutions. At the end of the programme, students will receive a double degree, multiple degrees or a joint degree.

Keep in mind:

The multilingual CampusBourses database will facilitate your search for funding.

www.campusfrance.org > How to finance your studies



The Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie (AUF) also offers a number of mobility scholarships that are distributed among the 1,007 member institutions in **119 countries**. Priority is given to mobility among countries in the Global South.

www.auf.org

- **Scholarship programmes**
International Credit Mobility (ICM)

International Credit Mobility is a mobility project set up between Erasmus+ countries and their partner countries to support student mobility during their studies (from 3 to 12 months starting in the second year of study) and for internships (from 2 to 12 months starting in the first year of study). Students can attend classes and do an internship during their mobility.

Scholarship programmes for international students and researchers
More than 300 scholarship programmes covering long and short courses, internships and research opportunities at all levels are available at <https://campusbourses.campusfrance.org/#/catalog>. CampusBourses allows users to conduct multicriteria searches of existing scholarship programmes for international students and researchers in English, French and Spanish.

Numerous national and international programmes offered by French government agencies, local authorities, corporations, foundations, educational institutions, French Embassies, foreign governments and institutions, and international organisations are included in the database.

The option of searching by keyword or search criteria (nationality, level and field of study, type of aid) enables you to pinpoint programmes that fit your profile.

Complete information is provided on each programme, as well as contact information and a link to the sponsor's website.

Memo:

(Student notes)