Architecture

The art of designing buildings in a social context, architecture integrates many other arts and domains among them aesthetics, the visual arts (including sculpture), and interior design.

Architecture is taught throughout France by a network of 20 Écoles Nationales Supérieures d’Architecture (ENSAs, national higher schools of architecture) and two other institutions that confer degrees recognized as equivalent to the national diplomas awarded by the ENSAs. All of these institutions operate under the joint authority and supervision of the French ministries of culture and higher education. They participate in the National Strategy for Higher Education aiming to promote a learning society, support the economy, develop the European dimension and the internationalization of higher education, promote real social access, act for inclusion and prepare students to respond to the many societal challenges.

Great international architects are also well represented in France among them Oscar Niemeyer, Ieoh Ming Pei, Frank Gehry, Renzo Piano, Ricardo Bofill, Tadao And, and Rem Koolhaas. Numerous international networks and cooperative agreements are active in the areas of architectural education, student mobility, and professional exchange. For example: the European Association for Architectural Education (EAAE), the scientific network known as PhilAU (philosophy, architecture, urbanism), the international council of French architects (CIAF), and the International Union of Architects (UIA). The ENSAs have revived the tradition of travel abroad as part of an architect’s education. European exchange programs and international cooperative agreements enable students to obtain credit for study abroad while they absorb other cultures and their approaches to architectural problems and challenges.

“Architecture is the wise, correct, and magnificent play of volume under light.”
(Le Corbusier, 1920)

International

France has a proud history of architectural creativity: Le Corbusier, Paul Andreu, Jean-Marie Charpentier, Françoise-Hélène Jourda, Christian de Porzamparc, Jean Nouvel, Manuella Gautrand and Dominique Perrault are a few of the French architects whose names are recognized worldwide.

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• Architecture accounts for €4.1 billion of the €49.3 of cultural value added (2019)
• 29,700 architects registered on the table of the "Ordre des architectes" in France (2020)
• 31% of women architects in France (2020)
• 19,800 students at ENSA, including 2,280 foreign students (2020)
• 2,200 architect’s degrees are awarded each year (2020)

Sources: INSEE - MC - MESRI

Useful links

• Academy of architecture: www.aa.archi.fr
• Albums of young architects and landscape architects: www.citedelarchitecture.fr/fr/ajap-2020
• ArchiRés, the network of libraries of French-speaking schools of architecture: www.archires.archi.fr
• Architecture and historic preservation database: http://www2.culture.gouv.fr/culture/inventai/patrimoine
• ARVHA, Association for Research on the City and the Habitat: www.femmes-archi.org
• CampusArt, online application in art and architecture schools: www.campusart.org
• City of architecture and heritage: www.citedelarchitecture.fr
• French Ministry of Culture: www.culture.gouv.fr/Sites-thematiques/Architecture
• National Council of the Architects: www.architectes.org
**Licence**

**BREVET DE TECHNICIEN SUPERIEUR (BTS)**
NATIONAL DIPLOMA – 2 YEARS OF HIGHER EDUCATION – L2
120 ECTS credits

> Almost ten BTS, offered in public and private secondary and postsecondary schools. Examples: Construction; Metal structures; Space design; Home automation; Building coverings; Construction economics; Fluids; energy; environments; Wood and home construction systems; Public works;

**DIPLOME D’ETUDES EN ARCHITECTURE (DEEA)**
NATIONAL DIPLOMA – 3 YEARS OF HIGHER EDUCATION – L3
180 ECTS credits

> DEA, 3-year undergraduate offered in 20 ENSAs; 4,200 hours of study, of which 2,200 in class or lab. Students acquire basic architectural knowledge; design processes; project principles; preparation and defense of final paper; two mandatory 6-week internships. Students earning the DEA may apply to programs at Master level.

To apply online on CampusArt:
ENSAs et de Paysage de Lille: www.campusart.org/artsearch/#/program/726
EAVT à Mâcon-Lavaux: www.campusart.org/artsearch/#/program/853

**PROFESSIONAL LICENCE**
NATIONAL DIPLOMA – 3 YEARS OF HIGHER EDUCATION – L3
180 ECTS credits

> Several Licence Professionnelle exist in Science, technology, health notices: Civil Engineering; Metal design architecture ... but rather at subdomain «Building and Construction» that architecture.

> mention Bachelor Universitaire de Technologie (BUT) specialties in Civil engineering and sustainable construction, offered in 20 university-based institutions of technology (IUTs).

**INSTITUTION DIPLOMA**
3 YEARS OF HIGHER EDUCATION


To apply online:
www.campusart.org > Find your program
(Warning, DAP-Yellow mandatory)

**Master**

**DIPLÔME D’ÉTAT D’ARCHITECTE (DEA)**
NATIONAL DIPLOMA – 5 YEARS OF HIGHER EDUCATION – M2
120 ECTS credits

> DEA in 2 years, offered in 20 ENSAs. Students master the challenges of projects in architecture and urban design while being exposed to various forms of architectural practice, 2,600 hours of study, of which 1,200 in class or lab; required 8-week internship; final project.

> DEA and professional qualification in engineering, a double credential in architecture and engineering is offered in 7 ENSAs in cooperation with nearby engineering schools. Graduates obtain professional qualifications in architecture and engineering. Students must complete the entire program, beginning with the first year, show evidence of special scientific aptitude, and take additional make-up courses.

To apply online on CampusArt:
ENSAs et de Paysage de Lille: www.campusart.org/artsearch/#/program/727
EAVT à Mâcon-Lavaux: www.campusart.org/artsearch/#/program/321

> Diplôme d’Architecte from l’ESA (120 ECTS), recognized by the French government. www.campusart.org/artsearch/#/program/854


**MASTER**
NATIONAL DIPLOMA – 5 YEARS OF HIGHER EDUCATION – M2
120 ECTS credits

> Master, 2-year national diploma offered in 15 universities in divisions: Humanities and social sciences; Science, technology, health; Environmental sciences, regional planning, and economics. Several options available: Architecture, structures, and urban planning; Project management and regional planning… These Master concern over the subdomain «Building and Construction» that architecture.

**EUROPEAN MASTER**
NATIONAL DIPLOMA – 5 YEARS OF HIGHER EDUCATION – M2
120 ECTS credits

> Joint degrees:
> 1. Management of complex architectural projects from ENSA Paris Val de Seine (ENSAPVS) and Facoltà di Architettura dell’ Università degli Studi di Roma “La Sapienza” (Italy).
> 2. Double degrees:
> 1. Architecture and Urban Project in an International Context from ENSA Strasbourg (ENSAS) and the KIT faculty of architecture (Germany).
> 2. Ecological Urbanism, 2 years, taught in English and offered by ENSA-Versailles and the College of Architecture and Urbanism of the University of Tongji (China). Graduates earn Chinese Master in urbanism and French Master in architecture.

To apply online:
www.campusart.org > Find your program
(Warning, DAP-Yellow mandatory)

ECTS: European Credits Transfer System

December 2021