France is the world’s standard-setter in high fashion. Jeanne Lanvin, Christian Dior, Coco Chanel, Pierre Balmain, Yves Saint-Laurent, Sonia Rykiel, Christian Lacroix, and Jean-Paul Gaultier are just a few of the French couturiers known around the world. Paris’s fashion shows (Fashion Week, Who’s Next...) and presentations of collections have an international aura, attracting journalists and notables from all over the world, year after year.

High fashion certainly stimulates the imagination, but opportunities are relatively limited. By contrast, they are much more numerous in the fields of ready-to-wear clothing and accessories. And luxury goods could not exist were it not for many supporting skills, occupations, and trades. From the nimble stitcher to the workshop director, many professionals help designers bring their vision to life.

Heirs to a long manufacturing tradition, France’s textile and apparel industries are today oriented toward innovation, design, and commercialization, offering a wide array of careers for qualified people. Openings may be rare in the area of creation (stylists, collection directors), but model makers, fabric designers, production managers, and sales and marketing specialists are in high demand.

Thanks to technical innovation, textile firms are involved in many different sectors—among them, medicine, automobiles, sports, and home furnishings.

French fashion sense and the label “Made in France” have been internationally renowned since the mid-nineteenth century. Many foreign designers have made their reputations in France among them Azzedine Alaïa, Charles Frederick Worth, Alexander McQueen, Paco Rabanne, Issey Miyake, John Galliano, Rei Kawakubo, Yohji Yamamoto, Kenzo Takada, and Karl Lagerfeld.

Driven by their creative needs and drawn by the capital of culture and elegance and by France’s freedoms, foreign designers continue to contribute to the quality and renown of French haute couture and ready-to-wear, sustaining Paris as the world’s fashion capital. The museum of the history of immigration in Paris honored these foreign creators with the exhibition entitled “Fashion Mix.”

International

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- 43% of sales in fashion and luxury goods sectors are for export
- €400 million annual minimum financial benefit to Paris from fashion events (2019)
- €34 billion in fashion industry sales (2019)
- 175,577 jobs in fashion (2020)
- 9,047 companies active in clothing and apparel (2020)
- 11,000 foreign students enrolled in Higher Education Culture (2020)

Sources: INSEE – MC – MESRI

Useful links

- ANDAM, the national association for development of fashion arts: www.andam.fr
- CampusArt, apply online to schools of art: www.campusart.org
- Culturethèque – Institut Français: www.culturetheque.com
- Design and applied arts: https://designetmetiersdart.fr
- France design education: www.fde.design
- French Federation of Women’s Ready-to-Wear: www.pretaporter.com
- IFD, French Institut of Design: www.institutfrancaisdudesign.fr
- INMA, national institute of art-related occupations: www.institut-metiersdart.org
- Ministry of culture: www.culture.gouv.fr
- RNCP, national register of professional certifications: www.francecompetences.fr
BREVET DE TECHNICIEN SUPÉRIEUR (BTS) (BACALABRÉAT + 2 YEARS OF HIGHER EDUCATION) – L2
> About 60 public and private institutions offer a BTS (a national postsecondary professional certificate) in subjects such as fashion and textile design, textile innovation, and fashion and apparel. BTS programs prepare graduates to move immediately into the workforce.

• Level III (2-year) qualifications registered in RNCP:
  - Fashion designer Lingerie, corsetry and swimwear
  - Stylist model-maker

DIPLÔME NATIONAL DES MÉTIERS D’ART ET DU DESIGN (DNMADE) (BACALABRÉAT + 3 YEARS OF HIGHER EDUCATION) – L3
> DNMADE, certifies the 1st cycle in ESAA over 3 years (180 ECTS) and confers the Degree of Licence. This diploma imparts traditional knowledge to prepare future practitioners of a specialized art and proposes several mentions: fashion, art modeling, textiles and apparel, fashion industry,

DIPLÔME NATIONAL D’ART (DNA) (BACALABRÉAT + 3 YEARS OF HIGHER EDUCATION) – L3
> A 3-year DNA in textile design (180 ECTS credits) in 3 ESAs, confers the Licence degree. Haute école des arts du Rhin, www.campusart.org/artsearch/#/program/298

École supérieure d’art et de design-Angers: www.campusart.org/artsearch/#/program/833

LICENSE PROFESSIONNELLE (BACALABRÉAT + 3 YEARS OF HIGHER EDUCATION) – L2+1
> Some 15 universities and Applied Art Schools offer a 1-year Licence Professionnelle, (60 ECTS), in Arts, letters, languages concentration Fashion careers and Sciences, technologies, health concentration Apparel, fashion and textiles; Industrial production specializations Fashion design, Textiles and environment.

• Level II (3-year) qualifications registered in RNCP:
  - Instituto Marangoni: www.campusart.org/artsearch/#/program/660
  - Mod’Art: www.campusart.org/artsearch/#/program/763 and Atelier Chardon Savard: www.campusart.org/artsearch/#/program/793
  - Textile designer-creator. École Conté: www.campusart.org/artsearch/#/program/99
  - Stylist model-maker at LISAA: www.campusart.org/artsearch/#/program/628
  - Écoles de Condé: www.campusart.org/artsearch/#/program/901 and Formamod: www.campusart.org/artsearch/#/program/480
  - Fashion designer Lingerie, corsetry and swimwear. Formamod: www.campusart.org/artsearch/#/program/502

DIPLOME NATIONAL SUPERIEUR D’EXPRESSION PLASTIQUE (DNSEP) (BACALABRÉAT + 5 YEARS OF HIGHER EDUCATION) – M2
> The 2-year DNSEP (120 ECTS credits) is a master-level credential signifying completion of the second cycle of postsecondary education in which students define their research goals. 2 ESAs offer an option in Textile Design.

Haute école des arts du Rhin: www.campusart.org/artsearch/#/program/361

DIPLÔME SUPÉRIEUR DES ARTS APPLIQUÉS (DSAA) (BACALABRÉAT + 5 YEARS OF HIGHER EDUCATION) – M2
> The 2-year DSAA (120 ECTS) enables students to attain artistic mastery. Four institutions offer a DSAA in Design with a concentration in Fashion.

MASTER 2 (BACALABRÉAT + 5 YEARS OF HIGHER EDUCATION) – M2
> The Master is a 2-year national diploma (120 ECTS credits). The Université Lumière Lyon 2 offers a master in Arts, letters, languages with a concentration in Fashion and creation. Aix-Marseille Université offers a master in Law, economics, and management with a specialization in Fashion and textile professions.

INSTITUTION-SPECIFIC DIPLOMAS/GRADE DE MASTER (BACALABRÉAT + 5 YEARS OF HIGHER EDUCATION) – M2
> Textil Designer from École Nationale Supérieure de Création Industrielle (ENSCI) - Les Ateliers:
  - Master in Fashion and Material (EnaMoMa by PSL) at the Université Paris Sciences et Lettres (PSL).
  - www.campusart.org/artsearch/#/program/648

• Level I (5-year) qualifications registered in RNCP:
  - Fashion designer-creator from Institut Français de la Mode (IFM): www.campusart.org/artsearch/#/program/751
  - and Atelier Chardon Savard: www.campusart.org/artsearch/#/program/795
  - Director of fashion product development, Mod’Splé: www.campusart.org/artsearch/#/program/254
  - and Esmod: www.campusart.org/artsearch/#/program/670
  - International manager, fashion and luxury industries. Mod’Art: www.campusart.org/artsearch/#/program/838

DIPLOMES D’INGENIEUR/TITRE D’INGENIEUR-MASTER EQUIVALENT (BACALABRÉAT + 5 YEARS OF HIGHER EDUCATION) – M2
> Five institutions confer the national Diplôme d’ingénieur (professional qualification in engineering) with a specialization in textiles and fibers.

MASTER OF SCIENCE (MSC) (BACALABRÉAT + 5 YEARS OF HIGHER EDUCATION) – M2
> Eight MSc in areas such as Creative Business; Fashion Marketing, Design and Brand Strategies; Fashion, Design and Luxury Management; International Luxury Management;
> MSc in International Fashion & Luxury Management: Institut Français de la Mode (IFM): www.campusart.org/artsearch/#/program/773

To apply online: www.campusart.org > Find your program