

Brevet de Technicien Supérieur (BTS)

Postsecondary training centers and the technical sections of many secondary schools offer the higher technical certificate known as the *Brevet de Technicien Supérieur* (BTS), a **2-year French national diploma in 88 specialty areas**. More than 240 000 students are enrolled in BTS programs.

New technical support functions are emerging and expanding in every sector of the economy in connection with the work of engineers, researchers, and top management in government, finance, and business. BTS programs respond to the need for personnel with the appropriate technical skills and competences, training students to begin their career immediately after receiving their diploma.

The BTS curriculum is built on a common base of vocational, technological, and general skills deemed essential for successful performance in a given occupation. Over the course of the 2-year curriculum, students gain professional qualifications in commercial and industrial specialties, services, or applied arts. Service specialties account for the greatest share of BTS enrollments. The competencies gained in BTS programs respond to the globalization of economic activity and modern production systems that demand in-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 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." (Technical and Vocational Education and Training for the 21st century).

Why pursue a BTS?

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

Disciplinary specialties

PRODUCTION-RELATED SECTORS AND TECHNICAL SPECIALTIES

■ Civil engineering, construction, woodworking

- Building (construction and roofing)
- Building (finishes)
- Mining and quarrying, civil engineering, topography
- Multi-technology systems for civil engineering, construction, and woodworking
- Woodworking and furniture making

■ Pliable materials

- Apparel
- Multi-technology systems for use with pliable materials
- Textiles

■ Mechanics, electricity, electronics

- General and precision mechanics, machining
- Mechanics, electricity, and electronics
- Aeronautics and space mechanics
- Automobile engines and mechanics
- Multi-technology systems for mechanics and engineering
- Metal structures

■ Multi-technological production systems

- Basic industrial technologies
- Control technologies for industrial transformations

■ Transformations

- Food and food processing, cuisine
- Energy, climate engineering
- Building materials, glass, ceramics
- Metallurgy
- Paper, cardboard
- Plastics, composites materials
- Chemical and related transformations
- Multi-technology transformations

DISCIPLINARY

■ Agriculture

- Agronomy
- Landscape planning and management
- Livestock raising
- Environment (protection of nature)
- Horticulture
- Farming systems
- Water management



for *Brevet de Technicien Supérieur*

SERVICE-RELATED SECTORS AND TECHNICAL SPECIALTIES

■ Communication and information

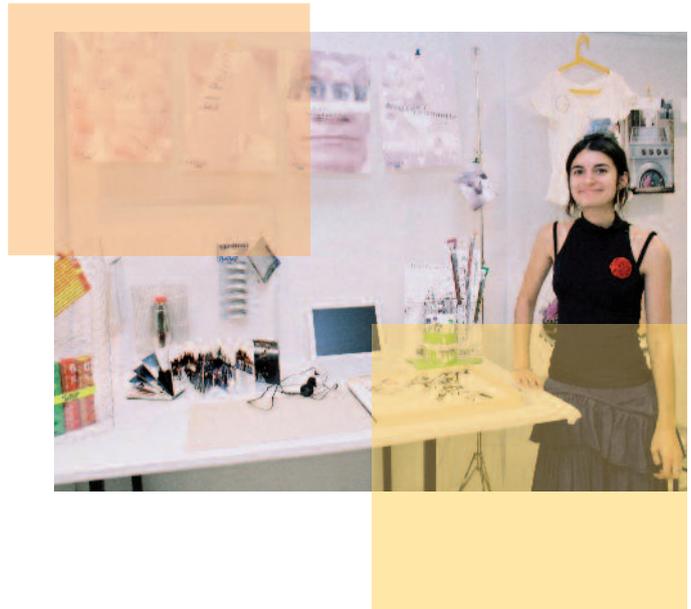
- Computer science, information processing, data transmission
- Journalism and communication
- Office administration, processes, and technologies
- Multipurpose communication specialties
- Printing and publishing techniques
- Image and sound techniques, performing arts-related occupations

■ Personal services

- Hospitality, hotel administration, tourism
- Hairdressing, beauty services, other specialized personal services
- Health, paramedical services
- Multi-use health and social services
- Social work

■ Business and management

- Commerce, sales
- Accounting, management
- Finance, banking, insurance
- Handling, warehousing
- Transportation and logistics



SECTORS

■ Arts and letters

- Performing arts
- Ceramics
- Design
- Music
- Photography

Earning another degree after the BTS

Various post-BTS academic options are possible, depending on the specific BTS. BTS graduates enter science-oriented preparatory programs leading to the Grandes Écoles, undergraduate programs leading to a licence professionnelle (professional bachelor), and certain schools of engineering (after a special examination or an interview and/or application).

Useful links

- List of BTS programs by theme: <http://www.orientation.fr/liste-des-bts.html>
- List of BTS specialties and frames of reference: <https://www.sup.adc.education.fr/btslst/>
- List of BTS programs in agriculture: <http://www.chlorofil.fr>
- List of institutions (with contact information) offering BTS programs and remedial programs for intending BTS applicants: <http://www.campusfrance.org>>Trouvez votre formation>Niveau Licence>BTS
- Ministry of Higher Education and Research:
<http://www.enseignementsup-recherche.gouv.fr>>Formation et diplômes>BTS
- National registry of occupational certifications (RNCP): <http://www.cncp.gouv.fr/>



GOOD TO KNOW

- The *Brevet de Technicien Supérieur* (BTS) is a French national postsecondary diploma that has been harmonized with the European LMD degree ladder. Over the 2 years of the program, students earn a total of 120 credits under the European Credit Transfer System.
- To be admitted to a BTS program, students must hold a French *baccalauréat* (technological, vocational, or general tracks) or an equivalent secondary-school credential that enables the holder to enter higher education in his or her home country. The duration of BTS programs (normally 2 years) and the curriculum may be modified for students possessing certain diplomas or other credentials or who have already completed some higher education.
- The BTS is earned in special sections of some secondary schools and in private technical schools. Some BTS programs are available from institutions offering distance education. Admission decisions are made by individual institutions, which convene committees of faculty members for this purpose. Applicants who have fulfilled all requirements for a given program but are not offered admission may request to be considered for another BTS program at the institution.
- Tuition and fees vary by type of institution: public secondary schools (registration fee only); private secondary schools under contract with the government (between €300 and €900), and other institutions not under government contract (€1 500 to €6 000). Application and test fees (about €100) paid in connection with the preregistration process are not refundable under any circumstances.



www.campusfrance.org>Find your program

A comprehensive database of degrees, specialties, and institutions in French higher education

www.campusfrance.org>Finance your program

CampusBourses, the directory of grant and scholarship programs