



The Grandes Écoles

The *Grandes Écoles* are uniquely French institutions. Created in the early 19th century in parallel to the university system, they are extremely selective and offer education of a very high standard.

Grandes Écoles offer diplomas at the baccalauréat + five level, i.e. master's degrees. Graduates can follow up this degree with a specialization, including a specialized engineering degree or a Master of Business Administration (MBA).

The classic method of admission to one of the *Grandes Écoles* (competitive examination after two years of preparatory courses, followed by a three-year course of study) has changed to meet modern professional needs. A parallel admission process exists that is specially designed for foreign students. It is based on degrees and exams, with courses of study between two and five years, depending on the entry level granted by the institution.

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Grandes Écoles for Engineering

There are roughly 240 engineering schools, which share common characteristics; this guarantees the quality of the engineering degree, which is at master's level and covers all areas of engineering science.

Engineering degrees are national degrees.

Grandes Écoles for Business and Management

The business schools (about 230 of them) offer specializations and training adapted to the changing economic environment and new management practices. Instruction is often structured around internships and international exchanges.

Please note!

CGE, EQUIS, AACSB, and AMBA accreditation for business schools:

These accreditations, bestowed on schools and/or the diplomas they offer, guarantee that their recipients meet international standards and certify international equivalence.

CGE : *Conférence des Grandes Écoles*

EQUIS: European certification from the European Foundation for Management Development.

AACSB: given by the American Assembly of Collegiate Schools of Business.

AMBA: awarded by the Association of MBAs in London to the top MBA programs.

Specialized Schools

So-called specialized schools offer higher-level training in specific areas such as Art, Design, Fashion, Tourism, Paramedical Services, Social Services, and so on.

Art schools

There are three types of art schools: the *Écoles nationales supérieures d'art* (*Grandes Écoles* for art), which offer a national diploma after four or five years of study; the schools for applied art, which are supervised by the Ministry of National Education; and the schools of fine art by the Ministry of Culture, offering diplomas after three or five years of study. All have selective admission policies.

Architecture schools

There are 20 architecture schools, supervised by the Ministry of Culture, offering the DPLG (*Diplômé Par Le Gouvernement*) architectural diploma, the only one recognized for those working as architects in France. Studies last for six years in three cycles of two years each.