



RÉPUBLIQUE  
FRANÇAISE

*Liberté  
Égalité  
Fraternité*



CAMPUS  
FRANCE

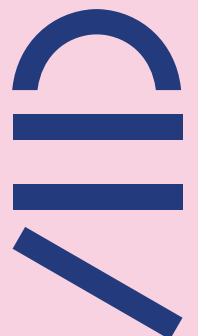


ALUMNI

OUTCOMES SURVEY

# Study abroad in France: An asset for life

ALUMNI  
DAY  
FRANCE



# Summary

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- 01** Introduction
- 02** Key takeaways
- 04** More than 10,000 alumni responded to the survey
- 06** When and what did alumni study in France?
- 10** Further study and career outcomes
- 12** Current employment circumstances
- 16** Alumni as ambassadors of France
- 19 Focus: Fluency in French – A door opener
- 20 Focus: Recipients of French and foreign government scholarships

## **Founded in 2023, France Alumni Day aims to celebrate the extraordinary talent and diversity of graduates educated in France, and their achievements in all five continents.**

France Alumni Day is an initiative launched by the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs and coordinated by Campus France, a government agency working to promote higher education in France internationally.

In the spring, all around the world, the French diplomatic network, French higher education institutions, and international alumni associations join forces to celebrate graduates of French higher education, particularly former recipients of French government scholarships. This global gathering is also supported by the international network France Alumni. Launched in 2014, France Alumni is now a community of more than 378,000 members and 3,900 partners in 134 countries.

To round off the second edition of France Alumni Day, which explored the theme “French-speaking talents, global careers”, **Campus France is publishing the results of an all-new survey into the career paths of former international students in France.** Conducted in partnership with the research institute Verian (formerly Kantar Public), this survey

of 10,000 international alumni reveals the long-term impact of studying abroad on their careers and the strength of their ties to France and the French language.

Who are the alumni of French higher education? What inspired them to come and study in France? Most importantly, what did they take away from the experience? **Our survey documents, for the very first time, the professional paths international students take after their graduation, and how their experience in France and fluency in French helped develop their careers.** This large-scale consultation also sheds light on the lasting bonds these graduates form with the French language and culture, and the role they play, throughout their lives, in promoting that *je ne sais quoi* which sets the French education apart.

# Key takeaways

## A broad sample of respondents

**10 000**  
alumni responded

More than 10,000 alumni responded to the survey, all of whom studied abroad in France either for a degree or other qualification or on a university exchange. With an average age of 33, the majority of respondents studied in France in the last ten years, and half of them received a scholarship.

**154**  
nationalities

We heard from alumni of 154 nationalities and from all around the world.



## A springboard to success

### > Further study

A third of alumni chose to pursue further study after their time in France; **96%** of them called the latter an asset in their later academic career.

### > Landing a first job

**91%** of respondents who have now entered the job market say their studies in France helped them secure their first job.

### > Employment within a year

**87%** of alumni secured a job within a year of studying in France (73% within six months). **88%** of them say this job met their expectations in terms of profession, sector and salary.



## **An asset for careers**

### **> Suited to intellectual and managerial professions**

**80%** of alumni now work in an intellectual or managerial profession: 55% work in intellectual and scientific professions, 25% are directors or managers.

### **> A career-long advantage**

**90%** of respondents affirm that their studies in France were an asset in securing their current job.

## **Fluency in a global language**

### **> 321 million French speakers worldwide**

**76%** of alumni use French on a daily basis (in their work and/or their personal lives).

### **> A linguistic and professional asset**

**88%** of respondents who do speak French deem their fluency in it a professional asset.

## **A shared experience**

### **> A time of discovery, culture and freedom**

**93%** of respondents have a positive image of France: the most common words used to describe their experience were "discovery", "enrichment", "freedom" and "culture".

### **> An experience recommended by all!**

**96%** of alumni consider themselves ambassadors of France and would recommend it as a study abroad destination. 85% would recommend it as a place to work and 82% as a place to live.



# More than 10,000 alumni responded to the survey

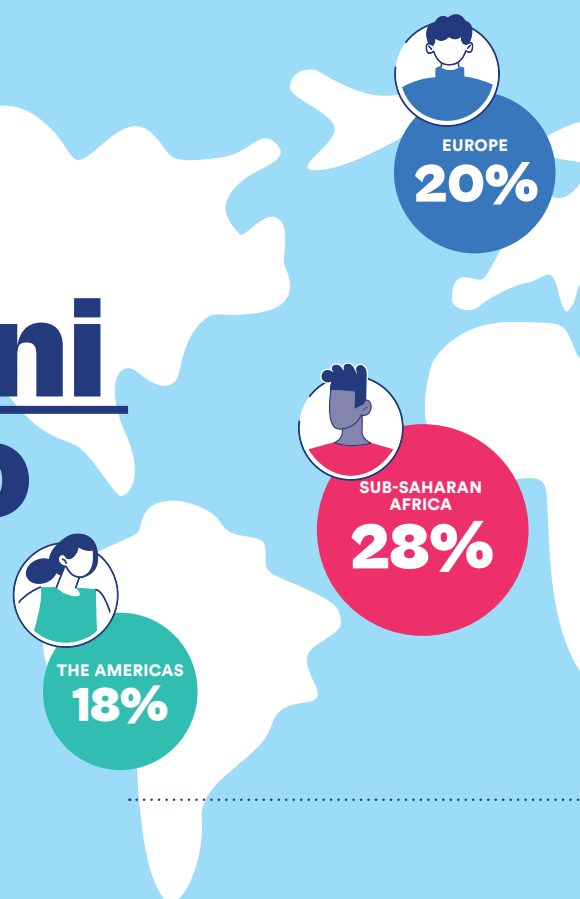
This first-of-its-kind survey by Campus France looks at the backgrounds and trajectories of international alumni who studied abroad in France, whether for a degree or other qualification or on a university exchange. The survey was distributed widely and drew more than 10,000 respondents from all over the world.

Conducted in partnership with the research institute Verian (formerly Kantar Public), the questionnaire was sent out at the end of 2023 to members of France Alumni, former French and foreign government scholarship holders, graduates of French higher education institutions and alumni associations of these institutions. This large sample size allowed conclusions to be drawn about the academic and professional paths of former international students in France in relation to a number of variables, including their country of origin, the institution at which they were enrolled and their academic programme.

## Alumni of varied nationalities, from all regions of the world

**Within the pool of 10,000 respondents is immense geographical diversity, including 154 nationalities and countries all around the world.** The regions of origin of alumni who responded are evenly distributed and consistent with the general composition of the international student population in France.

Respondents came from Sub-Saharan Africa (28%), the Middle East and North Africa (21%), Europe (20%),



the Americas (18%) and Asia-Oceania (12%). These statistics are broadly similar to those for the current international student body at French higher education institutions (based on data from the 2022-2023 academic year):<sup>1</sup> students from Sub-Saharan Africa are slightly over-represented in the survey sample (a 4-point difference), students from Europe and the MENA region<sup>2</sup> are slightly under-represented (by 6 and 7 points respectively), students from Asia-Oceania are almost equally represented (a 1-point difference), and, finally, students from the Americas are somewhat over-represented (by 10 points). This latter disparity may be attributed to the large proportion of exchange students in the sample. The number of respondents from each of these regions, meanwhile, exceeds 1,200, which makes region of origin a relevant variable for correlation with all other survey results.

## 25-35 the predominant age

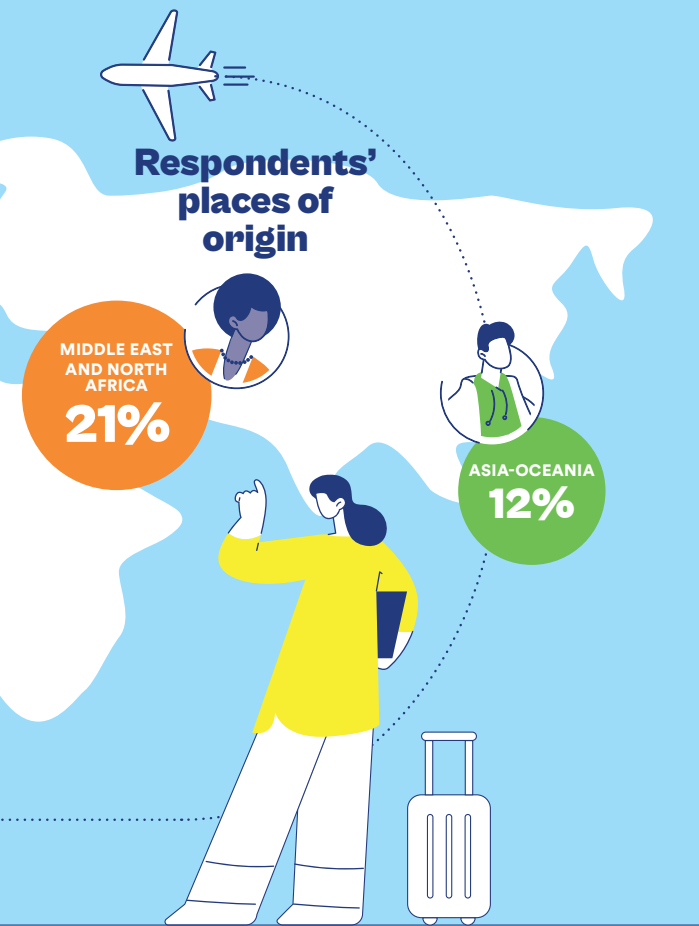
The average age of individuals surveyed was 33, with a fairly even distribution in terms of age group:

- 11% aged between 20 and 24 years
- 27% aged between 25 and 29 years
- 25% aged between 30 and 34 years
- 16% aged between 35 and 39 years
- 20% aged between 40 and 60 years.

These percentages are roughly equal for men and women, as shown in the age pyramid opposite.

<sup>1</sup> This data from the French Ministry of Higher Education and Research is indicative only, since a perfect comparison cannot be made between students from a recent given year and a pool of international students from the last 30 years.

<sup>2</sup> 'MENA' stands for 'the Middle East and North Africa', as defined by the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs. This acronym is used throughout the survey to facilitate reading.



**154**  
nationalities

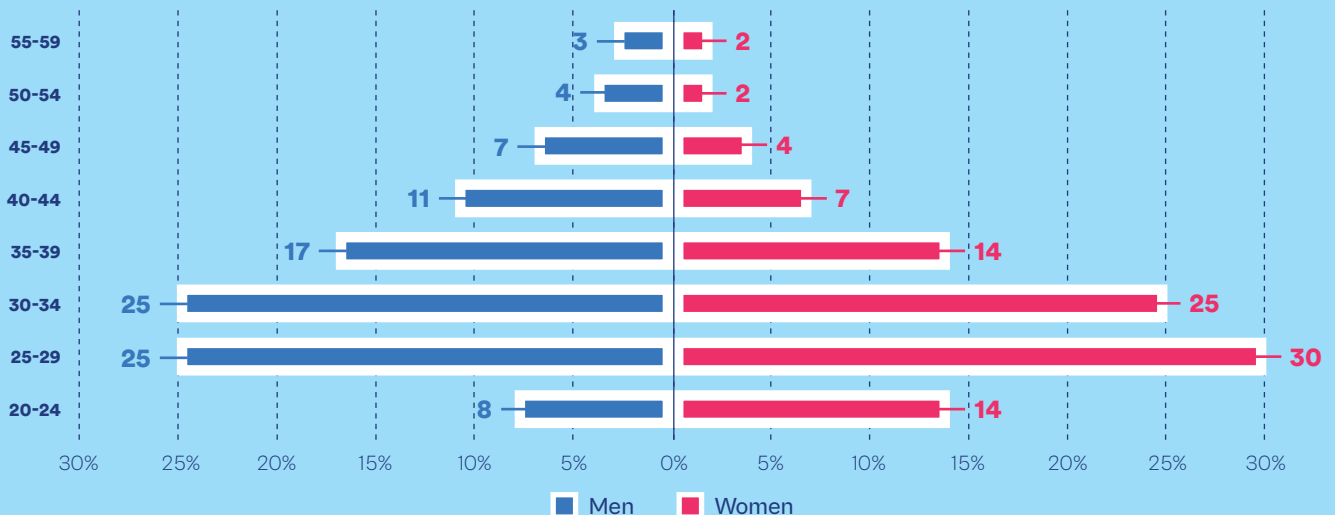
**A broad sample collected via several channels**

The survey gathered responses from over 10,000 alumni, making for a robust sample requiring no statistical adjustment. Half of respondents were contacted via the France Alumni network (38%) or French higher education institutions and alumni associations (12%), while the other half were contacted via the networks of former French government scholarship recipients (38%) and foreign government scholarship recipients (12%).

Scholarship recipients are therefore over-represented in the sample when compared with the general alumni population, and any differences in responses between scholarship recipients and other alumni will be specified when this variable impacts the results.<sup>4</sup> Based on this initial socio-demographic data, several conclusions can be drawn. Former recipients of French government scholarships are more likely than the average respondent to come from Europe (26%) and Asia-Oceania (14%), while former recipients of foreign government scholarships are more likely to come from Sub-Saharan Africa (39%) and the Americas (22%). Former scholarship recipients are also slightly older than other respondents (an average age of 36 versus 31 years) and completed their studies in France longer ago (only 37% in or after 2020 versus 61% of other alumni). Accordingly, fewer of them currently live in France (38% versus 50% of other alumni).

**Overall, 54% of respondents were men and 46% were women.**<sup>3</sup> There are slight disparities in the type of programme completed: men are over-represented among alumni formerly enrolled in joint degree programmes (59%), and women among alumni formerly enrolled in university exchange programmes (56%) or French language courses (54%). There are also disparities in the type of institution attended and the level of study undertaken in France: men are over-represented among alumni formerly enrolled at engineering schools (67%) or in PhD programmes (61%), while an above-average number of women were enrolled at art and architecture schools (58%) or in undergraduate-level programmes (56%).

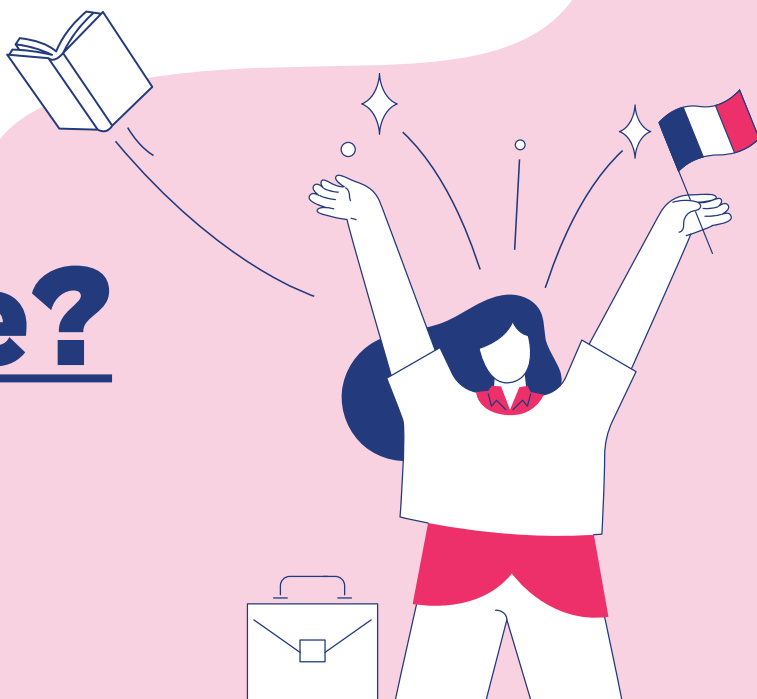
**Pyramid of ages among respondents (in %)**



<sup>3</sup> 0.3% of respondents selected the 'Other' category. According to data from the Ministry of Higher Education and Research, 52% of international students enrolled in France in 2022-2023 were women and 48% were men.

<sup>4</sup> See our 'Focus' section on scholarship recipients, p. 20.

# When and what did alumni study in France?



Our 10,000 alumni chose a wide variety of academic paths, with some major trends: most studied in France within the last ten years; the majority as international students formally enrolled at a university; predominantly in degree programmes at master's level in scientific disciplines.

## Mostly recent graduates

Of the 10,000 respondents, all former international students in France, 82% studied in another country prior to or after studying in France. The remainder completed the entirety of their higher education in France (18%), and this was particularly prevalent among students from Asia-Oceania (30%) and Sub-Saharan Africa (20%). 9% of those surveyed earned the Baccalauréat at a French lycée (high school) abroad before coming to study in France. Former recipients of French and foreign government scholarships, however, provided directly contrary responses to these two variables: only 5% of French government scholarship recipients earned the Baccalauréat at a French lycée abroad, compared to 21% of foreign government scholarship recipients.

**57%**  
began their studies  
in France after 2015

ents. Likewise, only 12% of French government scholarship recipients completed the entirety of their studies in France, compared to 37% of foreign government scholarship recipients.

**The majority of respondents studied in France within the last ten years. Specifically, six in ten began their studies after 2015 (57%).** One in ten studied in France for less than a year (12%), one quarter for one year (23%), two in ten for two years (21%), three in ten for between three and five years (30%), and one in ten for more than five years (13%).

## Breakdown of respondents according to their last year of study in France

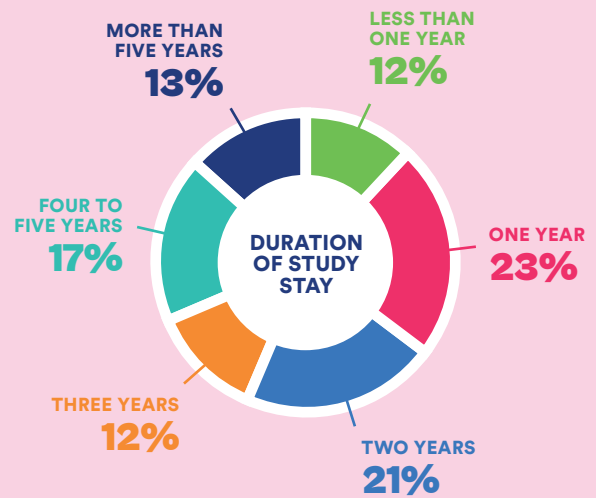
STUDY PERIOD	PRIOR TO 1990	1991-2000	2001-2010	2011-2015	2016-2020	2021-2023
FINAL YEAR OF STUDY IN FRANCE	0.3%	2%	8%	17%	32%	41%



**82%**  
enrolled in degree programmes

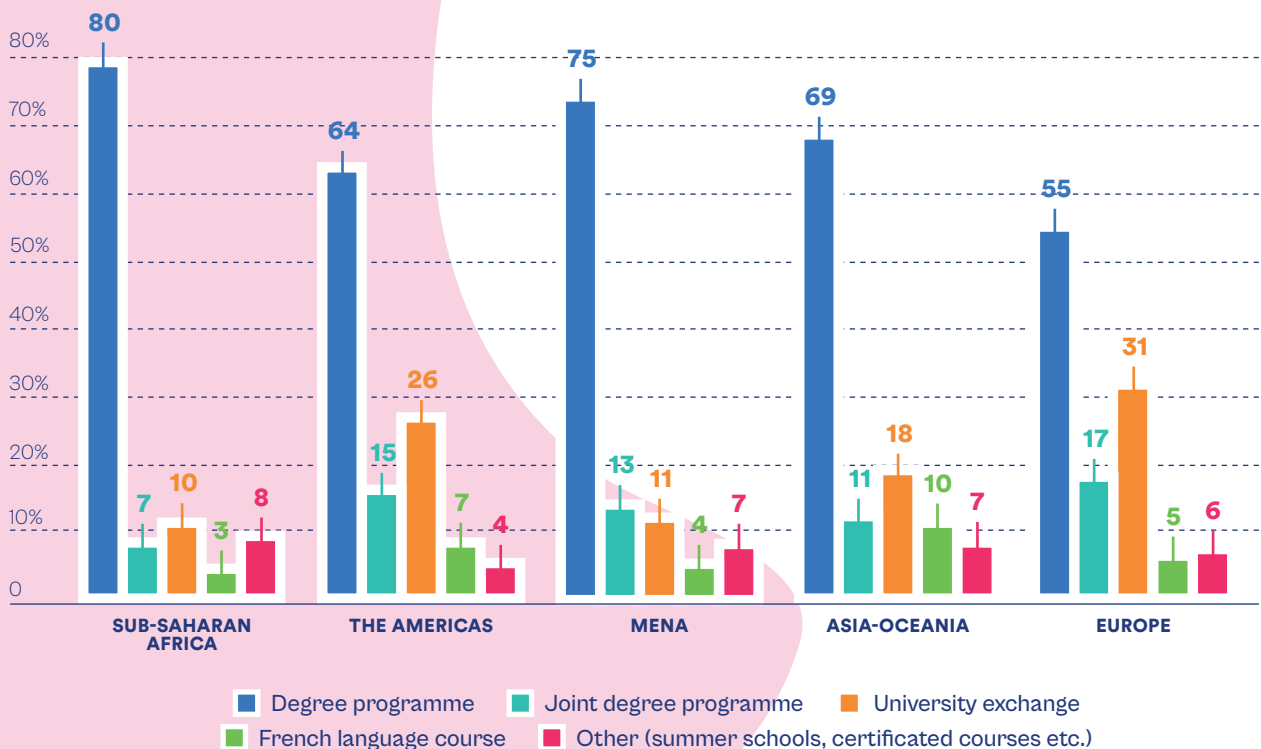
### Predominantly enrolled in degree programmes

The vast majority of alumni came to France to study for a degree: 70% were enrolled in a single degree programme and 12% in joint degree programmes. Nearly two in ten respondents came to France for a university exchange, and for more than a third of these, it was via the Erasmus+ programme (35% of the 19%). The type of programme completed in France differs by region of origin. A significantly greater than average number of respondents from Sub-Saharan Africa and the MENA region (80% and 75% respectively) were enrolled in formal degree programmes, while fewer came for university exchanges or language courses.

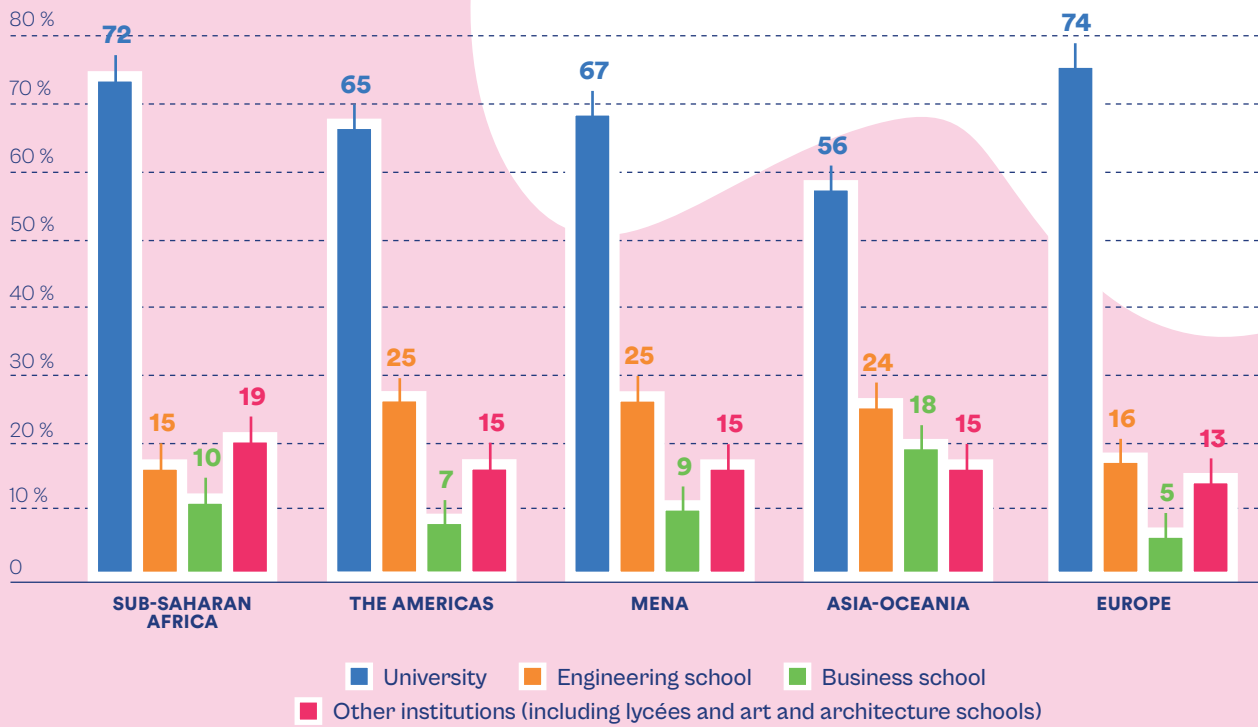


A large proportion of these alumni are from French-speaking countries within the two regions. Meanwhile, significantly more European and American alumni completed joint degree programmes (17% and 15% respectively) and university exchanges (31% and 26%). Finally, a proportionally greater number of students from Asia-Oceania came to France for courses in the French language (10%).

Type of programme by respondents' regions of origin



### Type of institution by respondents' regions of origin



### The majority studied at universities

Around seven in ten former international students in France studied at a university (68%), two in ten at an engineering school (20%) and one in ten at a business school (9%). Of those who studied at other kinds of institutions, 2% were in a *lycée* (STS technical programme or CPGE preparatory classes) - 51% of these had previously earned the Baccalauréat at a French *lycée* abroad - 2% in art and architecture schools, and 1% in colleges of fine art. These proportions are rel-

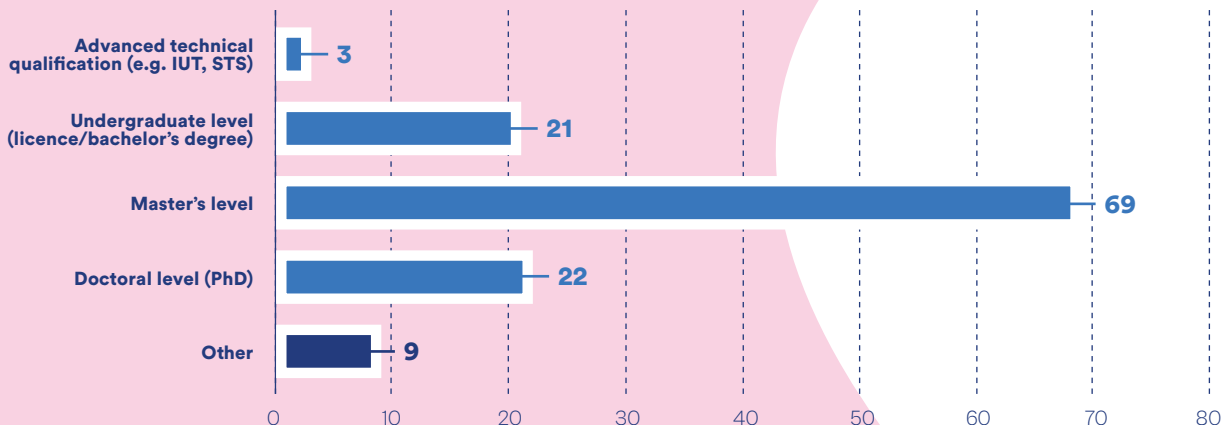
**68%**  
enrolled at a university

atively consistent with the latest data from the Ministry of Higher Education and Research (MESR/SIES) on international student enrolment at French higher education institutions.<sup>5</sup>

For a more detailed breakdown, French universities

### At what level were you studying in France?

(Multiple answers possible)



<sup>5</sup> 64% of international students in France in 2022-2023 were enrolled at universities; 14% at business schools and 7% at engineering schools. See [Key Figures for 2024](#).

attracted significantly more respondents from Europe and Sub-Saharan Africa (74% and 72% respectively), and fewer from Asia-Oceania (56%). Engineering schools proved more popular with alumni from the Americas, the MENA and Asia-Oceania (24% each) than with those from Europe and Sub-Saharan Africa (16% and 15% respectively). Finally, more respondents from Asia-Oceania (18%) were enrolled at business schools than were respondents from the Americas and Europe (7% and 5% respectively).

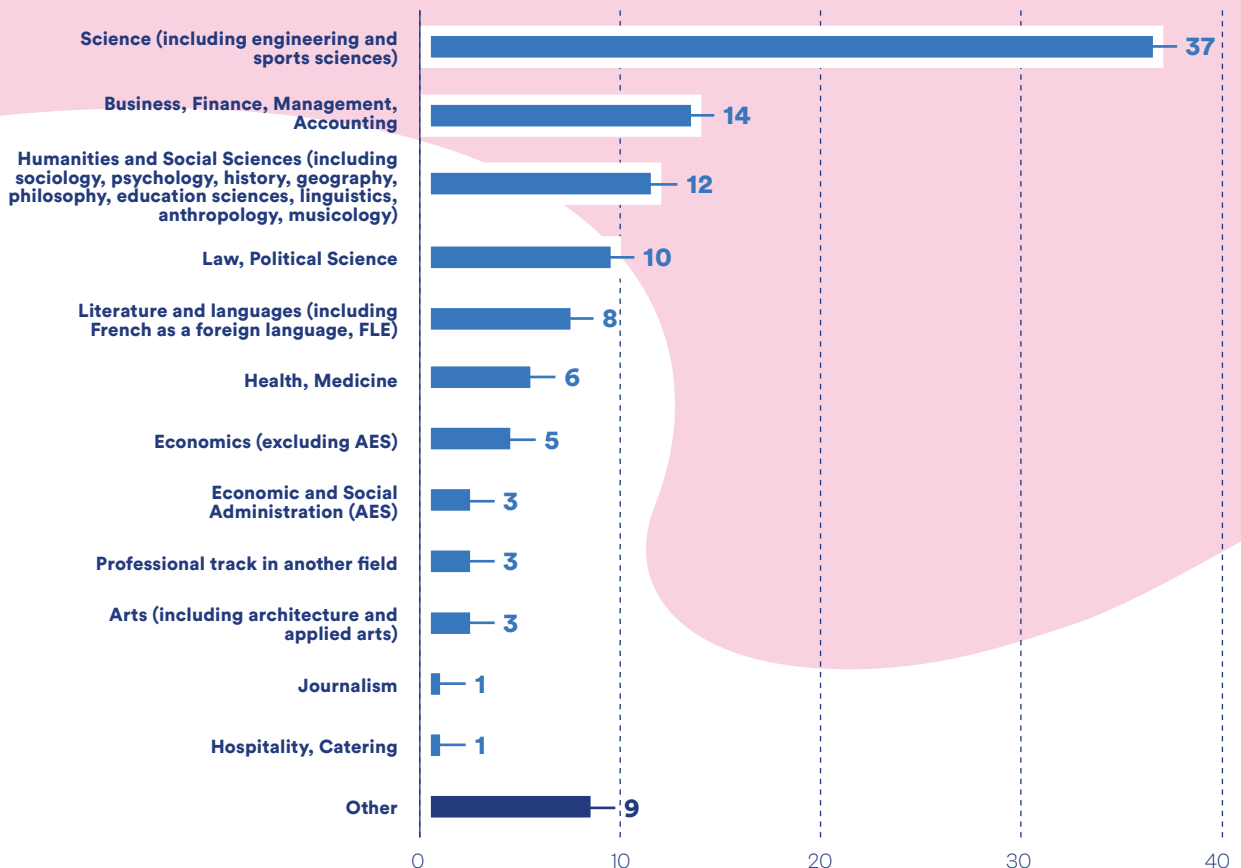
**37%**  
studying scientific disciplines

**Mainly at master’s level study in scientific disciplines**

Nearly seven in ten respondents were enrolled in master’s level study during their time in France (69%). This proportion is higher for alumni of business schools (85%) and engineering schools (84%). More than two in ten respondents were studying for a PhD, with proportionately higher numbers among those enrolled

at universities (27%) or from the MENA region (26%). There was also an over-representation of recipients of French and foreign government scholarships among those enrolled in PhD programmes (32%). More than a third of survey respondents came to France to study sciences, including engineering and sports science (37%). This was particularly prevalent among students from the MENA region (47%). The next most common disciplines studied by respondents were business, finance and management (14%, but 19% of students from Asia-Oceania); law and political science (10%, but 15% of European students); literature and languages (8%, but 13% of European students).

**What discipline or subject area did you study while in France?**  
(multiple answers possible)



# Further study and career outcomes

Respondents' studies in France proved an asset in their careers, helping them secure a job that met their expectations within a short time of finishing. It was also an advantage for students who went on to further study.

## A third of alumni pursue further study after their time in France

More than a third (34%) of respondents went onto further study after their time in France, and this was still more common among those on university exchanges (77%), French language courses (47%) or joint degree programmes (40%). Two thirds of alumni did not continue their studies after their time in France, and that proportion rises to 80% among those enrolled on degree programmes. **Otherwise put, eight in ten alumni who earned a degree from a French university entered the job market directly after graduating.**

Of the students who pursued further study outside of France, seven in ten did so in their home countries. This proportion was higher among European and Ameri-

can students (75% and 74% respectively), who were also more likely to study abroad for a university exchange. Meanwhile, three in ten students chose to continue their studies in another country, neither France nor their country of origin. This was more frequent among alumni from Asia-Oceania (37%), Sub-Saharan Africa (36%) and the MENA region (34%). Topping the list of countries chosen as a study destination are the US, Canada, the UK and Germany, all of which join France

**87%**  
of alumni found a job within one year

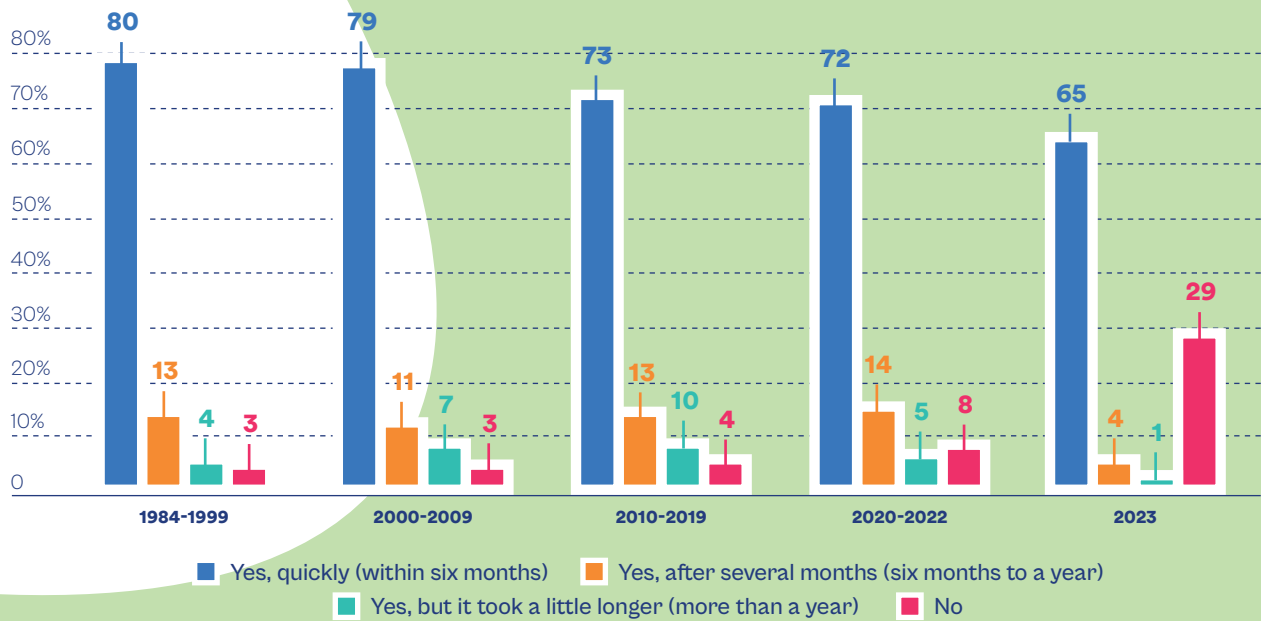


### Did you pursue further study after your studies in France?

	TOTAL	SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA	AMERICAS	MENA	ASIA-OCEANIA	EUROPE
<b>SUBTOTAL: PURSUED FURTHER STUDY</b>	34%	24%	47%	22%	36%	47%
YES, IN MY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN	24%	15%	35%	14%	23%	36%
YES, IN ANOTHER COUNTRY	10%	9%	12%	8%	13%	12%
<b>NO</b>	66%	76%	53%	78%	64%	53%

### Career outcomes by final year of study in France

Did you find a job at the end of your studies ?

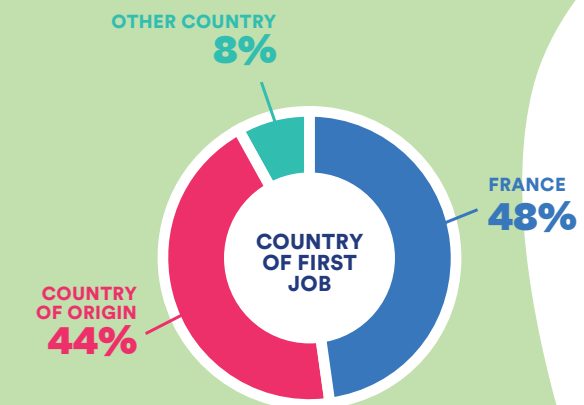


as major host countries for student mobility worldwide. **96% of alumni who pursued further study said their time in France was an asset in their later academic careers.** This satisfaction rate remained universally high, regardless of region of origin, type of institution or type of programme, illustrating the strength of the French education system for further study in France or elsewhere.

### High rates of employment and job satisfaction

Nearly nine in ten respondents found their first job within a year of finishing their studies in France (87%). Three quarters found it in under six months (73%).<sup>6</sup> There was a slightly higher rate of employment among students who finished their studies longer ago: 80% of the cohort who finished their studies in France prior to 2000 secured a job within six months, compared to 79% for the 2000-2009 cohort, 73% for the 2010-2019 cohort, and 72% for the 2020-2022 cohort. Institution type also had an impact on employment rates: 81% of engineering school alumni were employed within six months, compared to 73% of business school alumni and 70% of university alumni.

Nearly one in two alumni found their first job in France (48%), 44% in their country of origin and 8% in another country, with the US, Germany, the UK and Belgium as the most common destinations. As in the case of other variables, the country of first employment varies by programme type: engineering and business school graduates were more likely than others to find their first job in France (63% and 61% respectively). Likewise, a greater proportion of degree programme alumni (58%) secured



their first job in France than did alumni of joint degree programmes (38%) and university exchanges (21%). Finally, alumni's regions of origin also influenced their country of first employment: France was a proportionately more prevalent destination among those from the MENA region (63%), while students from Asia-Oceania (53%), the Americas (48%), and Europe (48%) were significantly more likely to start their careers in their home countries. Those whose country of first employment was France were comparatively faster in entering employment: 94% secured a job in less than a year (including 80% within six months).

**Around nine in ten alumni affirmed that their first job matched their expectations (88%),** in terms of profession, sector and salary, regardless of the country of employment or programme type.

**Meanwhile, 91% of respondents said their studies in France were an asset in securing their first job.**

This proportion was higher for alumni of degree programmes (93%) than for those of university exchanges (83%).

<sup>6</sup> These figures apply to alumni who finished their studies in France prior to 2023, the year of the survey, amounting to 76% of the total pool of respondents. Of those who finished in 2023, two thirds (65%) found a job within six months of finishing (65%), and one third (29%) were still seeking a job at the time of completing the survey.

# Current employment circumstances

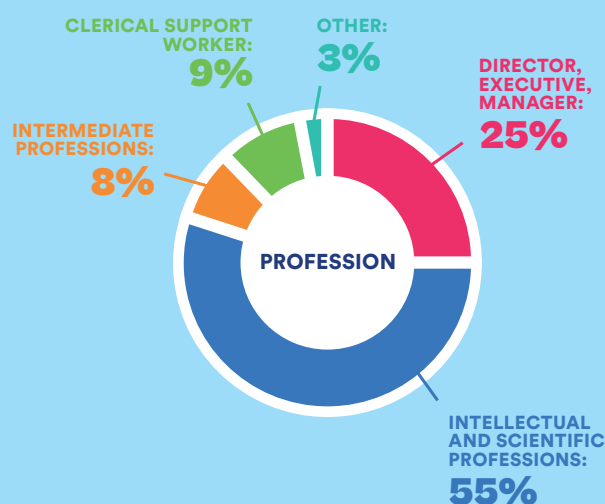
Studying in France proves a career-long asset for alumni, both in securing desirable positions and accessing higher salaries. The Alumni Survey examines the current employment circumstances of respondents, whether they work in the private or public sector, in France or their country of origin.

## 90%

of alumni believe their time studying in France helped secure their current job

### Study abroad in France : A career-long asset

Half of respondents said their employment circumstances changed after their first job (52%), and this rate was higher among those whose first job did not meet their expectations (72%). 90% of alumni whose circumstances changed after their first job believe their time studying in France was an asset in securing their current job. This proportion remains high even among alumni who finished their studies in France a long time ago: 86% for those who finished prior to the 2000s, 84% for those who finished during the 2000s and 89% for those who finished during the 2010s. The near-universally acknowledged positive impact of study in France on alumni's employment circumstances is proof of the career-long benefits of the opportunity.



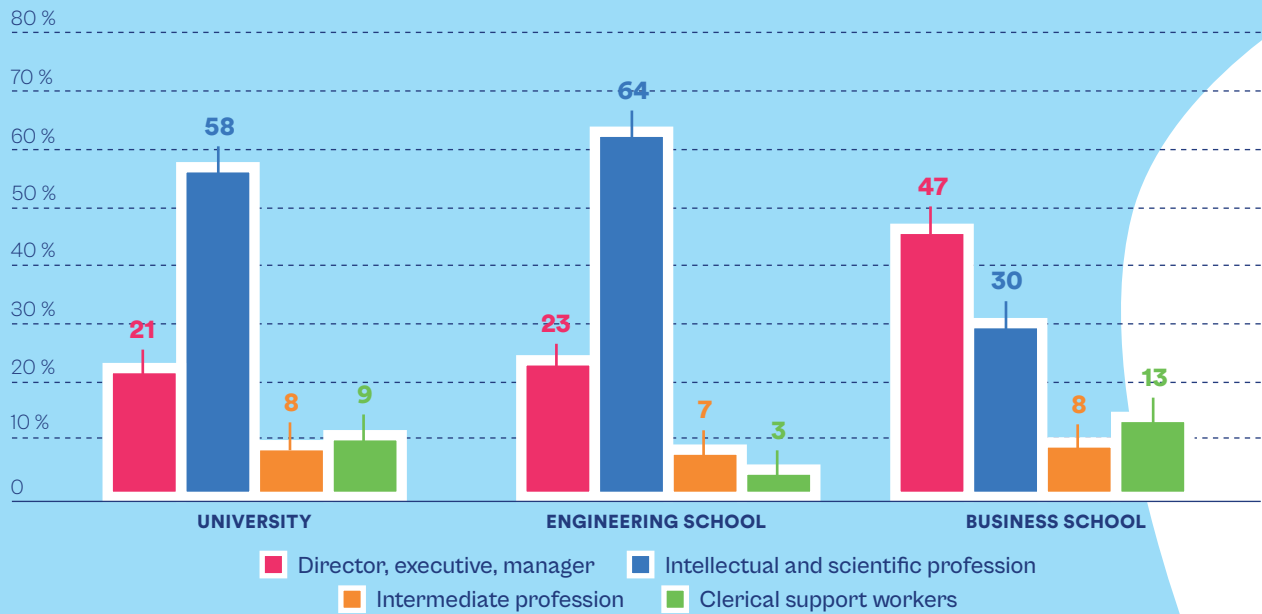
### Studies in France : An advantage for intellectual and managerial professions<sup>7</sup>

The Alumni Survey uses the ISCO-08 International Standard Classification of Occupations, which groups occupations into ten categories.<sup>8</sup> **According to this nomenclature, more than half of survey respondents work in 'intellectual and scientific professions' (55%), a quarter are 'directors, executives and managers', one in ten are 'clerical support workers' (9%) and a little less than one in ten work in 'intermediate professions' (8%).** Occupations listed under 'Other' mainly included 'service and sales workers' (1.6%) and 'skilled industrial and craft workers' (1.3%). While more than half of all respondents are currently employed in an intellectual or scientific profession, this proportion is significantly higher among alumni formerly enrolled in PhD programmes (82%),

<sup>7</sup> The following questions were put to all respondents currently in employment (and not those studying or seeking work), amounting to 79% of the total sample.

<sup>8</sup> The ISCO's classification is among the most commonly used socio-professional nomenclature for cross-country comparisons and is supervised by the International Labour Office.

Current employment circumstances by type of institution



joint degree programmes (67%), at engineering schools (64%) or at universities (58%), as well as among former recipients of French or foreign government scholarships (62%). The quarter of alumni who currently occupy managerial positions are statistically more likely to have attended business schools (47%) and to now reside in their country of origin (29%).

for the private sector, 64% of the public bodies employing respondents are based in the latter's country of origin, 27% in France and 9% in another country.

Company types and professional sectors

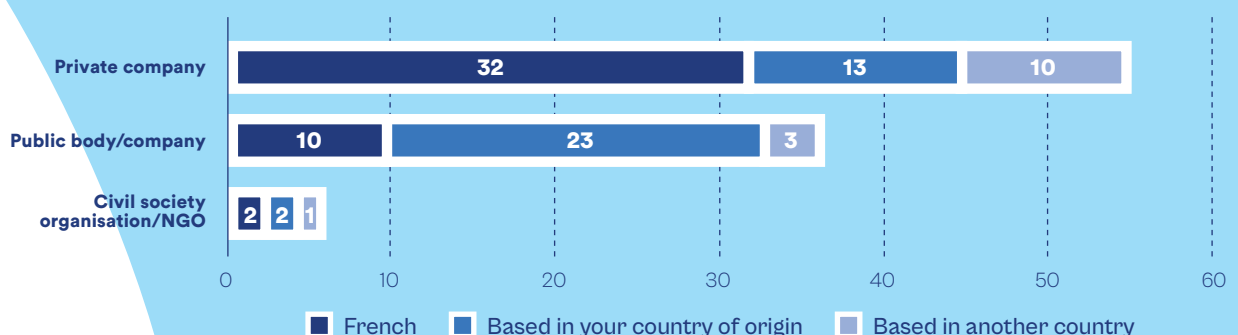
More than half of alumni work in a private company (54%) and more than a third in a public body or company (36%), while the others work in civil society organisations and NGOs (5%) or are self-employed (5%). Private companies draw a greater proportion of alumni from business schools (81%) and engineering schools (75%). Of these companies, 59% are based in France, 23% in respondents' country of origin, and 18% in a different country. Meanwhile, public bodies are a more common career destination among university alumni (42%) and former recipients of French government scholarships (47%), even drawing more than two thirds of PhD graduates (68%). In direct contrast to these statistics

Education is the most prevalent professional sector, drawing almost two in ten of all alumni (17%). The sector is particularly common among PhD graduates (42%), those formerly enrolled in French language courses (25%), university exchanges (23%) and joint degree programmes (21%), and French government scholarship recipients (23%). The second most prevalent sectors after education are technology (12% of all respondents, and 21% of engineering school graduates), industry (8%, and 19% of engineering school graduates), the civil service (8%) and finance (5%, and 15% of business school graduates).

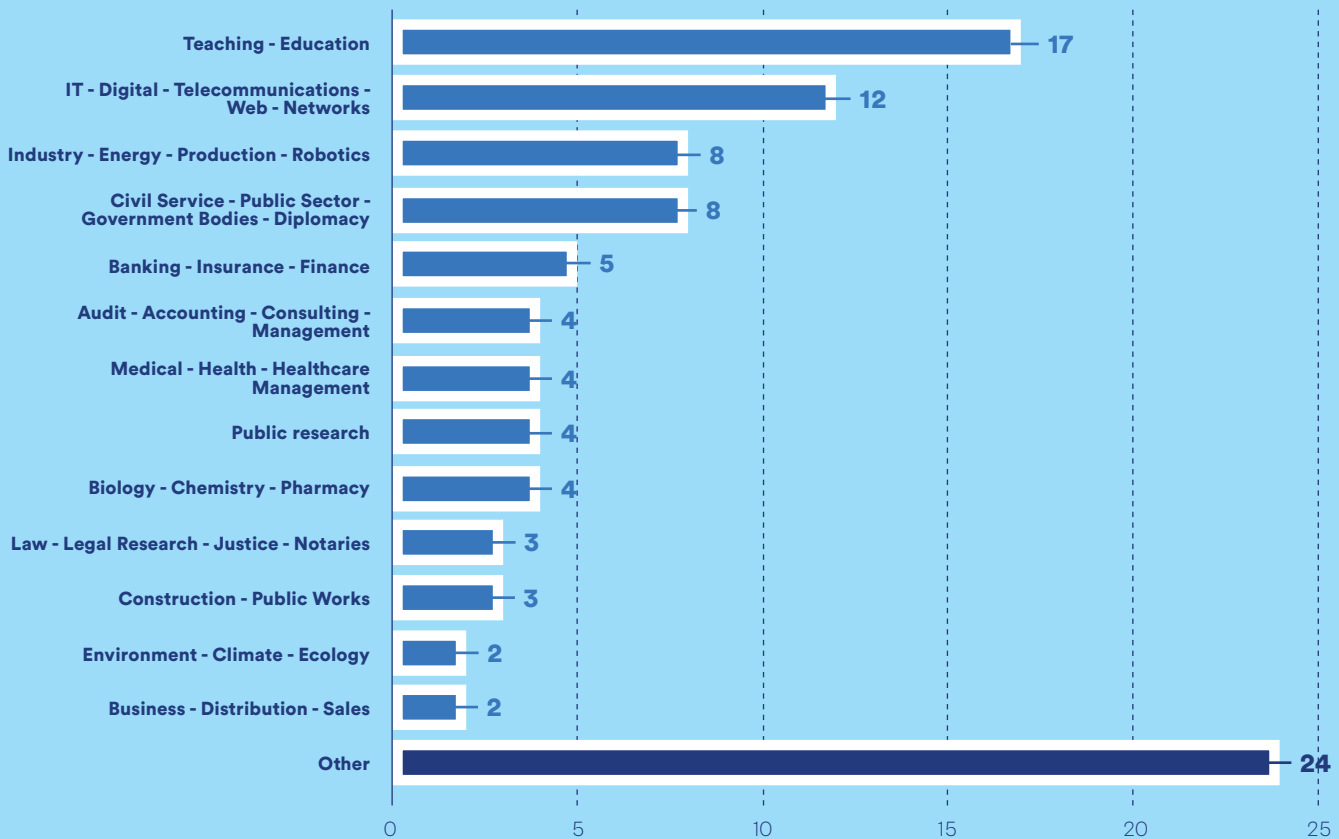
Salary satisfaction varies by country of residence

Nearly two thirds of alumni say they are satisfied with their current salary (63%), including two in ten who are very satisfied (21%). Graduates of French engineering schools and business schools report the highest levels of salary

Company types and professional sectors among alumni



### Professional sectors among alumni (in %)



**63%**  
of alumni satisfied with their current salary



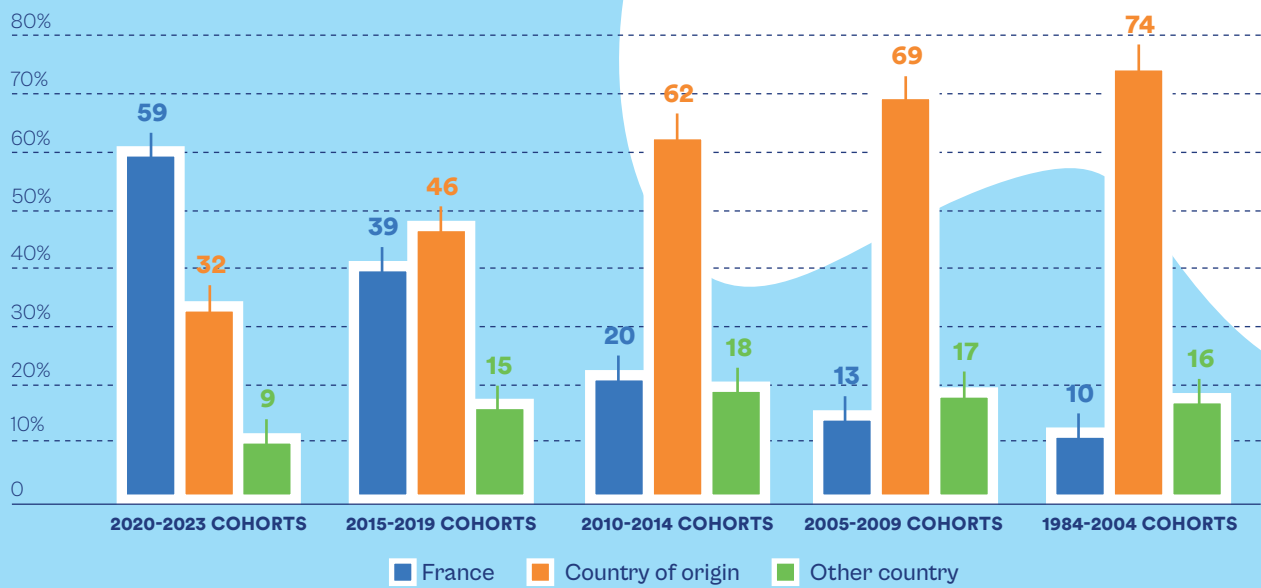
satisfaction (71% and 70% respectively). Meanwhile, a quarter of respondents say they are moderately satisfied (26%), and only one in ten are dissatisfied (7% not very satisfied and 4% not at all satisfied). There is a correlation between salary satisfaction and current country of residence: 58% of those living in their country of origin are satisfied with their pay, compared to 66% of those living in France and 73% of those living in a different country. Conversely, a greater proportion of alumni living in their country of origin were dissatisfied with their salary (14%), and this particularly applies to those from Sub-Saharan Africa. Only 7% of alumni now living in France or in a country other than their country of origin report being dissatisfied.

### Current country of residence: Alumni gradually return to their country of origin

Of the 10,000 alumni surveyed, four in ten still live in France today (44%). This high retention rate can be attributed to the relative youth of respondents and the recentness of their studies (41% finishing after 2020). Nearly six in ten respondents now live abroad (56%), mainly in their country of origin (43%), or in another country (13%). The top locations among alumni living in a third country are Canada (11%), Germany (8%), the US (8%), the UK (7%), Belgium (6%) and Switzerland (5%).



**Current country of residence by final year of study in France**

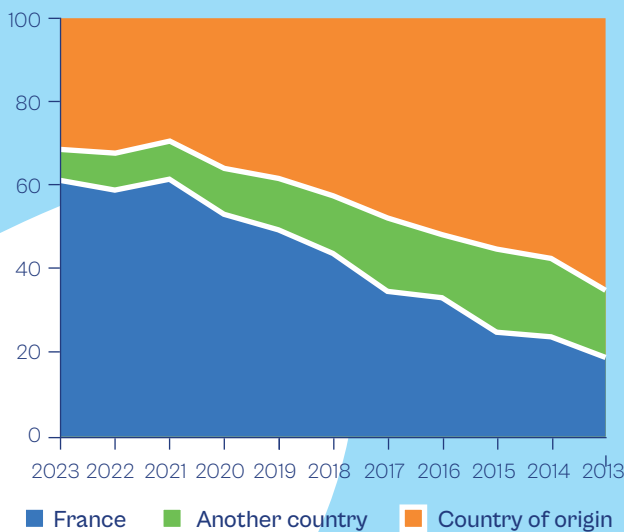


**There is a direct correlation between the year alumni finished their studies in France and their current country of residence: the more recent the cohort, the greater the proportion of alumni still in France.**

Accordingly, only 10% of alumni who finished their studies prior to 2005 still live in France, compared to 13% of 2005-2009 alumni and 20% of 2010-2014 alumni. Conversely, the proportion of respondents who return to live in their country of origin increases over time: 74% of those pre-2005 alumni have since returned, 69% of 2005-2009 alumni, and 62% of 2010-2014 alumni. The proportion of alumni living in another country remains stable both before 2005 and up until 2015, at around 17%.

A focus on respondents who completed their studies in France within the last ten years reveals a gradual increase in alumni leaving France. Most return to their countries of origin, and fewer to a third country. This places the rate of retention in France among former international students to two in ten within 10 years of completion, one third within 7 years of completion, half within 4 years of completion, and six in ten for those who completed their studies between 2021 and 2023, the year of the survey. These rates are consistent with those reported by the OECD, although not directly comparable due to variation in reporting periods and the scope of nationalities considered.<sup>9</sup>

**Current country of residence by final year of study in France: Focus on the last ten years (in %)**



**Residence in France and naturalisation**

More than seven in ten respondents currently residing in France stayed for professional reasons (73%), and less than three in ten for family or personal reasons (27%). Alumni from the MENA region were more likely to cite professional reasons for staying (80%), and less likely to cite personal reasons, than alumni from Europe and Sub-Saharan Africa (35% and 32% respectively). Of alumni currently residing in France, two in ten intend to stay in the country for less than five years (19%) and two in ten for more than five years (20%). Four in ten do not plan to leave France (41%) and two in ten do not know how long they will stay (20%). 6% of all respondents hold dual French nationality: 11% of these have been dual nationals since birth, 12% were naturalised while studying in France and 76% have since been naturalised.

<sup>9</sup> International Migration Outlook 2022, OECD.

# Alumni as ambassadors of France

While in France, students gain a taste of freedom and new opportunities; when they leave, they take away a gift for life. By nurturing their close connection to France, alumni help to spread French culture and language throughout the world. They become promoters and ambassadors of the country, contributing to its cultural influence and encouraging others to come and share their experiences.

**93%**

of alumni have a positive image of France



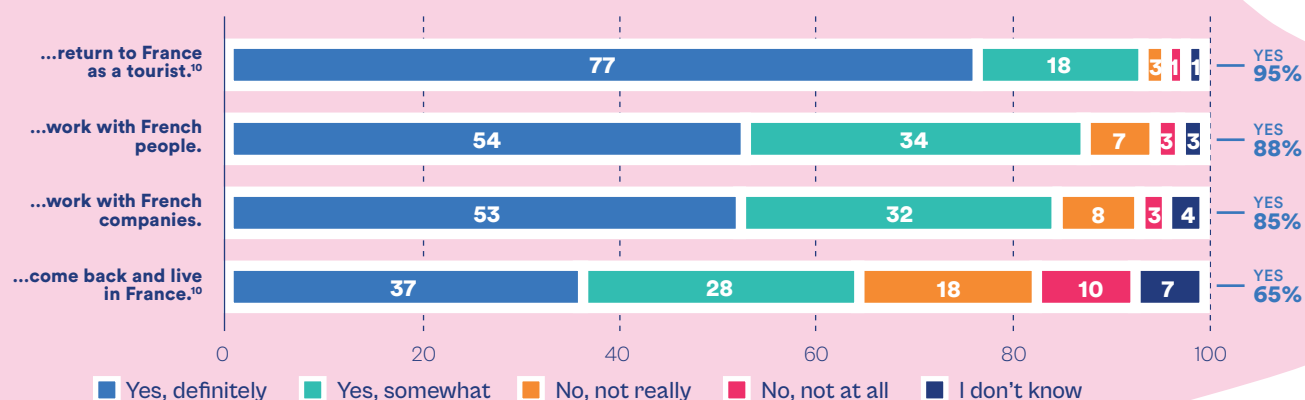
## A highly positive image and experience of France

The most common words used by alumni to describe their experience in France are all highly positive. 93% of alumni say their time in France has given them a good image of the country, including 43% reporting a "very good image". More than nine in ten alumni deemed it a universally beneficial experience, regardless of region of origin or institution and programme type.

Study abroad plays a major role in France's professional appeal to alumni: nearly nine in ten say it made them

more inclined to work with French people (88%), and more than eight in ten say it made them more inclined to work with French companies (85%). These proportions are even higher among students from Sub-Saharan Africa (92% and 89% respectively). Almost all alumni no longer living in France (95%) affirmed that the experience made them more inclined to return as tourists and nearly eight in ten of them (77%) said they would "definitely" do so. Meanwhile, two thirds of alumni

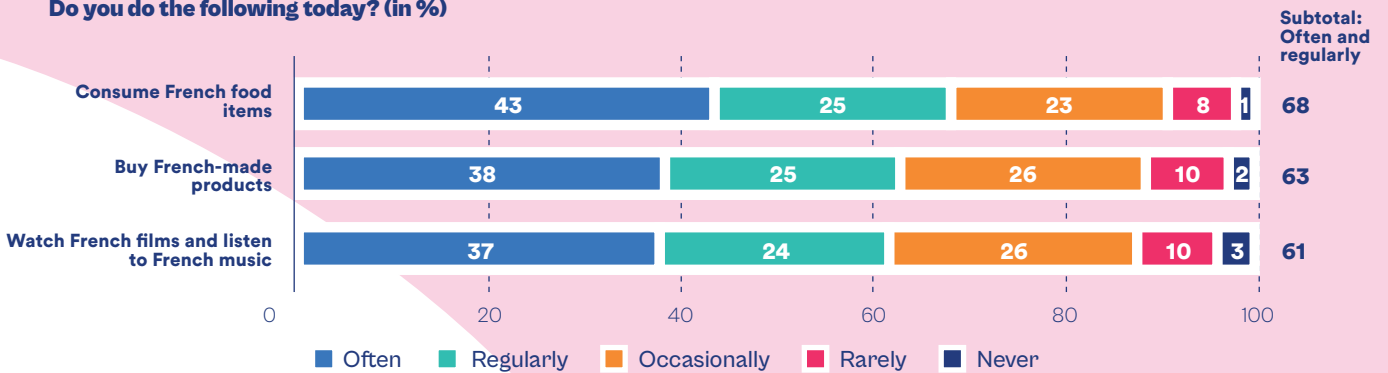
### Has your time in France made you more inclined to... (in %)



<sup>10</sup> Answer applies to respondents no longer living in France, amounting to 56% of the total sample.

Living  
 Work Intense Fun  
 Interesting Freedom Welcome Unique  
 Rigour Quality Discovery  
 Learning Openness Success  
 Enriching Stimulating  
 Excellent Rich Fulfilment  
 Challenges Amazing Culture  
 Multicultural

Do you do the following today? (in %)



(65%) said their time in France made them more inclined to come back and live in France, including 37% who said they would “definitely” do so (37%). Respondents from Asia-Oceania and the Americas were the most likely to express a desire to come back and live in France (76% and 72% respectively).

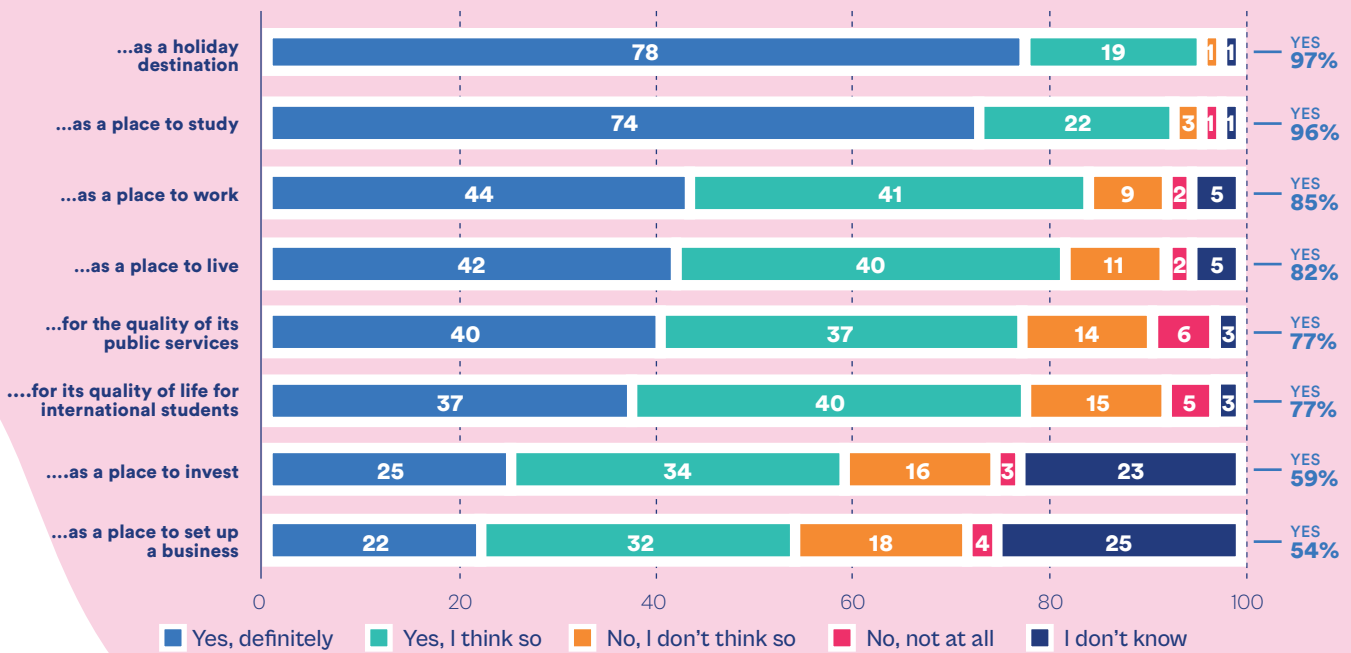
### Alumni as exporters of the French culture and lifestyle

Most alumni have gone on to adopt elements of the French lifestyle, whether in the culture and food they consume or by living à la française. Nearly seven in ten respondents say they eat French food items on a regular basis (68%, including 43% do so often), and this is true for nearly half of respondents now living abroad (49%, including 26% who do so often). Around two thirds say they regularly buy French-made products (63%, 28% often), as well as 46% of those living abroad (26% often). Meanwhile, more than six in ten respondents watch French films and listen to French music regularly (62%), with similar proportions among those living in France (65%, 40% often) and those living abroad (58%, 35% often). This makes cultural products like films and music the goods most ‘exportable’ by alumni around the world.

### Alumni as the number one promoters of France

Beyond their cultural and professional preferences, alumni also promote France explicitly to their friends and family, recommending the country in a wide variety of contexts. Confirming their resoundingly positive experience of France, almost all alumni say they would recommend the country as a place to study (96%). Three quarters go so far as to say they would “definitely” recommend it (74%). The country is also very popular as a tourist destination, with almost all respondents affirming that they would recommend France for a holiday (97%). More than eight in ten alumni recommend France as a place to work and live (85% and 82% respectively), and almost eight in ten praise the country for its public services (77%) and the quality of life it offers international students (77%). Finally, the majority of alumni would recommend France as a place to invest (59%) or set up a business (54%). The smaller proportions for this latter category can be attributed to the high number of respondents who answered ‘I don’t know’: some of those surveyed, particularly the youngest of the sample, are not yet in a position to consider investing or starting a business.

**Personally, would you recommend France...**



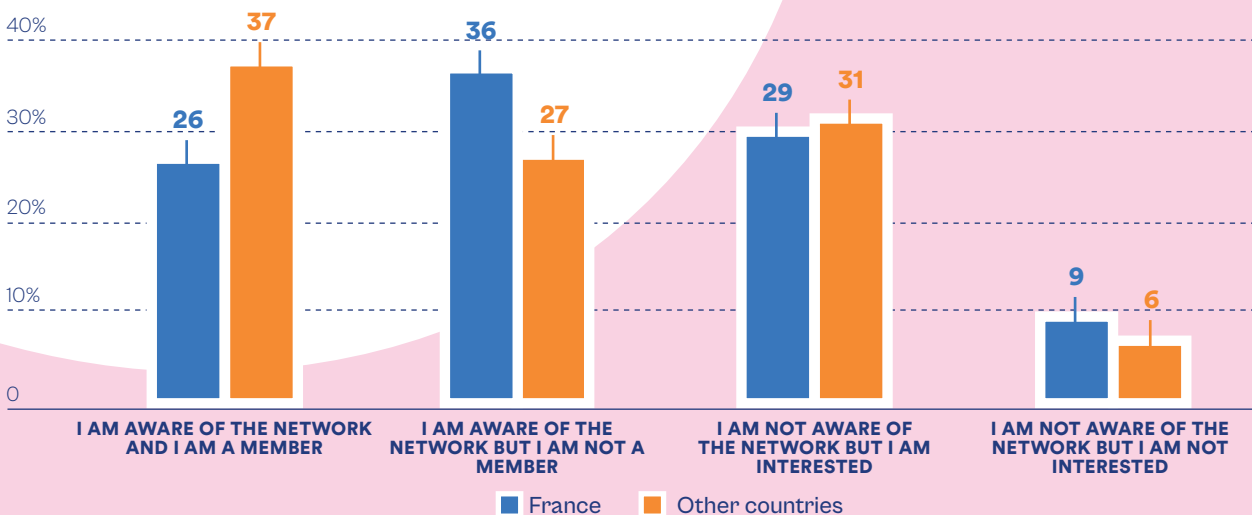
**Awareness and use of France Alumni<sup>11</sup>**

With now more than 378,000 members, the France Alumni network helps to connect former international students in France, inform them of events that may interest them, and circulate job and internship opportunities. **More than six in ten respondents say they are aware of France Alumni (63%):** almost a third are both aware of the network and members of it (32%), while another third are aware but not members of the network (31%). Degree programme graduates are the group most familiar with the network (66%), more so than those formerly enrolled in a university exchange programme (52%). Finally, three in ten respondents have not heard of France Alumni but are interested in it (30%).

**96%**  
of alumni recommend France as a place to study

While overall awareness of the network exceeds six in ten irrespective of country, more respondents abroad are registered with the network than are those living in France (37% versus 26%). This suggests the network is more attractive to alumni no longer in France, who can use it as a means of keeping up with the country. Among respondents who are already members of France Alumni, the most visited sections of its platform are news pages (36%), events (29%), internship or job offers (22%) and the network directory (18%).

**Are you aware of the France Alumni network? (by current country of residence)**



<sup>11</sup> <https://www.francealumni.fr/en>.

FOCUS

# Fluency in French: A door opener

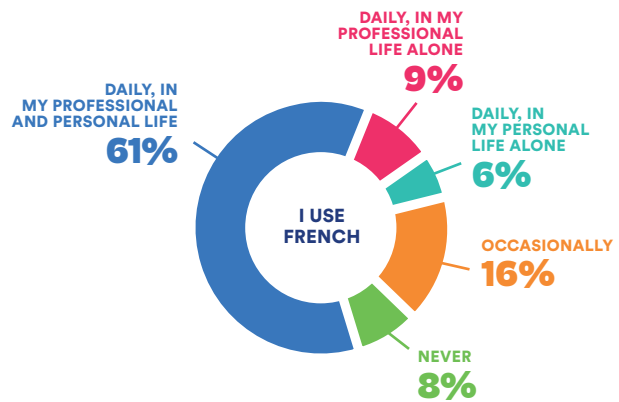
## Studying in France significantly improved the alumni's command of French

While a little less than half of respondents (47%) say they were bilingual prior to studying in France, more than three quarters (76%) declared themselves bilingual by the end of their studies, an impressive 29-point increase. Graduates of degree programmes (84%) and those enrolled at universities (78%) were more likely to achieve bilingualism.

To break this down further, the alumni who spoke fluent French prior to their studies in France predominantly came from Sub-Saharan Africa (82%) and the MENA region (60%), both of which are home to several Francophone countries. The percentages of alumni in these regions reporting fluency after their studies rose to nine in ten (91% and 87% respectively). The sharpest increases prior to and after studying were seen among alumni from other regions of the world: despite only a quarter of Americans and Europeans speaking French prior to their studies (24% and 28% respectively), two thirds say they were bilingual by the end (73% and 68% respectively). Similarly, only one in ten students from Asia-Oceania say they spoke fluent French prior to their studies (11%), but four in ten afterwards (38%).

## French used daily by three quarters of alumni (76%)

More than three quarters of alumni continue to use French on a daily basis (76%): six in ten in both their professional and personal lives (61%), almost one in ten in their professional life alone (9%), and 6% in their personal life alone. These are joined by 16% of respondents who

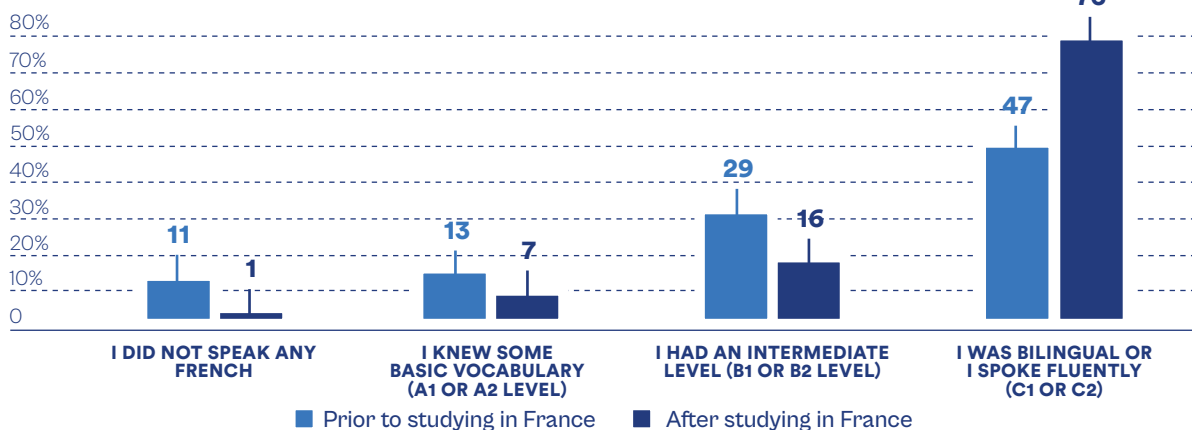


use French occasionally, and less than one in ten who rarely use it (8%). Whether or not alumni use French daily is inevitably determined by their current country of residence: the percentage reaches 97% for alumni now living in France, including 88% who use French in both their professional and personal lives, 6% who use it in their professional lives alone, and 3% who use it in their personal lives alone. However, **a large proportion of alumni living abroad (60%) also use French in their daily lives**, including four in ten who use it in both their professional and personal lives.

## A door opener for careers throughout the world

Almost nine in ten French-speaking alumni (88%) say their command of the language has been an asset in their career.<sup>12</sup> This figure reaches 96% among those still living in France, as well as eight in ten alumni now living abroad: 82% of those living in their country of origin, and 80% of those in another country. These statistics confirm that fluency in French is a door opener for alumni's careers throughout the world.

## Study abroad in France significantly improved alumni's command of French



<sup>12</sup> This applies to alumni who reported speaking intermediate or fluent French at the end of their studies in France, amounting to 92% of the total sample.

# Recipients of French and foreign government scholarships

Half of the 10,000 alumni who responded to the survey are former recipients of government scholarships: 38% received scholarships from the French government and 12% from governments abroad. Some of those funded by the French government were awarded through specific academic excellence schemes, including the Eiffel Scholarship, Excellence-Major Scholarship and the *Make Our Planet Great Again* (MOPGA) Scholarship (15%, 5% and approximately 1% respectively).

## Similar types of study, but a greater proportion of PhD candidates

As in the case of all respondents, the majority of former scholarship recipients were enrolled in formal degree programmes: 80% of scholarship holders versus 78% of other alumni. A higher number of French government scholarship recipients, however, opted for joint degree programmes (16%, compared to 8% of other scholarship recipients and 10% of those not receiving scholarships). Likewise, like other alumni, former scholarship recipients were predominantly enrolled at university: 67% compared to 69% for alumni not receiving scholarships. Unlike other alumni, however, fewer scholarship holders studied at business schools (5% compared to 13%), while foreign government scholarship recipients were overrepresented at engineering schools: 27% compared to 18% of French government scholarship recipients and 20% of those not scholarships. The most obvious difference relates to the level of study: **almost a third of respondents who formerly received French and foreign government scholarships studied for a PhD** (32%), compared with one tenth of other alumni (12%). Significantly more recipients of foreign government scholarship earned the Baccalauréat at a French lycée abroad (21%, versus 5% of French government scholarship recipients and 10% of other alumni). They are also more likely to have enrolled at a lycée to study for a CPGE or BTS qualification (5%, versus 1% of French government scholarship recipients and 2% of other alumni). Finally, more foreign government scholarship recipients (37%) completed the entirety of their higher education in France than did either French government scholarship recipients (12%) or other alumni (18%).

## Career paths and current employment circumstances among scholarship holders

The employment rate of former recipients of French and foreign government scholarships was as rapid as that of other alumni, but their countries of first employment differed: French government scholarship holders were more likely to find work in their home countries than other scholarship holders (43%) or those not receiving scholarships (37%). While 88% of all alumni say their first job met their expectations, there was a higher rate of approval among French government scholarship recipients, 59% of whom answered "Yes, absolutely",

# 32%

**of former scholarship recipients surveyed were PhD candidates**

compared with 56% of other scholarship holders and 51% of those not receiving scholarships.

As would imply the higher number of PhD graduates, **more scholarship recipients now work in intellectual and scientific professions than other alumni** (62% versus 48%). Slightly fewer occupy managerial positions (23% versus 27% of other alumni).

Former scholarship recipients are also more likely to work in public companies than other alumni (45% compared with 27%). As for sectors, significantly more French government scholarship recipients work in education (23%) than foreign government scholarship recipients (18%) and other alumni (12%). The inverse is true for industry and production, which draws 12% of former foreign government scholarship recipients, 6% of French government scholarship recipients and 8% of other alumni. With regards to salary satisfaction, while 63% of all alumni declare themselves satisfied with their current pay, French government scholarship recipients are the most positive in their answers here too: 23% say they are "very satisfied", compared with 21% of foreign government scholarship recipients and 19% of those not receiving scholarships.

## Cultural connection and French language

Scholarship holders maintain strong ties with France, in the same proportions as other alumni. All are promoters and ambassadors of France.

Fewer French government scholarship recipients said they spoke fluent French prior to their studies in France (44%), while a higher number of other scholarship holders did (54%) than those not receiving scholarships (48%). This disparity narrows at the end of alumni's studies, by which time an average of three in four across all categories say they were bilingual (73%, 78% and 77% respectively). Irrespective of scholarship status, three quarters of alumni also speak French on a daily basis, although more French government scholarship recipients (12%) use it solely for professional purposes than do either foreign government scholarship recipients or other alumni (7% and 8% respectively).

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**Lead Editor**

Donatienne Hissard, Director General

**Coordination, writing and editing**

Florentin Piron

**Editorial Committee**

Judith Azema, Béatrice Khaiat, Patrice Goujet, Olivier Marichalar  
Nabil M'Silti, Guillaume Tétard, Thierry Valentin

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**Campus France**

French national agency for the promotion of higher education,  
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28, rue de la Grange-aux-Belles - 75010 Paris

[www.campusfrance.org](http://www.campusfrance.org)

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