

The universities

France's 87 public universities are spread throughout the country, from the Sorbonne in Paris (founded in 1179) to the high-tech campus of Nice-Sophia-Antipolis, and cover **the entire range of academic disciplines:** from the Sciences, including Mathematics, Chemistry, Physics, and Biology to Technology, covering Computer Science, Engineering, Materials Science, and Electrical Engineering, through Literature, Languages, the Arts, the Social Sciences, Law, Economics, Management, Health, Sports, and more.

Every level is represented in the awarding of national diplomas, including the Licence -3 years-, Master's degree -5 years-, and Doctorat (PhD) -8 years-.

Research activities are an integral part of the universities:

315 doctoral schools train 4,000 doctoral candidates in connection with more than 1,200 research laboratories (affiliated with both the universities and research organizations).

French doctoral schools have always been very open to international students.

The university system also stays in step with today's world, **offering technological specializations and professional degrees, including:**

- **University engineering diplomas,**

which account for 50% of all engineering degrees in France.

- **Professional qualification training**

via the *Instituts Universitaires de Technologie* (IUT), offering more than 25 specialties.

- **A complete professional curriculum,**

from the first year of the licence level up to the master's degree, through the *Instituts Universitaires Professionnalisés* (IUP), which offer 21 programs.

- **Management training** through the *Instituts d'Administration des Entreprises* (IAE).

One out of every 4 PhD theses is prepared by a student from abroad.

- **Political Science and Economics Degrees**

through the *Instituts d'Études Politiques* (IEP).

- **Journalism and Communications**, with the *Institut Français de Presse* (IFP) and the *École des hautes études en sciences de l'information et de la communication* (CELSA) or the *Centre de formation des Journalistes* (CCFJ).

Please note!

Studies of Medicine, Pharmacology, and Dentistry are connected with the universities in partnership with university hospitals, and have their own organization and courses of study.

Admission to medical studies for foreign students

It is not possible to enter a medical school partway through. Foreign students who have not yet obtained a full degree in medicine in their country of origin must start with year one of the first cycle, regardless of the level they had attained at home. If they pass the competitive examination at the end of the first year, they will then be allowed to enter the year corresponding to the level attained in their country of origin (once the appropriate level has been determined).

In addition to the DES (Diploma in Specialized Medicine) examination for foreign doctors already practicing, there are specialized training programs available for foreign doctors and medical students: the *Attestation de Formation Spécialisée* (AFS) for young doctors who have already started the process of specialization (duration: two to four semesters) and the *Attestation de Formation Spécialisée Approfondie* (AFSA) for foreign students who have already specialized (duration: one or two semesters). Certain highly specialized university degrees are also available. All of these studies require a good level of French.

For more information about training in France for health professionals:

Website created by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs:

http://sante.w3sites.net/etud_med.html and

<http://www.cri.ensmp.fr/sante/index.html>

List of university medical diplomas: <http://www.dcau.u-bordeaux2.fr/wsuio>

Competitive examinations for the diploma in specialized medicine for foreigners:

http://www.sante.gouv.fr/htm/actu/concours/dh/internat/med_etran/arr010719.htm