Public Governance

The term public governance has been used since the end of the 20th century in the English-speaking world and by some international institutions (including the United Nations, the World Bank, and the International Monetary Fund) to refer to the proper functioning of institutions and the effectiveness of their public activities. Governance then became associated with the development of new governance techniques and a consensual method of formulating norms. In this sense, governance promotes a new way of managing public affairs based on the participation of civil society at all levels: national, local, regional, and international.

Schools of government and public administration in France, many with university ties, are essential providers of training in governance. The field covers a wide range of themes pertaining to public institutions of all types (national and subnational government, public agencies, state-owned companies). This cross-cutting approach promises graduates openings in business, auditing, participatory budgeting, and city planning, for example—as extensions of more traditional careers in public administration.

To be sustainable, both development and stability must be rooted in governance practices that reflect the democratic relationship between the state and society in all its diversity, as expressed in internal processes and in the implementation of fair and inclusive public policies. This form of democratic governance relies on the social contract between government and citizen. Governance takes on critical importance in the prevention and mitigation of situations of fragility and crisis. Strengthening democratic public governance can help strengthen the legitimacy and accountability of states and encourage the expansion of civic space.

International

Since 2018, the Paris Peace Forum has helped reduce the governance deficit through concrete solutions proposed by stakeholders on major themes of peace and security, development, environmental issues, new technologies, inclusivity, culture, and education. It works with multilateral organizations such as the United Nations, the World Trade Organization, the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, the African Development Bank, and the European Union. Global Governance has also been placed on the agenda of leaders and the public in November so as to present governance projects and engage leaders, elected officials, experts, and others in discussions.

With the participation of public postsecondary schools, universities, and firms, France is developing a policy of European and international cooperation in the field of governance and government institutions to meet diplomatic, economic, and cultural objectives, particularly through bilateral and multilateral programs.

Programs in public governance with an international focus include undergraduate programs offering a French national diploma, advanced certificate programs, short specialized programs, Master’s programs, distance-ed programs, student-designed programs, study visits and missions, seminars, and joint programs.

Useful links

- Committee on public governance of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development: https://www.oecd.org/governance/
- European Group for Public Administration: https://egpa.iias-iisa.org
- European Institute of Public Administration: www.eipap.eu
- European Public Administration Network: www.eupan.eu
- Forum for global exchanges in administration (French): www.feram.net
- French institute of public governance: www.ifgp.fr
- Global development and governance initiative (French): https://idgm.org
- Global Public Policy Network: www.gppnetwork.org
- GovTech Summit (digital transformation of governments and democracies): www.govtechsummit.eu
- Institute for public management and economic development (French): www.economie.gouv.fr/igpde
- Paris Peace Forum (an inclusive platform on global governance): https://parispeaceforum.org
- Schools of administration supervised by French ministries: www.fonction-publique.gouv.fr/score/ecoles-de-formation/ecoles-ministerielles

- 64% of the paid staff of public scientific and technical institutions are women (2018)

- 5.61 million employees in France (2019)
- 56,695 paid staff working in publicly funded scientific and technical institutions (2018)
- 1.28 trillion in spending by public agencies (2018)
- 1.22 trillion in revenues by public agencies in (2018)
- 44% of the paid staff working in (2018)

Common fields

- Economics and management
- Humanities and social sciences
- Law • Law and political science
- Science, technology, and health

Related fields

- Development studies and economics
- Digital governance
- Environmental law and city planning
- Geography, land-use planning, environment, and development
- International and European law
- International relations
- Local and regional planning and development
- Management and development of athletic and recreational organizations and services
- Political science
- Public administration
- Public health • Public law
- Public management and economics
- Subnational law
- Urban planning and development
A Licence with a governance focus can be earned in university faculties of law, economics, and management offering majors in:

- Design and governance of sustainable development projects,
- Economic and social administration,
- Law,
- Organizational governance and staffing,
- Public administration,
- Public management,
- Security of persons and property.

Faculties of humanities and social sciences offer majors in:

- Economic and social administration,
- Health and social sciences,
- History,
- Political science, and public management,
- Sociology.

A professional or technical Licence with a governance focus can be earned in university faculties of law, economics, and management offering majors in:

- Local and regional administration,
- Regional development and city planning, through courses in local government staffing, European projects, urban and environmental projects, and public administration and management,
- Security of persons and property.

A Master with a governance focus can be earned in the following fields:

- **Law, economics, and management**, through specializations in public administration, law and governance of public financial systems, law and governance of subnational governments, public management and economics, organizational governance and staffing, and governance of international development organizations.
- **Law and political science**, through specializations in public affairs, careers in public advocacy, energy law and governance, EU law and governance, local geopolitics and regional governance, governance in international relations, governance in educational systems, governance and development finance, and association governance.
- **Social and economic sciences**, through specializations in public advocacy and social regulations, development and governance in the global south, governance of sustainable development projects in the global south, recreational governance and regional development, regional management and urbanism, social development and governance at the regional level, governance of environmental risks, vulnerability and governance of risks and the environment.
- **Science, technology, and health**, through specializations in law and governance in health and social institutions, law and governance of the health and social sector, and governance and staffing in social, health, and local-government entities.

Some Master’s programs offer second-year professional specializations related to governance in the following fields:

- **Law, economics, and management**, through specializations in the law of administrative action, law and governance of the European Union, regional economics and governance, economic intelligence and regional competition, and management of public agencies.
- **Law and political science**, through specializations in European public affairs, public decision making, energy law and governance, consulting on politics and public action, and governance of educational systems.
- **Social and economic sciences**, through specializations in sociological consulting on public action in the Euro-Mediterranean region, public governance and international relations, and Euro-Mediterranean management and sustainable development.

Catalog of programs taught in English: [www.campusfrance.org/en](http://www.campusfrance.org/en) > Students > Studying > Find your program > Programs Taught in English

Several Master’s level programs offer binational diplomas:

- The European Master in Governance and Administration is a Franco-German program organized by France’s Institut national du service public and Germany’s Federal Academy of Administration. The joint degree is granted by four universities (Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, the University of Potsdam, Humboldt University in Berlin, and the German University of Administrative Sciences of Spire).
- The Master in Management and Public Affairs is organized by France’s Hautes Études Commerciales (HEC) and the Freie Universität Berlin with a focus on management of public agencies.
- The Master in Law and Governance of International and European Affairs is offered by the Franco-Romanian Legal College of European Studies in partnership with the Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne and the University of Bucharest.

The Erasmus Mundus Master in Europubhealth+ involves courses in eight European postsecondary schools and universities participating in a consortium coordinated by France’s École des Hautes Etudes en Santé Publique (EHESP).

Catalog of programs taught in English: [www.campusfrance.org/en](http://www.campusfrance.org/en) > Students > Studying > Find your program > Programs Taught in English

SCHOOLS OF ADMINISTRATION AND PUBLIC SERVICE

Several of France’s postsecondary schools of administration and public service offer programs with an international focus:

- École Nationale de la Magistrature: [www.enm.justice.fr](http://www.enm.justice.fr)

Some prominent French institutions accept international internships:

- Centre National de la Fonction Publique Territoriale, [https://www.cnfpt.fr](https://www.cnfpt.fr)
- Centre d’Études et de Recherches sur le Développement International, [https://cerdi.uca.fr](https://cerdi.uca.fr)
- Senate, [www.senat.fr](http://www.senat.fr)