

### Law

**C**ivil law (or Romano-Germanic law) is one of the world's great legal systems. It and common law both owe much to the French legal system.

Many countries throughout history have modeled their legal systems on French law. Studying law in France affords many international students an opportunity to examine the roots of their home country's legal system whereas students from common law countries become acquainted with the major facets of the "other" legal system.

Legal education in France emphasizes critical analysis and fosters questions about what law is, but also what it should or could be. Therefore, the knowledge students acquire leads them to think critically about law. Over time, the rule of law has been changed, transformed, and replaced. Of course, understanding it is critical, but equally important is being able to interpret it, analyze it, and critique it. This makes it possible to assess the scope of new laws and to understand their stakes.

The French approach to legal studies prepares students for legal careers (lawyers, judges, clerks of court, etc.), as well as for administrative or management careers in the private and public sectors, or any other profession requiring an ability to understand legal, administrative, or human resources issues. Such careers may be in France, but also of European or international scope.

#### Law by the numbers

- €7.8 billion: the budget of the French judiciary (2013)
- 75,833: number of people employed by the Ministry of Justice (2013)
- 307 civil courts (*tribunaux d'instance*) and police courts (*tribunaux de police*)
- 161 superior courts (*tribunaux de grande instance*)
- 136 business courts (*tribunaux de commerce*)
- 115 social security courts (*tribunaux des affaires de sécurité sociale*)
- 42 administrative courts (*tribunaux administratifs*)
- 36 courts of appeal (*cours d'appel*)

Source: French Ministry of Justice; [www.justice.gouv.fr](http://www.justice.gouv.fr)

#### INTERNATIONAL

The public interest group "Justice Coopération Internationale" (JCI, Justice International Cooperation) brings together the French Ministry of Justice, the French Court of Cassation (judicial supreme court) and the Council of State (administrative supreme court), the French courts, the École Nationale de la Magistrature (national school for the judiciary), the École Nationale de l'Administration Pénitentiaire (national school for penitentiary administration), the Conseil National des Barreaux (national bar association), the Conseil Supérieur du Notariat (high council of the French notariat) and the Chambre Nationale des Huissiers (national chamber of bailiffs). Its objective is to develop legal and judicial cooperation through multilateral cooperation programs implemented by the European Union and other international donors such as the World Bank or the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The École Nationale de la Magistrature (ENM) has cooperation agreements with the high councils and schools of a dozen countries (Albania, Brazil, China, Spain, Italy, Lebanon, Poland, Slovenia, Taiwan, etc.). It leads aid missions in numerous countries of Africa, Latin America, Asia, and continental Europe. It also creates training centers for judges and prosecutors, designs educational programs, and coordinates customized training courses in foreign countries.

#### Related fields

Business – Banking – Trade – Taxation – Real estate – Legal studies – Public prosecution – Judges – Human resources

#### Subfields

Bankruptcy administration – Prison administration – Lawyer – Attorney – The Bar – Bailiff's clerk – Notarial clerk – Judicial commissioner – Public auctioneer – Council of State – Patent attorney – Court of cassation – Taxation – Prison guard – District courts – Office of the clerk of court – Clerk of court – Bailiff – Patent engineer – Judge – Sentencing – Legal advisor – Tax law – Lobbyist – Magistrate – Magistrature – Liquidator – Notary – Judicial police – Trial – Prosecutor – Legal secretary – Assistant prosecutor – Prison monitor – Court

#### Useful links

- Association Française des Juristes d'Entreprise (AFJE): [www.afje.org](http://www.afje.org)
- Chambre Nationale des Huissiers de Justice (CNHJ): [www.huissier-justice.org](http://www.huissier-justice.org)
- Community of legal professionals: [www.village-justice.com](http://www.village-justice.com)
- Conseil National des Administrateurs Judiciaires et des Mandataires Judiciaires (CNAJMJ): [www.cnajmj.fr](http://www.cnajmj.fr)
- Conseil National des Barreaux : <http://cnb.avocat.fr>
- Conseil Supérieur du Notariat : [www.notaires.fr](http://www.notaires.fr)
- École Nationale de l'Administration Pénitentiaire (ÉNAP): [www.enap.justice.fr](http://www.enap.justice.fr)
- École Nationale de la Magistrature (ENM): [www.enm-justice.fr](http://www.enm-justice.fr)
- Site for students in the social sciences: <http://www.federes.org/les-metiers-du-droit/>
- Faculté Libre de Droit, d'Économie et de Gestion (FACO): <http://facoparis.com>
- Fédération Nationale pour le Droit de l'Entreprise (FNDE): [www.fnde.asso.fr](http://www.fnde.asso.fr)
- Institut de Droit Comparé IDC – Université Panthéon-Assas Paris II: <http://idc.u-paris2.fr>
- Institut des Hautes Études Internationales IHEI – Université Panthéon-Assas Paris II: [www.ihei.fr](http://www.ihei.fr)
- Institut National de la Propriété Industrielle (Inpi): [www.inpi.fr](http://www.inpi.fr)
- JUSTIMEMO, French Ministry of Justice: <http://justimemo.justice.gouv.fr>
- French Ministry of Justice: [www.metiers.justice.gouv.fr](http://www.metiers.justice.gouv.fr)
- Université Numérique Juridique Francophone (UNJF): [www.unjf.fr](http://www.unjf.fr)

#### CHOOSE YOUR PROGRAM

- Campus France program catalogue: [www.campusfrance.org](http://www.campusfrance.org)>Trouvez votre formation
- Catalogue of programs taught in English: [www.campusfrance.org](http://www.campusfrance.org)>Programs Taught in English
- Catalogue of short programs and language courses: [www.coursdete.campusfrance.org](http://www.coursdete.campusfrance.org)
- CampusBourses, financing your studies in France: [www.campusfrance.org](http://www.campusfrance.org)>Financez vos études

## Licence level

### Preparatory program for *Grandes Écoles* (CPGE) (Secondary diploma +2 years of higher education) – L2

The CPGE in **economics, law, and management** prepares students for the entrance examination required for admission to France's *Grandes Écoles*. It takes two years to complete at French secondary schools, but only one year at ENS Rennes.

- [www.campusfrance.org](http://www.campusfrance.org)>Trouvez votre formation>Licence

### Diplôme d'Études Universitaires Scientifiques et Techniques (Secondary diploma +2 years of higher education) – L2

The DUT in **legal careers** is offered by university-affiliated institutes of technology (IUT). It prepares students for careers as legal secretaries, careers in local government offices, or careers in legal departments of companies (human resources, litigation and conflict management, contract management, etc.).

- [www.campusfrance.org](http://www.campusfrance.org)>Espace documentaire>Offre de formation>Fiches Diplômes>DUT

### Licence (Secondary diploma +3 years of higher learning – L3)

The *licence* in **law** is offered in the broad field of **law, economics, and management** by 50 institutions.

- [www.campusfrance.org](http://www.campusfrance.org)>Trouvez votre formation>Licence

### Professional licence (Secondary diploma +3 years of higher learning) - (L2 +1 year)

The professional *licence* in **law** or **legal studies** is offered in the broad field of **law, economics, and management**. Students can choose from 40 specializations:

- law and business
- law and management
- real estate law
- estate planning
- social law, etc.

The professional *licence* in **notarial studies** opens career opportunities in diverse organizations and local government offices.

- [www.campusfrance.org](http://www.campusfrance.org)>Trouvez votre formation>Licence

### Diplôme Universitaire (DU) (Secondary diploma +3 years of higher education) - (L2 +1 year)

Five French universities offer the DU in criminal justice. However, this degree confers no nationally recognized professional certification.

## Master level

### Master (Secondary diploma + 5 years of higher education) – M2

The master in law is available in the broad field of **law, economics, and management**. Students can select from a wide array of specializations:

- comparative law
  - communications and ICT law
  - intellectual property law
  - health law
  - economic law
  - corporate law
  - environmental law
  - property law
  - European Union law
  - business law
  - insurance law
  - tax law
  - law and management
  - international law
  - medical law and health law
  - notarial law
  - private law
  - public law
  - social law
  - European laws
  - Human rights law, etc.
- [www.campusfrance.org](http://www.campusfrance.org)>Trouvez votre formation>Master

40 **master's degrees in law are taught in English**. Multiple specializations are available:

- *business law*
- *European and comparative private international law*
- *information technology law*
- *intellectual property law*
- *international business lawyer*
- *international economic law and governance*
- *international and European law*
- *labor law and human resources*
- *law and business ethics*
- *law and economics*
- *law and tax management*
- *management and business law*
- *research in English and American business law*
- *social law, etc.*

• Catalogue of programs taught in English: [www.campusfrance.org](http://www.campusfrance.org)>Trouvez votre formation>Programs Taught in English

### Diplôme supérieur de juriste-conseil d'entreprise (DJCE, graduate qualification in business law)

(Master 1 +1 year of higher education) – M2

The DJCE is open to holders of a Master 1 in law. It is offered by a dozen universities.

### Diplôme supérieur de notariat (DSN, graduate qualification as a notary)

(Master 1 +1 year of higher education) – M2

Holders of the DSN degree are eligible to sit for the national "*notaire*" or "*notaire collaborateur*" examination. The diploma itself confers no official professional qualification. The general practitioner of the French legal system, the *notaire* is a highly qualified lawyer who advises individuals and companies in the areas of family law, estate planning, real estate law, and rural law.

### International degree programs

#### Licence

(Secondary diploma +3 years of higher education) – L3

International programs at the *licence* level are offered in conjunction with universities in other countries. These programs emphasize comparative law (French, German, Anglo-Saxon, Italian, Russian, Swiss, etc.).

#### Master

(Secondary diploma +5 years of higher education) – M2

These programs focus on multiple areas of comparative and applied law: common law and European law, comparative business law, European labor law, French and foreign legal systems, international and comparative health law, etc.

## Beyond the master level

### Mastère Spécialisé (MS, specialized master) (M2 +1 year of higher education) – post-M

Labeled by the *Conférence des Grandes Écoles* (CGE), the specialized master enables students to earn an institutional credential attesting to dual competence.

- International business law and management,
- Law and international management.

• Information on MS degrees:

[www.campusfrance.org/fr/ressource/les-masteres-specialises-ms](http://www.campusfrance.org/fr/ressource/les-masteres-specialises-ms)

• List of MS programs: [www.cge.asso.fr/nos-labels/ms](http://www.cge.asso.fr/nos-labels/ms)