Photography was born in France in 1839, the date customarily given for its invention. The year marks the presentation by François Arago to the Academy of Sciences of the daguerreotype of Louis Daguerre, who had improved upon the invention of Joseph Niépce, who died in 1833. Joseph Niépce had worked with Louis Daguerre in 1829 to refine his method.

In the past 15 years, professional photography has undergone a transformation of enormous magnitude, as a result of the development of digital technologies and the mass diffusion of content on the Internet. In addition to mastering the culture of images, photographers now need to understand computer technology.

Photographic work can be divided into several components: conception; location scouting; setting techniques (lighting, framing, focusing, speed, etc.); setup and composition; selection of photographs; printing; and indexing of images.

People with training in photography can become portrait photographers, photo-journalists, industrial photographers, advertising agency photographers, or fashion, scientific, or medical photographers. The profession can also be applied to laboratories, where 90 percent of jobs are found. These jobs involve selecting and assembling images, developing negatives, developing positives on paper or slides, and performing finishing operations (verifying, calibrating, bagging,...).

The work of French photographers Henri Cartier-Bresson, Robert Doisneau, Sarah Moon, Yann Arthus-Bertrand, Jean-Baptiste Mondino, Pierre et Gilles, and Bettina Rheims, Sophie Calle and others is known around the world. Many foreign photographers have settled in France such as Man Ray, Brassaï, Jane Evelyn Atwood, ... More than 20 French photographic festivals are internationally recognized - among them those in Arles, Paris, and Nancy.

The Parliament of Photography, a consultation body set up by the Ministry of Culture, is a place of exchange and dialogue between actors in the world of photography.

Almost all of public arts schools in France are part of the Erasmus+. Students at French institutions can spend a semester abroad, based on the arrangement they reach with their home institution.

Sources: INSEE - MC - MESRI

Useful links
- ARAGO, photography portal: www.photo-arago.fr
- Association of Art School Teachers: www.cneea.fr
- CampusArt, online application site for artistic programs: www.campusart.org
- Circulation(s), festival of young European photographers: www.festival-circulations.com
- CPIf, (Photography Center of the Île de France): www.cpiF.net
- Culturethèque – Institut Français: www.culturetheque.com
- Information sheets on programs in art and culture: www.campusfrance.org/en/resource/degrees-in-art-and-culture
- MEP, (Maison européenne de Photographie): www.mep-fr.org
- Ministry of Culture: www.culture.gouv.fr
- Vidéadoc, (Center for the Documentation of Audiovisual and Multimedia Creation): www.videadoc.com
BREVET DE TECHNICIEN SUPÉRIEUR (BTS)
NATIONAL DIPLOMA – 2 YEARS OF HIGHER EDUCATION – L2
> The BTS in photography, a two-year (120 ECTS) program, is offered in five private and public institutions.
ETPA: www.campusart.org/artsearch/#/program/733

UNIVERSITY DIPLOMA (DIPLÔME UNIVERSITAIRE - DU)
3 YEARS OF HIGHER EDUCATION
> The DU in documentary photography and transmedia writing and DU in Photjournalism, capturing and aerial images are offered by the University of Perpignan Via Domitia. www.univ-perp.fr

DIPLÔME NATIONAL D’ART (DNA)
NATIONAL DIPLOMA – 3 YEARS OF HIGHER EDUCATION – L3
> The DNA, the first degree in art, is a three-year (180 ECTS) program with three majors, and gives the Licence degree. Some 40 institutions offer courses in photography.
To apply on CampusArt: www.campusart.org/artsearch

LICENCE
NATIONAL DIPLOMA – 3 YEARS OF HIGHER EDUCATION
> The Licence in arts, letters, and language with a major in photography is a national diploma earned after three years (180 ECTS) of study. It is offered by the University of Vincennes-Saint-Denis. www.univ-paris8.fr

> The Licence in arts, letters, and language with a major in plastic arts or art and including courses in photography is a national diploma earned after three years (180 ECTS credits) of study. It is offered by some two dozen universities.

> The Licence professionnel in humanities and social sciences with a concentration in documentary resources and database management and publishing of photographic and media archives, is a one-year (60 ECTS) program offered by the University de Lille. www.univ-lille.fr

PROFESSIONAL TITLE
RNCP – 3 YEARS OF HIGHER EDUCATION
> Photography title, offered by the École des Gobelins and the École EFET, two years of core studies and one year of specialization.
www.campusart.org/artsearch/#/program/473

> Professional Photographer’s Title, taught at ETPA.
www.campusart.org/artsearch/#/program/732

> Bachelor de Photographie-Images Animées - Paris, offered by Ecoles de Condé. www.campusart.org/artsearch/#/program/423

To apply on CampusArt: www.campusart.org/artsearch

DIPLÔME NATIONAL SUPÉRIEUR D’EXPRESSION PLASTIQUE (DNSEP)
NATIONAL DIPLOMA – 5 YEARS OF HIGHER EDUCATION – M2
> The DNSEP is a two-year (120 ECTS) master’s, the second cycle in art. The program is devoted to individual work. About 50 art schools offer courses in photography as part of the program.
To apply on CampusArt: www.campusart.org/artsearch

MASTER
NATIONAL DIPLOMA – 5 YEARS OF HIGHER EDUCATION – M2
> The Master’s in arts with a concentration in Plastic and contemporary arts, with a specialization in photography and contemporary art, is a national diploma earned after two years (120 ECTS) of study. It is offered by the University of Vincennes-Saint-Denis.
www.univ-paris8.fr


> Designer/creator of decorative arts at the École Nationale Supérieure des Arts Décoratifs (ENSAD) of Paris, is a five-year program. Students can specialize in photography beginning in their second year: art photography, documentary, communication, and printing and digital techniques.
www.ensad.fr

> Diploma National Supérieur d’Arts Plastiques (DNSAP) of the École Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-arts (ENSBA) de Paris.

> Diploma of the École Nationale Supérieure de la Photography (ENSAP) d’Arles, five-year program and the Program international residence of research and creation.
www.campusart.org/artsearch/#/program/1147

> Diploma on photography section at the École nationale supérieure Louis Lumière (ENLL); five-year program.

> Institut National du Patrimoine (INP) offers a five-year program. Seven specialities are offered, including photography: restoration of photographs, www.inp.fr

PROFESSIONAL TITLE
RNCP – 5 YEARS OF HIGHER EDUCATION
> Photographe, Spéos with modules on photojournalism, studio photography, and the photography market.
www.campusart.org/artsearch/#/program/205

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