France boasts a wide array of lodging options for tourists and business travelers: hotels, tourist residences, resorts, outdoor accommodation, apartments, and more. The international elite flock to France’s famed palatial hotels and restaurants, such as Le Bristol, Georges V, Plaza Athénée, Park Hyatt Vendôme, and Le Royal Monceau, as well as the new Lutetia Paris and L’Apogée Courchevel.

Until the Second French Empire, coaching inns flourished throughout France. These gave travelers a place to recover, sleep, and rest their horses. During the Second Empire, seaside resorts and luxurious hotels were built in cities such as Deauville, Le Touquet, and Arcachon. After World War I, smaller luxury hotels began to appear. The first paid holidays during the interwar period fostered the development of budget hotels and vacation resorts for less wealthy patrons. During World War II, the great Parisian hotels were requisitioned and 50% were unusable after the war. The reconstruction plan allowed France to resume its position as a leading tourism destination in 1949. This paved the way for the emergence of a wide variety of accommodations: youth hostels, private family-style inns, resorts, bed and breakfasts, camp grounds, caravans, pleasure crafts, and chains and international groups in the 1970s. In recent years, more exotic types of lodging have become available: treehouses, yurts, monasteries, camper trailers, religious buildings, bubbles, and more. France remains the world’s top tourist destination with 90 million foreign visitors each year. Segmented by cost and quality, the French hospitality industry offers one- to five-star accommodations, including luxury hotels, budget-priced rooms, and major chain hotels.

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Along with Switzerland, France has the distinction of being a top choice for international students. Its hospitality and hotel schools are among the most prestigious in the world. For more than 30 years, France has been the world’s top tourist destination, with 90 million foreign visitors. It ranks third in terms of international revenues ($65.79 billion in 2019). Like all other major tourist destinations, France was affected by the health crisis: it received only 40 million foreign tourists in 2020. Hotel occupancy outside Paris was partially compensated by French guests who were unable to travel abroad.

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**Licence**

**BREVET DE TECHNICIEN SUPÉRIEUR (BTS)**  
**NATIONAL DIPLOMA – 2 YEARS OF HIGHER EDUCATION – L2**  
120 ECTS credits  
The BTS in *Hospitality and Food Services* with a concentration in Marketing and hotel management is offered in some 70 French cities with the following options: Management of restaurant facilities; Management of food production units; Management of housing units.  
A preparatory program (L1 level) for the BTS in hospitality-food services is offered by around 60 French public or private schools.

**Licence Professionnelle**  
**NATIONAL DIPLOMA – 3 YEARS OF HIGHER EDUCATION – L3**  
180 ECTS credits  
Professional Licence degrees related to hotel management are available with a concentration in **organization and management of hospitality and restaurant establishments** and a variety of tracks: Management of lodging services in international hotels; Management and turnaround of small hospitality and restaurant businesses; Management of tourism and international hospitality; Applied foreign language degree in English and international hospitality and restaurants; International hospitality and restaurant management; Staffing and operation of luxury hotels and restaurants; Management and intercultural relations in hotel and restaurant settings; Joint hotel and restaurant project development projects; E-commerce and digital marketing.  
[https://cataloguelm.campusfrance.org/licence](https://cataloguelm.campusfrance.org/licence)

**PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION**  
**RNCP – 3 YEARS OF HIGHER EDUCATION**  
The Institut Lyfe, Institut Vatel, Ferrières, École de Savignac, Excelia Group, and other private institutions offer programs in hotel and restaurant management, as well as tourism.

**Master**

**MASTER LEVEL**  
**NATIONAL DIPLOMA – 5 YEARS OF HIGHER EDUCATION – M2**  
120 ECTS credits  
A dozen concentrations and tracks are offered in universities: E-tourism; Management of hotel facilities for meetings, incentive programs, conferencing, and exhibitions; Management of lodging units and tourist accommodations; hotel engineering; Hotel and restaurant management; international hospitality management; Hospitality sector management; Management of international restaurant and hotel services; Hospitality/tourism management and strategy; Hospitality, restaurant, and catering occupations; International hospitality, tourism, and business.  
[www.trouvermonmaster.gouv.fr](http://www.trouvermonmaster.gouv.fr)

**Programs Taught in English:** International Hospitality Management; Tourism, Hospitality and Food Studies  
[https://taughtie.campusfrance.org](https://taughtie.campusfrance.org)

**MASTER OF SCIENCE® (MSc)**  
**INSTITUTION DIPLOMA – 1 OR 2 YEARS OF HIGHER EDUCATION**  
ESCP Europe, Emlyon Business School, Kedge Business School, Skema Business School, and others offer institutional credentials accredited by the Conférence des Grandes Écoles in hospitality and tourism management, and two tracks in English.  
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**PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION**  
**RNCP – 3 YEARS OF HIGHER EDUCATION**  
ESSEC, Institut Lyfe and Institut Vatel offer professional programs in French in the following areas: Director of luxury establishments in the hospitality sector; Director-general, international hotels and restaurants; International hospitality manager. Approximately ten Bachelor’s degrees and Master-level national diplomas are available in English in Hotel and restaurant management and International hotel management.  
[www.francecompetences.fr](http://www.francecompetences.fr)

**ISTHIA (higher institute of tourism, hospitality, and food service)**  
At the Université Toulouse Jean Jaurès, ISTHIA confers a licence in tourism and master’s degrees in hotel and restaurant engineering, hospitality and catering management, and two tracks in English.  
[www.isthia.fr](http://www.isthia.fr)

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