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,...).

International

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.

Useful links

- ARAGO, photography portal: [www.photo-arago.fr](http://www.photo-arago.fr)
- Association of Art School Teachers: [www.cneea.fr](http://www.cneea.fr)
- CampusArt, online application site for artistics programs: [www.campusart.org](http://www.campusart.org)
- Circulation(s), festival of young European photographers: [www.festival-circulations.com](http://www.festival-circulations.com)
- CNAP, (National Center of Plastic Arts): [www.cnnap.fr](http://www.cnnap.fr)
- CPIF, (Photography Center of the Ile de France): [www.cpiif.net](http://www.cpiif.net)
- Culturethèque – Institut Français: [www.culturetheque.com](http://www.culturetheque.com)
- Ministry of Culture: [www.culture.gouv.fr](http://www.culture.gouv.fr)
- Videadoc, (Center for the Documentation of Audiovisual and Multimedia Creation): [www.videadoc.com](http://www.videadoc.com)
ARTS-APPLIED ARTS

Licence

BREVET DE TECHNICIEN SUPÉRIEUR (BTS)
NATIONAL DIPLOMA – 2 YEARS OF HIGHER EDUCATION – L2
120 ECTS credits
> The BTS in photography, a two-year program, is offered in five private and public institutions.
ETPA: www.campusart.org/artsearch/#/program/733

DIPLOME NATIONAL D’ART (DNA)
NATIONAL DIPLOMA – 3 YEARS OF HIGHER EDUCATION – L3
180 ECTS credits
> The DNA, the first degree in art, is a three-year 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 – L3
180 ECTS credits
> The Licence in arts, letters, and language with a major in photography is a national diploma earned after three years 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 of study. It is offered by some two dozen universities.

LICENCE PROFESSIONNELLE
NATIONAL DIPLOMA – 3 YEARS OF HIGHER EDUCATION – L3
180 ECTS credits
> 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 program offered by the Université de Lille. www.univ-lille.fr
> The Licence in arts, letters, and language with a major in photography is a national diploma earned after three years of study. It is offered by the National School of the Photograph (ENSAD) of Paris.
www.ensad.fr
> The Licence in arts, letters, and language with a major in photography is a national diploma earned after three years of study. It is offered by the University of Vincennes-Saint-Denis.
www.univ-paris8.fr

UNIVERSITY DIPLOMA (DIPLOME UNIVERSITAIRE - DU)
3 YEARS OF HIGHER EDUCATION
> The DU in documentary photography and transmedia writing and DU in Photojournalism, capturing and aerial images are offered by the University of Perpignan Via Domitia. www.univ-perp.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 Conde. www.campusart.org/artsearch/#/program/423

MASTER
NATIONAL DIPLOMA – 5 YEARS OF HIGHER EDUCATION – M2
120 ECTS credits
> The Master’s in photography, 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

DIPLOME NATIONAL SUPÉRIEUR D’EXPRESSION PLASTIQUE (DNSEP)
NATIONAL DIPLOMA – 5 YEARS OF HIGHER EDUCATION – M2
120 ECTS credits
> The DNSEP is a two-year 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.

GRADUATE LEVEL DIPLOMA IN PLASTIC ARTS (DNSAP)
MASTER LEVEL – 5 YEARS OF HIGHER EDUCATION – M2
120 ECTS credits
The DNSAP (Diplôme National Supérieur d’Arts plastiques) is delivered by the Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-arts (ENSBA) in Paris.
www.ensad.fr

DIPLOMA OF DESIGNER/CREATOR OF DECORATIVE ARTS
MASTER LEVEL – 5 YEARS OF HIGHER EDUCATION – M2
120 ECTS credits
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 OF PHOTOGRAPH
MASTER LEVEL – 5 YEARS OF HIGHER EDUCATION – M2
120 ECTS credits
Diploma of the École Nationale Supérieure de la Photographie (ENSP) d’Arles, five-year program and the Program international residence of research and creation.
www.campusart.org/artsearch/#/program/1147

DIPLOMA ON PHOTOGRAPHY SECTION
MASTER LEVEL – 5 YEARS OF HIGHER EDUCATION – M2
120 ECTS credits
> École nationale supérieure Louis Lumière (ENNLI), 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

Beyond the Master level

INSTITUTION DIPLOMA
1, 2 or 3 YEARS OF HIGHER EDUCATION
Postgraduate programs are offered together with other foreign art schools and universities. Candidates from all countries are welcome.
> Two dozen arts school offer two- to three-year postgraduate programs for students who want to pursue research and develop contemporary art, design, or graphics project.
> Le Fresnoy, Studio National Studio des Art Contemporains, offers a two year degree to students with a master’s diploma or its equivalent. The degree, which is awarded based on a project, is certifi ed by the Ministry of Culture.
www.campusart.org/artsearch/#/program/453

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

ECTS: European Credits Transfer System
April 2022