



RÉPUBLIQUE
FRANÇAISE

*Liberté
Égalité
Fraternité*



CAMPUS
FRANCE

Choose France

2024-2025 GUIDE



Contents

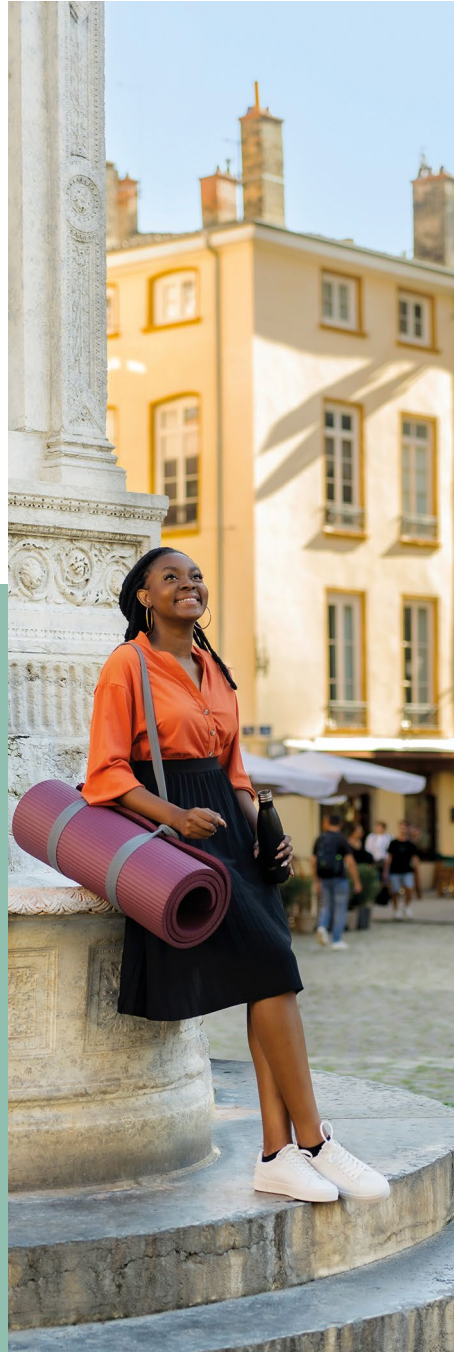
I. WELCOME TO FRANCE	5
• France at the heart of Europe	6
• An impeccable French welcome	7
• Supporting student well-being	9
II. WHY SHOULD YOU STUDY IN FRANCE?	11
• A vibrant higher education system	12
• How can you register in a higher education institution in France?	14
• How much is tuition in France?.....	17
• Which short degree programmes are available?	18
• Why should you study in a university?	20
• Bachelor's degrees	22
• Master's degrees	24
• PhD programmes.....	26
• Grandes Écoles and postsecondary schools.....	27
• Which field of study is right for you? Programmes in medicine and healthcare	28
• Engineering programmes	32
• Business and management	32
• Art and design.....	34
• National architecture schools	37
• How can you fund your studies in France?	38
• Applying for a visa.....	39
• The 2021-2027 Erasmus+ European exchange programme	42
III. LIVING AND STUDYING IN FRANCE.....	45
• Administration	46
• Healthcare	52
• Culture	54
• Living in France.....	56
• Studying in France	62





Welcome to France

CHOOSE FRANCE



France at the heart of Europe

France's ideal location in Europe, bordering some nine countries, provides direct access to major cities like Amsterdam, Berlin, Brussels, Barcelona, Munich and Milan. In fact, a number of French institutions offer international joint degrees, exchange programmes and internships abroad.

ENHANCED QUALITY OF LIFE

Students have access to diverse types of assistance, discounts and other systems that will improve their quality of life. These include a modern healthcare system, efficient public transport networks, housing allowances, university restaurants (RUs), discounts at cultural and sporting institutions, etc.

An extraordinary variety of landscapes for all types of activities can also be found outside city centres.



A COVETED PANORAMA OF CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

France continues to be a world leader in culture thanks to the wide array of activities on offer each day. These cover literature, cinema, museums, operas, cafés, gastronomy, fashion and more. Festivals, shows and other dynamic events take place throughout the year, pointing to the country's openness to cultures from around the world.

<https://www.francefestivals.com/>

FRENCH, AN INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGE

French is spoken by more than 300 million people in the world and is the official language of 32 countries across 5 continents. French, alongside English and German, is a working language of the European Union, whose three institutional capitals – Brussels, Luxembourg City and Strasbourg – speak French. French is also the third most spoken language of business and the second most used language for international media.

EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY ALLIANCES

The 64 European University alliances, comprising 560 European institutions, including 63 French institutions, give students the opportunity to study at one or more European campuses. Students will benefit from international, multidisciplinary and innovative training, thereby gaining the skills necessary to embark on their career paths.

By obtaining a joint European degree, which is recognised throughout the European Union, students are guaranteed to have the qualifications required for a successful career abroad or in their home countries.

<https://www.campusfrance.org/en/european-universities-alliances>

An impeccable French welcome



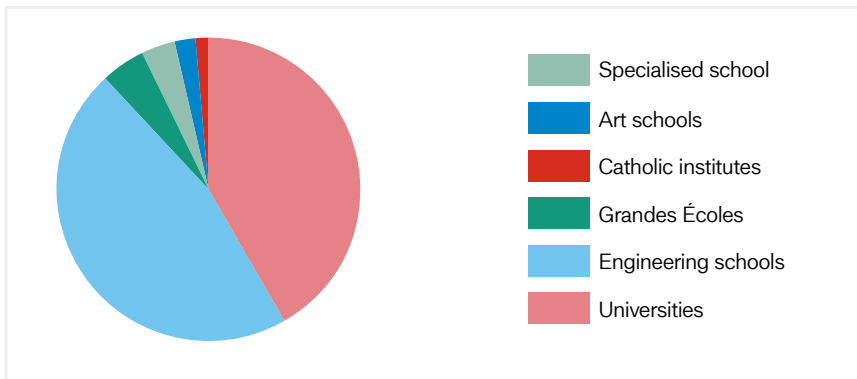
THE BIENVENUE EN FRANCE LABEL

The Bienvenue en France label was created so that international students can identify higher education institutions that recognise the value of international worldviews, interculturality and multilingualism.

Institutions are assessed on a number of criteria and are awarded one of three levels, represented by stars.

There are currently 159 French institutions with the Bienvenue en France label.

Breakdown of institutions with the Bienvenue en France label



The breakdown of certified institutions is as follows:



10% have welcome facilities that may need to be further developed or promoted



61% have a large majority of the recommended welcome services for international students



29% have welcome facilities that begin before students arrive and continue through to the end of their studies

To find out more about the label and the criteria for certification, visit: <https://www.campusfrance.org/en/the-bienvenue-en-france-label>

USEFUL LINKS:

- The Bienvenue en France Label (website): <https://www.campusfrance.org/en/the-bienvenue-en-france-label>
- The Bienvenue en France label: 2019-2022 report: <https://www.campusfrance.org/system/files/medias/documents/2023-08/BilanLabel2019-2022.pdf>



Supporting student well-being

Many institutions have committed to fostering a welcoming culture by offering tailored responses to students' needs and meeting their expectations at every step of their international mobility. Their aim? Your well-being and success!

A Bienvenue en France-certified institution vouches for a wide range of services and tools to help you, even before you come to France. A number of events and meetings will make your integration easier, such as welcome weeks, welcome desk meetings, campus tours and assistance with your administrative processes (accommodation, health insurance, etc). Buddy systems follow the same thought process, where mentors and mentees can participate in the many activities organised by student associations (cultural, sports, etc).

What will these efforts look like?

- **You will have clear and accessible information**

Websites are translated in many languages offering tailored information. The 'International' section will provide all the information necessary for your studies, and multilingual teams will hold webinars and will frequently be in contact before your arrival.

- **You will join active institutions**

All departments at the institution (international relations, student life, IT, communication, etc) are actively involved in providing quality welcome and assistance measures tailored to each student (student mobility programmes, independent international students, etc).

Campus France offers detailed information on institutions with the Bienvenue en France label:

www.campusfrance.org/en > Resource centre > Practical information for students and researchers > Reception arrangements in institutions

- **You will benefit from welcome facilities for each step of your mobility and stay**

All the necessary information is available on the institution's website. It is comprehensible and available in many languages and formats (downloadable guides, web and mobile apps for international students, etc).

Everything is put in place for students to be quickly and easily integrated. You will be put in contact with a welcome desk to help you with each step of the process. Integration weeks allow students to be immersed in the day-to-day of the institution, introducing them to members of the administrative and academic teams. A number of integration events will be organised: campus tours, introduction to clubs and associations, welcome parties, city tours, etc.

You will also meet your buddy, a true mentor, to guide and assist you throughout your studies in France.

- **You will access a range of accommodation opportunities**

One of your first concerns will be finding accommodation. In many institutions, there is a dedicated unit or officer responsible for providing information on accommodation offers. These offers include university rooms (at CROUS residences), private residences and rentals, and online platforms. They will also provide information on the various administrative processes such as making deposits, getting insurance, etc.

- **You will be able to take courses in English and do classes remotely**

Multilingual programmes (or at least in English) are available. Remote learning enhances training programmes: preparatory courses, MOOCs, hybrid programmes, online teaching, etc.

- **You will benefit from modern infrastructure**

You can practise your passions and meet students who share your interests on one of the many occasions that will present itself on campus (sports fields, gymnasiums, concert halls, amphitheatres, classrooms with digital technology, student centres, etc).

- **You will receive assistance to accommodate your disability**

Specific facilities are in place for students with disabilities. Within the institution, a dedicated unit and disability officer co-ordinate these services (classroom adjustments, academic assistance, tutoring, remote classes, exam adjustments and schedules).

- **You will learn about the environment and sustainable development**

Campuses are covered in green spaces and students are invited to take care of and transform them.

For example: specialised classes, awareness-raising campaigns on environmental issues, promoting green mobility, organising equality and diversity initiatives.

- **You will interact with people from different cultures**

Campuses are hubs for the world's nationalities. This cultural diversity is highlighted at festive events (international student nights, world cuisine events, invitations to families) where everyone can share their culture.

Academic and administrative staff members are taught intercultural skills.





Why should you study in France?

CHOOSE FRANCE



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)	UNIVERSITIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National PhD in Medicine 	<p>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.</p>							
8th year	PhD 6 semesters (3 years of study, for a total of 8 years after obtaining the baccalaureate or equivalent) 180 ECTS		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	UNIVERSITIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National PhD in dental surgery National PhD in pharmacy 	BUSINESS & ENGINEERING	SPECIALISED SCHOOLS	ARCHITECTURE, ART AND OTHER FIELDS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advanced Master's Degree (<i>Master 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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Master's degree Engineering degree 				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Master of Business Administration (MBA) Master of Public Administration (MPA) Engineering degrees Degrees from business schools Grande École degrees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bachelor's degrees Professional bachelor's degrees University Bachelor's of Technology programmes (BUT) 				GRANDES ÉCOLES	SPECIALISED SCHOOLS	ARCHITECTURE, ART AND OTHER FIELDS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Diploma of Art (DNA) National Diploma of Art and Design (DNMADE) Diploma of Architectural Studies (DEA) 	
2nd year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Higher Technical Certificate (BTS) Higher Technical and Agricultural Certificate (BTSA) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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) 							<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Admission into the first year of a Grande École programme Preparatory Course for Admission into a Grande École (CUPGE) University Preparatory Course for Admission into a Grande École 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 cumulable 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 baccalauréat 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>

ERIC-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

DEGREES

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.



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 vocational school (lycée, or in a vocational training center).
- You can specialize in a particular field. Programs combine academic instruction with practical training sponsored by the 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 sponsored by a faculty tutor.
- You'll learn about the world of work. The industries that offer BTS programs organize practical training opportunities in partnership with businesses. These businesses are potential employers.

The BTS curriculum is built on a depth technical knowledge, operational know-how, and management skills. A recent study showed that a large proportion of BTS graduates begin their careers directly after graduating, as intended. On the other hand, many graduates choose to go on to pursue another degree. Admission to BTS programs is selective and based on an oral or written exam, or an application submitted by the candidate.

INTERNATIONAL
For businesses that compete on the international stage, the BTS responds to the technical and vocational

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 techniques 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".

DEGREES

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 degree are professional 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 engineering-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 is 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 LICENCE 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 a thesis (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 (6-8 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. Students spend another academic program after obtaining 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

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.

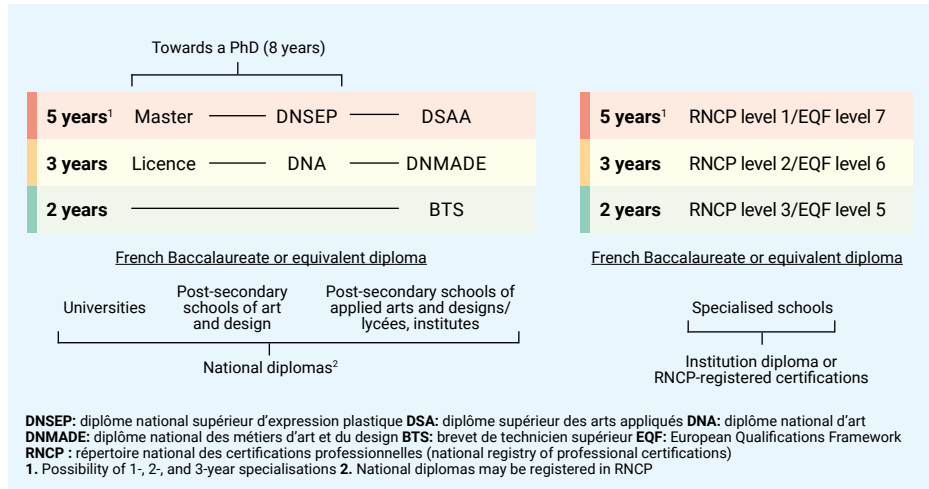
List of conservatories:

<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.

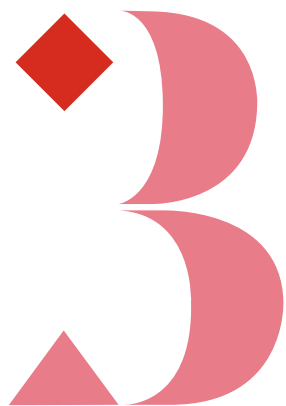
Numerous national and international programmes offered by French government agencies, local authorities, corporations, foundations, educational institutions, French Embassies, foreign governments and institutions, and international organisations are included in the database.

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)



Living and Studying in France

CHOOSE FRANCE



Administration

ALLOCATION (allowance)

Several forms of financial assistance are available to international students in France, particularly for housing. You can benefit from the *Allocation de logement social* (ALS) – the most common allowance given to students with private sector housing – by contacting the *Caisse d'allocations familiales* (CAF), France's family assistance fund. Students are eligible for this allowance if: they are a French or EU citizen, or possess a valid residence permit; their rented accommodation is deemed adequate; they are not related to the landlord. Maximum monthly amount: +/- €200. You can use the simulator available on the CAF's website.

www.caf.fr > Aides et démarches > Droits et prestations > Logement > Les aides personnelles au logement

AMENDE (fine)

Amount to be paid for an offence (**transport**, **smoking**, etc). It may increase if not paid on time.

ANEF

L'Administration Numérique pour les Etrangers en France (**ANEF**) is an online platform where foreigners can carry out their administrative procedures relative to their immigration status in France, their request for citizenship and more.

Applicants can log in to their accounts and track the progress of their file on the platform:

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

BAIL (lease agreement)

This is the lease agreement between a tenant and a landlord or agency that sets out the rental conditions (duration, rent, utilities, **notice period**, the **deposit** amount, conditions for renewal, etc). The cost of drafting the lease will be passed on to the tenant. The lease is signed by both parties and a copy is given to the tenant. The signed lease acts as proof of residence and proof of the cost of the accommodation.

CAF

Caisse d'allocation familiales.

The CAF manages requests for the payment of allowances for housing, families, single parents, etc. The physical address for your local CAF office can be found by contacting the **town hall** in your city or *arrondissement*.

www.caf.fr

CAUTION (deposit)

The deposit paid to a landlord, which is subsequently returned to the tenant following an **inventory** at the end of the rental period. *Visale* is a mechanism that acts as a guarantor for tenants.

<https://www.visale.fr/visale-pour-les-locataires/avantages/>

CARTE OU TITRE DE SÉJOUR (residence permit)

This is the official residence permit issued by **préfectures** in France attesting to a foreigner's right to reside in the country (temporarily in general, but at times renewable). The document may also act as a work permit.

www.service-public.fr > Fiches pratiques > Papiers - Citoyenneté – Élections > Titres, carte de séjour et documents de circulation pour étranger en France > Étudiant / Stagiaire étranger

CONTRAT(S) DE TRAVAIL (employment contracts)

- **CDI** (*contrat à durée indéterminée* – permanent contracts)
- **CDD** (*contrat à durée déterminée*) – fixed-term contracts)

These contracts are signed with employers and set out various working conditions such as type of employment, gross monthly or hourly salary, employment period, location, working days and hours, and time off in accordance with French labour laws and/or company agreements.

www.travail-emploi.gouv.fr > Droit du travail > Les contrats de travail

- Seasonal employment
Type of **job** (or '*petit boulot*') that takes place during a set period. These include produce harvesting in September-October, working at ski resorts in winter or beach resorts in summer, working for fast food establishments, etc.

CONTRÔLE D'IDENTITÉ (identity check)

A police officer can check anyone's identity in public spaces. You should therefore have documentation proving your identity and your legal status in France (passport, **residence permit**, **student card**). If you do not present any documentation, you may be detained for further checks.

CRS

Compagnie républicaine de sécurité.
The CRS is a police force that is sent to the scene of protests, strikes and other highly crowded areas.

DÉCOUVERT (overdraft limit)

When opening a **bank** account, the bank will determine the overdraft (*déouvert*) limit. Going beyond this negative amount may result in the payment of fees, the cancellation of your chequebook and even the deactivation of your **bank card**.

DÉPÔT DE GARANTIE (security deposit)

Amount returned to the tenant following an inventory at the end of the rental period (of a flat, car, etc.). Loca-Pass is a mechanism that covers the payment of the security deposit required by landlords at the beginning of the rental period.

www.service-public.fr > Logement > Aide pour le dépôt de garantie ou la caution d'un logement en location > Avance Loca-Pass : aide au locataire pour le dépôt de garantie

ÉTAT DES LIEUX D'ENTRÉE/ DE SORTIE (check-in/out inventory)

This is the inventory document that details the state of the rental upon signing the **lease**. It is used as a reference to compare the state of the accommodation at the end of the rental period.

FACTURE (bill)

These are bills detailing the conditions of purchase and sale for goods and services. Properly store your mobile, electricity and gas bills as they act as **proof of residence**.

FRANCE TRAVAIL

Organisation in charge of employment in France. It pays unemployment

benefits, and provides guidance and training to jobseekers.

www.francetravail.fr

HÔTEL DE VILLE/MAIRIE (town hall)

The *hôtels de ville* were created in the Middle Ages with the aim of granting certain privileges to municipalities. Known as the *mairie* since the French Revolution in 1789, some of these town halls still use the former name, particularly in Paris and other large cities.

IMPÔT SUR LE REVENU (income tax)

Any work done while in France is subject to income tax. Income tax is applied once per year on the taxable income of the previous calendar year. This income must be declared. Income tax is paid in the year it is calculated.

<https://www.impots.gouv.fr>

JUSTIFICATIF DE DOMICILE (proof of residence)

Certain documents can be considered proof of residence. In most cases, accepted documents include the following: electricity, water or gas bill, a mobile or landline **phone bill**.

<https://www.lokaviz.fr/>

MAIN COURANTE (filing a report)

In instances which do not require **pressing charges**, a record of an incident can still be made by **filing a report** (*main courante*) at a police station.

PACS

Pacte civil de solidarité (**PACS**).

A PACS is a contract between two people who wish to enter into a civil union.

PERTE OU VOL DE PAPIERS (loss or theft of identity)

File a report of the theft or loss at the nearest police station. Keep a copy of the report as it can be used during identity checks and to regularise your situation with the **préfecture**. If you lose your passport, contact your country's embassy to report the matter and obtain a new one. Once you receive the new passport, you can present it along with the original police report to the *préfecture*. In all cases, keep photocopies of all your official documents so that you can prove your identity in the event your documents are lost.

PERTE DE CARTE BANCAIRE (credit card loss)

Inform your **bank** so they can block your card (*faire opposition*). If your bank is closed, you can call the department for lost or stolen cheques of the national bank (Banque de France) at 34 14, or the bank card department at 0 892 705 705. Blocking a bank card comes at a fee, although most banks offer insurance policies against the loss or theft of documents. These policies cover or reimburse the cost of remaking stolen documents.

PORTER PLAINTÉ (pressing charges)

People who are victims of a crime, violence, theft, etc, can press charges

at a police station. Charges can be laid against an identified person or 'against X' if the person is unknown.

In instances which do not require pressing charges, a record of the incident can still be made by filing a **report** (*main courante*) at a police station.

www.service-public.fr > Fiches pratiques par thème > Voir tous les thèmes > Justice > Affaire pénale > Lancement des poursuites

LA POSTE (post office)

La Poste is the national post office. It transports mail at rates which are set based on destination, weight and format. Post offices can be found throughout France. With La Poste, you can: send letters and parcels, buy stamps, browse the **internet** and send or receive money orders. La Poste also has its own banking arm, la Banque Postale, allowing people to open **bank accounts**.

www.laposte.fr

PRÉAVIS (notice period)

The *préavis* is the minimum notice period required before a tenant can end their lease. This period is three months, but often it can be reduced to one month following negotiations with the landlord (if you have your own replacement, for example). Tenants who vacate their accommodation outside of the notice period will have to pay the rent owed for the period.

PRÉFECTURE

The term '*préfecture*' is also used to describe the capital of a *département*. They are often the largest cities in France.

www.interieur.gouv.fr > Le Ministère > Les Préfectures

PV (fine)

Procès verbal.

This is equivalent to a fine.

QUITTANCE DE LOYER (monthly rent receipt)

This is a monthly receipt for paying your rent. It can be used as proof of residence.

RÉCÉPISSÉ (acknowledgement of receipt)

A *récépissé* is a document handed to applicants upon requesting a residence permit (first-time application or renewal). It temporarily acts as a residence permit. The *récépissé* is valid for at least one month and in general between three and four months to allow the Préfecture time to handle applications.

www.service-public.fr > Accueil > Étranger-Europe > Titres, cartes de séjour et documents de circulation pour étranger en France > Qu'est-ce qu'un récépissé de demande de titre de séjour ?

RIB

The RIB (*relevé d'identité bancaire*) is a document that contains the identity of a bank account holder and their bank details. A RIB is required to send or receive money (salaries, wire transfers, etc.).

RSA (minimum monthly revenue)

The RSA provides a minimum monthly revenue to people without an income. The amount varies based on the composition of one's household.

It is open under specific circumstances to people no younger than 25 years, as well as to workers between 18 and 24 if they are single parents or if they can justify having worked a certain number of hours.

www.service-public.fr > Accueil > Social - Santé > Revenu de solidarité active (RSA)

RTT (RÉDUCTION DU TEMPS DE TRAVAIL)

An RTT day is a rest day that companies give their employees to compensate for work done beyond the standard 35 hours per week.

SÉCURITÉ SOCIALE (French Social Security)

Also known as the 'Sécu'. This is the name given to France's social security system.

www.securite-sociale.fr

SERVICE PUBLIC (public service)

Public services are general interest activities that fall into a variety of categories: public order and regulation (defence, justice, diplomacy, etc); social protection and healthcare (**Social Security**, hospitals); education and culture (schools, universities, research bodies, museums, libraries, etc); and economics (**transport**, energy, water, **La Poste**).

In France, a wide range of services are made available to the public.

They play a major role in the country's economy, constituting what is more popularly referred to as '*l'exception française*'. Some 5 million people work in the public sector and are known as *fonctionnaires*.

SMIC (minimum wage)

Salaire minimum interprofessionnel de croissance.

The SMIC is France's minimum wage. It is currently €11.65 gross per hour (i.e. before compulsory social contributions, representing around 20% per hour worked). In France, a normal working week is set at 35 hours.

SYNDICAT ÉTUDIANT (student unions)

Student unions are associations of students wishing to defend the material and moral interests of their peers.

The main student unions in France are:

- **Unef** (Union nationale des étudiants de France)
- **Fage** (Fédération des associations générales étudiantes)
- **Met** (Mouvement des étudiants)
- **PDE** (Promotion et défense des étudiants)
- **Solidaires étudiant-e-s**

TIMBRE FISCAL / TIMBRE ÉLECTRONIQUE (fiscal/électronique stamp)

Fiscal stamps can be used to pay for fines or administrative procedures (passports, identity cards, residence permits, etc). Special stamps are required for **OFII** procedures and their cost varies based on the type of visa (€75 for student visas, €225 for a *passport talent*). These stamps can be purchased from a *bureau de*

tabac (tobacco shop), the Treasury, the **Préfecture** or online.

<https://timbres.impots.gouv.fr>

TRAVAIL (work)

When non-EU citizens study in France, their residence permit (a long-stay VLS-TS student visa) allows them to work under certain circumstances. Specific rules may apply for certain nationalities.

www.campusfrance.org/fr/travail-etudiant > Etudiant > S'organiser > Travailler pendant ses études

TAXES

Contribution levied by the government for state revenue.

- VAT (value added tax). General consumption **tax**. The most common rate is 19.6%.
- TTC (*toutes taxes comprises* – all taxes included). Prices in France are always shown inclusive of taxes.
- HT (*hors taxes* – excluding taxes). Sales prices without compulsory taxes.

www.service-public.fr > Accueil > Étranger - Europe > Travail d'un étranger en France > Un étudiant non européen peut-il travailler en France ?

VISA

Citizens of the European Union and the European Economic Area can enter and live in France as they please and do not require visas.

However, citizens of other countries must have a visa to enter France. There is a wide range of visa categories covering all types of international student needs. French consular services are responsible for handling visa applications according to

regulations in effect. There are short-stay and long-stay visas (VLS-TS). For more information, consult the network of French embassies and consulates abroad.

www.campusfrance.org > S'organiser > Visas et cartes de séjour

Healthcare

ASSURANCE MALADIE (AMELI)

Government agency that reimburses healthcare-related expenses for beneficiaries of France's social security scheme (**Sécurité sociale**, '**Sécu**'). Ameli branches are accessible throughout the country. Your specific Ameli branch will be indicated when you join the healthcare system. All requests for reimbursement (*feuille de soins forms*) are to be sent to the branch indicated. The addresses are also available through the **town hall** in your city or *arrondissement*.

www.ameli.fr

CARTE VITALE

The *Carte Vitale* is a health insurance card that is delivered by post following registration with the French social security ('**Sécu**'). The card allows **doctors** and pharmacists to electronically request reimbursement for healthcare-related expenses for you. Using the card replaces the need for a *feuille de soins form*, and reimbursements from social security are processed more quickly.

www.ameli.fr > La carte vitale

CHU CHRU (university hospital centres)

CHUs (*centre hospitalier universitaire*) and CHRUs (*centre hospitalier régional universitaire*) are public university hospital centres that focus on providing healthcare, teaching students and conducting research.

www.chu-media.info

CMU

(French universal healthcare system)

The CMU (*couverture maladie universelle*) is France's universal healthcare system allowing everyone to access healthcare for free thanks to a medical expense reimbursement fund. A number of mechanisms, varying depending on income, are open to international students living in France for more than three months:

- the '*CMU de base*', which replaces the student social security scheme and is accessible to non-EU students over 28,
- the '*CMU complémentaire*', which is the equivalent of a private insurance plan and is accessible to students under 28 who are beneficiaries of the student social security scheme,
- ACS, a scheme that provides financial assistance to cover the costs of a private insurance plan (a '*mutuelle*').

Contact your local **CPAM** branch (*Caisse primaire d'assurance maladie*) for additional information.

<https://etudiant-etranger.ameli.fr>

DÉPISTAGE (screening centres)

There are free testing centres (*centres de dépistage*) throughout France that provide anonymous screening for HIV/AIDS, hepatitis B and C, and other sexually transmitted diseases. Consultations are held with a doctor and do not require an appointment.

www.sida-info-service.org > VIH/Sida > Dépistage

FEUILLE DE SOINS (form)

A reimbursement form sent to the **Sécurité Sociale** so as to claim back

medical expenses. This process can be avoided by using the **carte vitale**.

IVG (voluntary abortion procedure)

IVG (*interruption volontaire de grossesse*) is the term used to describe a voluntary abortion. The depenalisation of abortion and the legal framework of voluntary abortions can be traced back to 1975. In France, a voluntary abortion can be performed before the end of the 14th week of pregnancy, ie before the end of the 16th week after the start of one's most recent period.

The right to abortion was enshrined in the French Constitution on 4th March 2024 and the French Parliament in Versailles, an unprecedented decision throughout the world.

www.ivg.gouv.fr

MÉDECIN (doctor)

In France, everyone can choose their own doctor. However, it is recommended that you choose a *médecin conventionné*, i.e. a doctor that applies the fees set by the social security ('**Sécu**'), or that you designate a doctor as your *médecin traitant* (you will be better reimbursed for your appointments). Additional fees apply for home visits, as well as appointments on **weekends** and **public holidays**.

MJC

Maison des jeunes et de la culture.

NUMÉRO DE SÉCURITÉ SOCIALE (social security number)

Your social security number is written on your **carte vitale**.

ORDONNANCE (prescription)

List of medications or tests prescribed by a doctor. Prescriptions must be shown at pharmacists or testing centres. If a *carte vitale* is not available, the prescription must be sent, accompanied by the *feuille de soins* form, to *Assurance maladie* to reimburse the related costs.

PHARMACIE (pharmacy)

In France, only pharmacies can sell and issue **prescription** medication. They operate from 9am to 7pm, with some opening until 11pm. They are closed on Sundays, Monday mornings and on **public holidays**. However, a system of late-night pharmacies is in place (*pharmacies de garde*). Pharmacists hold nationally recognised PhDs in pharmacy and are members of the National Order of Pharmacists. As such, they are qualified to give medical advice.

SAMU

This is the emergency medical assistance service (*service d'aide médicale urgente*). Dial 15 to contact SAMU call centres when in a medical emergency.

TICKET MODÉRATEUR

This term refers to any healthcare-related expenses not reimbursed by **social security**.

Culture

BD (comics)

Comics or *bandes dessinées* (BD) are a respected art. In France, they are often referred to as the 'ninth art'. Each January, an international comics festival takes place in Angoulême.

www.bdangouleme.com

BISTROT

Small, community restaurant typically offering French dishes. They are open for lunch and dinner at set times: from 12pm to 2.30pm and from 7.30pm to 11pm.

CAFÉ

Cafés play an important role in French social life, some of which are known around the world (Le Flore, Le Dôme, Le Café de la Paix, etc.). Cafés are an ideal place to take a break at any time of day, whether with friends or on your own. Cafés open very early to serve the morning coffee rush, and close at 8pm in general (sometimes at midnight or even at 2am).

COUPE-FILE (skip-the-line ticket)

A ticket category sold in certain large **museums** allowing people to bypass the **queue** for an exhibition or event.

FESTIVAL

Festivals, regardless of size or theme, love France! Some have become internationally acclaimed events such as the Cannes Film Festival (Palme d'Or) and the Festival d'Avignon theatre festival. Winners of these festivals gain international publicity.

Festivals allow attendees to learn and

discover something new, and some put on dazzling shows like the Nice Carnival. In France, festivals take place throughout the year and often last several days.

Festivals focus on one or more themes. Examples include art, film, music, dance, theatre, sports, nature, photography, circus acts, street art, storytelling and literature. The wide range of festivals on offer means that everyone can find their pleasure in their town, city or region.

www.francefestivals.com

FÊTE DE LA MUSIQUE

The *Fête de la musique* was created on 21 June 1982 in France as a day for everyone to play and enjoy music on the road, in parks, at cafés and throughout their city. This is now practised across the world.

www.fetedelamusique.culture.fr

INTERMITTENT DU SPECTACLE (intermittent worker in the performing arts)

Artist or technician that alternates between periods of employment and unemployment in the theatre, film and audiovisual sectors (and who benefits from a specific pension scheme). This is a specific employment category that exists in some countries. Today, there are some 100,000 casual workers in France's entertainment industry.

JOURNAL (newspaper)

In France, many daily newspapers were created in the 20th century and played crucial roles in French political

and intellectual life. These newspapers, whether national (*Le Monde*, *Libération*, *L'Humanité*, *Le Figaro*, etc) or regional (*Ouest-France*, *Le Parisien*, *Le Progrès*, *La Voix du Nord*, *Dernières Nouvelles d'Alsace*, *La Marseillaise*, *l'Est Républicain*, etc), were recognised for their political leanings, their writers and editorialists. Many writers and intellectuals use the press as their platform.

JT: *journal télévisé* – televised news

KIOSQUE (shop)

Small shop located on pavements selling newspapers, flowers, show tickets, etc.

MUSÉE (museum)

France has 1,216 museums welcoming tens of millions of visitors each year. Most rural towns also have one or more museums. More than 38,000 buildings are protected by the French Ministry of Culture and Communication and are recognised as historical monuments (the Châteaux de la Loire, the Mont-Saint-Michel, Château d'If, Arènes de Nîmes, Port de la Rochelle, etc.). These buildings remain open to the public. National museums are often closed on Tuesdays.

www.culture.gouv.fr > Thématiques > Musées > Les musées en France

RÉGION (region)

France is made up of a multitude of regions and territories (at times referred to as '*pays*').

Each one has its own traditions, cultures and rural and urban specificities. Regions are known for their gastronomy (**wine**, bread, cheese,

etc.), customs, traditions, accents, expressions and languages, all of which contribute to France's rich and generous immaterial heritage. At times, some regions and territories express the desire for greater autonomy, such as Corsica, Brittany, Pays Basque, etc.

VERSIONS (FILMS)

At the cinema, films are shown in their original language or dubbed in French.

- **VF:** *version française*, **French dubbed version**
- **VO/VOST:** *version originale/version originale sous-titrée*, *original version/original language version with subtitles in French*

VIN (wine)

There is a seemingly endless list of French wine coming from places such as Alsace, Beaujolais, Bordeaux, Bourgogne, Champagne, Corsica, Jura, Languedoc-Roussillon, Provence, Savoie, Loire, Rhône, and more!

France has more than 3,000 different wines that are grouped into 1,500 classifications, each belonging to 450 appellations and 800 existing domaines.

Each French wine-producing region has tens of controlled designations of origin (*appellations d'origine contrôlée*, **AOC**) which correspond to a defined geographical area (*terroir*).

The 33 '*grand cru*' appellations, used to describe wines of superior quality, correspond to a '*climat*', an area comprising one or more agricultural plots. With champagne, '*grand cru*' is only used to describe wine produced from grapes growing in 17 towns.

Living in France

AUBERGE DE JEUNESSE (youth hostel)

Hi! France. *Fédération unie des auberges de jeunesse*. (FUAJ)
www.hifrance.org

APÉRO

This is a contraction of the word *apéritif*, and used to describe a drink and by extension a light snack that is had before a meal.

It holds an important place in French society as it allows people to meet up with their friends and have a drink, either at home, at a café, etc.

BAGUETTE

A baguette is a type of bread that is recognisable by its long shape. A standard baguette weighs around 250g and is around 65cm long. Baguettes have a crunchy, golden exterior crust, while its interior (the crumb) is soft and white. Around the world, baguettes are a symbol of France, particularly of Paris.

BIO (organic)

This term is used to describe a number of labels that can be found on French food products: organic farming (*agriculture biologique*, AB); Red Label (*Label Rouge*, LR); controlled or protected designation of origin (*appellation d'origine contrôlée*, [AOC] *ou protégée*, [AOP]); traditional speciality guaranteed (*spécialités traditionnelles garanties*, STG); and responsible farming (*agriculture raisonnée*, AR).

www.bureauveritas.fr/bureau-veritas-certification

BISE (« SE FAIRE LA BISE »)

In France, it is customary to give each other a kiss on the cheek ('*se faire la bise*') when saying hello or goodbye, regardless of gender. In general, the *bise* is done twice (one on each cheek), although in some parts of France, it can be up to four times!

<http://combiendebises.free.fr/>

BON PLAN (good deal)

Expression used to describe a good deal or a tip for everyday life.

BOUI-BOUI

Type of **café**, bar or a small, simple, local restaurant. In some towns, the term is used to describe small shops.

BUREAU DE TABAC

The *bureau de tabac* (tobacco shop) is often integrated into some neighbourhood **cafés**. It is also known for selling postal **stamps**, **fiscal stamps**, metro cards and tickets, phone cards/SIMs, batteries, lighters, games of chance from the *Française des Jeux* (lotto, spots lotto, etc), bets for horseracing (PMU - *Pari mutuel urbain*) and more. The *bureau de tabac* can be recognised by its red, carrot-shaped sign outside. They are run by a '*buraliste*'.

CAPOTE

1. French slang for condom.
2. convertible hood (of a car).
3. greatcoat (military).
4. cape made of pink silk and yellow percale used in bullfighting.

CARTE BLEUE/CB (bank card)

Synonym of bank card. Payment card connected to a bank account that has specific rules on authorised weekly payments. These rules vary for use in France or abroad.

CASSE-CROÛTE / CASSER LA CROÛTE

A meal eaten very quickly (like a sandwich) and/or on the go.

CHAMBRE DE BONNE

Small room located on the last floor of a building, generally beneath the roof. They are commonly mentioned in French literature. Originally used by housekeeping staff (*les 'bonnes'*) in buildings owned by the bourgeoisie in the 19th century, these rooms were subsequently used by artists and intellectuals. They are now often rented to students.

CHAMBRE D'HÔTE (B&B)

During the holidays, some people (who have received prior authorisation) turn extra rooms into a bed and breakfast. This is often the case in large, country houses.

www.gites-de-france.com/en

CLOPE

Slang for cigarette.

COUP DE FIL

Expression meaning a phone call.

COVOITURAGE (carpooling)

Carpooling entails sharing a car to reach a shared destination. It is a means of saving on fuel, building one's network, etc.

One of the most popular carpooling platforms in France is Blablacar.

www.blablacar.fr

**EDF-ENGIE
(ÉLECTRICITÉ DE FRANCE-GAZ
DE FRANCE)**

Subscriptions to EDF-ENGIE's electricity and gas services are individual and must be made in the name of the tenant. Once you begin renting your accommodation, contact your local branch. Processing time takes less than a week.

www.edf.fr

www.particuliers.engie.fr

**FOURNISSEUR D'ACCÈS
INTERNET (FAI)**

A provider offering an internet connection.

« FAIRE LA QUEUE » (to queue)

In France, we stand in queues in shops and government buildings. For some foreigners, these queues may at times seem chaotic.

FÉRIÉ (bank holiday)

A *jour férié* is a public or religious holiday that may commemorate a certain event. Some public holidays are not worked (*'jours chômés'*): 1 January, 1 May, 8 May, 14 July, 15 August, 1 November, 11 November, 25 December, Easter Monday, Ascension, Pentecost.

FLIC (cop)

Slang for 'police officer'.

FORFAIT IMAGINE'R

The Imagine R **transport** card is accessible to students in the Île-de-France region who are between 12 and 25 years old. It is valid for one year, and allows holders to use the various public transport options in the region (**metro**, bus, tramway, RER) and benefit from a number of discounts. There is a 'student' subscription that is suited to various class start dates. Based on the choice of zones, the price of the subscription will be between €30 to €60. Similar subscriptions exist in the other regions of France.

www.iledefrance-mobilites.fr/imaginer

GRÈVE (strike)

Cessation of activity as a means of economic or political pressure.

The right to strike is enshrined in the French constitution.

The French word for strike, *grève*, comes from the former name of the Place de l'Hôtel de Ville in Paris.

HLM (social housing)

HLMs (*habitation à loyer modéré*) are social housing given by town halls based on income levels.

JOB ('PETIT BOULOT')

Students who wish to earn money to supplement their income (*'arrondir leur fin de mois'*) have access to many types of part-time employment (known in French as *'jobs'* or *'petits boulots'*). Examples include **babysitting** or tutoring (language classes, etc). Seasonal work is also available to students in the areas of agriculture, tourism, food service, etc.

Rules vary based on **visa** type. In general, international students can work up to 60% of the duration of full-time employment, ie 964 hours maximum per year.

www.campusfrance.org > Students > Getting organised > Working while studying in France

LAVERIE (laundrette)

A public space where washing and drying machines are made available at a cost. Laundrettes can be found in town centres and near to universities. You must bring your own detergent and pay in cash (coins).

MARCHÉ (market)

Food markets in France are some of the liveliest and most pleasant places of everyday life. Local farmers sell a wide variety of items such as fruits, vegetables, seafood, poultry, etc.

MÉTRO (metro)

A metro system exists in the following French cities: Paris, Lille, Lyon, Marseille, Toulouse and Rennes.

NUMÉROS D'URGENCE (emergency numbers)

- **Firefighters** (fires, accidents and medical emergencies): 18
- **SAMU** - emergency medical assistance service (medical emergencies in towns and cities): 15
SAMU social (assistance for homeless people): 115
- **SOS Médecin**: 36 24
- **Police**: 17

When using a mobile phone, a single number can be used for all emergencies: 112

A list of late-night **doctors** and pharmacies is made available by pharmacies and in regional daily newspapers.

PERMIS DE CONDUIRE (driving licence)

International students are allowed to use their driving licence throughout their studies if their licence was issued before the start of their visa.

In the first year after their studies when they change visa statuses (from student to worker, for example), they may exchange their foreign driving licence for a French licence. Following the one-year period, the foreign driving licence will no longer be valid in France and a French licence will be required.

www.service-public.fr > Fiches pratiques par thème > Transports – Mobilité > Conduire en France avec un permis étranger

PHOTOMATON (photo booth)

You will need to provide standard identity photos to register at your university or request your **residence permit**. You can obtain such photos from photo booths known as *photomatons*, which can be found inside **town halls**, **metro** stations, train stations and certain supermarkets.

PILULE (pill)

A contraceptive pill can be used to avoid unwanted pregnancies. Since January 2023, emergency contraceptive pills or 'morning after pills' can be obtained free of cost and over the counter at pharmacies.

'PONT' / 'FAIRE LE PONT'

'*Faire le pont*' entails not working on the days between a public holiday and the weekend. In this way, a 'bridge' is made connecting the two days off work.

POURBOIRE (tip)

In France, service charge is included in the sales price. Therefore, it is not mandatory to leave a tip in bars, bistrotts or brasseries. Each person can decide if they want to leave a tip if the service was satisfactory, from a few cents to a few euros.

REPAS (meal)

In France, people tend to eat three times per day. Although eating habits are becoming more and more similar around the world, France has kept its eating structure and tradition. A French meal is still composed of a starter, a main, a cheese dish and a dessert.

- In the morning: a traditional breakfast (coffee, pastries, bread with butter or jam), which has been increasingly replaced by a more cosmopolitan variation (cereal, yogurt, orange juice, etc).
- At midday: lunch is still very important, with restaurants having set menus and a daily special. Nevertheless, the practice of having a sandwich or fast food is widespread, particularly in big cities.
- *'Le goûter'*: an afternoon snack for children (which takes place at 4pm in schools).
- In the evening: dinner starting at 8pm, which is a full meal that is still served with soup.

RDC/GF

'Rez-de-chaussée', *'rez-de-cour'* and at times *'rez-de-jardin'* are terms used to mean 'ground floor'.

RER (RÉSEAU EXPRESS RÉGIONAL)

Regional train system serving the Paris region.

RESTAURANT UNIVERSITAIRE (RESTO'U OU RU) (university restaurant)

University restaurants, along with university cafeterias (*la cafèt*), are a typical feature of French student life and are managed by the CROUS. There are some 450 such restaurants,

as well as certified equivalents that can be found away from university centres. They offer balanced, nutritional meals for €3.30, or for €1 for scholarship holders and students with financial difficulties. Payment tickets are available for purchase in CROUS offices and at the university restaurants (one ticket = one meal).

All students can use their **student card** to access all university restaurants in France. Some are open in the evenings, on weekends and during the holidays.

SNCF

The SNCF (*Société nationale des chemins de fer*) is a public company that manages the entirety of rail transport in France (people, merchandise, etc). The train network is very extensive, with high-speed trains (**TGVs**, *trains à grande vitesse*) competing favourably with air travel.

Preferential rates exist based on the duration of the trip, one's age and the date tickets are purchased.

www.sncf-connect.com

SOLDES (sales)

In France, sales periods (*les soldes*) are set by law in each region by the **Préfecture**. There are two per year: winter sales (in January) and summer sales (in June). Each sales period runs for five weeks and always starts on a Wednesday.

SOUS (« AVOIR DES SOUS »)

Word/expression generally meaning money/to have money.

SVP

S'il vous plaît.

TABAC (smoking)

It is forbidden to smoke in public spaces, particularly inside **cafés**, restaurants, at work, etc.

TÉLÉPHONE (telephone)

Telephone numbers in France are made up of 10 figures. The first two figures relate to the geographic area being called.

France's area code is +33.

TER

Transport express régional.

TERs are **SNCF** trains that connect regions and towns to one another, as opposed to **TGVs** which only connect large cities.

TEXTO/SMS (text message)

A text message sent by **mobile phone**.

TIMBRE (stamp)

To send a letter or parcel, you must use one or more stamps. Prices vary based on the weight of what is being sent.

- Minimum weight: 20g (€1.29; €2.10 for international destinations)
- Maximum weight: 2kg (€9.19).

Several stamps can be used on a single letter or a single stamp can be purchased directly from a machine at the **post office**.

www.laposte.fr > Nos tarifs

VACANCES (holidays)

The academic year generally begins in September and is divided into two semesters:

- semester 1: from September to January. Christmas holidays (the last two weeks of December); classes resume, following which exams take place (second half of January). There may be an inter-semester week of holidays depending on the institution.

- semester 2: from February to June. Two weeks of holidays in April (Easter holidays), then a second exam session in June, which may be followed by an exam resit session (*rattrapage*).

Holidays vary based on the region.

VÉLO (bike)

Many cities in France offer municipal bicycle services for hire (Vélib', Vélov', etc). Bicycles can be hired for an hour, a week, a month or a year. The cost is around €1 per day. Rates vary depending on the city.

**VIANDE/CUISSON
(meat doneness)**

In **brasseries**, restaurants and **bistrot**s, the waiter will often ask for the level of doneness for your meat. The terms used generally apply to beef, and at times to duck, lamb and veal.

From rare to well done:

Very rare (*bleu*), rare (*saignant*), medium rare for duck, lamb and veal only (*rosé*), medium rare (*à point*), well done (*bien cuit*).

**ZONES TARIFAIRES
(transport zones)**

With public transport, most major cities are divided into zones that will determine the cost of your ticket. Ensure that you select the correct zone for your destination.

Studying in France

ALUMNI

The term 'alumni' comes from the Latin 'alumnus' and refers to former students of higher education institutions who have formed an association. All students who have earned their degree from a French higher education institution are, by definition, members of the alumni network.

www.francealumni.fr

ASSOCIATION

France has a remarkable network of nearly 1.5 million associations across the country, including student associations. These associations allow students to interact, organise activities outside of classes (festivals, exhibits, concerts, conferences, trips, hikes, weekend tours, parties, etc), and participate in wide variety of interests covering humanitarian assistance, sports, economics, and culture. They may also gain experience in leadership roles including being the president of a festival, treasurer of a junior company, communication manager for a cultural undertaking, and more. These can all be used to enhance their CVs.

www.associations.gouv.fr

www.service-public.fr > Fiches pratiques par thèmes > Associations

BABY-SITTING (babysitting)

Babysitting is an easy-to-access student job (*petit boulot*) that entails picking up children after school (at around 4.30pm), bringing them to their home, helping them with homework and watching them in the evening. Job offers are available on student job sites, at universities and schools, at the *bureau de tabac*, at bakeries, in *laundrettes*, etc.

www.jobetudiant.net

BIZUTAGE (hazing)

Series of imposed tests, dares or practices meant to initiate and integrate a new student cohort. In France, hazing is forbidden and punished by law. However, it is still present in some engineering schools, business schools, at universities, and in medicine and pharmacy programmes. All students have the right not to participate.

www.service-public.fr > Fiches pratiques par thèmes > Famille – Scolarité > Etudes supérieures > Inscription > Que faire face à un bizutage?

BIBLIOTHÈQUE UNIVERSITAIRE 'BU' (university library)

Library cards are given for free upon presenting a **student card**. Some university departments (UFR) have their own specialised libraries. There are some generalist and specialised libraries outside of universities that are reserved for students and researchers. In all cases, a student card will be required. The catalogue shared among French university libraries is called **Sudoc**, the collective university documentation system.

www.sudoc.abes.fr

CARTE AVANTAGE JEUNE SNCF

This train card offers discounts on all train tickets in France to everyone up to age 27 (inclusive). A discount of 25% is applied to all tickets. Some discounts can go up to 60%. The card costs €50 and is valid for one year.

www.sncf-connect.com/app/catalogue/description/carte-avantage-jeune

If you are a student under 26 years or an apprentice under 29 years, and you

make at least one return trip per week from your place of residence to your place of study or work, you can access special offers.

www.sncf-voyageurs.com/fr/voyagez-avec-nous/en-france/tarifs-grandes-lignes/eleves-etudiants-et-apprentis

CARTE D'ÉTUDIANT (student card)

Student cards are issued for programmes at higher education institutions of at least six months in duration after completion of the administration registration process and the payment of tuition.

They act as proof that students are registered and give them access to exams, on-campus medical services, the university library (**BU**) and other services (photocopying, IT rooms, sporting facilities, etc). Student cards also grant access to certificates of enrolment, which may be required for specific administrative processes (opening a bank account, requesting housing allowances, etc). They can only be used to gain student discounts in France (transport, leisure activities, etc).

The international student identity card (ISIC) grants access to student discounts in more than 130 countries and is accessible to all students. The digital version of the ISIC costs €13, while the physical and digital versions together cost €16. It can be ordered online or purchased in shops (only in Paris).

www.isic.fr

COLOCATION (flat-sharing)

Renting an accommodation with other people. Tenants in shared accommodations sign a lease together with the landlord and they all have the

same rights. There are no specific rules for flat sharing. In order for each tenant to obtain housing allowances, all their names must be on the lease agreement.

CROUS/CNOUS

The CROUS (*Centres régionaux des œuvres universitaires et scolaires*) manages university accommodations (*Cité'U*), university restaurants (**Resto'U** or RU), social assistance offices at universities, cultural activities on campuses (by offering discounts on cultural events), temporary employment assistance and tourism.

The CNOUS (*Centre national des œuvres universitaires et scolaires*) is in charge of running the 27 CROUS agencies located across France. All students of a higher education institution have access to the services of the CROUS.

www.cnous.fr

HS

'Hors service': out of order.

'Hors sujet' 'off-topic': distressing comment made on a corrected exam.

SUAPS (university sports and physical activity service)

SUAPS organises and manages the various sporting activities offered by a university. Registration comes at a low cost and is done during the administrative registration process. A medical certificate from within the last two months is required. This can be obtained from the on-campus medical facility (*médecine préventive*). It is recommended that you have personal insurance covering sports-related risks (civil liability and bodily harm). Similar departments exist within *Grandes Écoles*.

Want to know more? Check our website www.campusfrance.org and discover our rich array of publications!

41 subject-dedicated factsheets:

www.campusfrance.org > Students > Resources center > Panorama of Higher Education and Research in France > Fields of Study



12 diploma factsheets:

www.campusfrance.org > Students > Resources center > Panorama of Higher Education and Research in France



Catalogue of programme offers by field of study: *Sport (2024 - only available in French)*

www.campusfrance.org > Etudiants > Ressources documentaires > Panorama de l'Enseignement Supérieur et de la Recherche en France > Catalogue de Formations

Forthcoming 2025: Sustainable Development durable



Our 7 search engines:

