France belongs to the Council of Europe Programme on Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals (HELP), which aims to train more judges, lawyers and prosecutors in the 46 member states of the Council of Europe. It promotes the application of European standards in human rights and offers HELP online courses that cover a wide range of subjects related to human rights.

The French National School for the Judiciary (ENM) is a founding member of the European Judicial Training Network (EJTN) and of the Euro-Arab Judicial Training Network (EAJTN), and is a member of the International Organization for Judicial Training (IOJT). The HELP program brings together representatives of training institutes from 46 Council of Europe member states to harmonize training on the standards of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR).

The ENM supports judicial training institutes and trains French and foreign magistrates for international work. Through bilateral and multilateral collaborations, it provides its partners with expertise in educational engineering, professional practices, e-training, international matters, and research.

Law

The Civil Law system is one of the most widespread legal systems in the world, and much like the Common Law, it owes a lot to the French system.

French law has inspired many foreign countries. Studying law in France thus allows students to discover the roots of the system in place in their own country, and for those who come from a country under the Common Law, it enables them to discover the “other” legal system.

The way law is taught in France privileges critical thinking and reflection on what law is, but also on what it should or could be. Students need to acquire a solid knowledge base in order to reason on law and question its methods and forms.

Over time, the Rule of Law has been modified, transformed, replaced. Just as knowing it is a necessity, so too is being able to comment on it, analyze it and criticize it, in order to be able to understand what a new rule brings to the table and the challenges it represents.*

This vision of law studies in France enables students to work in fields other than legal careers (judge, lawyer, magistrate, notary, court clerk, bailiff, etc.). Students can also choose a career in administration, as executives in the private sector (legal expert in a company, in social law, environmental law, in banking and insurance, etc.) or in public administration, for professions that require expertise in dealing with issues in the legal, administrative, human resources fields, etc. at a national, European and international level.

Law is mostly taught in universities. Its evolution, its application in everyday life and its new related fields altogether ensure training in judicial careers, as well as in legal expertise in all sectors. More than forty Law faculties offer numerous specialized and multidisciplinary courses, where law is taught in relation with another field.

International

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Useful links

- Conseil national des barreaux (CNB): www.cnb.avocat.fr/en
- Paris Institute of Comparative Law (IDC): www.idc.u-paris2.fr/?language=en
- Notaires de France: www.notaires.fr/en
- European Judicial Training Network (EJTN): www.ejtn.eu/

10.74 billion euro budget for the French justice system (2022)
68,000 lawyers (2022)
87,000 workers in the Ministry of Justice, including 8,500 magistrates (2022)
473 regional courts
164 judicial courts
234 commercial courts
270 employment tribunals
42 administrative courts
36 courts of appeal

Sources: Ministry of Justice - www.justice.gouv.fr
LEVEL
Licence

INTENSIVE COURSE: CLASSE UNIVERSITAIRE PREPARATOIRE AUX GRANDES ECOLES (CPGE)
2 YEARS OF HIGHER EDUCATION – L2
The preparatory class in Economics and Management, option Economics, Law and Management is offered in Lycées (high schools) and can be done in one year at ÉNS Rennes.

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

The BTS Collaborateur Juriste notarial (advanced technician’s certificate in legal and notarial collaboration) trains notarial assistants to draw up deeds or to act as negotiators for sale or rent, to work in a notary’s office, to assist the notary in carrying out certain tasks as an assistant in drafting deeds (marriage contracts, donations, inheritance, residential leases, etc.) and ensure their administrative compliance, or to act as a negotiator in real estate, in sales or rent.

DIPLÔME D’ÉTUDES UNIVERSITAIRES SCIENTIFIQUES ET TECHNIQUES (DEUST)
NATIONAL DIPLOMA – 2 YEARS OF HIGHER EDUCATION – L2
120 ECTS credits
The DEUST Assistant juridique (legal assistant) is run by the Institut Sociétés et Humanités : Droit et Administration publique of the Polytechnic University of Hauts-de-France (UPHF).

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

The Licence can be followed in faculties of Droit, économie et gestion (Law, Economics and Management) with a major in Law in about fifty universities. It is also possible to enroll in a double degree, Licence et Diplôme Universitaire (DU), which links law with computer science, economics, sciences and innovation.

LICENCE PROFESSIONNELLE (VOCATIONAL BACHELOR’S DEGREE)
NATIONAL DIPLOMA – 3 YEARS OF HIGHER EDUCATION – L3
180 ECTS credits
It is carried out by faculties of Droit, économie et gestion with majors in Law and Activités juridiques (Legal Practice), with about forty specializations: Litigation and Collection, Law and Business, Environmental Law, Law and Management, Real Estate Law, Heritage Law, Private Law, Social Law, Public Procurement, Notarial Professions, etc. The major in Métiers du notariat (Notarial Professions) offers a wide range of possibilities within various organizations and local authorities.

DIPLÔME UNIVERSITAIRE (DU)
3 YEARS OF HIGHER EDUCATION
Within law studies, it is possible to enroll in the DU Criminologie after two years of higher education and to achieve it in one year in five French universities. However, in France, criminology is considered as a specialization and training in the field does not award any official title or degree.

LEVEL
Master

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

It can be prepared within a Droit, économie et gestion program with different majors that encompass several specializations: Comparative Law; Communication and ICT Law; Property Law; Banking and Finance Law; Canon Law; Civil Law; Economic Law; Corporate Law; Environmental and Urban Law; Real Estate Law; Intellectual Property Law; Health Law; Maritime Law; Business Law; Insurance Law; Rights Law; Digital Law; Heritage Law; Law and Management of Wine and Spirits; European Law; Tax Law; International and European Law; Notarial Law; Criminal Law; Private Law; Public Law; Social Law; Human Rights and International Justice; Law and Economics; History of Law and Institutions; Justice, Trials and Procedure.

www.campusfrance.org > Students > Studying > Find your programme

About forty Master’s degree trainings are taught in English, with several specializations:
Aviation Law; Business law & Management; Business, Tax & Financial Market Law; Comparative Law; Comparative & European private international Law; Law and Finance; Law and regulations of Banking and financial system; Environmental sustainability law and policies; European and International Trade & Investment Law; Intellectual Property Law; International Business Law; International Finance and Law; International and European Law; International Law, International Relations and Diplomacy; Law, Entrepreneurship and Digital; Law & Tax Management; Space and Telecommunications Law; Taxation Law, Business Law and Compliance.

Programs taught in English: https://taughtie.campusfrance.org

LEVEL
Post-M

DOUBLE DEGREES

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

These Licences are especially adapted to the evolution of law and to specialization. They are highly demanding and selective, and allow taking courses in two more majors during six semesters until the Licence level is achieved. From the first year, law is taught in relation with other fields: biotech medicine, political science, economics, social sciences, art history and English law-political science. For more information on this matter, please directly contact institutions or refer to their websites.

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

The programs cover comparative and applied law in different fields: Common Law and Comparative Law; Comparative, Business, Law; European Labor Law and Science, French and Foreign Law, International and Comparative Law. Law, Health Law, etc.

www.campusfrance.org > Students > Studying > Find your programme

DIPLÔME UNIVERSITAIRE (DU)
5 YEARS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

The DU Diplôme de juriste conseil d’entreprise (DJCS) (legal counsel for companies diploma) is accredited nationally by the Fédération nationale pour le droit de l’Entreprise. It can be done in a dozen Universities and is accessible to those who already did one year of master’s in law.

DIPLÔME SUPÉRIEUR DE NOTARIAT (DSN)
1 YEAR OF HIGHER EDUCATION

The DSN is a national diploma that leads to the profession of notary, which is regulated in France, and it does not automatically give out the title of Notary or Assistant Notary. A notary’s expertise in law covers all subjects. Notaries are high-level legal experts specialized in advising individuals and companies in family law, heritage management, real estate law and rural law. The DSN is provided by about twenty universities and is accessible to students holding a Master’s degree or an equivalent in Notarial Law.

www.campusfrance.org > Students > Studying > Find your programme

ECTS: European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System
June 2023