

# NURSING

- **The nursing profession calls for interpersonal skills (respect for others, sense of teamwork), psychological and physical resistance, temporal availability (days, nights, weekends, holidays), intellectual and moral capacities for exercising responsibilities in an ever-changing medical context. Continuing training and regular adaptation to the sector's constant advances are indispensable.**

**State certification approved by the Ministry of Health is required of all practicing nurses in France. The official diploma, marking the successful conclusion of three years of study combining nursing school coursework and in-hospital placements, remains a symbol of excellence. (See the data sheet on "Further training programmes in nursing" as well.)**

## 1. European Union nationals

According to European regulations, **European Union nationals** holding a nursing diploma in general healthcare issued by a Member State can in principle practice in all the other Member States. **The countries participating in the agreement on the European Economic Area (EEA), the principality of Andorra or the Helvetian Confederacy**, benefit from the arrangements applicable to nationals of the European Community Member States.

Authorisation to practice may be obtained in one of two ways:

- The diploma is recognised after verification of the necessary documents by the departmental social services department (DASS) in the administrative department where the individual wishes to practice. These documents include one of the following:
  - a certificate of conformity to the European directives,
  - a certificate of officially recognised qualifications – training and diplomas – acquired in the country of origin.
- The required documents cannot be provided, as is often the case for the **most recent members of the European Union**: Czech Republic, Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia, Cyprus, Malta, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia. Nationals of these countries should then contact the *regional* social services department (DRASS) in the administrative region where they wish to practice and request an application for authorisation to practice (for a complete DRASS list, see the links at the end of this data sheet).

## 2. Nationals of countries outside the European Union

Certified nurses from **all countries outside the European Union must take the competitive entrance exam for a French nursing school (IFSI)**. The IFSI training centres are open to foreign nationals by quota (2 % of the first-year class) once they have passed a specific examination organised by the DRASS.

This exam includes:

- a pre-admissions test composed of five questions on general knowledge, which also serve to test the level of French;
- an admissions test consisting of an oral exam in French and a situation-scenario test.

Candidates seeking to take these exams should request an application pack from the IFSI of their choice (see list at the end of this data sheet). The completed application is to be returned to the same address, accompanied by the following documents:

- a photocopy of their nursing diploma (the original will be requested upon admission to the programme);
- official transcripts indicating the programme of studies, the number of hours of coursework per subject and year of training, the length and content of clinical training as well as grades received;
- the candidate's CV and a statement of purpose in French

All of these documents must be translated into French, if necessary, by a certified translator.

Students passing the examinations go on to two years of studies, after which they can prepare for the **State diploma**.

The director of the IFSI is authorised to exempt students admitted to the training programme from the first year or first two years of study with the consent of the technical advisor. This decision is made in function of the candidates' level of initial nursing training, their scores on the selection exams and their professional experience.

### STUDIES

The IFSI programme itself lasts 37 months, divided into modules of 40 to 100 hours, plus required clinical training courses. Allowances for the clinical placement and reimbursement for transportation expenses are provided. Throughout the programme, students are assessed by means of a clinical evaluation in professional situations and grades from training courses. In order to go on to the next year, students must obtain passing grades in the different evaluations. At the end of the training programme, those students passing the third-year evaluations are eligible for the **State Diploma**.

**Three years of practice in the hospital environment** are required **prior** to practicing in the **private sector**. Opening an office presumes a considerable financial investment but there is a constantly growing demand for home care. European Community nationals can apply directly to the competent authorities in the country where they wish to practice.

**Relevant orders, laws and decrees are available on the official site**

<http://www.legifrance.gouv.fr>

*The scope and practice of the nursing profession are enumerated in Decree no. 2002-94 of 11 February 2004. Foreigners' access to nursing studies and the exercise of the profession is governed by the Order of 5 January 2004.*

See also:

*Journal Official no. 44 (21 February 2004), p. 3528, text no. 31, establishing the list of diplomas, certificates and other general practice nursing titles which are granted by the Member States of the European Union and other countries adhering to the agreement on the European Economic Area, mentioned in article 4.4311.3 of the Public Health Code.*

*Admissions requirements for the IFSIs and a description of the examinations are presented on the website of the Ministry of Solidarity, Health and Family, in the section headed "Emplois et concours".*

*The applicable European directives are nos. CE 77/452 and 77/453 of 27 June 1977.*

### USEFUL INFORMATION AND LINKS

#### Institutional websites

- General information on the nursing profession, employment, recent developments: Ministry of Solidarity, Health and Family: <http://www.sante.gouv.fr>
- Complete information on nursing in the public hospitals: <http://www.infirmiere.ap-hp.fr>
- General information on the healthcare professions: [http://www.onisep.fr/national/fiches\\_metiers/asp/domaines/cadre.htm](http://www.onisep.fr/national/fiches_metiers/asp/domaines/cadre.htm)
- List of Regional Social Services Divisions: <http://www.sante.gouv.fr/hm/minister/dd-dr/listeddr.htm>
- List of French nursing schools and other public and private training centres: <http://finess.sante.gouv.fr/finess/>
- French Red Cross, Division of Nurses and Social Workers: <http://www.croix-rouge.fr>

#### Professional websites

- Site of the nursing profession: <http://www.infirmiers.com>
- Site created and run by nurses, with detailed information on procedures for non-EU nationals: <http://www.cefiec.fr/etudiants/etrangers.htm>
- Site of professional press (*L'Infirmière magazine*, *L'Infirmière libérale*, *Objectif soins*): <http://www.espaceinfirmier.com>
- Selection of useful regional and national sites for nurses : <http://www.maison-des-sciences.org/metiers/metiers/sante>
- French National Federation of Nurses: [www.fni.fr](http://www.fni.fr)

#### Specialised journals

*La revue de l'infirmière*: <http://france.elsevier.com>  
*Avenir et santé*: <http://www.fni.fr/sections.php>

#### Annual publications and other information

Each year, numerous publications are devoted to the IFSI admissions examinations. These can give candidates an idea of the nature of the tests as well as the level of knowledge and language proficiency required. See, for example, *Concours IFSI 2003, sujets officiels corrigés* (Paris: Lamarre, 2004), ISBN 2-85030-877-3. The publisher Vigot-Maloine (<http://www.vigotmaloine.com>) regularly issues a catalogue of nursing textbooks, *Livres universitaires, sciences infirmières*.

#### Preparation for the IFSI entrance exams by correspondence

- CNED (National Centre for Distance Learning): <http://www.cned.fr>
- Precepte (Preparation for the IFSI Entrance Examination by Tele-Instruction): <http://www.infirmiers.com/conc/prepa/index.php>

# NURSING

## FURTHER TRAINING PROGRAMMES

- **All practicing nurses in France must have a State diploma approved by the Ministry of Health. Marking the successful conclusion of three years of study combining nursing-school coursework and in-hospital placements, this diploma remains a symbol of excellence. Further training programmes are open to foreign students under certain conditions but they do not permit the practice of these specialities in France. See the main data sheet "Nursing".**

### ► University programmes

These medical and paramedical training programmes in healthcare, which will gradually be integrated into the European BMD system, are aimed at professionals seeking to improve their knowledge but do not give access to specific occupations. Throughout France, universities may be authorised to grant licences (the French equivalent of the Bachelors) or even Masters, to students in paramedical training programmes (within the BMD system, however, it is not anticipated to associate a licence or masters with the name of a profession or speciality).

#### Among existing programmes:

- The **Université de Paris 13 Bobigny** offers a licence in "Health and Social Sciences":  
[http://www.univ-paris13.fr/form/fiche/L\\_sante\\_soc.pdf](http://www.univ-paris13.fr/form/fiche/L_sante_soc.pdf)
- The **Université de Paris 5** offers a DU (university diploma) in "Pain management" in initial or continuing education:  
[http://www.univ-paris5.fr/article.php3?id\\_article=745](http://www.univ-paris5.fr/article.php3?id_article=745)
- The Université de **Marne-la-Vallée** <http://www.univ-mlv.fr> offers two programmes at licence level in the Health Administration field: "Health, occupational safety and environment" (accreditation underway, May 2005): ron-  
nement, en cours d'habilitation (mai 2005) :  
<http://www.univ-mlv.fr/enseignements/organisation/formations/formations.php?specialite=179> ; and "Healthcare services management":  
<http://www.univ-mlv.fr/enseignements/organisation/formations/formations.php?specialite=106>

**As of the 2005-2006 academic year, six European universities and schools of public health** also offer a European Masters in Public Health co-ordinated by the

ENSP (École nationale de la santé publique) in Rennes.. This two-year programme, named "Europubhealth", draws on the courses of the following partner universities and schools: Denmark – University of Copenhagen; Poland – Jagellone University (Cracow); France - École nationale de la santé publique (Rennes) and Université de Rennes 1 (Rennes); Spain – Andalusian School of Public Health (Granada); United Kingdom: Sheffield University.

The programme (120 ECTS credits) is open to professionals and students, European or not, who have obtained a licence or an equivalent diploma (3 years of post-secondary education). At the end of the curriculum (12 possible paths), students receive a double diploma composed of two recognised national diplomas: <http://www.europubhealth.org/html/accueil/>

► **Paediatric nurse:** 2-month training programme in schools of paediatric nursing recognised by the prefect of the administrative region concerned.

Individuals with foreign nursing or midwifery licences validated for practice in France may be admitted to specialised training without having to pass the admissions test.

Paediatric nursing schools: [http://www.sante.gouv.fr/html/pointsur/metier\\_sante/paramedicale/6para.htm](http://www.sante.gouv.fr/html/pointsur/metier_sante/paramedicale/6para.htm)

► **Operating bloc nurse:** 18-month training programme in approved schools following 2 years of professional experience.

Foreigners who have obtained the nursing or midwifery licences required for French candidates but have not validated them for practice in France may be permitted to take the selection exams (evaluation of professional level and French proficiency). These selection exams are organised by the French Embassy in the countries concerned.

The list of training institutions is available on the Ministry of Health website:

[http://www.sante.gouv.fr/htm/pointsur/metier\\_sante/paramedicale/5para.htm](http://www.sante.gouv.fr/htm/pointsur/metier_sante/paramedicale/5para.htm)

► **Nurse anaesthetist:** 2 years of prior professional experience required prior to 24-month training programme in approved schools for nurse anaesthetists.

Individuals with foreign nursing or midwifery licences not validated for practice in France may be permitted to take the admissions texts and enter the training programme if they pass them. The selection exams are organised by the French Embassy in the country concerned.

Information about applying for the tests and a list of training institutions are available on the Ministry of Health website:

[http://www.sante.gouv.fr/htm/pointsur/metier\\_sante/paramedicale/4para.htm](http://www.sante.gouv.fr/htm/pointsur/metier_sante/paramedicale/4para.htm)

# MEDICINE

2009

Medical education in France is regulated jointly by the ministries of health and education.

The first year of medical study (PCEM1) is open to any student holding a baccalauréat. The number of students admitted for the second year of study (PCEM2) at each of France's faculties of medicine is set annually by ministerial decree so as to control the number of doctors in training. The number of international students admitted into PCEM2 is also subject to quota, expressed as a percentage of the number of French students admitted. Within this regulatory framework, each university is free to set its own curriculum, the content of which varies from one university to another. In 2007, the rate of success for the entry in PCEM2 was 16 %.(all nationalities are concerned)

The high quality of French medicine springs from the nation's hospital-based system of education and training, provided in Centres Hospitaliers Universitaires (CHU, or university hospital centers) by medical research practitioners whose academic depth is matched by significant "field experience."

The medical practice takes more and more support on complex technologies, but the apprenticeship of the medicine stays an art, which requires a long observation.

## ORGANIZATION OF STUDIES IN FRANCE

Medical education in France is divided into three cycles or stages that lead ultimately to a government-sanctioned diploma of doctor of medicine.

Currently undergoing reorganization, the first year will come to 4 separate competitions (medical, dental, midwifery, pharmacy). 80% of the events will be common, the remaining 20% will focus on specific modules. The possibilities of reorientation, during or at the end of the year, will be extended. Finally, it is planned to open these studies to other profiles strictly scientific : law, humanities, political science, commerce.

**The first stage (PCEM)** lasts two years. Students who pass a rigorous examination at the end of the first year move on to the second year. The success rate on the exam is about 20%. Each faculty of medicine may admit a **maximum of 8% international students** (students from outside the European Union), provided their scores are high enough. To be admitted, a foreign student's score on the exam must be equal to or greater than the score of the lowest-ranking French student admitted. The same entrance examination is used for medicine, dentistry, and midwifery. Students who do not pass the exam on the first try may repeat the first year of study, but only once.

**The second stage of medical education (DCEM)** takes four years. Students receive a monthly stipend for the last three years. In 2006 the stipend ranged from 124 to 270 euros per month. To move on to the third stage of medical education, students must pass a series of tests of their theoretical knowledge and complete 36 months of hospital internships in various specialties. They must also be on call 36 times in three years (they are paid 25 euros for each period on call) and attend required seminars.

Completion of the second stage is marked by the award of a **Certificate of clinical and therapeutic synthesis**.

Success in **national classifying examinations** (formerly known as the residency examination) allows students to enter a specialized program. There are 11 specialties, including general medicine. The choice of specialty and residency location are determined by the candidate's examination score.

In the **third stage of medical education** students elect one of two options: general medicine or a another specialty, all of which lead to the **diplôme d'études spécialisées (DES, or diploma of specialized study)**. The DES is offered in 30 specialty areas.

After a three-year residency candidates in general medicine receive their degree. During this phase of medical education, candidates perform full-time hospital functions, spending six-month periods in different departments. Residents are paid 1,336 to 2,052 euros per month (the amount rises as the residency progresses) and 115 to 126 euros each time they are on call.

Residencies in specialties other than general medicine last 4–5 years, depending on the specialty. Some DES degrees are supplemented by further training. The **diplôme d'études spécialisées complémentaire (DESC, or diploma of complementary specialized study)** is earned in two years. Generalists may pursue the **capacité en médecine (CAPME)**. In 2007 a new DESC degree was created in palliative medicine and pain management.

With the DES (and possibly a DESC) in hand, residents defend a thesis before a jury before being awarded the **diplôme d'état de docteur en médecine** (state diploma of doctor of medicine).

### INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS FROM OUTSIDE THE EUROPEAN UNION (With special reference to the third stage of medical education)

Under no circumstances may an international student transfer into the medical curriculum without first completing the PCEM1 and passing **the end of-year examination**. Foreigners who do not hold a medical degree from their home country must complete the first year of the PCEM and take the examination.

Candidates who receive a passing grade may enter the curriculum at the level they have attained in their home country. That level is determined through a careful examination of their academic record to determine the equivalence of the studies they have completed.

Currently, hospitals are foreign doctors under temporary contract. The Senate is considering today (2009) to relax the conditions of medical practice in France for foreign doctors who hold diplomas obtained outside the European Union and not to link the exercise of medicine at the French or European citizenship.

In anticipation of new legislation, for the right to practice medicine in France, however: 1) be of French nationality, Andorra, Morocco or Tunisia, or 2) be from a state of European Union and 3) be Doctor of Medicine holds a degree in french state.

See [http://www.cofemer.fr/rubrique.php?id\\_rubrique=106](http://www.cofemer.fr/rubrique.php?id_rubrique=106)

## EARNING A DES, WITH OR WITHOUT A DESC, AND TAKING THE RESIDENCY EXAMINATION FOR FOREIGN CANDIDATES

### DES

Students who pass the PCEM1 examination may work toward a **DES**.

The residency process for foreign candidates was modified in 2002. The period of preparation is five years for surgery and four years for other disciplines, during which students specialize in one of 7 disciplines (anesthesia-recovery, medical biology, obstetrics/gynecology, work-related medicine, pediatrics, psychiatry, surgery or public health). Open to doctors from outside the European Union, the examination in each specialty area is organized by the DHOS (Direction de l'hospitalisation et de l'organisation des soins) of the Ministry of Health

(<http://www.sante.gouv.fr>, >> Métiers et concours DHOS >> Concours Internat étranger).

Registration materials may be downloaded from the DHOS site or obtained in France's embassies. **Tests of eligibility** to sit for the exam, involving general medical questions, are given in **Paris and in France's embassies. The number of candidates allowed to sit for the exam is roughly double the number of available spaces in the training program. Admission tests** bearing on the candidate's discipline or specialty are given in **Paris**. Successful candidates begin their residency in May, at the beginning of the second semester of the academic year. [the second semester begins in May]

**For the session 2009, 22 positions were offered (no surgery).**

Successful candidates are notified individually of their admission by the Ministry of Health.

Upon assuming their residencies in France, residents receive a salary from the university hospital center to which they are assigned.

### MASTERS : TRAINING FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH OR PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE

While working toward the DES, after receiving the DES, or in lieu of the DES, international students, like French students, may supplement their medical education by earning a **DESC**, a **research master**, or a **professional master**, each of which requires two years of study. They may then go on for a doctorate (three more years).

Most programs leading to the **mastère spécialisé** (a degree accredited by the Conférence des Grandes Écoles, the national association of France's grandes écoles) are in management; they require five years of postsecondary study.

**None of the degrees discussed above confers the right to practice medicine in France**, which is determined by other criteria.

### SHORT TRAINING PROGRAMS : FORMATIONS COMPLÉMENTAIRES

In addition to the degree programs described above, France's universities offer short programs in medicine and related subjects.

The former AFS and AFSA **are replaced on 1 November 2010 by DFMS** (diploma of specialized medical training, two to four semesters) and DFMSA (diploma of specialized medical training in depth, one to two semesters) aimed at doctors and pharmacists holders a diploma for the exercise of their profession in their country of origin. **Principles:** 1 / limit enrollment according to capacity and post-paid, 2 / verification of academic pre-requisites for a written test, which takes place in the positions 3 / validation of training courses in France by country of origin; 4 / verification mandatory language students in a test prior to any process of registration; 5 / strictly centralized management of records to avoid regional disparities.

These lessons qualifying, based on agreements between pairs (professors of medicine at both sides) are established on the basis of agreements between the country of departure for students and universities that receive medicine in France. As a result, they pose no problem of equivalence.

They do not also right to exercise the profession in France because they must benefit the country of origin of students.

Visiting physicians may choose from among programs recognized at the national level, such as the **capacités** (2 years, 10 different disciplines), (degree programs unique to the university that grants them (**diplômes d'université, DU**), and programs recognized by a group of universities (**diplômes inter-universitaires DIU**), many of which are open to nonphysicians as well. The choice is vast. In 2007, 2,185 such programs are offered.

**Important Note: Before you come for training in France, it is mandatory as early as 2010, to follow courses of french in order to obtain a minimum level B2, as evidenced by the TCF, TEF, or the DELF.**

## Websites

- Nominations to contest Internship downloaded from the website of the Ministry of Health: <http://www.sante-sports.gouv.fr>
- Order of 22 September 2004 on the organization, implementation and validation of training graduate students in medical studies called internal or resident-NOR: SANP0423091A (*Official Journal* of 14 October 2004) <http://www.kb.upsud.fr/kb/niveau2/medecinegene/textes/stages.htm>
- Authorization procedure for exercising the professions of doctor, dentist, midwife and pharmacist for people who hold a diploma from outside the European Union or European Economic Area and those non-EU nationals holding a diploma in a Member State of the European Union or party to the agreement of the European Economic Area: <http://www.sante.gouv.fr/emplois/dhos/pae/pae.htm>
- Recognition of diplomas in the European Union: <http://ec.europa.eu/youreurope/>
- Coordinates of the 28 university hospital centers: <http://web.reseau-chu.org/accueil.do>
- The Guide and IUDs on the website of the newspaper Le Quotidien du Médecin: <http://www.quotimed.com>
- Université Médicale Virtuelle Francophone (9 500 free learning resources) <http://www.umvf.prd.fr/>
- CNED - National Center for Distance Education / CDR Preparation: <http://www.cned.fr/>
- Cemu - Multimedia Education Center University of Caen. Continuing education in medicine: <http://cemu.unicaen.fr/>
- ODL Open and distance of AUF-university diplomas (Victor Segalen Bordeaux 2, Versailles St Quentin en Yvelines): <http://foad.refer.org/mot1.html>
- EHESP - Ecole des hautes études en santé publique: <http://www.ehesp.fr/>
- Ecole Pasteur / CNAM public health <http://www.pasteur-cnam.fr>
- CESAM - Center for Education Statistics Applied to Medicine and Medical Biology: <http://cesam.vjf.inserm.fr/>
- French medical diploma (DFM) of the Chambre de Commerce de Paris (CCIP) <http://www.fda.ccip.fr>
- French specific health professionals, Alliance française de Saint-Malo <http://www.alliancefr-saintmalo.org/>
- Site of the National Council of the College of Physicians: <http://www.conseil-national.medecin.fr/>
- National association of medical students in France: <http://www.anemf.org/>
- REMEDY - Unofficial site on medical studies, medical studies <http://www.remede.org/>
- Medical College Hospitals of Paris: <http://www.cmhp.asso.fr>
- Legal Notices: <http://www.legifrance.fr>
- Ministry of Health: <http://www.metiers.santesolidarites.gouv.fr/>

# PHARMACY

- **A pharmacy diploma gives access not only to activities involving the delivery of medications and health-related products (community pharmacy) but also to the areas of prevention, research, medical biology or the pharmaceutical industry. Pharmaceutical studies in France take place in the university context (UFRs). There are twenty-four pharmacy schools in France, each of which is attached to a university. Pharmacy studies, which are long and complex, are divided into three cycles of two years each, except for the internship, which takes four years. Foreign pharmacists from the European Union who have obtained diplomas before coming to France and who have done their studies in the EU countries where they are citizens can practice their speciality in France under certain conditions (see "General presentation" below). Foreign pharmacists who are citizens of countries outside the European Union but hold an official French doctorate in pharmacy can practice in France through either a reciprocity agreement with their country of origin or an authorisation from the French Ministry of Health (see "General presentation" below). Outside of this training, there are many possibilities for further and advanced programmes in pharmacy.**

## Access to pharmacy studies for foreign students

### ► Enrolment for studies leading to a pharmacy diploma

Candidates for the State-recognised doctorate in pharmacy should have a secondary-school diploma or a foreign title confirming an equivalent level of study. Enrolment must begin with the first year of studies because of the competitive entrance exam given at the end of that year. It is thus impossible to enrol directly in the second or following years, even if the student has successfully completed the previous years' studies in a foreign pharmacy school (see "General presentation").

Students with foreign diplomas who wish to obtain the French diploma must also take the competitive exam at the end of the first year. Should they qualify, their level will be adjusted accordingly.

### ► Enrolment for third-cycle diplomas

Students who have done their pharmacy studies in France or who are nationals of European Union Member States (if they have obtained their diploma in one of these countries) can enter third-cycle programmes or take the competitive examination for internship open to French students.

For students who are **citizens of a country outside the European Union** and hold a pharmacy diploma allowing their to practice in their country, three kinds of training programmes are available:

- **internship for foreigners**, organised by field; the programme of study for the competitive examination is based on that of the exam for French students;
- **short-term studies**, aimed at obtaining an Attestation de Formation Spécialisée (AFS, Specialised Training Certificate) or an **Attestation de Formation Spécialisée Approfondie** (AFSA, Advanced Specialised Training Certificate);

decentralised enrolment in other third-cycle programmes such as the **Professional Masters or Research Masters** (in the universities), the **Specialised Masters** (in the elite "Grandes Écoles") or the **University Diploma (DU)**.

The programmes for the AFS and AFSA incorporate part of the theoretical and practical training of the corresponding **Diplômes d'études spécialisées** (DES, Specialised Studies Diplomas) and **Diplômes d'études spécialisées complémentaires** (DESC, Further Specialised Studies Diplomas). **The AFS and AFSA programmes do not lead to the granting of diplomas and do not give the right to practice the speciality in France.**

The **AFS**, aimed at young **foreign pharmacists in the process of specialising**, offers the possibility of spending one or two years (2 to 4 semesters) in France. This training takes place with the agreement of university officials in the country of origin. The **AFSA** is intended for foreign pharmacists who are experienced specialists seeking to perfect their knowledge in one area of their speciality. It follows the same lines as the AFS but lasts for a shorter period of time (1-2 semesters).

## GENERAL PRESENTATION

A competitive examination after the first year of pharmacy studies permits the ranking of candidates in order to respect the limit (numerus clauses) imposed each year on the number of pharmacists trained in France. Only students passing this examination can continue with the second year of the programme. No one can repeat the first year more than once.

The second cycle allows students to deepen their theoretical knowledge. The optional fields taught in the third and fourth years anticipate students' professional pre-orientation towards **community pharmacy, industry or research.**

- third cycle in **general pharmacy** (short cycle)
- third cycle in **specialised pharmacy** (long cycle)

The fifth year of studies, known as hospitalo-university (AHU), combines courses specific to the section chosen (community pharmacy or industry) and half-time hospital practice. At the end of the AHU, students choose between a one-year short cycle leading to a **French Doctor of Pharmacy diploma recognised by all the Member States of the European Union**, or a four-year long cycle including **internship, which is the required path for all those wishing to practice in the fields of biology, hospital pharmacy, biomedical industrial pharmacy, research or teaching.**

Those **holding a French doctorate in pharmacy but who are not nationals of one of the European Union countries can practice pharmacy in France under certain conditions:** if their country of origin has not signed a reciprocity agreement with France, they can ask the Minister of Health for an authorisation to practice after consultation with the relevant regulatory body (Conseil supérieur de la pharmacie, France's Pharmacy Board). **Pharmacy graduates coming from another European Union country can practice pharmacy in France.**

They should verify that their diploma appears in the decree of 9 September 1996 enumerating diplomas, certificates and other pharmacists' titles issued by the Member States of the European Community or parties to the European Economic Area agreement allowing nationals of those States to exercise the profession of pharmacist in France (the Swiss diploma, which is not mentioned in the decree, is now recognised in France). Pharmacists holding another diploma, issued by a European Union Member State but not mentioned in the decree, can request an authorisation to practice.

**The competitive entrance examination for internship** is held at the beginning of the fifth year of pharmacy studies, following the successful completion of the second cycle. By order of their rank in the exam, the interns choose one of four specialised studies programmes (DES): medical biology, hospital pharmacy, industrial and biomedical pharmacy and specialised pharmacy. During the fourth year of internship, the intern defends a DES thesis which can replace the doctoral thesis in pharmacy.

#### FURTHER TRAINING

**Many further training programmes are open to licensed pharmacists:**

- **in the universities:**

one-year specialisations leading to the Professional Masters and Research Masters, which are third-cycle diplomas (see the LEEM and Formatel websites below); admission into these programmes is selective  
various university or inter-university diplomas (DU or DIU) aimed at students with career plans calling for complementary training and professionals seeking to update their knowledge or change careers (see Useful Links);

- **in the selective "Grandes Écoles", which also offer specialised training:**

- Specialised Masters in Strategy and Management of Health Industries at the ESSEC business school  
<http://www.essec.edu/home> (in English)
- Specialised Masters in Management of Technological Innovation in Agro-activities and Bio-industries (Masternova) at the Institut National -
- Agronomique Paris-Grignon <http://www.inapg.inra.fr/formations.php?code=1>
- Specialised Masters in Healthcare Company Management at Euromed-Marseille  
<http://www.euromed-marseille.com/index.jsp?id=931>
- Specialised Masters in Pharmaceutical Industry Management at the École Supérieure de Commerce in Dijon  
<http://www.masteremip.com/fr/index.asp>
- DESC in Radiopharmacy and Radiobiology at the Institut National des Sciences et Techniques Nucléaires  
[http://www-instn.cea.fr/html/F\\_univ\\_2000/medecine/med2.htm](http://www-instn.cea.fr/html/F_univ_2000/medecine/med2.htm)

#### USEFUL LINKS

List of French pharmacy programmes open to foreigners:  
[http://sante.w3sites.net/Dom\\_4.html](http://sante.w3sites.net/Dom_4.html)

List of pharmacy schools in France (heading "Métiers de la santé")

[http://www.sante.gouv.fr/hm/pointsur/metier\\_sante/medicale/3medicale.htm](http://www.sante.gouv.fr/hm/pointsur/metier_sante/medicale/3medicale.htm)

Employment overview for programmes in pharmaceuticals:  
<http://www.leem.org> (heading "emploi/social")

National Directory of University Diplomas – Medicine:

<http://www.dcav.u-bordeaux2.fr/wsui/form.asp?Recherche=0>

Students in health fields (heading "Étudiants en santé"):  
<http://aventispharma.fr>

List of specialised Masters in the field of "Biology and Bio-industry, Health, Nutrition":

[http://www.cge.asso.fr/cadre\\_masteres.html](http://www.cge.asso.fr/cadre_masteres.html)

Continuing education and training in pharmacy:

<http://www.formatel.com/stages/dom6.html>

French College of Pharmacists:

<http://www.ordre.pharmacien.fr>

National Centre for Internship Entrance Examinations:

[http://www.cnci.univ-paris5.fr/cnci\\_ph/](http://www.cnci.univ-paris5.fr/cnci_ph/)



# VETERINARY MEDICINE

2009

Veterinarians trained as generalists are devoted to the health of animals (pets and livestock). Many work in the agri-food industry, pharmaceuticals, research, manufacturing, trade, and management. Veterinarians contribute to the protection of public health, as well. International cooperation in the fight against diseases affecting animals, or carried by them, is an important part of veterinarians' public-health responsibility. Veterinarians employed in national parks and zoos play an essential role in environmental protection, preserving the natural balance, protecting endangered species, and helping to preserve biodiversity in the face of human population growth and urbanization.

French veterinary training programs participate in a dense network of exchanges with partner institutions in Africa, the Americas, eastern Europe, and other parts of the world.

**Applicant profile :**

solide formation scientifique, intérêt pour l'évolution des technologies, facultés d'observations, habilité manuelle et sens de la communication

**Field :** Santé et professions sociales

Also see the following subject profiles : Agriculture–Agri-food industry, Medicine, Biology

## ORGANIZATION OF STUDIES

### Curriculum leading to professional practice as a veterinarian

The Diplôme d'État de Docteur Vétérinaire (doctor of veterinary medicine, a government-sanctioned diploma) is required for the independent professional practice of veterinary medicine in France. The degree program requires 7 years of postsecondary study, 5 of which are spent in one of 4 national schools of veterinary medicine located in Alfort, Lyon, Toulouse, and Nantes. Applicants are admitted by examination following 2 years in a university program, a postsecondary preparatory program, or a technical-certificate program (BTS in general biology).

The 4 paths to admission are all highly selective:

- A. Applicants have successfully completed a 2-years preparatory program in biology, physics, chemistry, and earth sciences. This is the most common of the 4 paths.
- B. Applicants have completed the first 2 years of a university licence program in life sciences.
- C. Applicants have completed a 1-year preparatory program following the award of their BTS or DUT degree in agriculture, agronomy, or agricultural engineering.
- D. This path to admission is reserved for graduate doctors of medicine, pharmacy, or dental surgery, and for individuals holding a master's level degree in biology. Admission is based on the applicant's application file and an interview.

All applicants are presumed to have followed a scientific track in secondary school.

### Sequence of studies

A new national veterinary curriculum took effect in April 2007:

- 4 semesters (S1–S4) in a preparatory program, as described above.
- 8 semesters (S5–S12) of core veterinary curriculum in a school of veterinary medicine. Students who successfully complete the 8-semester core curriculum are awarded the Diplôme d'études fondamentales de vétérinaire (DEFV, diploma of basic veterinary studies).
- 2 semesters (S13–S14) of specialized study. Holders of the DEFE continue on for a year of specialized study, during which time they work on a thesis. Successful defense of the thesis leads to award of the degree of doctor of veterinary medicine. Students specialize in one of the following fields: agricultural animals (livestock), domestic animals (pets), equines (racehorses), veterinary public health, research, or industry.

Some students choose to continue for an additional 3 years of study leading to a specialized professional degree (the Diplôme d'études spécialisées vétérinaires, DESV) or a doctorate

### Admission of international students into the pre-professional curriculum

To enroll in a preparatory program and qualify to sit for the veterinary school entrance examination, international students must hold a secondary diploma entitling them to enter postsecondary education in their home country. Under the Erasmus and Socrates programs, some 20 European students are admitted to each of France's veterinary schools for periods of 3 months to 1 year on the basis of their academic records and examinations.

Upon request from countries with which France has cooperative agreements, international students from outside the European Union with an appropriate academic background may be allowed to enroll directly in the first year of study at

one of the national schools of veterinary medicine. Such applicants must hold a first university degree in life sciences and be able to follow instruction in French. Students who have already studied veterinary medicine at the postsecondary level are not eligible for these places.

- Application for admission on basis of academic record

Applications for admission must be submitted by June 15 to the national veterinary school at Alfort by the French embassy in the applicant's country. The embassy is expected to add its recommendations.

- Admission

The council of directors of the nation's veterinary schools makes admission decisions during the month of July.

- School assignment

Admitted students are assigned to schools where space is available. They may be eligible for on-campus housing. They have the right to use all of the school's facilities.

Several other possibilities exist for international students wishing to pursue veterinary studies in France:

- They may complete a 1-year course of professional training capped by the award of a certificate of advanced veterinary studies (CEAV, Certificat d'études approfondies vétérinaires).
- They may enroll in a course leading to the DESV degree (specialized veterinarian).
- They may pursue a master's degree.
- They may obtain specialized training through a residency or internship (e.g., in a clinic or equine surgery center).
- They may obtain a paid position from the livestock and veterinary medicine department of CIRAD, France's center for agronomic research for development. These positions are reserved for aspiring veterinarians from developing countries who are involved in CIRAD projects. CIRAD trains interns in its laboratories and provides distance-education programs.  
[http://www.cirad.fr/fr/prest\\_produit/formation/professionnel.php](http://www.cirad.fr/fr/prest_produit/formation/professionnel.php)

#### Diploma and certificate programs in veterinary sciences

- CEAV (Certificat d'études approfondies vétérinaires, certificate of advanced veterinary studies)  
Tropical animal pathologies, epidemiology
- CES (Certificat d'études supérieures en épidémiologie animale, certificate of postsecondary study in animal epidemiology)
- Master concentration: Livestock production in tropical regions
- The École Nationale des Services Vétérinaires in Lyon (ENSV, national school of veterinary services), in cooperation with France Vétérinaire International, offers programs in France on the control of bovine spongiform encephalopathy and management of fishery products, capped with an optional internship. Individually tailored internships may also be arranged.
- The World Trade Organization, World Bank, UN Food and Agriculture Organization, World Health Organization, and World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) cooperate to train public officials for posts in which they will be responsible for veterinary matters. ENSV coordinates this cooperative program for France. OIE selects a small number of French and international trainees for 1 to 6 months of study. Trainees are selected from the pool of degree candidates in veterinary medicine, recent graduates, researchers, and practicing veterinarians

## PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE IN FRANCE

### By european union nationals

One of two documents is required:

- Diploma, certificate, or other credential appearing on a list drawn up pursuant to EU regulations and conferred on or after the dates set forth in a decree published on May 21, 2004.

Bureau de la pharmacie vétérinaire et de l'alimentation animale, Sous-direction de la santé et de la protection animale, Direction générale de l'alimentation, Ministère de l'Alimentation, de l'Agriculture et de la Pêche, 251, rue de Vaugirard, 75732 Paris Cedex 15.

[http://www.veterinaire.fr/ordre-v2/onv\\_o\\_cr.htm](http://www.veterinaire.fr/ordre-v2/onv_o_cr.htm)

- Diploma, certificate, or other credential conferred before the date specified in the decree and accompanied by a statement from the competent authority of a member state attesting that the holder has practiced veterinary medicine for at least 3 consecutive years.

### By nationals of countries outside the european union

The international doctorate awarded to students who have not had prior veterinary training in their home country, who are admitted by entrance examination, and who are not nationals of a member state of the European Union does not entitle the recipient to practice veterinary medicine in France or in a veterinary pharmaceutical organization.

### Websites

- École Nationale Vétérinaire de Nantes <http://www.vet-nantes.fr/>
- École Nationale vétérinaire d'Alfort <http://www.vet-alfort.fr/>
- École Nationale Vétérinaire de Lyon <http://www.vet-lyon.fr/>
- École Nationale Vétérinaire de Toulouse <http://www.envt.fr/>
- École Nationale des Services Vétérinaires <http://www2.vet-lyon.fr/ensv/>
- CIRAD (international center for agronomic research for development), office of education and training, <http://www.cirad.fr>
- Agronomic and veterinary examinations office  
[contact@concours-agro-veto.net](mailto:contact@concours-agro-veto.net)
- Ministère de l'Alimentation, de l'Agriculture, et de la Pêche  
Direction Générale de l'Enseignement et de la Recherche  
Sous-direction de l'enseignement supérieur et de la recherche
- Bureau des formations de l'enseignement supérieur  
<http://www.sup.chlorofil.fr>
- France Vétérinaire International (FVI), a French government agency devoted to international cooperation in veterinary medicine  
<http://www.france-vet-international.org/>  
E-mail : [fvi@agriculture.gouv.fr](mailto:fvi@agriculture.gouv.fr)
- Syndicat National des Vétérinaires d'Exercice Libéral (SNVEL, national association of professional veterinarians)  
Descriptions of careers; lists of organizations, institutions, and programs of study; detailed list of degrees and specializations  
<http://www.snvel.fr>
- Ordre des Vétérinaires (national council of veterinarians) and regional affiliates,  
<http://www.veterinaire.fr/>
- OIE (World Organisation for Animal Health), [http://www.oie.int/fr/fr\\_index.htm](http://www.oie.int/fr/fr_index.htm)
- French academy of veterinarians  
<http://www.academie-veterinaire-defrance.org/bulletin.html>

### Keywords

agri-food – agronomy – animal health – animal production – biodiversity – biometry – biomolecules – biological processes – biotechnologies – cardiology – CEAV (certificat d'études approfondies vétérinaires) – chemistry – equines – experimentation – feed – fine chemicals – food – integrative biology – internal medicine – laboratory animals – life sciences – livestock – marine biotechnologies – medication – metabolism – microbiology – nutrition – ophthalmology – pets – reproduction – risks – surgery – tropics – veterinarian – veterinary public health