Established in 1423, the University of Franche-Comté is one of France's oldest. It enrolls nowadays +24 000 students, out of which 20% are international students from all over the world. The main campus is based in Besançon, the capital of Franche-Comté.

**MAIN PROGRAMMES OF STUDY**

It is a multidisciplinary university composed by six UFR or academic faculties (social sciences, humanities, and linguistics: law, economics and political science, and management with the Institute of Business Administration (IAE): science and technology. Health: Sports science: industrial sciences, technology, and management, two institutes of technology (IUTs), a school of engineering (ISIFC) and a renowned center for applied linguistics which welcomes thousands of trainees each year, 1 Observatory of Space and 1 School of Education.

**RESEARCH**

Its recognized research units maintain close relationships with universities in Europe and throughout the world. They fall into the areas of environmental and health sciences, humanities and social sciences, engineering, and basic sciences. Labs, internationally renowned, for example, in mechanics and microtechnics have produced important discoveries and technical advances. All of the research teams in the various Research areas rely on several COMUE UBFC’s doctoral schools.

* COMUE UBFC : Comunity of Burgundy-Franche-Comté Higher Education Institutions

**STRENGTHS**

The University of Franche-Comté is one of the first French Higher Education institutions to have been awarded the label “Welcome in France” (July 2019). This new label recognizes the University’s quality’s involvement and actions in favor of welcoming international students. Moreover, about 100 bilateral agreements and 200 Erasmus+ interinstitutional agreements provide for exchanges of students and academic & administrative staff with partner institutions on five continents.

Moreover, Besançon annually welcomes thousands of international students and trainees who come to learn French at the university’s world-renowned Center for Applied Linguistics. In addition, being a founding member of the COMUE UBFC, UFC provides several international masters of excellence taught in English, including in Engineering and environmental Sciences.

**LOCATION**

Besançon was founded two thousand years ago in a bend in the Doubs river. It remains a beautiful city of well-preserved limestone houses. Although it is the economic center of the Département du Doubs, which is the most industrialized in France (home of Automobiles Peugeot, ALSTOM, and other companies), Besançon is France's 'greenest' city, lying in the heart of a region of beautiful landscapes. Its citadel, part of the 'Réseau Vauban' is on the UNESCO's World Heritage List. Being 2 hours away from Geneva, 2h30 from Zurich, Paris, Lyon and Strasbourg, and 4h from Francfort, as well as near the Basel/Mulhouse international airport, its location is ideal. The city boasts a rich athletic and cultural calendar, every September Besançon hosts a world renowned festival of classical music. The ski resorts of the Jura mountains are within easy reach of the city. The region is justly famous for its outdoors sports, for instance all-terrain biking and fly fishing.

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