CHOOSE FRANCE
France is the world’s fourth-largest destination for international students and the leading non-English-speaking destination.
French institutions of higher education are firmly committed to internationalization. By building a period of work or study abroad into academic programs, offering programs in English, devising joint degrees, participating in mobility programs (such as Erasmus+), obtaining various forms of international recognition, and setting up branch campuses abroad, they offer their students, French and international alike, numerous opportunities to widen the international aspect of their program of study.
France is the destination for more than 323,933 international students making up 12% of total postsecondary enrollments.

**ADVANCED RESEARCH**

France benefits from a long, proud tradition of scientific and technological research and innovation that underpins the nation’s achievements in fields such as aeronautics and space, transportation, electronics, telecommunications, chemistry, biotechnologies, health, and mathematics. The results of international competitions attest to that performance:
- 14 winners of the Fields Medal (including Arthur Avila in 2014) have been French. By this measure, France is second only to the United States in mathematics.
- 4th in the world in number of Nobel prizes won; 4th in the world in applications for European patents.

**DIVERSE EDUCATIONAL OFFERINGS OF HIGH QUALITY**

73 public universities, more than 200 schools of engineering, 150 schools of business and management, 120 public postsecondary schools of art, 20 schools of architecture, and 3,000 other specialized institutes and schools in specific sectors such as social work, the allied health professions, tourism, sports, fashion, and design...

More than 1,300 programs in a variety of fields are now offered in English all over France. This network of programs is one of the strong points of French higher education, with high-quality educational offerings available in every region of the country.

**COUNT ON A QUALITY EDUCATION**

France invests substantial public funds in higher education. Fully 5.6% of the nation’s GDP is devoted to education—higher than the OECD average of 5.3%—the Investissements d’Avenir €22 billion in funding for innovation and research under the Initiatives of Excellence (IDEX) program. The French government assumes a very large share of the actual cost of every student’s education (€14,000 per student per year). This national focus has several implications—among them that French tuition charges are among the lowest in the world; that degrees from anywhere in France are equivalent regardless of the institution that grants them; and that those degrees are recognized around the world.

- France’s universities and other educational institutions do not distinguish between international students and French students. Both groups face identical admission and tuition requirements; both receive the same degrees.
Choose France

Did you know that France is the world’s most-visited country?

The national tourism site
www.france.fr

The Web portal of France’s national institute of geography
www.geoportail.gouv.fr/accueil

Tourism offices and local development boards
www.tourisme.fr
QUALITY OF LIFE
Students enjoy lower prices and special assistance in many aspects of daily life—advantages that can markedly improve their quality of life. The national healthcare system is modern and accessible; public transportation is efficient and affordable; rent subsidies are widely available. In addition to access to low-cost restaurants, students pay discounted prices at museums and athletic events. Outside France’s vibrant cities, a wide variety of landscapes, from sparkling seacoasts to majestic mountain ranges, offer an intriguing palette of recreational possibilities.

UNRIVALED CULTURAL DYNAMISM
Literature, films, museums, theaters, opera, cafés, and the national flair for food and fashion are a part of everyday life, evidence of the French emphasis on culture. Throughout the year, but especially in summer, the nation celebrates its own culture and those of other nations in a parade of local and international events. http://francefestivals.com

FRENCH, AN INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGE
French is spoken by 274 million people around the world. It is the official language of 32 countries on 5 continents. The three capitals of the European Union—Brussels, Luxembourg, and Strasbourg—are French-speaking cities. In EU institutions, French, German, and English are the working languages. French is the world’s third-most-used language for business and second for news.

AT THE CROSSROADS OF EUROPE
Bordered by nine different countries, France is the ideal place from which to discover Europe. The proximity of Amsterdam, Berlin, Brussels, Barcelona, Munich, Milan, and other great cities means many opportunities to explore Europe.

Because France is an integral part of economic, social, and political Europe, many of the country’s educational institutions have included a European perspective in their programs. A course on Europe or an internship with a European firm is a great way to broaden your French experience and embrace Europe.

Campus France is a national agency that helps international students achieve their educational goals in France. Campus France manages all facets of grant and scholarship programs for international students (application for admission and award of grant, orientation, housing, and support services during stay).

Campus France’s emphasis on providing a quality experience for international students is found in every aspect of its work—from promotion and information to online admissions, travel planning, and orientation upon arrival.

The agency’s Web site and its many local offices are the engines of its student-service mission.

• campusfrance.org: Get information, search programs from the licence to the doctoral level, apply for admission, look for financial aid, and prepare for your trip.

• Campus France local offices: More than 250 offices in more than 120 countries support students with information and guidance.

www.campusfrance.org >Where to find Campus France close to your place?
The degrees awarded in French higher education reflect a common European architecture. The LMD system— for Licence (bachelor), Master, and Doctorate—is based on the number of semesters completed after leaving secondary school and their equivalent in European credits under the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS)*:

- **Licence** = 6 semesters = 180 ECTS
  
  (Baccalauréat or equivalent + 3 years)

- **Master** = 10 semesters = 300 ECTS (L + M)
  
  (Baccalauréat or equivalent + 5 years)

- **Doctorate** = 16 semesters = 480 ECTS (L + M + D)
  
  (Baccalauréat or equivalent + 8 years)

- The universities confer “national diplomas,” which have the same weight regardless of the institution that confers them.

- The Titre d’ingénieur (engineering degree), Master grade, is a national diploma. The schools that award it are accredited by the CTI, the French national commission on engineering degrees.

- A similar accreditation procedure exists for government-recognized schools of business and management, the diplomas of which are approved by the French state [Ministry of Higher Education, Research, and Innovation (MESRI)], and, in many cases, have received international recognition or accreditation.

- France’s schools of art and specialized schools also undergo national certification.

**NOTE**

From ENIC-NARIC centers, students who have already earned a degree in their home country can obtain a certificate of comparability that enables admissions officers in French institutions to evaluate the degree for equivalence in the French system.

ENIC-NARIC network: www.enic-naric.net
## The LMD System

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Levels Degrees</th>
<th>Years of Study</th>
<th>Degrees</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Doctorate</strong></td>
<td>16 semesters (+8 années)</td>
<td>480 ECTS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Master</strong></td>
<td>10 semesters (+5 years)</td>
<td>300 ECTS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Licence</strong></td>
<td>6 semesters (+3 years)</td>
<td>180 ECTS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>University technical diploma (DUT)</strong></td>
<td>4 semesters (+2 years)</td>
<td>120 ECTS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Doctoral Departments
- State diploma of Doctor of medicine
- State diploma of Doctor of dental surgery
- State diploma of Doctor of pharmacy
- Master
- Engineering degree (Titre d'ingénieur)
- Business school diplomas
- Degrees from the Grandes Écoles
- Licenciat (Licence)
- Licence professionnelle (professional bachelor)
- Admission to the first year of a Grande École program
- Preparation for admission to Grandes Écoles (CPGE)

### Completion of secondary school + baccalauréat or equivalent (eligibility to enter higher education in home country) = access to French higher education

### Credits ECTS
- Credits earned under the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System are recognized throughout Europe. A full year of academic work represents 60 ECTS credits.
- [http://www.agence-erasmus.fr/page/ects](http://www.agence-erasmus.fr/page/ects)

### Did you know?
Any student presently enrolled in higher education in his or her home country may apply for admission to a French university or other institution of higher education, provided he or she meets certain criteria.
The evolution of the global economy has placed a high premium on skills, advanced technical knowledge, and operational know-how as the keys to career advancement. To meet these demands, France’s system of higher education has created undergraduate programs that combine theory and practice, enabling students to gain up-to-date skills, learn the latest methods, and use professional tools in real-world settings.

**BREVET DE TECHNICIEN SUPÉRIEUR (BTS, POSTSECONDARY TECHNICAL CERTIFICATE)**

The BTS is a national vocational/professional qualification representing 120 ECTS credits (2 years of postsecondary study). It is offered in 90 specializations in the plastic arts, industry, manufacturing, and services. Most BTS programs are offered in the postsecondary technical sections of secondary schools, public or private. Graduates are equipped to perform specialized technical functions in a professional environment.

List of BTS specialties:
www.sup.adc.education.fr/btslst/

16 available agriculture and agrifood specializations lead to a BTSA (*Brevet de Technicien Supérieur Agricole*). List of BTSA specialties:
www.chlorofil.fr/diplomes-et-referentiels/formations-et-diplomes/btsa.html

**NOTE**

- Preparatory courses known as “prépa ATS”

Preparatory courses known as “prépa ATS” are designed for holders of certain technical credentials who wish to continue their education. One-year courses in the sciences and economics prepare holders of a BTS, BTSA, or DUT for further study in a school of engineering, management, agronomy, or veterinary science.
DIPLÔME UNIVERSITAIRE DE TECHNOLOGIE
(DUT, UNIVERSITY TECHNICAL DIPLOMA)

The DUT is a national vocational/professional qualification representing 120 ECTS credits (2 years of study). It is conferred by France’s university-based institutes of technology, or IUTs. DUT programs are offered in 25 specialty areas. Programs prepare graduates to begin a career immediately after graduation. Most require an internship. Graduates may also elect to continue their education by applying for admission to a school of engineering or management or a professional Licence.

The 113 IUTs located throughout France: www.iut-fr.net

LICENCE PROFESSIONNELLE (PROFESSIONAL BACHELOR)

After successfully completing 2 years of postsecondary study, students may apply to enter a 1-year program that allows them to earn a Licence Professionnelle, a national professional diploma. Programs are offered in universities and IUTs.

Opportunities for professional internships and the participation of practicing professionals in the delivery of instruction make the Licence Professionnelle a very effective way to start a career. Across France, more than 40,000 students are enrolled in programs.

173 programs are offered in various specialities and sectors: agricultural, commercial, industrial, management, services...

www.enseignementsup-recherche.gouv.fr/cid20181/licence-professionnelle.html

The online catalog of postsecondary vocational/professional programs in France

www.campusfrance.org
>Students>Studying
>Trainings>Catalogue of Bachelor's programmes

Listings of all BTS, DUT, and professional licence programs, with Web sites and contact information.

Degree descriptions
www.campusfrance.org
> Resources center
> Educational and research programs
> Degree descriptions

The BTS, DUT, Licence Professionnelle, and Mastère Spécialisé are presented in detail, including information on prerequisites and the possibilities for further study.
Any student holding a European Master or the equivalent may apply for admission to a doctoral program in France. Programs generally last 3 years. Candidates who prepare and successfully defend a thesis or dissertation receive the Doctorate.

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IS A TOP PRIORITY IN FRANCE
- French research publications have the world’s fourth-highest citation rate.
- France ranks fifth among OECD countries in domestic spending for research and development (€45 billion).
- The nation is in the top three worldwide for programs in physics, math, biology, nanotechnology, and biotechnology.
- Its space budget ranks second after the United States.

THE INTERNATIONAL CORE OF FRENCH RESEARCH
- In the public sector, 17% are foreign research scientists and 5% in private industry.
- Major French research organizations maintain more than 250 facilities throughout the world.
- France is in first place in international collaboration, more than those of the UK and Germany.
- French institutions receive 11% of the financial support provided under the Horizon 2020 European research framework, making France the program’s third-largest beneficiary.

DOCTORAL PROGRAMS
Doctoral training takes place within research teams or units affiliated with a Doctoral department. Candidates work under the supervision of a dissertation adviser.
Prospective doctoral candidates must apply directly to a specific doctoral program.

FINANCING DOCTORAL STUDY
Demonstrating the ability to pay for doctoral study is very often a prerequisite for admission to a doctoral program.
- **Doctoral contracts** are for 3 years and offer all of the benefits of a formal employment agreement. The minimum guaranteed gross monthly compensation ranges of €1,768 /month.
  - [www.enseignementsup-recherche.gouv.fr](http://www.enseignementsup-recherche.gouv.fr)
  - >Enseignement supérieur>Doctorat >le financement doctoral>Contrat doctoral
- **Corporate–academic research agreements (CIFRE contracts)**
  CIFRE contracts enable doctoral candidates to perform dissertation research in a corporate lab in cooperation with a research team at one of France’s doctoral departments. The company and the candidate enter into a three-year employment agreement that offers the candidate a gross monthly salary of about €1,958. [www.anrt.asso.fr](http://www.anrt.asso.fr)
- **Joint dissertations**
  Under agreements between two postsecondary institutions—one in France and one abroad—doctoral candidates may prepare their dissertation in two countries and receive financial support for their travel expenses.
Choose France

Campus France offers a one-stop online shop for choosing a doctoral program or research project in France
www.campusfrance.org>researchers

A DIRECTORY OF DOCTORAL DEPARTMENTS
France’s 270 doctoral departments organize and supervise doctoral training. Candidates apply through doctoral departments for admission to doctoral programs.
- Search programs by key word, region, or discipline
- Access complete information on each doctoral department: funded dissertation topics, other suggested topics, and axes of research; admission criteria and contacts, research support services, and funding; international activities; affiliated research laboratories

A DATABASE OF FUNDED DISSERTATION TOPICS, LABORATORY POSITIONS, AND POSTDOCS
- Topics eligible for funding through a doctoral contract, dissertation research performed in a corporate laboratory under a CIFRE contract, research opportunities with programs funded by foreign governments
- Laboratory internships that give interns a feel for research
- Postdoctoral opportunities in French labs

RESEARCH-RELATED INFORMATION
- Topical research briefs present the essentials of French research work in a given field.
- Institutional briefs offer details on the structure and organization of research at specific institutions.
- Campus France’s guide to research in France provides an overview of the French research endeavor, along with practical information for doctoral candidates considering a research project in France.

DID YOU KNOW? A NEW CAMPUS FRANCE SITE
The Campus France home page now provides easy access to the Campus France research portal and other essential information on research in France.

NOTE ERASMUS+
The €14.7 billion EU program for education, training, youth, and sports (77.5% for education) replaces the Erasmus. Designed to be more effective and innovative, it will be open to students at the doctoral level.
www.erasmusplus.fr
Unlike in the major English-speaking countries, private institutions account for a relatively small share of postsecondary enrollments in France (less than 17%). In France, 73 publicly financed universities are evenly distributed around the nation. They award national diplomas, which provide the assurance of a uniformly high level of educational quality regardless of where they are earned—from the famous Sorbonne to the alpine campuses of the universities of Grenoble and Chambéry and the island campus of the University of Corsica.

The universities offer programs in all disciplines, including the sciences (mathematics, chemistry, physics, biology), technology (computer science, engineering, electrotechnics, materials), literature, languages, the arts, the social sciences, law, economics, business, health and medicine, and physical education. All of the nation’s universities are public. The universities offer programs at every level; their graduates receive nationally regulated degrees known as national diplomas: Licence (3 years), Master (Licence + 2 years, or 5 years in total), Doctorate (Master + 3 years, or 8 years in total).

French universities list:
http://www.enseignementsup-recherche.gouv.fr/cid20269/liste-des-universites-francaises.html

Research, a key function of the universities
As the primary locus of research and training in the basic sciences, the universities ensure that their degree programs stay abreast of progress in basic knowledge and technology. 270 Doctoral departments staffed by 100,000 scholars and researchers provide research training in close cooperation with more than 1,200 research laboratories. The departments confer more than 12,000 doctorates each year.

A comprehensive and tailored array of programs
• University-based engineering programs now confer 30% of the engineering degrees (Titre d’ingénieur) awarded in France each year;
• 173 career-oriented licence degrees, known as licences professionnelles, are available.
• Technical programs are offered in 24 specialty areas in university-based institutes of technology (IUTs, instituts universitaires de technologie).
• Management programs are available in university-based institutes of business administration (IAE, instituts d’administration des entreprises).
• Programs in political science and economics are found in university-based institutes of politics (IEP, instituts d’études politiques) including Sciences Po Paris.
• At the universities, more than 500 master’s programs are taught in English
http://taughtie.campusfrance.org/

NOTE
Diplômes d’Université (DU, university diplomas)
These university degrees are not national diplomas but, because of their specialized nature, they may offer good opportunities to gain specialized training and a university experience.
THE UNIVERSITY AND SCIENTIFIC GROUPINGS

- **Groups of institutions** coordinate the program offerings and research strategies of the participating universities, schools, and research organizations. 21 ComUE and 5 associations operate in France. Their purpose is to maximize synergies within the group and enhance their international visibility. Within several groups, previously separate universities have merged into university communities now known as Université Grenoble Alpes, ComUE Lille Nord de France, Aix-Marseille Université, Université de Lorraine, and Paris Sciences Lettres.

- **The ComUEs, associations, and mergers** are authorized to grant national diplomas, primarily at the master and doctoral levels.

MEDICAL STUDIES

Within the European LMD system, medical studies in France are divided into 3 stages of 3 years or more. The universities deliver medical education in cooperation with France’s 32 CHRU, or university hospital centers. Completion of the first year, known as PACES, opens access to further study in the various health professions: Medicine = PACES + 8 years (for general medicine), PACES + 10 to 11 years (medical specialties); Pharmacy = PACES + 5–8 years; Dentistry = PACES + 5–7 years; Midwifery = PACES + 4 years; Massage/physical therapy = PACES + 4 years. **International students and medical education in France.** Unless they have already obtained a medical degree in their home country, international students must enroll in the first year of the first cycle of medical education and must pass the end-of-year examination.

- To begin the third stage of medical education, foreign students must undergo a special medical residency competition organized by the culture and cooperation service of France’s embassies and consulates. In 2012, 13 places were offered in 17 medical specialties.

- The Diplôme de formation médicale spécialisée (DFMS, diploma in specialized medical training, 1–2 years) and the Diplôme de formation médicale spécialisée approfondie (DFMSA, advanced diploma in specialized medical training, 6 months to 1 year) are specialized programs open to general (primary care) and specialized physicians who have earned their medical degree abroad.

http://med.unistra.fr/fre/Formation/3eme-cycle/DFMSA

Information on admission to both types of programs may be obtained from France’s embassies.

- All of these programs require proficiency in French at level B2 or above in the CEFRL scheme.

www.campusfrance.org

- Resources center
- Practical and institutional guides
- Institutional profiles >Universities
Unique to France, the system of Grandes Écoles was set up in parallel with the university system at the beginning of the 19th century. The Grandes Écoles offer top-quality education oriented toward practical problems. The system includes schools of engineering and management, the Écoles Normales Supérieures (ENS), and national schools as veterinary medicine, École Polytechnique, École des Ponts... The Grandes Écoles are highly selective; their degrees signify the completion of a rigorous program.

The Grandes Écoles confer institution-specific diplomas (Baccalauréat + 5 years of postsecondary study), some of which are recognized by the French government as the equivalent of a national master.

They may also offer intermediate degrees and specialized diplomas, among them the bachelor (in 3 or 4 years), the master of business administration (MBA), and the mastère spécialisé (MS, 1 year after the master). The traditional path into the Grandes Écoles was by examination following 2 years of preparation. Students then earned their degree in 3 more years of increasingly specialized study. However, many schools now offer admission to a 5-year curriculum directly from secondary school.

To accommodate international students, many Grandes Écoles offer admission on the strength of the applicant’s academic record. The degree may be earned in 2 to 5 years, depending on the amount of credit the applicant receives for his or her prior academic work.

Conférence des Grandes Écoles (CGE) : www.cge.asso.fr

ENGINEERING

More than 200 schools of engineering, public and private, run the gamut of engineering sciences. But they also have some common characteristics, emblematic of the solid quality of the Titre d’ingénieur, a venerable French degree that is fully equivalent to the European master.

The Titre d’ingénieur, Master grade, is a national diploma that entitles its holder to apply to a doctoral program. The degree may indicate general expertise in engineering or more specialized study—in agronomy, chemistry, biology, or information science, for example. Public schools of engineering charge tuition of approximately €610 per year.

MANAGEMENT

Schools of management enjoy special forms of official recognition:

• certification by the French State, indicated by a stamp on the graduate’s diploma
• listing in the registry of Grandes Écoles published by the Conférence des Grandes Ecoles, which regulates all of France’s Grandes Écoles
• official recognition of certain diplomas as equivalent to a Master.

Operating at a variety of levels, France’s many schools management offer programs geared to economic requirements and new management practices. Internships and international exchanges play a large role in many programs. The great majority of schools have come together to offer common entrance exams. About 190 schools admit students directly from secondary school.

Most of France’s business schools are private; many are affiliated with local chambers of commerce and industry.

The annual tuition varies widely but is generally between €5,000 and €15,000.

Management schools and diplomas evaluation: https://www.cefudg.fr

NOTE

Many of France’s business schools have attained international recognition by meeting the standards of various accrediting bodies, among them CGE, EQUIS, AACSB, and AMBA. Some forms of recognition apply to the school itself, others to the degree conferred. All signify international recognition.

www.campusfrance.org/en
>Resources center>Practical and institutional guides>Institutional profiles
Fine arts, applied arts, and crafts are the focus of France’s schools of art offer postsecondary degree programs at the 2- to 5-year levels. Most are selective, some highly so. Students apply by taking an entrance examination and submitting a portfolio. Public or private, they are distinguished by their reputation among professionals.

Nearly 50 public postsecondary schools of art grant national diplomas recognized by the French government. Private schools and schools affiliated with chambers of commerce and industry (known historically as écoles consulaires) confer certificates or occupational titles, some of which appear in the national directory of occupational certifications (www.rncp.cncp.gouv.fr). All have competitive admissions policies that require applicants to pass an entrance exam and present a portfolio of their work. With respect to schools and degrees, a fundamental distinction is made between applied arts and fine arts.

PUBLIC POSTSECONDARY SCHOOLS OF ART AND DESIGN: NATIONAL DIPLOMAS

45 public postsecondary schools of art and design (écoles supérieures d’art et de design) fall under the joint oversight of the ministries of culture and communication and of education. Applicants are admitted directly from secondary school according to their performance on an entrance examination. The schools offer 3-year (DNA) and 5-year (DNSEP) programs. Students may also be admitted by transfer into the second or third year.

List of public postsecondary schools of art: www.campusart.org

NATIONAL HIGHER SCHOOLS OF ART: INSTITUTIONAL CREDENTIALS

France’s highly selective écoles nationales supérieures d’art award master-level diplomas in applied arts, plastic arts, visual arts, design and creation, textile design, industrial design, and photography.

- l’École Nationale Supérieure de la Photographie (ENSP, photography) www.enp-arles.com
- le Fresnoy - Studio National des arts contemporains (contemporary art) - www.lefresnoy.net

Two schools offer a 2–4 year program in film and theater that is open to applicants who have completed 2 years of postsecondary study.
PUBLIC POSTSECONDARY SCHOOLS OF APPLIED ARTS
France’s écoles supérieures d’arts appliqués publiques confer national diplomas in very specific fields upon the successful completion of a 2- or 5-year program. Two-year programs lead to a BTS (brevet de technicien supérieur) or DMA (diplôme des métiers d’art); 5-year programs to a DSAA (diplôme supérieur d’arts appliqués). All prepare graduates for careers in design-related fields: graphics (media and multimedia); spatial design (interior architecture, lifestyle, set design); fashion, textiles, and environmental design; design of products and services; and crafts (textiles, jewelry, books, glass, ceramics, etc.): http://designetartsappliques.fr

PRIVATE SCHOOLS OF ART
Many private schools offer 3–5 year postsecondary programs and confer diplomas specific to the school. Such programs are often costly. Some are listed in the RNCP, the national registry of professional certifications: www.rncp.cnsp.gouv.fr

SCHOOLS FOR THE PRESERVATION AND PROMOTION OF HISTORIC AND CULTURAL HERITAGE
Three public schools of historic and cultural heritage offer advanced programs. Some curricula prepare students for careers requiring knowledge of historic and cultural heritage (art historians, guides and presenters), others for careers involving its preservation (conservators, restorers, architects of historic monuments and properties).
- École du Louvre (EDL), Paris: www.ecoledulouvre.fr
- École Nationale des Chartes (ENC), Paris: www.enc.sorbonne.fr

ART DEGREES WITHIN LMD SYSTEM

CONSERVATORIES
Music, dance, dramatic arts... Working in partnership with universities, France’s conservatories offer programs on the LMD model (licence, master, doctorate). List of conservatories: http://metiers.philharmoniedeparis.fr/enseignement-musical-france.aspx

www.campusart.org
>Documents>Resource center

CAMPUSART
www.campusart.org

Apply online through the CampusArt network of French schools of art

The CampusArt network offers applicants a choice of some 400 different art programs at the Licence and Master levels. By completing a single online form, students who have completed 3 years of art education may apply for admission to the entire network of schools and track the progress of their application through to the offer of admission.
Postsecondary programs in architecture in France follow the harmonized European system of degrees based on the Licence, Master, and Doctorate (LMD).

- The first cycle of study lasts 3 years and leads to a DEEA (diplôme d’études en architecture), the equivalent of a Licence.
- The second cycle lasts 2 years and leads to a DEA (diplôme d’état d’architecte), equivalent to a master’s degree.
- The HMONP (Habilitation à la Maîtrise d’Œuvre en Nom Propre), which entitles the holder to direct building projects without supervision, requires a sixth year of study and completion of an internship.
- A third cycle of study leads to the DSA (diplôme de spécialisation et approfondissement en architecture), a national diploma requiring 1–2 years of study depending on the field of specialization, or one of the various available DPEAs.

Some schools offer a double qualification in architecture and engineering in partnership with schools of engineering. Graduates receive the Diplôme d’État d’Architecte and a professional qualification in engineering, enabling them to practice professionally in both fields.

Students who earn a research Master or the equivalent may elect to pursue a Doctorate in architecture.

The nation’s 20 schools of architecture, all overseen by the Ministry of Culture, confer national diplomas.

www.archi.fr/ECOLES

Two other schools deliver degrees that are considered equivalent:

ARCHITECTURE AND LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

Programs leading to a master’s-equivalent DPLG (diplôme de paysagiste) are offered by three national schools of architecture and landscape design that follow a common admission process. Applicants must hold a French baccalauréat or the equivalent and have completed 2 years of postsecondary study. The curriculum spans 4 years.


www.campusart.org
>Documents>Resource center
More than 3,000 schools and institutes, public and private, are categorized as “specialized schools”. They offer degree programs in very specific areas—among them social work, paramedical fields, tourism, culinary arts, and hotel management, among others.

These institutions offer government-accredited degrees as well as other credentials specific to the institution that confers them. Programs demand from 2 to 5 years of study. Admission is by examination or on the basis of the applicant’s academic record.

www.rncp.cnpc.gouv.fr
Studying in France

The richness and diversity offered by the French system make it easy to find an educational program that matches your background and goals.

FRANCE
A HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM THAT WORKS
At any level—bachelor, master, or doctoral—it pays to have a well-defined educational plan and a clear goal before choosing an institution and program. By identifying programs that dovetail with your prior experience and academic accomplishments, you can increase your chances of admission.

Within a given field of study, you will find a wide variety of curricula and programs. That variety is one of the strong points of the French educational system. Throughout France one finds educational institutions of very high quality in every field. These, too, exhibit variety—there are the universities, of course, but also the free-standing schools of engineering, business, and art. The resulting institutional diversity is one reason for the variety of curricula found within a given field.
LMD CATALOG

www.campusfrance.org
>What program are you looking for?

Campus France’s online catalog of French higher education includes more than 30,000 programs at the Licence, Master, and Doctoral levels offered by some 3,500 postsecondary institutions.

A powerful search engine allows users to perform custom searches by keyword, field of study, academic level (L, M, D), and geographic region.

It also provides links to the Web sites of institutions of interest to the user and an overview of each institution. This information is complemented by briefs on fields of study and on the international student services provided by individual institutions and by France’s regions.

THE CATALOG OF PROGRAMS TAUGHT IN ENGLISH:

www.campusfrance.org
>Students>Studying
>Trainings
>Programs taught in English

The catalog provides information on more than 1300 programs taught entirely or partly in English.

Each entry contains essential information on admission requirements, type of diploma, accreditation, language requirements, costs, and available programs in French as a foreign language.

◆ www.campusfrance.org
>Students>Studying
>Trainings
ONLINE CATALOG AND MOBILE APP
http://ecolesdete.campusfrance.org
Catalog of short academic programs and programs in French language and culture
This trilingual catalog (French–English–Spanish) provides information on programs in French as a foreign language and on summer and winter academic courses in France. Features include:
• An interactive map of France’s regions
• Searches by French-proficiency requirements and field of study
• Nearly 500 recreational, cultural, and food-related activities.

Immersion France is a mobile app developed by Campus France for students exploring options for tourism and language learning in France. Features include:
• Detailed program descriptions
• Presentations of France’s regions
• Contact information.

A strong local presence: Campus France maintains more than 250 offices in more than 120 countries to advise and support prospective students
Campus France’s local offices, called Espaces, allow students to meet face to face with professionals who can help them carry out their plans to study in France.
The mission of the local offices is to answer students’ questions about French higher education at the information-gathering stage and during the application process. By providing concrete services in a personal way, the staff help students put together an educational plan. They move that plan forward by helping students to identify appropriate programs, to gather information on grants and scholarships, to prepare for departure, and to put together persuasive applications for admission. They even follow up on applications.

www.campusfrance.org/en
◆ >Where to find Campus France close to your place?
All international students, whether or not they receive additional financial aid, enjoy the same low tuition rates as French students at universities and other public institutions. The true cost of the education they receive is much higher (€10,000 to €14,000 per year), but the difference is paid by the French government. Every international student, like every French student, benefits from this national policy, which ensures the quality of French degrees.

ENROLLMENT IS A THREE-STEP PROCESS:

1 • Obtaining an offer of admission from a French institution. The offer of admission is a precondition for obtaining a visa to enter France (visa is required for non EU students).

2 • Administrative registration. Upon arriving in France, students must report to their new institution and pay tuition and fees for the coming year. The student then receives proof of enrollment and a student ID card.

3 • Academic registration. Following administrative registration, the student is invited to visit his or her new academic department to register for specific classes at specific times and to be briefed on examination procedures. No additional charges are assessed for academic registration. This step completes the admission and enrollment process.

NOTE
There are no officially recognized equivalences between French degrees and foreign degrees. Institutions make independent determinations of equivalence. The institution may also give credit for the applicant’s professional experience. Each institution has full discretion to admit applicants and to determine the level at which they will be admitted—that is, the amount of credit to be granted for prior academic work.

Assessment of foreign degrees and diplomas:
ENIC-NARIC NETWORK:
www.enic-naric.net
Site for France:
www.ciep.fr/enic-naric-france
NOTE: ENROLLING IN FIRST YEAR OF HIGHER EDUCATION (L1)

The request for preliminary admission (DAP)
Students holding a secondary-school diploma from outside France and wishing to enroll in the first or second year of undergraduate study at a French university are required to complete an application for preliminary admission, known as a DAP (démarche d’admission préalable) at the cultural office of the French embassy in their country of residence. In 40 countries, the DAP process must be completed online. Whether online or on paper, the DAP process begins in November of each year and follows a very strict timeline.

Special case: Parcoursup
The Parcoursup system of preliminary online admission to the first year of postsecondary study is required of international students (including those holding a French baccalauréat) who seek admission to the first year of study in certain selective institutions, such as IUTs (university-based institutes of technology), STSs (postsecondary technical sections of secondary schools), CPGEs (programs that prepare students for the entrance examinations of the Grandes Écoles), and other institutions not covered by the DAP process.

European Union
Students from the countries of the European Union wishing to enroll in the first year of postsecondary study must apply using the Parcoursup online application process.

PAYING TUITION TO A FRENCH INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION

The tuition rates charged by public educational institutions in France are set by decree.

Annual tuition rates 2017-2018:
• €184 for Licence programs
• €256 for Master’s programs
• €391 for Doctoral programs
• €610 for engineering programs

These charges include access to university libraries. There is an additional charge to enroll in the national student health insurance plan, which is mandatory. Special services offered by some programs may also entail additional charges.

In addition to these basic charges, students may have to pay additional fees for specific services or special programs.

Private institutions, including schools of business, are more expensive.
There are several ways to finance a period of study or research in France: grants and scholarships, aid and travel stipends. Campus France is in charge of all facets of grant and scholarship programs for international students.

**SCHOLARSHIPS FROM THE MINISTRY FOR EUROPE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MEAE)**

The French Ministry of Foreign Affairs offers various types of grants that cover tuition and various services: health insurance, travel costs, and living expenses.

www.diplomatie.gouv.fr >Venir en France >Étudier en France >Financer le projet/bourses

**SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED BY FRANCE’S EMBASSIES ABROAD**

French government grants for academic programs, internships, and language study in France are administered by the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs. Regardless of their country of residence or the type of scholarship for which they intend to apply, candidates must contact, at least one year in advance, the culture and cooperation office of the French embassy in their country of residence.

**SPECIFIC PROGRAMS**

- **Eiffel Excellence grants** enable awardees to earn a master’s degree or, for doctoral candidates enrolled in dual-degree programs, to travel for up to 10 months. Candidates are nominated by French institutions. Self-nominations are not accepted.

- The “Quai d’Orsay–Entreprises” grant program offers grants to encourage graduates of top-notch foreign universities to come to France in cooperation with large French companies.

- **Excellence-Major grants**

  The Major program enables international students in French lycées abroad who score well on their baccalaureate exam to study in France up to the master’s level.

www.aefe.fr >aefe >dispositif Excellence-Major

**THE ERASMUS+ PROGRAM FOR 2014–2020**

Erasmus+ merges the existing Erasmus programs in education and training with the Youth in Action program, adding to these an athletic component for the first time in any European program.

A new experimental mechanism will enable master-level students to obtain loans at favorable rates to study in another country. More open to non-European countries than was the original Erasmus program, Erasmus+ is expected to facilitate the mobility of more than 4 million people, among them 2 million students.
Students may obtain grants to finance a period of **3 to 12 months of study** in another European institution beginning in the second year of postsecondary study. Students are entitled to 12 months of mobility (study and/or internship) at each of the three major degree levels (licence, master, doctorate).

www.erasmusplus.fr
Twitter: @EUErasmusPlus
Facebook: Erasmus+

- **Erasmus Mundus joint master and doctoral programs** are organized by at least three institutions of higher education in different countries. Programs include a period of study in at least two institutions and lead to a double, multiple, or joint degree. Grants are available to students, doctoral candidates, and faculty.

www.agence-erasmus.fr/page/masters-conjoints

**GRANTS FROM THE AGENCE UNIVERSITAIRE DE LA FRANCOPHONIE**

- **The Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie (AUF)**, an association of French-speaking universities, offers grants to support mobility among its 800 member institutions in 106 countries. Emphasis is placed on South–South mobility.

www.auf.org >Bourses

**NOTE**
The French government assumes a very large share of the actual cost of every student’s education, more than €14,000 per student per year. This national focus operates as a grant for all foreign students who choose France for studying.

**CAMPUSBOURSES,**
A BILINGUAL SEARCH ENGINE AND DATABASE, WILL SPEED YOUR SEARCH FOR FINANCIAL AID

www.campusfrance.org >How to finance your studies?

Accessible from
www.campusfrance.org,
CampusBourses enables users to perform multiple-criteria searches in French or English of nearly every financial aid program open to international students and junior scholars wishing to study in France. Covered are more than 700 programs from national and local government agencies, corporations, foundations, academic institutions, France’s embassies abroad, foreign governments and institutions, and multilateral organizations.

Users may search by keyword or by set search criteria (nationality, discipline, level of study, type of grant), thus allowing them to locate programs that match their background and plans. Full information is available for each program, along with links to the Web sites of the sponsoring entities.
Obtain your visa at the French embassy or consulate in your country.

**LONG-STAY STUDENT VISA, OR “VLS-TS ÉTUDEANT” (> 3 MONTHS)**

The long-stay student visa, or “VLS-TS étudiant,” entitles the bearer to pursue a program of study in France for a period of 4 months to 1 year. The VLS-TS also serves as a residency permit for the entire period of its validity, provided the student, upon arrival, presents the visa to the competent authority (currently the OFII, or French immigration office).

www.campusfrance.org >Students >Getting organised >The different types of student visas

Upon expiration of the visa, a student wishing to remain in France must apply for a residency permit. Algerian students must apply for a residency permit at the Préfecture de Police at the beginning of their first year.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

- The process of applying for a visa begins after the student applies for admission to an institution of higher education. A fee of €79 must be paid upon applying for the visa.
- Nationals of member countries of the European Union, the European Economic Space, and Switzerland need not obtain a visa to enter or stay in France.
- Students under the age of 18 must apply for a minor student’s visa. They are not required to obtain a residency permit.
- Students over the age of 18 must apply for a long-stay student visa or “VLS-TS étudiant.” Students under the age of 18 must apply for a minor student’s visa. They are not required to obtain a residency permit.

**LONG-STAY TEMPORARY STUDY VISA**

This visa is issued to students who intend to study in France for a period of 3 to 6 months. It is not renewable.

**LONG-STAY “SCIENTIST-RESEARCHER” VISA, OR VLS-TS “SCIENTIFIQUE-CHERCHEUR” (> 3 MONTHS)**

This visa is designed for holders of a master’s degree or equivalent who are coming to France to conduct research or to teach at the university level. Applicants include doctoral candidates, scientists and scholars, and research faculty. The VLS-TS “scientist-researcher” also serves as a residency permit for the entire period of its validity, provided the student, upon arrival, presents the visa to the competent authority (currently the OFII, or French immigration office).

www.campusfrance.org >Researchers >Organising your stay >Apply for your visa/validate your residence permit

The residency permit allows the holder to teach or conduct research in France under a host agreement prepared by a public or private research organization or institution of higher education. It is valid for one year and may be renewed for a multiyear period not to exceed 4 years.

**Apply for your visa as soon as possible, and always at least 2 months before your program begins**
SHORT-STAY VISAS (< 3 MONTHS)

The short-stay Schengen visa
This nonrenewable short-stay visa permits stays of up to 3 months in the 25-country Schengen area, as defined in European regulations. Holders of the visa are not required to obtain a French residency permit. The Schengen visa is ideal for students seeking language training or participating in other short-term educational programs.

Short-term visa for students attending interviews or sitting for examinations
This visa entitles the holder to enter France for the purpose of attending an interview or sitting for an entrance examination at an institution of higher education. Students who pass the interview or examination may apply for a 1-year renewable residency permit. They need not return to their country before doing so.

NOTE
Under no circumstances may a tourist visa be converted into a student visa anywhere in the European Union.

www.campusfrance.org
>Students
>Getting organised
>The different types of student visas

STUDENTS FROM 40 COUNTRIES MUST FOLLOW THE ONLINE ADMISSION PROCESS KNOWN AS “ÉTUDES EN FRANCE”

For these countries, an online process has been set up for the submission of applications for admission to institutions of higher education. The process must be followed in order to obtain a visa.

Following the admission interview and upon receipt of the preliminary admission letter, prospective students submit their visa applications, which are then tracked by the Campus France local office.

The list of the participating countries is available on the Campus France website.

www.campusfrance.org
>Students >Studying
>Registration processes
FRANCE, THE FIRST TOURISTIC DESTINATION OFFERS TOO:
- the rule of law and civil liberty
- an excellent health system
- a congenial environment
- renowned and varied cuisine
- efficient public transportation
Studying in France also means living in France and discovering the distinctive French way of life.

Students enjoy special advantages in France that make life more enjoyable
An extensive system of discounts, assistance, and special facilities allows students to stretch a relatively modest budget to cover basic needs—and to enjoy life in France. Benefits include a network of student restaurants, university housing, rent subsidies, health insurance, student clubs and associations, and discounts on public transportation, movies, museums, libraries, and sporting events.

Sports and cultural activities
Culture is a daily affair in Paris and in France’s regions.
Students enjoy discounts and special subscription prices at all cultural events.
Student status also makes it easy to stay active in sports through discounted access to athletic facilities. Rare is the campus that does not host a wide range athletic clubs, associations, and leagues.
Many universities and schools are located in city centers, offering easy access to the rich social and cultural life of France’s lively cities. Museums, bookstores, theaters, and cafés are never very far away.

Enjoy French culture shock
AN A TO Z HANDBOOK FOR STUDENT AND DAILY LIFE IN FRANCE
This pocket guide in French/English and French/Spanish, organized like a dictionary enables the user to quickly find expressions, acronyms, and various features of daily life as a student in France.
Before looking for a place to live in France, students must decide, in light of their financial means and the length of their program, what sort of housing arrangement is best for them. Housing is relatively expensive in France, but international students, like French students, enjoy the benefit of housing assistance.

UNIVERSITY RESIDENCE HALLS
Located on campus or in town, university residences are run by France’s regional student service centers (CROUS, Centres régionaux des œuvres universitaires et scolaires). The residences feature furnished rooms and studios, generally well-equipped. The monthly rent is between €170* and €500*. Space in university residence halls remains in very short supply, however, especially in Paris. Most space in university housing is allocated to French scholarship students on the basis of need. A small quota is allocated to foreign recipients of French government scholarships and to students participating in exchange programs. 
www.etudiant.gouv.fr>Vous loger

NOTE: In contrast to the situation at France’s universities, most Grandes Écoles and private institutions have a good supply of on-campus housing.

PRIVATE-SECTOR RENTALS
Renters are generally required to make a deposit to guarantee the payment of rent. Rents are high, especially in large cities, and above all in Paris. In general, renters must show proof that their monthly income is at least three times the rental amount.

SHARED RENTALS
Property rentals to groups. Several individuals may enter into a lease with a property owner, with each having equal rights to the property. No special regulations apply to such rentals. All tenants have the same rights and obligations as does a single tenant who executes a lease. Anyone who wishes to apply for housing assistance must ensure that his or her name appears on the lease.

NOTE
Joint-responsibility clauses are often added to group-rental agreements and apply for the entire term of the lease. Such clauses mean that if one tenant does not pay his or her share of the rent, the property owner may try to collect it from the other tenants.

PRIVATELY OPERATED STUDENT HOUSING
Private buildings designed for students are found in most large cities. Most have been built in recent years to compensate for the shortage of university housing. Rents range from €600* to €800* per month in Paris and from €350* to €550 elsewhere.
Nearly 60,000 students have found housing using the CROUS network’s online platform. Rentals bearing the Lokaviz label are accompanied by protections and assurances designed especially for students.

**SECURITY DEPOSITS FOR STUDENTS**
A government guarantee is available in all of France’s academic regions (except overseas). It enables students who do not have a personal guarantor to obtain access to housing.

For more information, check Campus France website: Students>Getting organised>Accommodation

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**ROOMS IN PRIVATE HOUSES**
More suitable for short stays, renting a furnished room in a private home may cost €200* a week in Paris with breakfast included, or €300* with breakfast and dinner. Costs are lower outside Paris.

**INTERGENERATIONAL HOUSING**
Several organizations have matched older people who have a spare room to rent with students looking for a place to live. The older individual, who may be a property owner or a tenant, must offer a suitable room, which may be furnished or unfurnished, with free access to the common areas of the property (kitchen, bathroom, living room). The student agrees to be a “good neighbor,” to exercise reasonable care and vigilance, to perform “small favors” to facilitate the daily life of the older person, and to pay a portion of the utility and maintenance charges (such as water and electricity).

To use the services of an organization providing intergenerational rentals, the student generally must pay a yearly fee to the organization (typically between €100 and €350 depending on the type of lodging found), in addition to application fees (around €15).

www.reseau-cosi.com

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**International students, like French students, may be eligible for housing assistance.**
There are two types of assistance, depending on the type of housing one occupies. The two forms of assistance, which cannot be combined, are social housing assistance (ALS, allocation de logement à caractère social) and personal housing assistance (APL, aide personnalisée au logement). The amount of assistance varies with the rent to be paid and the student’s circumstances.

If you are sharing an apartment, you and your roommate may both receive assistance, provided both your names appear on the lease.

Information and eligibility criteria can be obtained from the Caisse d’Allocations Familiales (CAF, family assistance fund) serving the area in which you live.

www.caf.fr/vies-de-famille/jeune-ou-etudiant>Aides au logement

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* These prices do not include any housing assistance for which the student may be eligible.
WHILE IN SCHOOL

Students from the member countries of the European Economic Space (plus Switzerland) may work freely and without restriction while studying in France. Since July 1, 2007, French law has allowed other international students to work under the following conditions: A residency permit (VLS-TS, validated by OFII, or a residency permit in addition to a visa) marked “student” entitles the student to accept paid employment for up to 60% of the legally defined work year (or 964 hours per year), without prior administrative authorization.

NOTE: The time that students spend in internships connected with their academic program (and covered by a written internship agreement) are not counted toward the maximum allowable working hours, even if the student is compensated during the internship. The minimum gross hourly wage, set by law, is €9,76. Withholding reduces the worker’s net wage by about 20%.

WORKING AT A PUBLIC INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION

International students are eligible for student jobs at universities and other public institutions of higher education. Student employment contracts are offered for a period not to exceed 12 months. They run from September 1 through August 31.

www.campusfrance.org
>Students>Getting organised>Working while studying in France

See also:
>Students>And after?>Finding work in France
>Students>And after?>How to start a company in France

AFTER GRADUATION

International students holding a degree equivalent to a master or above

International students who have earned a degree that is equivalent to a European master or above may seek authorization to reside in France from 6 months to 1 year after the expiration of their student residency permit. This authorization, which is not renewable, allows the graduate to work for up to 60% of the legal work week.

If the employment contract is related to the subject of the graduate’s degree program and if it provides compensation that is equal to or greater than 150% of the minimum wage, the prospective employee may apply to the local prefecture for change of status from student to employee. Once authorization is granted (it is not granted automatically), the individual may begin working full time.

Other students

Accepting an offer of employment from a French firm after graduation implies a change in status (from student to employee). Graduates apply for the change by submitting their employment contract or offer of employment.

GOOD TO KNOW

The “skills and talents” residency permit is granted in view of specific student plans that are in the interest of France and the student’s home country. The skills and talents permit is granted for a duration of 3 years. It functions as a work permit. Students are free to choose any employment that is in line with their plan (except certain regulated professions, such as medicine). https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F16922
MEDICAL INSURANCE

Healthcare expenses are reimbursed by France’s obligatory Social Security system. To qualify for reimbursements, participants must choose a physician approved by the system. Fees are higher for house calls (care delivered at the patient’s home) and for care received on weekends and holidays.

On average, Social Security reimburses 70% of the costs of medical care. Supplemental insurance plans or student health-insurance plans are available to cover most of the remainder.

The largest student plans are:

- La Mutuelle des Étudiants: www.lmde.fr
- SMEREP: www.smerep.fr
- EmeVia, a national network of student health plans: www.emevia.com

Students studying in a nonapproved institution for a period of less than three months must obtain medical insurance from a private provider. The cost ranges from €150 to €550 per year.

Changes are being made to France’s Social Security system. Those changes will take effect beginning in the 2018 academic year. Check the Campus France website for news of these changes.

MULTIRISK RENTER’S INSURANCE

All dwellings must be insured against risks such as theft, fire, and water damage. Insurance can be purchased from private companies. Multirisk home insurance includes liability coverage, meaning that the policy holder is insured against claims from third parties who may be injured in an accident on the premises.

NOTE: Other types of insurance are also available, such as automobile insurance, insurance for participation in a sport, and insurance for repatriation of remains in case of death.
France’s vibrant cultural life offers students access to culture on a daily basis. Even outside Paris, the proliferation of cultural sites is proof of the country’s creative effervescence.

Consider, for example, music festivals such as the Vieilles Charrues in Carhaix, the Folles Journées in Nantes, the Eurockéennes in Belfort, Jazz in Marciac, and the Transmusicales in Rennes; the film festivals in Cannes, Deauville, Avoriaz, and Cognac; dance festivals such as the Biennale de la Danse in Lyon and the Part des Anges in Bordeaux; the theater festivals of Avignon and Aurillac; the renowned comic art festival in Angoulême; and national events such as the Journées du Patrimoine and the Fête de la Musique on the first day of summer.

All information on www.culture.fr

MUSEUMS AND MONUMENTS

8,000 museums operate throughout France. Although the Eiffel Tower remains the country’s most visited attraction, more than 40,000 other sites and structures have been designated as historic landmarks, among them the chateaux of the Loire, Mont St. Michel, the Château d’If, the Roman arenas in Nîmes, and the port of La Rochelle.

List of national museums:
www.rmn.fr
www.monuments-nationaux.fr
www.images-art.fr

BOOKS

The affordable Livre de Poche series, offered at €6, puts books within reach, no matter what one’s budget. Numerous book-related events in Paris and around the country attest to the French interest in reading.
PRINT MEDIA

France’s print media are distinguished by their diversity: special-interest magazines, daily newspapers, and national and regional weeklies and monthlies. Every city and region has a newspaper that provides national, international, regional, and even the most local of news.

www.presseregionale.fr

LIBRARIES

France has more than 3,000 libraries. Anyone can obtain a free library card at his or her local library; the card can be used at any library in the town or city system.

University libraries

Every institution of higher education possesses at least one library. Hours vary but include evenings (until 10 pm) and Sundays. France’s 127 university and institutional libraries possess more than 40 million books.

Public libraries:

www.lexilogos.com/bibliothheque_municipale.htm

Bibliothèque Nationale de France:

www.bnf.fr

http://gallica.bnf.fr/

SPORT

In addition to the athletic facilities of educational institutions (often known by the acronym SUAPS), France has many public sports complexes. Thousands of clubs provide access, for a modest fee, to training equipment and athletic facilities.

Visits to municipal swimming pools are also very affordable.

www.associations-sportives.fr
CLUBS AND SPECIAL-INTEREST GROUPS

With more than 2 million associations, France’s people have woven a vast fabric of voluntary ties, of which student clubs are an important part. Student associations enable students to get together for extracurricular activities such as festivals, expositions, concerts, lectures, trips, hikes, tours, evening activities, and more.

Through clubs and associations students also engage in a wide variety of humanitarian, athletic, economic, and cultural activities in which they have the opportunity to play a variety of roles, such as chairman of a festival, treasurer of a student business club, or spokesperson for a cultural project. Such involvements can make them more appealing to their resume. Through alumni associations students can maintain ties with their academic institution after graduation and benefit from contacts with other graduates.

Directory of French associations: www.asso1901.com

NOTE

In universities and other postsecondary institutions, the bureau des étudiants, or student office, is an association whose officers are elected by the student body. Its purpose is to organize extracurricular activities.

UNIVERSITIES

On university campuses, one often finds dozens of cultural, disciplinary, athletic, or career-related associations. Some are devoted to providing support for new students, including international students, or to organizing cooperative services (supplies, coffee houses, course packs, and so on).

- FSDIE: www.etudiantdeparis.fr/ressources/aides-universites
- Animafac is a network for the exchange of experience and resources among more than 12,000 student associations: www.animafac.net
- ESN, Erasmus student Network: www.esn.org
- FAGE, federation of student associations: www.fage.org
- UNEF, French union of students: www.unef.fr

NOTE Campus France's collection of student service profiles describes the international student services offered by each institution and provides contact information for clubs and associations active within the institution. www.campusfrance.org> Resources center >Practical and institutional guides >Welcome information
Living in France

Every year, more than 100,000 international students receive degrees from the French educational system.

A RAPIDLY GROWING PROFESSIONAL AND SOCIAL NETWORK

Launched in 2014 by France Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development, France Alumni has more than 150,000 alumni users and 2,000 partners (including 700 educational institutions) around the world. A global network, it consists of a central international site and local extension sites in 34 languages and more than 100 countries.

A FORUM FOR EXCHANGE

France Alumni is designed for international students who have obtained higher education in France. It offers graduates a forum for exchanges with other students and alumni through thematic groups (4,700 participants in 240 groups). Topics include working in France after graduation; environment and climate; French cuisine; locating students from similar programs; and making the most of one’s training.

CULTURAL EVENTS

Stay informed about events near you! Campus France and its regional offices organize events to which students and members of France Alumni are invited. The global network held more than 650 events in 2017 (lectures, promotion of online courses, open houses, tours of institutions, outings).

PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Numerous partners (companies, higher education institutions) use the network to publicize employment and internship opportunities in France and abroad.

Join the France Alumni community!

www.francealumni.fr
**HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?**

Taking into account the many discounts for which students are eligible, the average monthly student budget is €1,000 in Paris and €800 elsewhere in the country.

- 1 baguette: €0.80
- 1 coffee: €1 - 2
- 1 Camembert cheese: €2
- 1 croissant: €1
- 1 kg of pasta: €1
- 1 kg of potatoes: €1.20
- 1 kg of rice: €1.90
- 1 liter of milk: €1.20
- 6 eggs: €1.50
- 1 meal at a university restaurant: €3.25
- 1 fast-food meal: €7
- 1 meal at neighborhood restaurant: €10 - 20
- 1 sandwich: €5 - 8

**HEALTH**

Medical visit
- **General practitioner**: €23 and up (of which €14 is reimbursed)
- **Psychiatry, neuropsychiatry, neurology**: €37 and up (€24 reimbursed)
- **Gynecology - opthalmology**: €28 and up (€19 reimbursed)
- **Specialist**: €25 and up (€19 reimbursed)
- **Dentist**: €30 and up depending on service rendered
CULTURE, LEISURE

- **Cell phone, Internet**: A wide range of plans to suit every budget and every digital lifestyle.
- **1 student-rate movie ticket**: about €7.50. Some national theater chains offer unlimited monthly admission cards for €20.
- **1 museum admission**: €5-10 Some museums offer free admission to students under the age of 26.
- **1 student-rate swimming pool admission**: €1.70
- **1 newspaper**: €1.20
- **1 paperback book**: about €6
- **1 night in budget hotel (**)**: From €60
- **1 theater ticket**: €30 and up

TRANSPORTATION

- **1 round-trip Paris-Barcelona air ticket**: €100-150
- **1 round-trip Paris-Brussels-Amsterdam Thalys rail ticket**: €100-120
- **1 round-trip Paris-London Eurostar rail ticket**: €100-150
- **1 round-trip Paris-Nice TGV (high-speed train) ticket**: €140. If reserved far enough in advance, tickets can be as cheap as €50.
- **1 monthly public transportation pass in Paris**: from €73
- **1 liter of gasoline**: €1.40
- **1 city bike**: about €1/day. Bike rentals are found in several large cities; prices vary.
Campus France supports students at each step in their educational journey through France: initial information gathering, guidance in choosing programs and institutions, financial aid (scholarships and other sources of assistance), applying for admission, requesting a visa, preparing for departure, welcome upon arrival, and so on.

www.campusfrance.org/en

> WHAT PROGRAM ARE YOU LOOKING FOR?
A powerful search engine enables users to identify appropriate programs by academic level (licence, master, doctorate). Users may also search for programs taught in English, programs in art, short programs, in French as a foreign language.

> HOW TO FINANCE YOUR STUDIES?
THE CAMPUSBOURSES SEARCH ENGINE
Campus France has developed a search engine operating in French and English to help students locate financial assistance for their study plans. Users select one or more criteria to search more than 700 national and international grant and scholarship programs. Detailed descriptions of each program are also offered.

> GETTING ORGANISED AND LIVING IN FRANCE
The Web site offers practical tips on planning your stay, with information on application and admission procedures, visas, life in France, learning French, finding housing, and more.
During the search process, users are offered the option of downloading additional information on institutions, fields of study, and so on.

> INFORMATION ABOUT INSTITUTIONS
- Institutional profiles: Summaries of individual institutions, including their fields of study, features, and degree of internationalization
- Student-support profiles: Summaries of the support services offered to students at particular institutions

> INFORMATION ON FIELDS OF STUDY
- Subject-areas profiles: Summaries of higher education in a given discipline or field of study (60 fields of study)
- Degree profiles: Summaries of specific degrees, such as the BTS, DUT, and Licence Professionnelle, le Titre d’Ingénieur en France
- Research profiles: Summaries of current research in various disciplines, with information on the doctoral departments and laboratories concerned (e.g., archeology, biotechnology, climatology, renewable energy, nanosciences...).
- The guide «Étudier en France après le baccalauréat» (studying in France after the baccalauréat), produced in collaboration with AEFE, an agency devoted to French education abroad.

These documents may be viewed and downloaded in the resource section of the site or through keyword searches.

ARRIVING IN FRANCE
HELP WITH FRENCH ADMINISTRATIVE AND REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS AND PRACTICAL TASKS
At the beginning of each academic year, higher education institutions and France’s 13 regions organize one-stop shops in which various offices and agencies come together to help international students fulfill administrative requirements and locate housing.

Additional information can be found on Campus France website:
- www.campusfrance.org

Helpful briefs and City profiles: Resources center>Practical and institutional guides

PERSONAL ASSISTANCE FROM CAMPUS FRANCE’S LOCAL OFFICES
More than 250 Campus France offices in more than 120 countries provide expert and caring assistance to students engaged in the serious business of planning a period of study in France. Our staff will listen to your plans and help you investigate appropriate programs. They will even help you prepare and submit your applications for admission and track those applications through to the admission decision.

In 40 countries, an online application process known as “Études en France” has been set up, the process must be used (where it is available) to apply for a student visa. It puts users in direct contact with educational institutions and French diplomatic posts, while also providing personal Web space and allowing users to track the progress of their admission applications and visa requests.

FOR A LIST OF ALL CAMPUS FRANCE LOCAL OFFICES:
www.campusfrance.org
Where to find Campus France close to your place?

NOTE
Campus France also has branch offices in France, namely in Bordeaux, Lyon, Marseille, Montpellier, Strasbourg, and Toulouse—that provide liaison with educational institutions and local governments in the region. They also assist international students with administrative and regulatory procedures, manage international student grants, help students obtain housing and health coverage, and monitor student progress.
**WEB**

- Campus France (information and support for students planning to study in France): www.campusfrance.org
- Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (requirements for entering France, addresses of France's embassies and consulates, Alliance Française locations, and scholarships for international students): www.diplomatie.gouv.fr
- National student life portal (housing, financial aids, health...) www.etudiant.gouv.fr
- ENIC-NARIC France (information center for academic and professional recognition of diplomas): www.ciep.fr/enic-naricfr
- ERASMUS+, European program www.erasmusplus.fr/
- Procedures for admission to the first year of university study for holders of the French baccalauréat: www.admission-postbac.fr
- Institut Français: www.institutfrancais.com

**PROGRAMS OF STUDY**

- **Engineering**
  - CDEFI, the conference of directors of engineering schools: www.cdefi.fr
  - CTI, the national commission on engineering degrees: www.cti-commission.fr
  - EUR-ACE label (European accreditation of engineering programs): www.enaae.eu
  - FESIC, a network of 27 schools of engineering and management: www.fesic.org
  - Figure, 24 universities www.reseau-figure.fr
  - GEIP-POLYTECH (entrance examination for 30 public schools of engineering): www.geipi-polytech.org
  - n+i network of engineering schools: www.nplusi.com
  - Réseau ParisTech, a consortium of Grandes Écoles specializing in science and technology: www.paristech.org
  - Réseau Polytech, a national network of university-based engineering polytechnics: www.polytech-reseau.org

- **Veterinary Schools**
  - École Nationale Vétérinaire de Toulouse: www.envt.fr
  - VetAgroSup Lyon: www.vetagro-sup.fr
Écoles Normales Supérieures
- ENS Lyon : [www.ens-lyon.eu](http://www.ens-lyon.eu)
- ENS Paris : [www.ens.fr](http://www.ens.fr)
- ENS Paris Saclay (ex Cachan) : [www.ens-paris-saclay.fr](http://www.ens-paris-saclay.fr)
- ENS Rennes : [www.ens-rennes.fr](http://www.ens-rennes.fr)

Conférence des Grandes Écoles : [www.cge.asso.fr](http://www.cge.asso.fr)

Accreditation and recognition of business schools and programs
- AACSB (institutions accredited by the U.S.-based Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business): [www.aacsb.edu/accreditation](http://www.aacsb.edu/accreditation)
- AMBA (programs accredited by the London-based Association of MBAs): [www.mbaworld.com](http://www.mbaworld.com)
- EQUIS (schools recognized by the European Foundation for Management Development): [www.efmd.org/equis](http://www.efmd.org/equis)


Programs in agriculture
- Agreenium - Institut agronomique vétérinaire & forestier de France: [www.agreenium.org](http://www.agreenium.org)
- Public institutions providing education in agriculture: [www.educagri.fr](http://www.educagri.fr)

Programs in architecture
- École Spéciale d’Architecture: [www.esa-paris.fr](http://www.esa-paris.fr)
- France’s 20 schools of architecture: [www.archi.fr/ECOLES](http://www.archi.fr/ECOLES)
- INSA de Strasbourg: [www.insa-strasbourg.fr](http://www.insa-strasbourg.fr)

Programs in art and culture
- CampusArt network (art schools): [www.campusart.org](http://www.campusart.org)
- Directory of schools of art: [www.andea.fr](http://www.andea.fr)

Distance education /e-learning
- CNED, national center for distance education: [www.cned.fr](http://www.cned.fr)
- Distance learning portal for 10 specialized schools offering 100 different programs: [www.formations-distance.com](http://www.formations-distance.com)
- FIED, interuniversity federation for distance education: [www.fied.fr](http://www.fied.fr)
- FORMASUP, a distance-education portal operated by the French Ministry of Higher Education and Research: [www.formasup.fr](http://www.formasup.fr)
- France Université Numérique: [www.france-universite-numerique.fr](http://www.france-universite-numerique.fr)
- FUN-MOOC : [www.fun-mooc.fr](http://www.fun-mooc.fr)
- ISPED, institute of public health, epidemiology, and development: [www.isped.u-bordeaux2.fr](http://www.isped.u-bordeaux2.fr)
- PLOTEUS, a portal on European study opportunities: [www.ec.europa.eu/ploeus](http://www.ec.europa.eu/ploeus)
- UNIT Université Numérique Engineering and Technology: [www.unit.eu/fr](http://www.unit.eu/fr)

Programs in fashion on the site of the French textile industries confederation: [www.textile.fr](http://www.textile.fr)

Programs in health
- Assistance publique – Hôpitaux de Paris (AP-HP) : [www.aphp.fr](http://www.aphp.fr)
- ANEFMF, national association of medical students in France: [www.anemf.org](http://www.anemf.org)
- CNCI, national center for medical residency competitions (medicine, pharmacy, dentistry): [www.cnci.univ-paris5.fr](http://www.cnci.univ-paris5.fr)
- College of medicine of the hospitals of Paris: [http://cmhp.fr](http://cmhp.fr)
- DFMAS/DFMS [http://med.unistra.fr/frm/Formation/3eme-cycle/DFMS-DFMSA](http://med.unistra.fr/frm/Formation/3eme-cycle/DFMS-DFMSA)
- École des Hautes Études et Santé Publique: [www.ehesp.fr](http://www.ehesp.fr)
- Francophone digital university of the health sciences and sport: [www.unf3s.org](http://www.unf3s.org)
- French national academy of medicine: [www.academie-medecine.fr](http://www.academie-medecine.fr)
- French national order of physicians: [www.conseil-national.medecin.fr](http://www.conseil-national.medecin.fr)
- Medical and independent paramedical community (students in medicine and paramedical fields): [www.remede.org](http://www.remede.org)
- Network of 32 university teaching hospitals (CHU): [www.reseau-chu.org](http://www.reseau-chu.org)

Programs in sports and athletics [www.sports.gouv.fr](http://www.sports.gouv.fr)

RESEARCH...
- ABG L’intelli’agence (career assistance for young doctorates): [www.intelliagence.fr](http://www.intelliagence.fr)
- Campus France portal : Research in France: [http://ecolesdoctorales.campusfrance.org/phd/dschools/main](http://ecolesdoctorales.campusfrance.org/phd/dschools/main)
...RESEARCH

- ANDès, the national association of doctors of science:  
  www.andes.asso.fr
- ANRT, the French national agency for research and technology:  
  www.anrt.asso.fr
- Bpifrance, public invest France:  
  www.bpifrance.fr
- CNRS, the French national center for scientific research:  
  www.cnrs.fr
- EURAXES (mobility of scholars and researchers in Europe):  
  http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess/
- Fondation KASTLER (support for foreign researchers in France):  
  www.fnak.fr

DEGREES IN FRENCH; TESTS OF FRENCH PROFICIENCY

- Campus France subject-area profiles:  
  www.campusfrance.org
  > Resources center > Educational and research programs > Degree descriptions
- CIEP (Centre international d’Études Pédagogiques - TCF - DALF – DELF):  
  www.ciep.fr
- CCIP (Paris chamber of commerce and industry), information on TEF and diplomas in French for business and the professions:  
  www.centredelanguefrancaise.paris/tests-diplomes/test-évaluation-francais-tef/
- Fondation Alliance Française (network of Alliances Françaises):  
  www.fondation-alliancefr.org
- Directory of centers in France for the study of French as a foreign language:  
  www.qualitefle.fr
- TCF training with TV5 Monde:  
  www.tv5monde.com/tcf

DISCOVERING FRANCE

- France’s official national Web site:  
  www.france.fr/en
- France’s overseas territories:  
  www.outre-mer.gouv.fr
- IGN, France’s national institute of geography:  
  www.geoportail.gouv.fr/acueil
- Invest in France – Business France:  
  http://en.businessfrance.fr/invest
- National library of France (online catalog access):  
  www.bnf.fr
- Tourism offices and local development boards:  
  www.tourisme.fr

PROMOTION OF THE FRENCH LANGUAGE

- Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie (AUF):  
  www.auf.org
- Latitude France, news about the global French network:  
  http://latitudefrance.diplomatie.gouv.fr
- International news, 24/7, in French, English, and Arabic:  
  www.france24.com
- Organisation internationale de la Francophonie (OIF):  
  www.francophonie.org
- Radio France Internationale:  
  www.rfi.fr
- Radio France, public radio:  
  www.radiofrance.fr
- TV5 Monde, international French-language channel in your country:  
  French Culture and language:  
  www.tv5monde.com
LIVING IN FRANCE

HOUSING

◆ Information
  • ACTION LOGEMENT - Eligibility criteria for Loca-Pass program: www.actionlogement.fr
  • ANIL - information on the right to housing in France and related contacts: www.anil.org
  • CAF - The French family assistance fund: www.caf.fr
  • CIDJ - Notices of lodgings offered by private parties: www.cidj.com
  • DROIT EN LIGNE - Laws and regulations pertaining to housing in France: www.droitenligne.com
  • INFOLOGEMENT - General information on student housing: www.infologement.org
  • LOKAVIZ, la plateforme de logements en ligne du réseau des Crus: www.lokaviz.fr
  • National student portal: www.etudiant.gouv.fr
  • UNCLL AJ - National union of local committees for independent youth housing, notices of vacancies at regional level: www.uncllaj.org

◆ Student housing networks and associations
  • Adele, Portail de l'Association pour le développement économique du logement étudiant www.adele.org
  • CEP ENTRAIDE ETUDIANTS - for students 18–26, lodging in Paris and the Paris region—€20 annual membership: www.logements-etudiants.org
  • UNME, national union of student residences: www.unme-asso.com

◆ Private student residences in Paris and the provinces
  • Antaeus: www.antaeus.fr
  • Cap'Etudes: www.cap-etudes.com
  • Fac'Habitat: www.fac-habitat.com
  • Groupe Résidence Études - Les Estudines: www.estudines.com
  • ICADE Résidences Services: www.icade-immobilier.com
  • Mgel logement: www.mgellogement.fr
  • Nexity Studéa: www.nexity-studea.com
  • Résidences OSE: www.leclubetudiant.com
  • Le Service Logement Étudiant: www.le-sle.com
  • Stud'City, only available in Clermont-Ferrand: www.studcity-clermont.com
  • Studelites: www.studelites.com

◆ The private sector
  • Student housing in the Île-de-France: www.lokaviz.fr
  • www.pap.fr
  • www.entreparticuliers.com
  • www.paruvendu.fr
  • www.petites-annonces.fr
  • www.seloger.com

◆ La colocation
  • www.appartager.com
  • www.colocation.fr
  • http://colocation.vivastreet.com/annonces-colocation
  • www.leboncoin.fr
  • www.pap.fr/annonce/colocation
  • www.okroommate.com
  • www.easycoloc.com
  • www.ma-coloc.fr

◆ Sublets
  • www.souslouer.com
  • Intergenerational and family housing options
  • Réseau COSI: www.reseau-cosi.com
  • Séjours France Familles (rooms in family homes): www.sejoursfrancefamille.fr

CULTURE

• Centre Pompidou: www.centre-pompidou.fr
• Cité de la Musique-Philharmonie de Paris: http://philharmoniedeparis.fr
• France's national museums: www.rmn.fr/francais/musees/
• French federation of international music festivals: www.francefestivals.com
• National monuments center: www.monuments-nationaux.fr/
  Trouver-un-monument
• Sciences, a science and technology portal (Cité des Sciences et de l'Industrie, Palais de la Découverte): www.universcience.fr
• The portal for images of works of art in France's museums: www.images-art.fr

WORKING IN FRANCE

• La Centrale du job étudiant: www.jobaviz.fr
• Centre d’Information et de Documentation Jeunesse (CIDJ): www.cidj.com
• L’Étudiant: http://jobs-stages.letudiant.fr/
• Official information on regulation of foreigners working in France: www.service-public.fr/
  Etranger - Europe > Etrangers en France

HEALTH INSURANCE

• Cité de la Santé—Universcience: www.universcience.fr/fr/cite-de-la-sante
• Emévia, an association of regional student health plans: www.emevia.com
• La Mutuelle des Étudiants: www.lmde.fr
• Smerep, student group-health plan: www.smerep.fr