

The degrees

French higher education is based on a common architecture (LMD) – recognized at the European level – that counts the number of years of validated study following the *baccalaureat* (French secondary school matriculation examination for university entrance).

Thus, *baccalaureat* + three years = *Licence* (180 ECTS),
baccalaureat + five years = Master (300 ECTS),
 and *baccalaureat* + eight years = Doctorat (PhD).

As long as he or she meets the entrance requirements, any foreign student in an institution of higher education in his or her home country may request admission to a comparable French institution.

The *baccalaureat* is the first degree awarded in the higher education system; it gives students access to institutions of higher education.

+ 9 years	• Diplôme d'État de docteur en Médecine	DOCTORAT
+ 8 years	• Doctorat	
+ 6 years	• Diplôme d'État de docteur en Chirurgie dentaire • Diplôme d'État de docteur en Pharmacie	
+ 5 years 300 ECTS	• Master recherche - Diplôme d'Études Approfondies (DEA) • Master professionnel - Diplôme d'Études Supérieures Spécialisées (DESS) • Diplôme d'ingénieur • Diplômes des Écoles de Commerce et de Gestion	MASTER
+ 4 years	• Maîtrise	
+ 3 years 180 ECTS	• Licence • Licence professionnelle	LICENCE
+ 2 years	• Diplôme d'Études Universitaires Générales (DEUG) • Diplôme Universitaire de Technologie (DUT) • Brevet de Technicien Supérieur (BTS) • Diplôme d'Études Universitaires Scientifiques et Techniques (DEUST)	
End of secondary studies + Baccalaureat = admission to higher education system		

• **ECTS (European Credit System Transfer) credits:** a European system for transferring academic credits within Europe. Credits, corresponding to an evaluation of the amount of work a course represents within the overall volume of work required for a successful academic year, are assigned to each course. 60 ECTS credits are awarded for a year, 180 for the licence level, and 300 for the master level.

Further information: europa.eu.int/comm/education/programmes/socrates/ects_en.html