



The international mobility of African students

This Campus France note presents a global statistical analysis of the international mobility of African students, and particularly their mobility to France.

Key points

With **373,000 students in international mobility resulting in a diploma** (2013)¹, down slightly since 2010, Africa represents **more than one mobile student out of ten world-wide**, and a percentage of mobility that is twice as high as the world average (1st part).

However, such mobility of a dynamic continent conceals **large disparities** between the 53 countries concerned, both on the scale of student flows and the many different reasons for mobility. Mobility ranges from a simple short language stay to a complete study programme. It can be **actively desired** as part of a search for skills or life experience or **passively undergone** due to lack of availability in the country of origin or as a result of tensions in the country no longer allowing the pursuance of studies in good conditions.

Roughly 21% of African mobile students come from **North Africa** (Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia) and, if we add to these **Nigeria, Cameroon, Zimbabwe and Kenya**, these seven countries account for half of **the mobility of this continent**.

54% of African mobile students come from countries where French is used, as opposed to 45% where English is used. The native language plays a major role in the choice of destination and **the proportion of French-speaking students attracted by French-speaking countries is equal to the proportion of English-speaking students attracted by English-speaking countries** (two out of three students).

In the second part of this Note, a detailed analysis of study destinations highlights a rapid movement of diversification. While Europe remains on top (49%), it is losing ground mainly in favour of intra-continental mobility (20%), in particular to South Africa, Ghana, Tunisia and Morocco. The Middle East has recently stepped up its attractiveness considerably by developing its specific offer of scholarships to Islamic universities.

This Note ends with a focus on France. African students alone account here for 43% of students hosted for study mobility purposes, half of whom comes from North Africa, with **a progression in numbers that is now slower than for the other continents of origin.**

While African students attend universities (78%) even more than other international students, increasingly more of them are enrolling in engineering schools (5.4%), management schools (4.9%) or other schools (specialised, art schools, preparatory classes for French grandes écoles, etc.). The choice varies widely according to students' nationality.

In this increasingly diversified context, with **133,898 African students enrolled in its higher education institutions in 2015²**, **France benefits from the dynamic impetus of the continent and largely remains the preferred destination of these students:** France is three times more popular than the three other main destinations (South Africa, the UK and the USA). However, while France continues to host each year a slightly larger number of students, we cannot but notice that **an increasing proportion is turning towards other destinations.**

A recent survey conducted by Campus France on African students concluded as to the **continued attractiveness of France** just as to the recognised quality of its teaching, despite a perceived difficulty of studying there and the regret of being unable to complete academic education by a first professional experience. An experience that would be limited in time as the vast majority consider they have at least as many prospects of professional success in their own country.

The stay in itself continues to be greatly appreciated, over and beyond the initial expectations, albeit great, and makes the students themselves the best prescribers and ambassadors of France as a destination.

1- Source: UNESCO 2016 for the year 2013

2- Source: MENESR / RERS 2016

I. MAIN FIGURES OF AFRICAN MOBILITY FOR STUDY PURPOSES

► Global data

For 2013, UNESCO evaluated at 373,303 the number of African students in international mobility as part of studies resulting in a diploma. This figure accounts for approximately **10.5% of international student mobility**³. The number of these students has dropped by 10% since 2011 (412,516 students), whereas international mobility has increased by 2.6%. As a result, the weight of the African continent in international mobility is gradually being eroded (10.6% in 2011 compared to 13.7% in 2003).

Despite this decline, with a percentage of mobility of 3.5%, sub-Saharan Africa continues to show **a percentage that is twice as high as the world average**.

These mobility statistics are due to very different reasons. Study mobility may be the result of a genuine **desire** of some students to open up their world, while for others it is above all a **necessity** when the aim of such studies is to offer the possibility of work overseas due to the lack of employment prospects in the country of origin, or yet again for others a **constraint** due to absence in the country of study solutions adapted to their needs. In extreme cases (Somalia, Eritrea, Rwanda), such overseas studies may represent a solution when faced with a serious economic or food crisis, an armed conflict or a civil war, in order to pursue education. These context-related events, which may abruptly occur, **account for the large variations in mobility recorded in certain countries** (Table 4).

Last but not least, development of a teaching offer in a desired religious context leads to an increase in the mobility of some African countries to the Middle East or to Malaysia.

► African countries that feed continental mobility

Out of 354,995 African mobile students, **76,183 (21%) come from North Africa and 278,812 from the remainder of sub-Saharan Africa**⁴.

Out of the 51 African countries, 7 countries group more than half of mobile students world-wide: Nigeria, Morocco, Algeria, Cameroon, Zimbabwe, Tunisia and Kenya.

Nigeria, with its large population, has now largely overtaken Morocco to assume first place for student mobility in Africa. Its students in mobility have increased by 45% in three years to reach 52,066 in 2013, i.e. one mobile student out of six. A trend that is consolidated yearly.

Morocco, with a figure of 38,599 students in 2013, has been unable to hold on to its leadership due to the steady decline in the number of its mobile students (-6% over three years and -8% this last year).

Algeria comes third with 20,695 students in mobility resulting in a diploma, thanks to an increase between 2009 and 2012 (+10%). However, 2013 showed a marked decline (-14%).

Cameroon increased slowly between 2009 and 2012 to reach 20,801 students, only to drop to 19,491 in 2013 (-6%). However, it continues to outperform **Tunisia** that still has no more than 16,889 students in 2013 (-2% in one year and -12% in three years).

The number of students from **Zimbabwe** dropped considerably with 15,227 mobile students in 2012 compared to 19,965 in 2009 (-24%), thus moving from 4th to 6th position in African mobility. The trend is slightly growing again with 15,885 mobile students in 2013.

During the last three years known (2010 to 2013), **Nigeria, the Congo, Rwanda and Somalia have increased spectacularly**. In growth percentage, the most noteworthy increases were recorded in Somalia, Rwanda, Eritrea and Chad following years of major instability (page 3, Table 4).

Conversely and for varying reasons, the number of mobile students has dropped markedly in Zimbabwe, Namibia, Botswana and North Africa.

► Tab. 2: The top 12 countries welcoming African mobile students in 2013

	Number	% of African mobile students
France	92,205	26.5%
South Africa	33,053	9.5%
United Kingdom	32,454	9.3%
United States	32,212	9.3%
Germany	13,915	4.0%
Saudi Arabia	12,728	3.7%
Canada	11,640	3.4%
Malaysia	11,270	3.2%
Ghana	10,009	2.9%
Italy	8,964	2.6%
Australia	6,976	2.0%
Morocco	6,958	2.0%

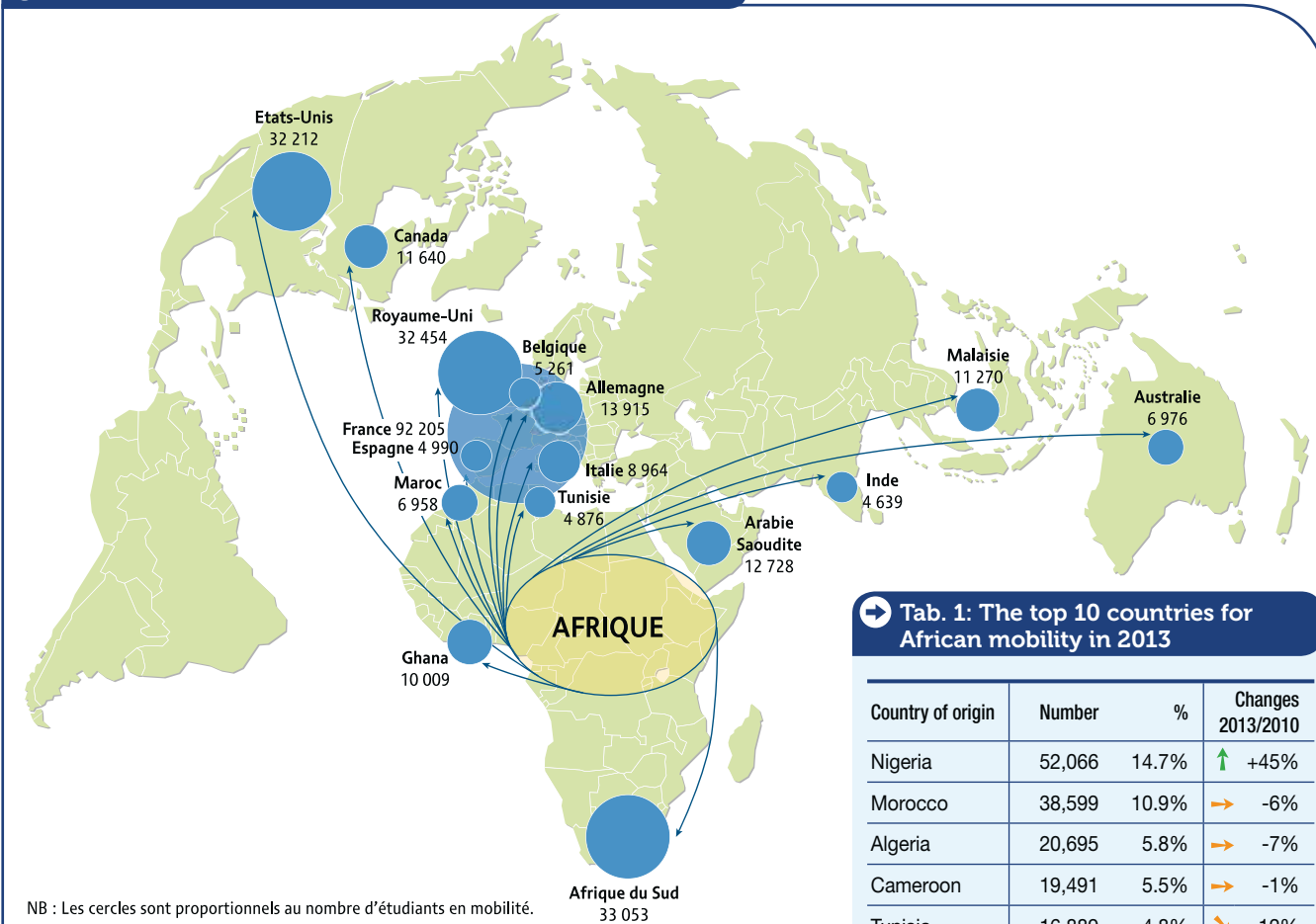
Sub-total per geographic area		
	Number	% of African mobile students
Europe EU-28	170,432	49.1%
Africa	69,226	19.9%
North America	43,852	12.6%
Middle East	22,179	6.4%
Asia	18,527	5.3%
Europe	9,224	2.7%
Oceania	7,386	2.1%
South and Central America	6,496	1.9%
Total destinations identified (*)	347,322	100.00%

Source: UNESCO (extraction May 2016)

(*) According to African countries, the total number of mobile students reached 373,303 in 2013. However, their destination is only known for 347,322 of them.

3- Source UNESCO. UNESCO only measures mobility resulting in a diploma, thus excluding a large number of students on short exchange stays, language stays, etc.
4- This Note is based on these identified populations to analyse the choice of their destinations.

Destinations of African mobile students world-wide in 2013



Tab. 1: The top 10 countries for African mobility in 2013

Country of origin	Number	%	Changes 2013/2010
Nigeria	52,066	14.7%	↑ +45%
Morocco	38,599	10.9%	→ -6%
Algeria	20,695	5.8%	→ -7%
Cameroon	19,491	5.5%	→ -1%
Tunisia	16,889	4.8%	→ -12%
Zimbabwe	15,885	4.5%	↓ -35%
Kenya	12,132	3.4%	→ -1%
Senegal	11,280	3.2%	→ -5%
Ghana	8,850	2.5%	↗ +15%
Congo	8,068	2.3%	↑ +45%
Total for Africa	373,303		→ -5%

Source: UNESCO (extraction Sept. 2016)

Tab. 3: General changes for African mobility, including North Africa

	N. Africa	AFRICA (global)
2013	76,183	373,303
2012	87,103	385,433
2011	86,868	412,516
2010	85,458	392,062
2009	83,755	374,621
2008	81,641	355,665
2007	80,747	344,048
2006	85,506	334,598
2005	85,827	326,433
2004	88,498	320,317
2003	91,994	321,620
Change	-11.2%	+16%

Tab. 4: African mobility: the most significant changes for 2010/2013

Top 10 countries with increased mobility/3 years (2010/2013)		Top 10 countries with decreased mobility/3 years (2010/2013)	
In number	As a %	In number	As a %
Nigeria +16,161	Somalia 102%	Zimbabwe -8,459	Namibia -52%
Congo +2,519	Rwanda 90%	Namibia -3,857	Botswana -43%
Rwanda +2,437	Eritrea 87%	Botswana -3,269	Sudan -40%
Somalia +2,071	Burundi 77%	Morocco -2,602	Zimbabwe -35%
Mali +1,853	Chad 56%	Tunisia -2,356	Lesotho -33%
DR of Congo +1,705	Gambia 54%	Algeria -1,518	Swaziland -31%
Uganda +1,568	Uganda 50%	Lesotho -1,417	Tunisia -12%
Cape Verde +1,495	Mali 48%	Swaziland -1,220	Mauritius -12%
Chad +1,429	Cape Verde 48%	Sudan -948	Central African Republic -10%
Ghana +1,184	Congo 45%	Mauritius -808	Mozambique -8%

Source: UNESCO raw data May 2016 Consolidation & formatting by Campus France

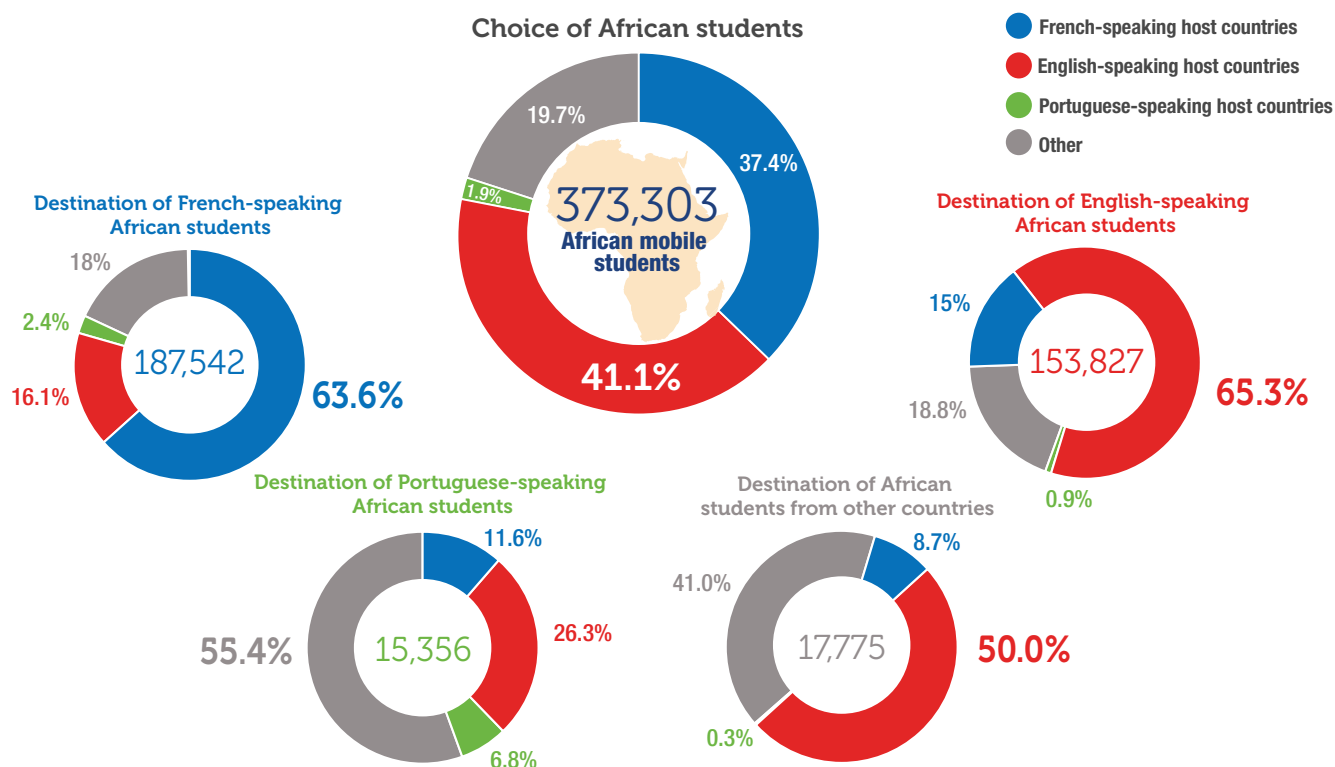
► The language factor

54% of African mobile students come from French-speaking countries (192,829), 45% from English-speaking countries (166,669) and 4% from Portuguese-speaking countries (15,393)⁵. The number of French-speaking African mobile students has risen by 5% in 3 years, while that of Portuguese-speaking students has risen by 13%. The number of African mobile students from English-speaking countries remained stable over this period.

Table 5 shows that **French-speaking and English-speaking countries have comparable attractiveness** and interest roughly two thirds of African students who master one or the other language, while 16% of French-speaking students go to English-speaking countries and 15% of English-speaking students go to French-speaking countries. Portuguese-speaking countries attract only 7% of their students (mainly Portugal and Brazil), half of which go to countries that are neither French- nor English-speaking.

► Tab. 5: Impact of language on African mobility

Linguistic zones of destination according to the language of the African country of origin



Base : données brutes UNESCO

The 373,303 African mobile students are **slightly more attracted by English-speaking countries (41.1%)** than by **French-speaking countries (37.4%)** and only rarely by Portuguese-speaking countries (1.9%).

Apart from these linguistic worlds, the other host countries (19.7%) are mainly: Germany (4%), Saudi Arabia (3.7%) and Italy (2.6%).

63.6% of the 187,542 nationals from French-speaking African countries choose a French-speaking host country, and 48.3% choose France. Thus, 98% of African students arriving in France come from countries where French is one of the languages spoken by the population⁶.

16% go to English-speaking countries (mainly South Africa, the UK or the USA).

65.3% of the 153,827 nationals from English-speaking African countries go to other English-speaking countries (half of them choose South Africa, the UK or the USA), while 15% choose a French-speaking country (6,807 in France).

II. PRIVILEGED DESTINATIONS OF AFRICAN MOBILE STUDENTS

► Inter-continental mobility

Although the mobility of African students remains concentrated on a few major countries, **a rapid movement of diversification** of destinations chosen is underway. In 2013, three countries alone attracted 45% of these students (France, the UK, South Africa) but way down compared to the previous year (54%). Two-thirds of mobile students are concentrated in 7 countries, and three-quarters in 10 destinations (compared to 5 and 7 destinations in 2012).

At a broader migration zone level, **although still leader, the European Community shows a drop in the proportion of students received, down from 57.4% to 49.1%**, i.e. 22,000 fewer students between 2012 and 2013 (-11%).

5- Total greater than 100% as some countries are multi-lingual.

6- Including the North African countries.

North America (12.6%) is stabilised.

The Middle East benefits from this new breakdown. Its growth is spectacular (+85% in just one year). With 22,179 African students hosted⁷, Middle East significantly outperforms **Asia** that is progressing more slowly (18,527 African students, i.e. +6.6% in one year).

► Intra-continental mobility

Intra-continental mobility is the first to benefit from the decline of mobility in Europe. The African continent continues to soar (19.9% compared to 14.7%) and will no doubt consolidate durably its recent second position.

A large percentage of mobile students from some countries remains on the continent: Lesotho (93%), Swaziland (89%), Namibia (83%), Zimbabwe (74%), the Democratic Republic of Congo (57%). Conversely, in other countries, almost all of their mobile students have changed continent. This is particularly the case in North Africa (99% of Moroccans and Algerians, 98% of Tunisians), Somalia (98%), Sudan (96%), Ethiopia, South Africa and Eritrea (95%).

The African countries benefiting most from this intra-continental mobility are **South Africa (48%), Ghana (14%), Morocco (10%) and Tunisia (7%)**.

While China does not publish the figures for the African students it receives, it does all it can to attract them. It has set up Confucius Institutes in five African countries to develop the teaching of Mandarin, thus encouraging students to study in China.

► France retains its first place despite signs of slowing down

While France remains the clear favourite of the destinations chosen by African students (according to UNESCO), 92,205 students enrolled in France in 2013 compared to 113,936 in 2012 (-19%).

These figures show that apparently France now only attracts 26% of African students, compared to 34% just one year before. However, recent changes to the census method, in particular for students who, although not French, live in France, probably mainly account for this sudden drop.

This is confirmed by the statistics of MENESR (French ministry of education, higher education and research), grouping all overseas enrolments in higher education establishments (including those not resulting in a diploma), which **registers a stabilisation of the population of African students choosing France at around 130,000 between 2011 and 2015**, thus automatically reducing the percentage of African students out of the overseas students welcomed in France (42.5% in 2015 compared to 44.3% in 2010).

Lagging far behind France, three countries remain shoulder to shoulder, each welcoming roughly 33,000 African students: South Africa, the UK, the USA. The recent breakthrough of South Africa has been confirmed, all the more pronounced as the country mainly and increasingly receives students from the continent (80%) and very often from bordering countries. Conversely, for the United Kingdom and the United States, Africans account for only a tiny percentage of their students (7.8% and 4.3%).

Behind **Germany** slightly up (13,915), **Saudi Arabia** takes 6th place in the countries receiving African students, i.e. 12,728. This represents a spectacular leap of 73% in just one year.

These countries are followed by Canada up sharply (11,640) and **Malaysia** (11,270).

Note that Malaysia has recorded a sharp drop in the number of mobile students enrolled between 2012 and 2013 (56,203 compared to 40,471). The number of African students has also decreased, dropping from 11,270 to 8,811, i.e. slightly more than one student out of five whose origin is known.

These changes all call for the need for regular updating of African mobility statistics.

III. AFRICAN STUDY MOBILITY TO FRANCE

► A constant increase in volume but a proportional decrease

The following graph highlights a reversal of the change in African mobility in 2011 and a steady drop in the number of African mobile students choosing France. This percentage peaked at 34.6% in 2004 before dropping to 25.1% in 2013 despite a substantial leap in 2012 (29.9%). As UNESCO changed its census method in 2013⁸, we need to wait for 2014 data, to be published in late 2016, to determine whether or not France continues to be attractive for this public.

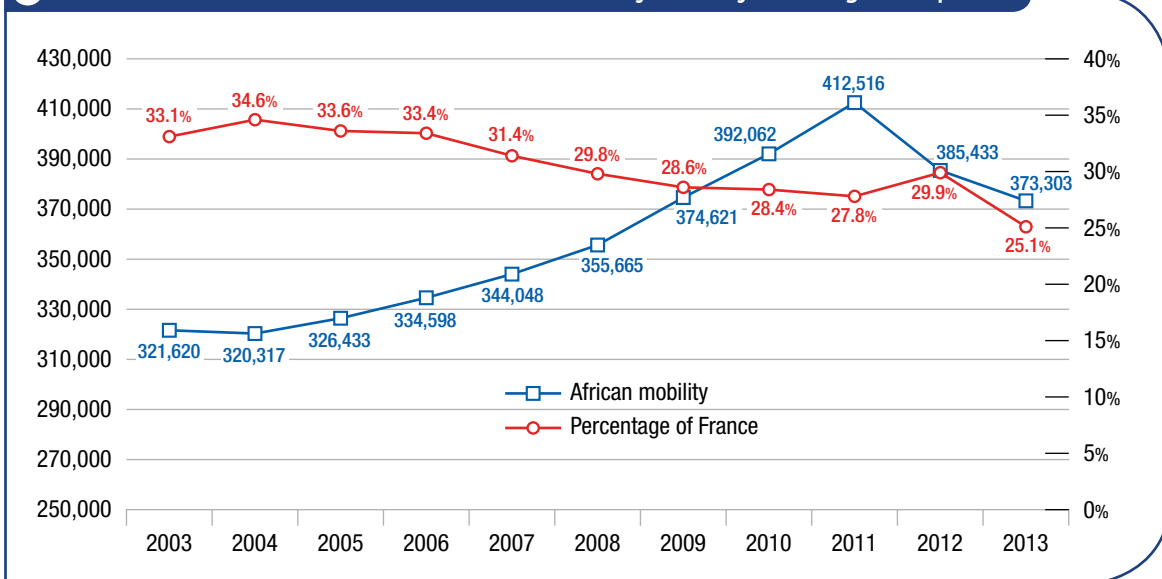
The enrolments in French higher education institutions, identified by the MENESR and processed by the DGESIP (general division for higher education and professional education) allow a highly accurate insight into African mobility to France. However, it should be pointed out that this census is not complete either as it does not include certain types of short stays (French as a Foreign Language (FLE), exchange programmes for a few months, etc.) and excludes students enrolled in institutions not issuing diplomas and institutions not recognised by the French Ministry of Education.

Despite these limits, the census carried out each year in French institutions makes it possible to measure the variations in African mobility to France.

7- Mainly from Nigeria, Somalia, Algeria and the Comoros.

8- Prior to 2013, all African nationals in France were counted as part of the mobility total in France. Since 2013, it is the change in country between secondary and higher education that determines international mobility. A large number of African nationals living in France is thus longer included in the figures for mobility to France.

Variation in the number of African students in study mobility resulting in a diploma



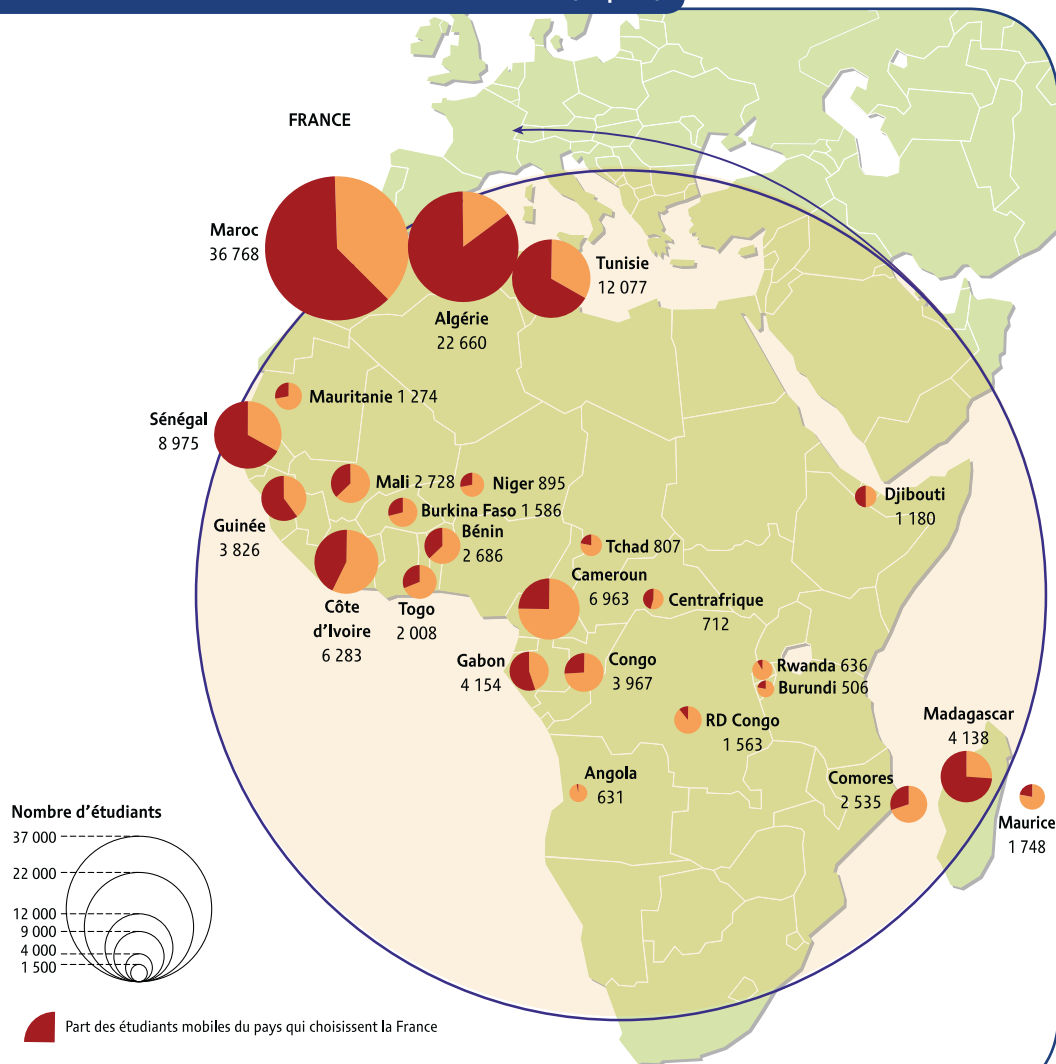
Source: UNESCO 2016

Mobility of African countries to France (Top 20)

Country of origin	2010-2011	2014-2015	2015-2016					Changes	
	Number ²	Number ²	Number ²	Rank in Africa	% of African mobility to France ¹	Rank in world	% of overseas students in France ²	Over 1 year ²	Over 5 years ²
MOROCCO	32,020	35,199	36,768	1	27.5%	1	11.87%	4.5%	14.8%
ALGERIA	22,818	21,279	22,660	2	16.9%	3	7.32%	6.5%	-0.7%
TUNISIA	13,645	11,573	12,077	3	9.0%	4	3.90%	4.4%	-11.5%
NORTH AFRICA	68,483	68,051	71,505		53.4%		23.23%	5.1%	4.4%
SENEGAL	9,842	8,800	8,975	4	6.7%	6	2.90%	2.0%	-8.8%
CAMEROON	7,355	6,978	6,963	5	5.2%	8	2.25%	-0.2%	-5.3%
IVORY COAST	4,200	5,532	6,283	6	4.7%	10	2.03%	13.6%	49.6%
GABON	4,517	3,943	4,154	7	3.1%	19	1.34%	5.4%	-8.0%
MADAGASCAR	3,985	4,113	4,138	8	3.1%	20	1.34%	0.6%	3.8%
CONGO	3,201	3,565	3,967	9	3.0%	22	1.28%	11.3%	23.9%
GUINEA	4,117	3,591	3,826	10	2.9%	23	1.24%	6.5%	-7.1%
MALI	2,282	2,665	2,728	11	2.0%	29	0.88%	2.4%	19.5%
BENIN	2,111	2,388	2,686	12	2.0%	31	0.87%	12.5%	27.2%
COMOROS	1,749	2,307	2,535	13	1.9%	32	0.82%	9.9%	44.9%
TOGO	1,527	1,755	2,008	14	1.5%	39	0.65%	14.4%	31.5%
MAURITIUS	1,670	1,609	1,748	15	1.3%	41	0.56%	8.6%	4.7%
BURKINA FASO	1,360	1,514	1,586	16	1.2%	45	0.51%	4.8%	16.6%
CONGO (DR)	899	1,301	1,563	17	1.2%	46	0.50%	20.1%	73.9%
MAURITANIA	1,505	1,383	1,274	18	1.0%	50	0.41%	-7.9%	-15.3%
DJIBOUTI	1,028	1,170	1,180	19	0.9%	51	0.38%	0.9%	14.8%
NIGER	796	861	895	20	0.7%	58	0.29%	3.9%	12.4%
SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA	57,006	58,917	62,388		46.6%		20.01%	5.9%	9.4%
AFRICA ZONE	125,489	126,968	133,893		100.0%		43.24%	5.5%	6.7%
TOTAL WORLD	284,945	298,902	309,642				100%	3.6%	8.7%

Sources: 1- UNESCO / 2- MENESR

Students from the African continent hosted in France (Top 25)



Sources : MENESR-DGESIP-DGRI-SIES (effectifs) / UNESCO (proportions)

France's percentage in the mobility of African countries (2015-2016)

Country of origin	Number	% of mobile students choosing France
ALGERIA	22,660	85%
MADAGASCAR	4,138	74%
SENEGAL	8,975	67%
MOROCCO	36,768	62%
GUINEA	3,826	60%
TUNISIA	12,077	57%
GABON	4,154	55%
DJIBOUTI	1,180	50%
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC	712	46%
IVORY COAST	6,283	43%
BENIN	2,686	39%
MALI	2,728	37%
TOGO	2,008	31%
BURKINA FASO	1,586	31%
COMOROS	2,535	30%
MAURITANIA	1,274	29%
NIGER	895	28%
CONGO	3,967	26%
CAMEROON	6,963	25%
MAURITIUS	1,748	22%

Country of origin	Number	% of mobile students choosing France
CHAD	807	19%
BURUNDI	506	19%
CONGO (DR)	1,563	11%
RWANDA	636	9%
LIBYA	440	5%
ANGOLA	631	3%
ETHIOPIA	253	3%
GHANA	262	2%
CAPE VERDE	210	2%
SOUTH AFRICA	181	1%
KENYA	142	1%
NIGERIA	419	ns
Sub-total NORTH AFRICA	71,945	67%
Sub-total SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA	61,948	16%
AFRICAN CONTINENT	133,893	27%

Sources : MENESR-DGESIP-DGRI-SIES

First observation: **Africa remains very clearly the first continent for student mobility to France with 43.2%** of overseas students at the start of the 2015 academic year, even if this percentage has dropped slightly over the last five years (44% in 2010). Note that 6 African countries are among the 10 main countries of origin of overseas students in France.

Second observation: **53% of African students hosted in France are from North Africa, a percentage that is stable vs. sub-Saharan African students.**

Third observation: apart from Algeria and Tunisia in which the number of mobile students had dropped during the “Arab spring”, **almost all of the main countries increased their numbers** during the period studied except for Mauritania which has markedly decreased, Cameroon that has appeared to stabilise after a period of decline, and Senegal once again on an upward trend in 2015.

► Types of education programmes chosen by African students

African students massively attend universities (78% compared to 73%), probably attracted by the considerably lower cost of studying in universities. Universities

hosted in all **104,180 African students at the start of the 2015-2016 academic year.**

Compared to the start of the 2010 academic year, the number of African students attending university has very slightly increased: +3.2% (100,983). Bearing in mind that, at the same time, the number of African students hosted in France has risen in five years from 125,489 to 133,893 (+6.7%), we can conclude as to **a downturn in choice of university studies** for this population in favour of higher education schools.

12% (15,828) have opted for a wide diversity of higher education programmes and, in particular, preparatory classes to French grandes écoles, professional schools, art schools, etc..

Note that 5.4% choose to enrol in engineering schools (i.e. 7,244 students) and **4.9% in management schools** (i.e. 6,514 students).

In total, African students account for 6.3% of students enrolled in universities in France, 4.7% of whom in management schools and 5.1% in engineering schools.

➡ Types of education establishments according to students' nationality (2015-2016 academic year)

Country of which the student is a nationality	Universities	Management/ business schools	Engineering schools	Other schools (CPGE, art, specialised, etc.)	Total
SOUTH AFRICA	57.5%	14.4%	ns	27.1%	181
ALGERIA	89.0%	1.8%	1.0%	8.3%	22,660
ANGOLA	78.9%	2.2%	2.1%	16.8%	631
BENIN	79.7%	3.0%	6.4%	10.8%	2,686
BURKINA FASO	79.4%	4.8%	4.0%	11.7%	1,586
BURUNDI	86.6%	1.0%	1.6%	10.9%	506
CAMEROON	69.7%	7.5%	8.5%	14.3%	6,963
CAPE VERDE	75.2%	ns	ns	22.9%	210
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC	81.3%	3.2%	0.7%	14.7%	712
COMOROS	86.1%	0.3%	0.4%	13.3%	2,535
CONGO	76.5%	2.9%	2.0%	18.6%	3,967
CONGO (DR)	75.8%	1.7%	1.0%	21.6%	1,563
IVORY COAST	78.3%	8.1%	1.9%	11.7%	6,283
DJIBOUTI	92.3%	1.6%	1.9%	4.2%	1,180
ETHIOPIA	82.2%	ns	3.6%	13.4%	253
GABON	79.5%	5.8%	4.2%	10.5%	4,154
GHANA	80.9%	4.6%	ns	13.7%	262
GUINEA	90.9%	1.4%	0.6%	7.2%	3,826
KENYA	65.5%	9.2%	ns	23.9%	142
LIBYA	90.7%	1.6%	ns	7.3%	440
MADAGASCAR	80.8%	2.8%	2.3%	14.0%	4,138
MALI	87.0%	2.3%	2.2%	8.5%	2,728
MOROCCO	68.1%	8.4%	10.7%	12.7%	36,768
MAURITIUS	82.7%	3.5%	2.2%	11.6%	1,748
MAURITANIA	86.5%	2.1%	4.0%	7.4%	1,274
NIGER	85.1%	3.8%	2.6%	8.5%	895
NIGERIA	66.6%	13.8%	ns	19.1%	419
RWANDA	82.2%	0.9%	1.7%	15.1%	636
SENEGAL	80.4%	4.4%	5.8%	9.4%	8,975
CHAD	79.8%	3.3%	2.0%	14.9%	807
TOGO	80.4%	4.1%	2.9%	12.5%	2,008
TUNISIA	74.3%	3.5%	7.2%	15.1%	12,077
TOTAL	77.8%	4.9%	5.4%	11.9%	133,213

Sources : MENESR-DGESIP-DGRI-SIES 2016

However, considerable differences must be highlighted as regards the types of institutions attended according to nationality.

Some nationalities massively prefer to attend **universities**: Djibouti nationals (92.3%), Libyans (90.7%), Guineans (90.9%) and Algerians (89%). 14% of students from the Democratic Republic of Congo choose Science & Technology education programmes, just like 11% of Comorians, whereas the average percentage in African countries is 4.5%.

Engineering schools attract a higher proportion of students from Morocco (10.7%), Cameroon (8.5%) and Tunisia (7.2%), while, on the other hand, Comorians, Congolese and Algerians rarely attend such schools.

Management/business schools attract considerably more students from South Africa (14.4%), Nigeria, (13.8%) and Kenya (9.2%), three Anglo-Saxon countries whose students are possibly influenced by the pioneering efforts made by

such schools to develop courses in English as well as exchanges between students.

► African students at university

At the start of the 2015-2016 academic year, 104,180 African students enrolled in university, half of whom were from North Africa (53,063). Moroccans (25,055), Algerians (20,161) and Tunisians (8,976) ranked first, second and third, outperforming the Senegalese (7,216).

Nearly every other African student is enrolled for a Master (48.3% = 50,270) compared to 44.1% for a Licence's Degree (45,931) and 7.7% for a PhD (7,997). In the space of five years, the number of these students has risen twice as quickly for Degrees (+7.4%) than for Masters (3.6%). Conversely, **the number of PhD students (7,997 = 7.7%) has dropped markedly** (-17.6%, i.e. 1,713 fewer students).

◀ African students at university

Number				
2015-2016	Curriculum			Total enrolled in university
Branch	Degree	Master	PhD	
Languages, Literature, Humanities	10,243	8,868	2,211	21,322
Sciences, STAPS	16,128	18,120	3,391	37,639
Economics, AES	11,835	11,296	905	24,036
Law, Political Sciences	5,557	5,337	1,378	12,272
Medicine, Pharm., Dental	2,150	6,649	112	8,911
Grand total	45,913	50,270	7,997	104,180

Breakdown by Curriculum / Branch

Branch	Degree	Master	PhD	Global
Languages, Literature, Humanities	22.3%	17.6%	27.6%	20.5%
Sciences, STAPS	35.1%	36.0%	42.4%	36.1%
Economics, AES	25.8%	22.5%	11.3%	23.1%
Law, Political Sciences	12.1%	10.6%	17.2%	11.8%
Medicine, Pharm., Dental	4.7%	13.2%	1.4%	8.6%
Grand total	100%	100%	100%	100%

Breakdown by Branch / Curriculum

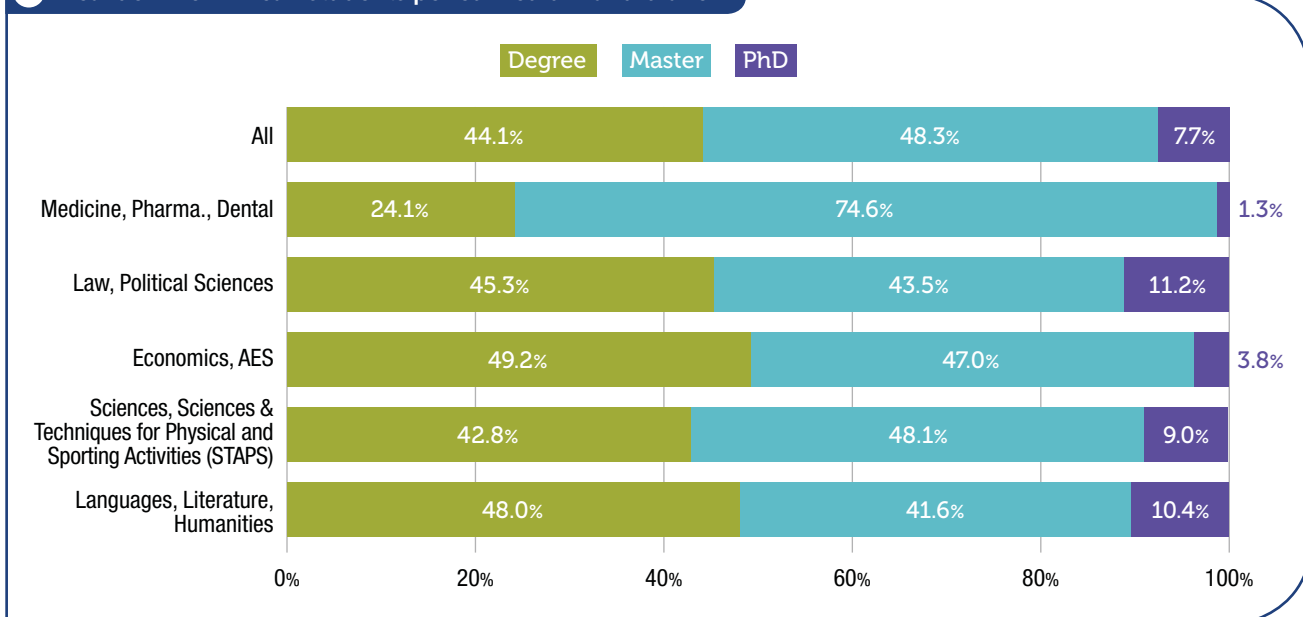
Branch	Degree	Master	PhD	Global
Languages, Literature, Humanities	48.0%	41.6%	10.4%	100%
Sciences, STAPS	42.8%	48.1%	9.0%	100%
Economics, AES	49.2%	47.0%	3.8%	100%
Law, Political Sciences	45.3%	43.5%	11.2%	100%
Medicine, Pharm., Dental	24.1%	74.6%	1.3%	100%
Grand total	44.1%	48.3%	7.7%	100%

Changes in numbers over 5 years (2015-2016 / 2010-2011)

2015-2016	Curriculum			Total enrolled in university
Branch	Degree	Master	PhD	
Languages, Literature, Humanities	11.7%	22.6%	-22.9%	10.6%
Sciences, STAPS	8.0%	18.0%	-9.1%	10.6%
Economics, AES	-1.0%	-7.1%	-33.2%	-5.6%
Law, Political Sciences	16.6%	16.7%	-14.6%	12.0%
Medicine, Pharm., Dental	11.5%	-27.8%	-21.1%	-21.0%
Grand total	7.4%	3.6%	-17.6%	3.2%

Sources: MENESR-DGESIP-DGRI-SIES / SISE Information System

Breakdown of African students per curriculum and branch

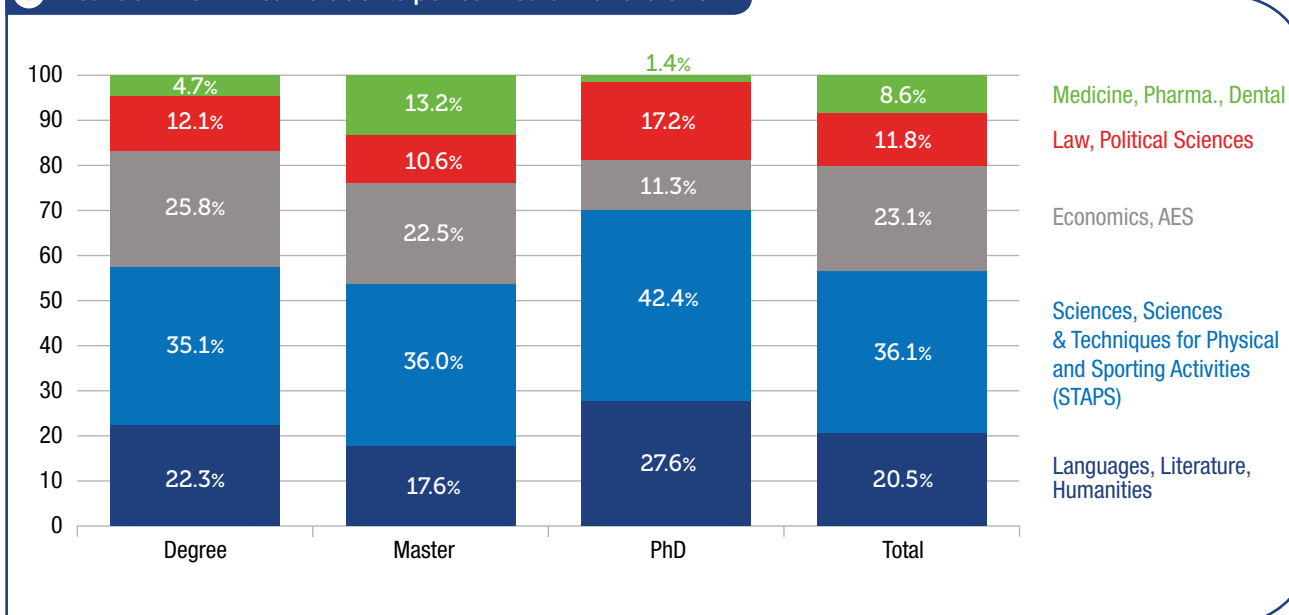


Concerning the branches chosen:

- ➔ **The Sciences- Sciences & Techniques for Physical and Sporting Activities (STAPS) sector** alone attracts 37,639 African students (36.1%), a number that has increased by 10.6% over 5 years.
- ➔ 23% (24,036) have chosen the **Economics- Economic and social administration (AES)-Management** branch, i.e. a number that has dropped in the space of 5 years (-5.6%), particularly for PhD students whose number has dropped by a third.
- ➔ **The Languages, Literature, Humanities** branch groups 21,322 African students (20.5%), up by 10.6% since 2010, particular for Masters (+22.6%), despite a marked drop in PhD students (-22.9%).

- ➔ 12,272 African students enrolled in **Law-Political Sciences** (11.8%), i.e. the largest number since 2010 (+12%), as many for Masters as for Degrees, but not for PhDs (-14.6%).
- ➔ 8.6% chose the **Medical branch** (8,911), which has lost one fifth of its students in the space of five years (-21%): only the number of students enrolled for Licence's Degrees has increased.

Breakdown of African students per curriculum and branch



► Perception of African students in France

Campus France questioned some 1,800 African scholarship holders⁹, two-thirds of whom are currently studying in France and a third of whom have already completed their studies.

Out of the students currently following an education programme, many hesitate as to their future career. Only 54% have a fairly precise idea of what they want to do, even if 34% already have a few ideas. On completion of their period of study in France, 40% contemplate looking for work and 17% for an internship, while the others continue their studies or remain undecided.

One thing is quite clear however: **for a very large majority, studying overseas does not mean leaving their country of origin definitively to pursue a career.**

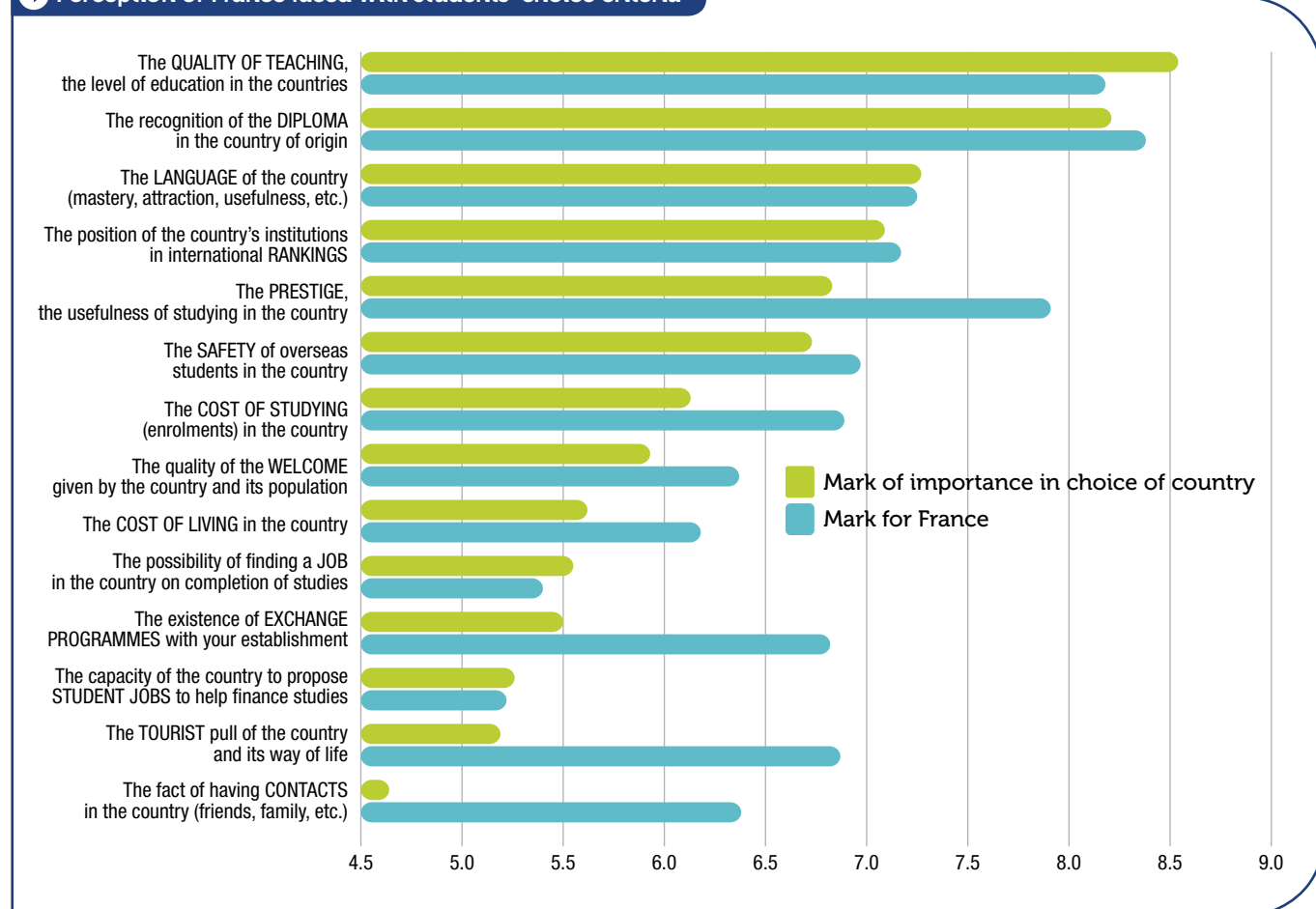
Only 22% plan to work overseas, whereas 17% are firmly opposed to this. Six students out of ten are thus open to an international option but only if they are offered a genuinely good opportunity. **On a professional level, 63% consider their chances of success to be just as good in their own country as overseas and 14% believe that they have better prospects in their country of origin.** Indeed, less than one student out of six is convinced that international professional mobility is necessary for his or her success.

The main reasons behind these students wishing to study overseas are first linked to the search for better education (68%) and 47% of them wanted to follow a curriculum not available in their own country. These two reasons rank first in 60% of cases. Half of them consider that being the holder of an overseas diploma facilitates access to employment and thus seek to graduate from prestigious high-ranking overseas institutions. 32% acknowledge a wish to travel, but only very few consider this a decisive factor and practically none consider that studying overseas is a good way for staying abroad permanently.

Before leaving, **53% state that they are a little anxious about the idea of studying overseas, particularly young women (58% compared to 41%).**

Although they themselves have managed to do so, 66% of students consider it hard for students from their country to come to study in France (and 16% consider it very hard). This is due mainly to the difficulty of obtaining a visa (64% of those concerned), the cost of living in France (61%) and the difficulty of preparing the administrative papers required (53%). These are all points for which appropriate guidance may be decisive in their choice of destination.

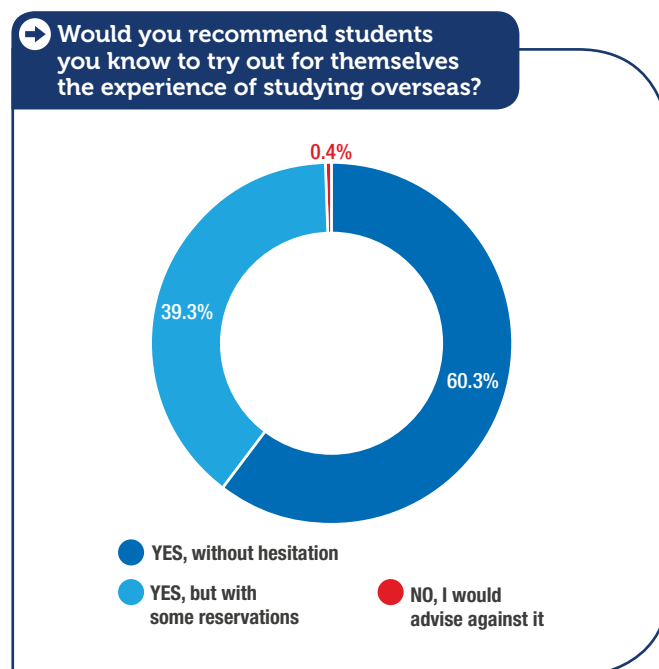
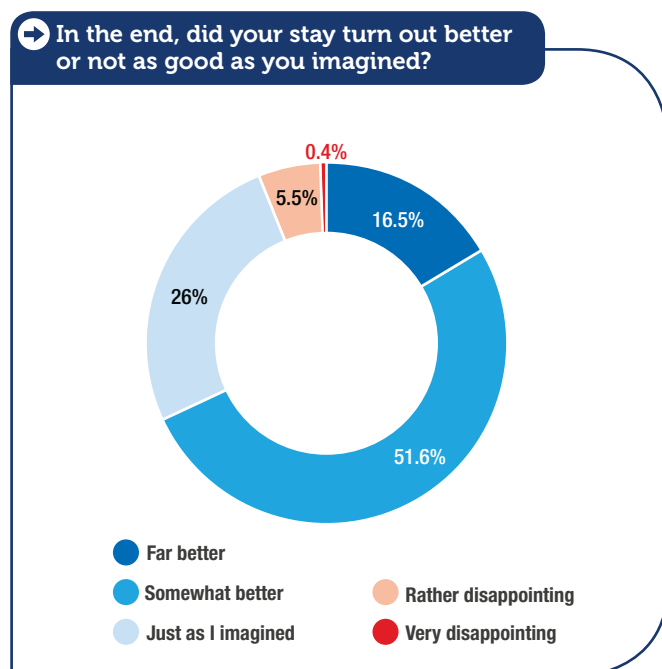
◀ Perception of France faced with students' choice criteria



9- On-line survey conducted in October 2016 with a response rate of 90%.

As the students questioned had chosen France, it was only natural that this country's image matched relatively well the profile of the target country of study. However, analysis of the graph reveals France's clear advantage on certain points: the prestige of French diplomas and their potential valorisation, the tourist pull of the country, the pre-existence of friends or

family contacts (31% of these students had contacts in France at the time of choosing their country of study). Conversely, France has problems satisfying the expectations of African students as to its capacity to offer employment on completion of study, or merely student jobs to help finance the cost of the stay.



- ➡ In the end, only 12% of African students consider that France is not so attractive, compared to 33% who consider it is more so, while 38% consider it is just as attractive as before.
- ➡ 68% consider that their study in France was even better than they imagined, compared to 6% who were disappointed.

- ➡ Although 28% confessed they had chosen France because they could not study in another country, only a very few would advise against this destination for study, even if 39% had some reservations, compared to 60% who would recommend France without hesitation.

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