



Information on the higher education systems of the degree awarding partner institutions of the European Joint Master in English and American Studies

Austria (University of Graz)

Post-secondary Education in Austria

- The Austrian post-secondary **university level sector** (*Hochschulsektor*) consists of
 - Public universities (*Universitäten*), maintained by the state;
 - private universities (*Privatuniversitäten*), operated by private organisations with state accreditation;
 - maintainers of university of applied sciences degree programmes (*Fachhochschul-Studiengänge*) incorporated upon the basis of private or public law and subsidised by the state, with state accreditation (some of which are entitled to use the designation *Fachhochschule*);
 - university colleges of education (*Pädagogische Hochschulen*) maintained by the state or operated by private organisations with state accreditation;
 - universities of philosophy and theology (*Philosophisch-Theologische Hochschulen*), operated by the Roman Catholic Church.
- The **non-university post-secondary sector** (*außeruniversitärer postsekundärer Sektor*) consists of
 - academies for midwifery (*Hebammenakademien*);
 - clinical technical academies (*Medizinisch-Technische Akademien*);
 - military academies (*Militärische Akademien*);
 - the school of international studies (*Diplomatische Akademie*);
 - certain training institutions for psychotherapists (*Psychotherapeutische Ausbildungseinrichtungen*);
 - conservatories (*Konservatorien*);
 - certain business schools (*Wirtschaftsschulen*).

The following text addresses exclusively the university level sector.

Overall Structure of University Level Higher Education

There are currently two different systems of degree programmes in Austria: an older system without reference to the Bologna process and a newer one with reference to it.

- Under the auspices of the **older system** of diploma degree programmes (*Diplomstudien*), the first degree awarded is the diploma degree (*Diplomgrad*). An Austrian higher secondary school leaving certificate or its equivalent is the general qualification necessary for enrolling in a diploma degree programme; conclusion of a diploma degree programme entitles degree holders to enrol in doctoral degree programmes. A diploma degree (*Diplomgrad*) is awarded by Austrian universities after a course of study consisting of 240 to 360 ECTS credits. Full degree titles are gender specific designations: *Magister* for men; *Magistra* for women. Degree titles also include a general description of the field of study in which they were obtained, e.g. *Magister philosophiae*. In the fields of engineering, the degree titles are *Diplom-Ingenieur/in*. Degrees awarded in medicine and dentistry are exceptions to the above. The first degrees awarded after the completion of these degree programmes consisting of 360 ECTS credits are *Doctor medicinae universae* and *Doctor medicinae dentalis*, respectively. Graduates of university of applied sciences programmes that consist of 240 to 300 ECTS credits are awarded, analogous to university studies, a university of applied science diploma degree (*Fachhochschul-Diplomgrad*) contingent upon discipline: either a *Diplom-Ingenieur/in (FH)* for fields of engineering or *Magister/Magistra (FH)* in other fields of study.
- The **new system** is based on the distinction between undergraduate and graduate studies. Upon completion of an undergraduate programme (*Bachelorstudium* at universities; *Fachhochschul-*



Bachelorstudiengang; *Studiengang* at university colleges of education; 180 ECTS credits), a bachelor's degree (designation: „Bachelor of/in ...“) is awarded. Upon completion of a graduate programme (*Masterstudium* at universities comprising 120 ECTS credits or, respectively, *Fachhochschul-Masterstudiengang* comprising 60 to 120 ECTS credits), a master's degree (designation: „Master of/in ...“) is awarded. In the fields of engineering, the designation of the master's degree can also be „Diplom-Ingenieur/in“.

Recipients of these diploma degrees from the old system or a master's degrees from the new system (including the ones awarded in both cases by the universities of applied sciences) are entitled to enrol in doctoral degree programmes (*Doktoratsstudium*) at universities. A doctoral degree (*Doktorgrad* with the designation *Doktor/in*“) is awarded after a course of study consisting of 120 ECTS credits; the academic title of “Doctor of Philosophy”, abbreviated as “PhD,” is awarded after a research intensive course of study consisting of 180 to 240 ECTS credits.

In addition to the degree programmes (*ordentliche Studien*) described above, there are non-degree programmes (*außerordentliche Studien*) consisting of certificate university programmes for further education (*Universitätslehrgänge*) and individual courses in scientific subjects, both at universities, certificate university of applied sciences programmes for further education (*Lehrgänge zur Weiterbildung*) at universities of applied sciences, and certificate university college programmes for further education (*Hochschullehrgänge*) at university colleges of education.

Diploma Degree Programme (*Diplomstudium*)

Admission to a diploma degree programme is granted upon the basis of the Austrian higher secondary school leaving certificate (*Reifezeugnis*), its foreign equivalent, or the successful completion of a special university entrance qualification examination (*Studienberechtigungsprüfung*). Students of compulsory lower schools who have completed additional schooling in the form of apprenticeships as skilled workers also may take a vocationally based examination acknowledged as equivalent to the higher secondary school leaving certificate (*Berufsreifeprüfung*). Admission to diploma degree programmes in the arts is based on aptitude ascertained by admission examinations. Admission to university of applied sciences diploma degree programmes may also take place upon the basis of previous vocational or technical experience and qualifications of applicants. In some fields of study (in particular human medicine and dentistry, and university of applied sciences diploma degree programmes) admission is based on a selective admission process.

A degree programme may be divided into stages (*Studienabschnitte*). The length of each stage of the degree programme as well as the areas of study (*Fächer*) and content required are articulated in curricula that distinguish between required subjects (*Pflichtfächer*) and electives (*Wahlfächer*). Each stage concludes with a diploma examination (*Diplomprüfung*). University of applied sciences diploma degree programmes and some diploma degree programmes at universities include an internship or practical training. The approval of a diploma thesis (*Diplomarbeit*) is a prerequisite for admission to the concluding diploma examination.

Bachelor Degree Programme (*Bachelorstudium*)

Admission to a bachelor degree programme is granted upon the basis on the Austrian higher secondary school leaving certificate (*Reifezeugnis*), its foreign equivalent, or the successful completion of a special university entrance qualification examination (*Studienberechtigungsprüfung*). Students of compulsory lower schools who have completed additional schooling in the form of apprenticeships as skilled workers may take a vocationally based examination acknowledged as equivalent to the higher secondary school leaving certificate (*Berufsreifeprüfung*). Admission to bachelor degree programmes in the arts is based on aptitude ascertained by admission examinations. Admission to university of applied sciences bachelor



degree programmes may also take place upon the basis of previous vocational or technical experience and qualifications of applicants. In some fields of study (in particular university of applied sciences bachelor degree programmes and study programmes at university colleges of education) admission is based on a selective admission process.

Areas/Modules of study (*Fächer/Module*) are laid down in curricula. As a rule, two substantial bachelor's papers or projects (*Bachelorarbeiten*) must be completed in the process of completing degree programme requirements. University of applied sciences bachelor degree programmes and some bachelor degree programmes at universities include an internship or practical training. The programme can conclude with a bachelor's examination (*Bachelorprüfung*).

Master Degree Programme (*Masterstudium*)

Admission to a master degree programme is granted on the basis of the successful completion of an Austrian bachelor degree programme (*Bachelorstudium*), or a comparable post-secondary degree acknowledged being its equivalent.

Areas/Modules of study (*Fächer/Module*) are laid down in curricula. A main emphasis is the composition of a master's thesis (*Masterarbeit*). This degree programme concludes with a master's examination (*Masterprüfung*). The approval of the master's thesis (*Masterarbeit*) is a prerequisite for admission to this examination.

At university colleges of education no master degree programmes are offered.

Doctoral Degree Programme (*Doktoratsstudium*)

Admission to a doctoral degree programme at a university is granted on the basis of the successful completion of an Austrian diploma or master degree programme, or a comparable post-secondary degree acknowledged being their equivalents.

Contents and requirements of study are laid down in curricula. The focus lies with the drafting of a dissertation as the result of self-guided research performance. This degree programme concludes with the approval of the dissertation and with a comprehensive doctoral examination (*Rigorosum*) or a *defensio*.

At universities of applied sciences and at university colleges of education no doctoral degree programmes are offered.

Evaluation of performance and grading system

According to the modalities for examinations outlined in the curricula, achievement may be evaluated upon the basis of oral and written exams or project related work. In principle oral examinations are open to the public.

Grades for examinations taken in individual courses: positive:	1 = sehr gut 2 = gut 3 = befriedigend 4 = genügend mit Erfolg teilgenommen
negative:	5 = nicht genügend ohne Erfolg teilgenommen

Grades for comprehensive examinations covering materials from various subjects:	positive: mit Auszeichnung bestanden bestanden
	negative: nicht bestanden



Germany (University of Bamberg)

The information on the national higher education system on the following pages provides a context for the qualification and the type of higher education that awarded it.

Types of Institutions and Institutional Status

Higher education (HE) studies in Germany are offered at three types of Higher Education Institutions (HEI).

- Universitäten (Universities) including various specialized institutions, offer the whole range of academic disciplines. In the German tradition, universities focus in particular on basic research so that advanced stages of study have mainly theoretical orientation and research-oriented components.

- Fachhochschulen

- Kunst- und Musikhochschulen

Higher Education Institutions are either state or state-recognized institutions. In their operations, including the organization of studies and the designation and award of degrees, they are both subject to higher education legislation.

Types of Programmes and Degrees Awarded Studies in all three types of institutions have traditionally been offered in integrated "long" (one-tier) programmes leading to Diplom- or Magister Artium degrees or completed by a Staatsprüfung (State Examination).

Within the framework of the Bologna-Process one-tier study programmes are successively being replaced by a two-tier study system. Since 1998, a scheme of first- and second-level degree programmes (Bachelor and Master) was introduced to be offered parallel to or instead of integrated "long" programmes. These programmes are designed to provide enlarged variety and flexibility to students in planning and pursuing educational objectives, they also enhance international compatibility of studies.

The German Qualification Framework for Higher Education Degrees³ describes the degrees of the German Higher Education System. It contains the classification of the qualification levels as well as the resulting qualifications and competencies of the graduates.

Approval/Accreditation of Programmes and Degrees

To ensure quality and comparability of qualifications, the organization of studies and general degree requirements have to conform to principles and regulations established by the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs of the Länder in the Federal Republic of Germany (KMK).⁴ In 1999, a system of accreditation for programmes of study has become operational under the control of an Accreditation Council at national level. All new programmes have to be accredited under this scheme; after a successful accreditation they receive the quality-label of the Accreditation Council.

Organization and Structure of Studies

The following programmes apply to all three types of institutions. Bachelor's and Master's study courses may be studied consecutively, at various higher education institutions, at different types of higher education institutions and with phases of professional work between the first and the second qualification. The organization of the study programmes makes use of modular components and of the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) with 30 credits corresponding to one semester.



Bachelor

Bachelor degree study programmes lay the academic foundations, provide methodological skills and lead to qualifications related to the professional field. The Bachelor degree is awarded after 3 to 4 years. The Bachelor degree programme includes a thesis requirement. Study courses leading to the Bachelor degree must be accredited according to the Law establishing a Foundation for the Accreditation of Study Programmes in Germany.

First degree programmes (Bachelor) lead to Bachelor of Arts (B.A.), Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.), Bachelor of Engineering (B.Eng.), Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.), Bachelor of Fine Arts (B.F.A.), Bachelor of Music (B.Mus.) or Bachelor of Education (B.Ed.).

Master

Master is the second degree after another 1 to 2 years. Master study programmes must be differentiated by the profile types "more practice-oriented" and "more research-oriented". Higher Education Institutions define the profile of each Master study programme.

The Master degree study programme includes a thesis requirement. Study programmes leading to the Master degree must be accredited according to the Law establishing a Foundation for the Accreditation of Study Programmes in Germany.

Second degree programmes (Master) lead to Master of Arts (M.A.), Master of Science (M.Sc.), Master of Engineering (M.Eng.), Master of Laws (LL.M.), Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A.), Master of Music (M.Mus.) or Master of Education (M.Ed.). Master study programmes, which are designed for continuing education or which do not build on the preceding Bachelor study programmes in terms of their content, may carry other designations (e.g. MBA).

Integrated "Long" Programmes (One-Tier): Diplom degrees, Magister Artium, Staatsprüfung

An integrated study programme is either mono-disciplinary (Diplom degrees, most programmes completed by a Staatsprüfung) or comprises a combination of either two major or one major and two minor fields (Magister Artium). The first stage (1.5 to 2 years) focuses on broad orientations and foundations of the field(s) of study. An Intermediate Examination (Diplom-Vorprüfung for Diplom degrees; Zwischenprüfung or credit requirements for the Magister Artium) is prerequisite to enter the second stage of advanced studies and specializations. Degree requirements include submission of a thesis (up to 6 months duration) and comprehensive final written and oral examinations. Similar regulations apply to studies leading to a Staatsprüfung. The level of qualification is equivalent to the Master level.

- Integrated studies at Universitäten (U) last 4 to 5 years (Diplom degree, Magister Artium) or 3 to 6.5 years (Staatsprüfung). The Diplom degree is awarded in engineering disciplines, the natural sciences as well as economics and business. In the humanities, the corresponding degree is usually the Magister Artium (M.A.). In the social sciences, the practice varies as a matter of institutional traditions. Studies preparing for the legal, medical, pharmaceutical and teaching professions are completed by a Staatsprüfung.

The three qualifications (Diplom, Magister Artium and Staatsprüfung) are academically equivalent. They qualify to apply for admission to doctoral studies. Further prerequisites for admission may be defined by the Higher Education Institution, cf. Sec. 5.

- Integrated studies at Fachhochschulen (FH)/Universities of Applied Sciences (UAS) last 4 years and lead to a Diplom (FH) degree. While the FH/UAS are non-doctorate granting institutions, qualified graduates may apply for admission to doctoral studies at doctorate-granting institutions, cf. Sec. Doctorate.

- Studies at Kunst- and Musikhochschulen (Universities of Art/Music etc.) are more diverse in their organization, depending on the field and individual objectives. In addition to Diplom/Magister



degrees, the integrated study programme awards include Certificates and certified examinations for specialized areas and professional purposes.

Doctorate

Universities as well as specialized institutions of university standing and some Universities of Art/Music are doctorate-granting institutions. Formal prerequisite for admission to doctoral work is a qualified Master (UAS and U), a Magister degree, a Diplom, a Staatsprüfung, or a foreign equivalent. Particularly qualified holders of a Bachelor or a Diplom (FH) degree may also be admitted to doctoral studies without acquisition of a further degree by means of a procedure to determine their aptitude. The universities respectively the doctorate-granting institutions regulate entry to a doctorate as well as the structure of the procedure to determine aptitude. Admission further requires the acceptance of the Dissertation research project by a professor as a supervisor.

Grading Scheme

The grading scheme in Germany usually comprises five levels (with numerical equivalents; intermediate grades may be given): "Sehr Gut" (1) = Very Good; "Gut" (2) = Good; "Befriedigend" (3) = Satisfactory; "Ausreichend" (4) = Sufficient; "Nicht ausreichend" (5) = NonSufficient/Fail. The minimum passing grade is "Ausreichend" (4). Verbal designations of grades may vary in some cases and for doctoral degrees.

In addition institutions may already use the ECTS grading scheme, which operates with the levels A (best 10 %), B (next 25 %), C (next 30 %), D (next 25 %), and E (next 10 %).

Access to Higher Education

The General Higher Education Entrance Qualification (Allgemeine Hochschulreife, Abitur) after 12 to 13 years of schooling allows for admission to all higher educational studies. Specialized variants (Fachgebundene Hochschulreife) allow for admission to particular disciplines. Access to Fachhochschulen (UAS) is also possible with a Fachhochschulreife, which can usually be acquired after 12 years of schooling. Admission to Universities of Art/Music may be based on other or require additional evidence demonstrating individual aptitude.

Higher Education Institutions may in certain cases apply additional admission procedures.

National Sources of Information

- Kultusministerkonferenz (KMK) [Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs of the Länder in the Federal Republic of Germany]; Lennéstrasse 6, D-53113 Bonn; Fax: +49 [0]228/501-229; Phone: +49 [0]228/501-0
- Central Office for Foreign Education (ZaB) as German NARIC; www.kmk.org; E-Mail: zab@dlkkmk.org
- "Documentation and Educational Information Service" as German EURYDICE-Unit, providing the national dossier on the education system (www.kmk.org/doku/bildungswesen.htm); E-Mail: eurydice@dlkkmk.org
- Hochschulrektorenkonferenz (HRK) [German Rectors' Conference]; Ahrstrasse 39, D-53175 Bonn; Fax: +49[0]228/887-110; Phone: +49 [0]228/887-0; www.hrk.de; E-Mail: post@dlhrk.de
- "Higher Education Compass" of the German Rectors' Conference features comprehensive information on institutions, programmes of study, etc. (www.higher-education-compass.de)

1 The information covers only aspects directly relevant to purposes of the Diploma Supplement. All information as of 1 December 2008.

2 Berufsakademien are not considered as Higher Education Institutions, they only exist in some of the Länder. They offer educational programmes in close cooperation with private companies. Students receive a formal degree and carry out an apprenticeship at the company. Some



Berufsakademien offer Bachelor courses which are recognized as an academic degree if they are accredited by a German accreditation agency.

3 German Qualification Framework for Higher Education Degrees (Resolution of the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs of the Länder in the Federal Republic of Germany of 21.04.2005).

4 Common structural guidelines of the Länder as set out in Article 9 Clause 2 of the Framework Act for Higher Education (H R G) for the accreditation of Bachelor's and Master's study courses (Resolution of the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs of the Länder in the Federal Republic of Germany of 10.10. 2003, as amended on 18.9.2008).

5 Law establishing a Foundation "Foundation for the Accreditation of Study Programmes in Germany", entered into force as from 26.2.2005, G V. NRW. 2005, nr. 5, p. 45 in connection with the Declaration of the Länder to the Foundation "Foundation for the Accreditation of Study Programmes in Germany" (Resolution of the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs of the Länder in the Federal Republic of Germany of 16.12.2004).

6 See note No. 5.

7 See note No. 5.



Italy (Ca' Foscari University Venice)

The Italian University System (DM 509/99 and DM 270/2004)

Since 1999, Italian university studies have been reformed so as to meet the objectives of the "Bologna process". The university system is now organised in 3 cycles: the Laurea, the 1st cycle academic degree, grants access to the 2nd cycle, and the Laurea specialistica/magistrale, the main degree of the 2nd cycle, gives access to 3rd cycle courses awarding the Dottorato di ricerca. In addition to the three sequential degrees mentioned above, the system offers other programmes with their respective degrees.

First cycle. First cycle studies consist exclusively in Corsi di Laurea, aimed at guaranteeing students an adequate command of general scientific methods and contents as well as specific professional skills. The general access requirement is the school leaving qualification awarded on completion of 13 years of global schooling and after the relevant State examinations; also comparable foreign qualifications may be accepted. Admission to individual degree courses may be subject to specific course requirements. Laurea courses last 3 years. The Laurea (1st degree) is awarded to students who have earned 180 credits; the completion of a training period and the defence of a thesis may also be required. The Laurea grants access to competitions for the civil service, to regulated and non-regulated professions, and to 2nd cycle courses.

Second cycle. Second cycle studies include the following typologies:

A) Corsi di Laurea specialistica/Corsi di Laurea magistrale; they are aimed at providing students with an advanced level of education for the exercise of a highly qualified activity in specific areas. Access is usually by a Laurea or a comparable foreign degree; admission is subject to specific course requirements determined by individual universities; workload: 120 credits; length: 2 years. The awarding of the degree, Laurea specialistica/magistrale (2nd cycle degree of the "Bologna process") is conditional on the defence of a thesis. The change of the name from Laurea specialistica into Laurea magistrale was decided in 2004.

A limited number of 2nd cycle programmes (dentistry, human medicine, pharmacy, veterinary medicine, architecture, law), are defined Corsi di Laurea specialistica/magistrale a ciclo unico (one-block LS/LM courses); access is by the school leaving diploma or a comparable foreign qualification; admission is subject to selective entrance exams; each degree course is organised in just one-block of 5 years and 300 credits (only human medicine requires 6 years and 360 credits). All Lauree specialistiche/magistrali grant access to competitions for the civil service, to regulated and non-regulated professions, research doctorate programmes and all the other degree courses of the 3rd cycle.

B) Corsi di Master universitario di primo livello. They consist in advanced scientific courses or higher continuing education studies open to the holders of a Laurea or a comparable foreign degree; admission may be subject to additional conditions. Length: minimum 1 year; workload: 60 credits at least. The Master universitario di primo livello does not give access to the 3rd cycle.

Third cycle. Third cycle studies include the following typologies:

A) Corsi di Dottorato di Ricerca aim at training students for very advanced scientific research; they adopt innovative teaching methodologies, updated technologies, training periods abroad and supervised activities in specialized research centres. Admission requires a Laurea specialistica/ magistrale (or a comparable foreign degree) and to pass a specific competition;



studies last a minimum of 3 years; the doctoral student must work out an original dissertation to be defended in the final examination.

B) Corsi di specializzazione are devised to provide students with knowledge and abilities as requested in the practice of highly qualified professions; they mainly concern medical, clinical and surgical specialities. Admission requires a Laurea specialistica/magistrale (or a comparable foreign degree) and the passing of a competitive examination; course length varies in relation to subject fields. The final degree, Diploma di specializzazione, gives the right to the title as specialista.

C) Corsi di Master universitario di secondo livello consist in advanced scientific courses or higher continuing education studies, open to the holders of an LS or a comparable foreign degree. Length: minimum 1 year; workload: 60 credits at least.

Credits: degree courses are usually structured in credits. A university credit generally corresponds to 25 hours of global work per student, time for personal study included. The average workload of a full time student is conventionally fixed at 60 credits per year.

Classes of degree courses: all degree courses sharing educational objectives and teaching-learning activities are organised in groups called classi. The content of individual degree courses is autonomously determined by universities; however, when establishing a degree course, individual institutions have to adopt some general requirements fixed at national level. Degrees belonging to the same class have the same legal validity.

Academic titles: the Laurea confers the title "Dottore", the Laurea specialistica/magistrale that of Dottore magistrale, the Dottorato di ricerca that of "Dottore di ricerca".

Joint degrees: Italian universities may establish degree courses in cooperation with foreign partner universities; on completion of integrated curricula joint or double/multiple degrees are awarded.



France (University of Paris Diderot)

Please see following pages.

Degrees

The system of degrees awarded in French higher education reflects a common European architecture. The LMD system—for *Licence* (bachelor), Master, and Doctorate—is based on the number of semesters completed after leaving secondary school and their equivalent in European credits under the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS)*:

- **Licence** = 6 semesters = 180 ECTS (*Baccalauréat or equivalent* + 3 years)
- **Master** = 10 semesters = 300 ECTS (*Baccalauréat or equivalent* + 5 years)
- **Doctorate** = 16 semesters (*Baccalauréat or equivalent* + 8 years)

- The universities confer “national diplomas,” which have the same weight regardless of the institution that confers them.

- The *diplôme d’ingénieur* is a national diploma. The schools that award it are accredited by the French national commission on engineering degrees (CTI).

- A similar accreditation procedure exists for government-recognized schools of business and management, the diplomas of which are approved by the Ministry of National Education and, in many cases, have obtained international recognition or accreditation.

- France’s schools of art and specialized schools also undergo national certification.

The degrees conferred in French universities and other institutions of higher education are certified by the French government.

LEVELS		THE LMD SYSTEM		
		Universities		
9	18 semesters (+ 9 years)	• State diploma of doctor of medicine		
		DOCTORAL DEPARTMENTS		
8	DOCTORATE 16 semesters (+ 8 years)	• Doctorate / PhD	Grandes Écoles Schools of business Schools of engineering	Schools of art Schools of architecture Other institutions (lycées, specialized schools)
7				
6	12 semesters (+ 6 years)	• State diploma of doctor of dental surgery • State diploma of doctor of pharmacy	• Specialized <i>Mastère</i> - MS • Master of Business Administration - MBA	• HMONP (professional credential for independent practice of architecture)
5	MASTER 10 semesters (+ 5 years) 300 ECTS	• Research master • Professional master • Engineering degree	• Engineering degree • Master of Science - MSc • Business school diplomas • Degrees of the <i>Grandes Ecoles</i>	• Diploma of art schools (DNSEP) • State diploma of architect • Diplomas of specialized schools (health, social work, tourism...)
4				
3	LICENCE 6 semesters (+ 3 years) 180 ECTS	• Licence (bachelor) • Licence professionnelle (professional bachelor)		
2	4 semesters (+ 2 years)	• University diploma in technology (DUT)	• Admission to the first year of a <i>Grande École</i> program • Preparation for admission to <i>Grandes Écoles</i> (CPGE)	• Diploma of art schools (DMA) • Higher technical certificate (BTS)
1				

Completion of secondary school + Baccalauréat or equivalent (eligibility to enter higher education in home country) = access to French higher education

*ECTS credits: Credits earned under the European Credit Transfer System are recognized throughout Europe. A full year of academic work represents 60 ECTS credits.
http://ec.europa.eu/education/lifelong-learning-policy/doc48_fr.htm

Did you know?

- Any student presently enrolled in higher education in his or her home country may apply for admission to a French university or other institution of higher education, provided he or she meets certain criteria.



Professionally oriented national diplomas at the L2 and L3 levels

The evolution of the global economy has placed a high premium on skills, advanced technical knowledge, and operational know-how as the keys to career advancement. To meet these demands, France's system of higher education has created undergraduate programs that combine theory and practice, enabling students to gain up-to-date skills, learn the latest methods, and use professional tools in real-world settings.



Brevet de Technicien Supérieur (BTS, postsecondary technical certificate)

The BTS is a national vocational/professional qualification representing 120 ECTS credits (2 years of postsecondary study). It is offered in 87 different areas spanning manufacturing, production, services, and the plastic arts. Most BTS programs are offered in the postsecondary technical sections of secondary schools. Graduates are equipped to perform specialized technical functions in a professional environment.

List of BTS specialties:

www.sup.adc.education.fr/btslst/

Diplôme Universitaire de Technologie (DUT, university technical diploma)

The DUT is a national vocational/professional qualification representing 120 ECTS credits (2 years of study). It is conferred by France's university-based institutes of technology, or IUTs. DUT programs are offered in 24 specialty areas, 15 of which are related to production (materials science and engineering, mechanical engineering, computer-assisted manufacturing, etc.) and 9 to services (administration, communication, management, information, etc.). Programs prepare graduates to begin a career immediately after graduation. Most require an internship. Graduates may also elect to continue their education by applying for admission to a school of engineering or management.

The 115 IUTs located throughout France offer 658 different DUT degrees: www.iut-fr.net

Licence Professionnelle (professional licence)

After successfully completing 2 years of postsecondary study, students may apply to enter a 1-year program that allows them to earn a *Licence professionnelle*, a national professional diploma signifying the accumulation of 180 ECTS credits. Programs are offered in universities, IUTs, and some public and private secondary schools. More than 2,000 *Licences professionnelles* are offered in 46 broad areas that include the agricultural and manufacturing sectors (agriculture, fisheries, forests and natural areas; civil engineering, construction, woodworking; mechanics, electricity, electronics; production and transformation) as well as services (management and trade; communication and information; local government services; personal services). Opportunities for professional internships and the participation of practicing professionals in the delivery of instruction make the professional *licence* a very effective way to start a career. Across France, more than 40,000 students are enrolled in *licence professionnelle* programs. National registry of professional certifications (RNCP):

www.cncp.gouv.fr>Licence professionnelle

The online catalog of postsecondary vocational/professional programs in France

www.campusfrance.org

> Find your program

>Licence

Listings of all BTS, DUT, and professional licence programs, with Web sites and contact information.

Subject-area profiles

www.campusfrance.org

>Resource Center

>Educational and research programs

>Subject-area profiles

Each profile outlines degree programs and other aspects of a particular field, such as aeronautics, banking, retail, culinary arts and restaurant management, hotel management, nursing, nuclear engineering, water resource management, tourism, and many more.

Degree descriptions

www.campusfrance.org

>Resource Center

>Educational and research programs

>Degree descriptions

The BTS, DUT, and *Licence professionnelle* are presented in detail, including information on prerequisites and the possibilities for further study.



Doctoral programs

Any student holding a European master or the equivalent may apply for admission to a doctoral program in France. Programs generally last three years. Candidates who prepare and successfully defend a thesis or dissertation receive the doctorate.

Scientific research is a top priority in France

France devotes 2.36% (€27.6 billion) of its gross domestic product to public research activities.

Since 2005, several new mechanisms to support research cooperation, financing, and assessment have been developed, attesting to both the flexibility and the vitality of the French research enterprise:

- A new national research agency (ANR) manages financing for research projects.
- New tools for cooperation in research include research and higher education clusters, known as PRES (for *pôles de recherche et d'enseignement supérieur*), thematic networks for advanced research (RTRA, *réseaux thématiques de recherche avancée*), thematic centers for research and care (CTRS, *centres thématiques de recherche et de soins*), and competitiveness clusters.
- Public support for corporate research and development has been increased.

Doctoral programs

Doctoral training takes place within research teams or units affiliated with a doctoral department.

Candidates work under the supervision of a dissertation adviser. Most doctoral programs are found in the universities.

About 300 university doctoral departments organize **research** teams around scientific and scholarly themes. They coordinate doctoral programs and ensure the coherence and efficiency of scientific and scholarly projects.

Prospective doctoral candidates must apply directly to a specific doctoral program.

40% of all French doctorates are earned by candidates from outside France

(11% in law and political science; 23% in economics and management; 31% in literature, language, and humanities; 26% in the sciences; 9% in health).

Financing doctoral study

Demonstrating the ability to pay for doctoral study is very often a prerequisite for admission to a doctoral program.

- **Doctoral contracts** are a new public mechanism for financing doctoral education that emphasizes professional research experience, an essential part of doctoral education. Anyone holding a master's degree or equivalent, regardless of age, may apply. Contracts are for 3 years and offer all of the benefits of a formal employment agreement. Contract terms are identical at all French institutions of higher education and research. The minimum guaranteed gross compensation ranges from about €1,300 to €1,700. Doctoral departments are responsible for recruiting candidates.

- **Research training agreements with industry**

CIFREs (conventions industrielles de formation par la recherche) enable young researchers to complete their dissertation while working for a firm. Participants agree on a research and development program that is pursued in cooperation with a research team based outside the firm. CIFRE-funded candidates must hold a master or an engineering degree. www.anrt.asso.fr

- **International joint doctoral programs**

Governed by an agreement between a French institution of higher education and a partner institution outside France, joint doctoral programs allow candidates to work on their dissertation in two countries according to defined conditions (time spent in each country, dissertation defense, financing...). Most joint degree programs are accompanied by dedicated financial aid, the main purpose of which is to defray the candidate's travel costs.

ERASMUS MUNDUS Joint Doctorates – EMJDS

Full-time grants are offered to students who have been selected to participate in a doctoral program that has been granted the Erasmus Mundus label. The amount of the doctoral grants varies from program to program and includes tuition, travel expenses, living expenses, and so on.

To be considered for an Erasmus Mundus grant, candidates must:

- Identify an Erasmus Mundus program appropriate for their intended research.

- Submit an application for admission to the university that coordinates the consortium. Applications are generally due between October and December.

Applicants are allowed to submit applications to no more than 3 different consortia in a given year. The program is coordinated by EACEA, the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency of the European Commission.

<http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/ErasmusMundus/Selectedprojects/Joindoctorates>

Contact in France :

Agence 2E2F :

www.europe-education-formation.fr/erasmus-mundus-cours-masters.php

www.campusfrance.org

> find your course

> level D

CampusFrance's online catalog includes every French doctoral program and the research units with which it is affiliated. The database is accessible through a bilingual (French and English) search engine that employs 20,000 keywords in 80 disciplines.

A profile of each doctoral program is also provided.

www.campusfrance.org

>Resource center>educational and research programs>Degree descriptions

Now! Complete details on the system of international joint supervision of dissertation research

www.campusfrance.org

Finance your program

Find financial assistance online using the CampusBourse grant search engine!



Universities

France's 83 publicly financed universities are well distributed around the nation. They award national diplomas, which provide the assurance of a uniformly high level of educational quality regardless of where they are earned—from the famous Sorbonne to the alpine campuses of the universities of Grenoble and Chambéry and the island campus of the University of Corsica.

The universities offer programs in all disciplines, including the sciences (mathematics, chemistry, physics, biology), technology (computer science, engineering, electrotechnics, materials), literature, languages, the arts, the social sciences, law, economics, business, health and medicine, and physical education. All of the nation's universities are public. The universities offer programs at every level; their graduates receive nationally regulated degrees known as national diplomas: the *licence* (3 years), master (5 years), and doctorate (8 years).

Note: What are diplômes d'université (DU)?

In parallel with the system of national diplomas, individual universities offer programs that reflect their academic orientations or respond to regional economic imperatives. Those diplomas have a variety of names, the most common of which is *diplôme d'université (DU)*. Another is *diplôme d'études supérieures d'université*, or DESU. They are not national diplomas, but they offer international students many opportunities to gain university-level knowledge and experience in very specific areas.



Research, a key function of the universities

Energized by 97.000 research faculty, 285 doctoral departments spread throughout the nation's universities manage research programs in close cooperation with more than 1,200 university-based laboratories. France's doctoral departments have always been open to international exchanges: of 65.000 doctoral candidates in French institutions in 2010, more than 26.000 came from outside France.



France's system of higher education enrolls 2.2 million students, two-thirds of whom attend the country's 83 public universities.

Deeply committed to their corporate, academic, and research partners in France and abroad, the nation's universities daily demonstrate their dynamism and their ability to respond to change.

In parallel with the traditional academic degree ladder, the universities have been able to accommodate new educational needs:

- **University-based engineering programs** now confer 60% of the engineering degrees awarded in France each year.
- **More than 2.000 career-oriented licence degrees**, known as *licences professionnelles*, are available.
- **Technical programs** are offered in 24 specialty areas in university-based institutes of technology (IUTs, *instituts universitaires de technologie*).
- **Management programs** are available in university-based institutes of business administration (IAE, *instituts d'administration des entreprises*).
- **Programs in political science and economics** are based in university-based institutes of politics (IEP, *instituts d'études politiques*) and Science Po Paris.
- **Journalism and communication** are taught in specialized institutes in several universities. Examples include CELSA at the University of Paris-Sorbonne and the Centre Universitaire d'Enseignement du Journalisme at the University of Strasbourg.

Higher education and research clusters

France's higher education and research clusters, known as PRES (*pôles de recherche et d'enseignement supérieur*), were created to bring together universities, *Grandes Écoles*, and research organizations located near one another, thereby enabling them to coordinate their activities and pool resources and skills in the areas of research, training, and international cooperation.

Shared mechanisms include:

- Thematic centers of excellence in research and innovation with close ties to local companies
- A single point of contact for foreign researchers and doctoral candidates
- Formation of and support for doctoral departments that confer doctoral degrees in the name of the PRES and provide career-related services for junior researchers
- A one-stop shop for international student services
- Publication of academic and scientific work

Seventeen PRES have been formed since 2006. They are located throughout France.

www.campusfrance.org/fr

>Resource center >Practical and institutional guides

>Profiles of France's higher education and research clusters

Training in medicine, pharmacy, and dentistry is provided only in the universities, which operate in close cooperation with major teaching hospitals, known as CHUs (*centres hospitaliers universitaires*). Education in these fields is organized around a common curriculum.

International students and medical education in France

It is not possible to enter the general medicine curriculum mid-way through. Unless they have already obtained a medical degree in their home country, international students from outside the European Union wishing to study medicine in France must enroll in the first year of the first cycle of medical education, known as PAES, and must pass the examination given at the end of that year. Students who pass that examination may then jump to the level they had reached in their home country, subject to an assessment by the program's administrators of the equivalence of the student's prior preparation. It is also possible to take the *concours d'internat de médecine à titre étranger* (internship exam for foreign candidates), but the number of places is very small. Information is available from France's embassy in your country.

Specialized degree programs, developed in cooperation with foreign countries, have been created for international medical students and graduates: the DFMS (*diplôme de formation médicale spécialisée*, 1–2 years) and the DFMSA (*diplôme de formation médicale spécialisée approfondie*, 6 months to 1 year).

All these programs require a good knowledge of French, evidence of which may be required.

www.campusfrance.org

>Resource center>educational and research programs>Subject area profiles>Medicine

The *Grandes Écoles*

Unique to France, the first *Grandes Écoles* were established in the early 19th century to operate in parallel with the universities. Their distinction then, as now, lay in offering professional education at a very high level.

The *Grandes Écoles* remain very selective. Together they enroll about 226,000 students.

All *Grandes Écoles* offer five-year diplomas recognized by the government to be equivalent to the European master

They may also offer intermediate degrees and specialized diplomas, among them the bachelor (in three or four years), the master of science (MSc) (in four or five years), the master of business administration (MBA), and the specialized *mastère* (MS) (six years).

The traditional path into the *Grandes Écoles* was by examination following two years of preparatory classes. Students then earned their degree in three more years of increasingly specialized study. However many schools offer admission to a 5-year curriculum directly from secondary school.

To accommodate international students, many *Grandes Écoles* offer admission on the strength of the applicant's academic record. The degree may be earned in two to five years, depending on the amount of credit the applicant receives for his or her prior academic work.

Engineering

More than 200 schools of engineering, public and private, run the gamut of engineering sciences. But they also have some common characteristics, emblematic of the solid quality of the *diplôme d'ingénieur*, a venerable French degree that is fully equivalent to the European master. **The *diplôme d'ingénieur* is a national diploma that entitles its holder to apply to a doctoral program.** Depending on the school in which it is offered, the degree may indicate general expertise in engineering or more specialized study—in agronomy, chemistry, biology, or information science, for example. Public schools of engineering charge tuition of approximately €550 per year.

The *Financial Times* ranked 5 French schools among the top 10 master in management programs (2010). The *Economist* included 6 French MBA programs among its top 100 (2010).



Business and management

France's *Grandes Écoles* of business and management, about 200 in number, are recognized by the national government and may boast other distinctions as well, such as membership in the management section of the *Conférence des Grandes Écoles*.

Operating at a variety of levels, France's many schools of business and management offer programs geared to economic requirements and new management practices. Internships and international exchanges play a large role in many programs. The great majority of schools have come together to offer common entrance exams. About 190 schools admit students directly from secondary school.

Most of France's business schools are private; many are affiliated with local chambers of commerce and industry.

The annual tuition varies widely but is generally between €2,000 and €30,000.

Note

Many of France's business schools have attained international recognition by meeting the standards of various accrediting bodies, among them CGE, EQUIS, AACSB, and AMBA. Some forms of recognition apply to the school itself, others to the degree conferred. All signify international recognition.

Engineering and management dominate the offerings of the *Grandes Écoles*, but one also finds programs in public administration (the specialty of the prestigious *Ecole Nationale d'Administration - ENA*), military sciences, higher education and research, agronomy, and veterinary sciences.

The *Écoles Normales Supérieures*

Normales Supérieures

France's three *Écoles Normales Supérieures*—located in central Paris, Cachan (a Paris suburb), and Lyon—prepare students for careers in university teaching and research in both the arts and sciences.

Each ENS has its own procedure for international admissions.



Schools of architecture

Postsecondary programs in architecture in France now follow the harmonized European system of degrees based on the bachelor (*Licence* in France), Master, and Doctorate.

- The first cycle of postsecondary study lasts three years and is capped by the *diplôme d'études en architecture*, equivalent to a *Licence*.
- The second cycle lasts two years and leads to the *diplôme d'état d'architecte*, equivalent to a master's degree.
- The **HMONP** (*habilitation à la maîtrise d'oeuvre en nom propre*) is the sole professional credential that entitles an architect to apply for a building permit. It requires a sixth year of study and an internship.
- The third cycle includes a variety of specialized master's degrees, as well as doctoral programs in architecture in a number of university-affiliated research laboratories.

www.archi.fr/RECHERCHE/



The nation's 20 schools of architecture, all overseen by the French Ministry of Culture, confer national diplomas.

www.archi.fr/ECOLE/

Two other schools deliver degrees that are considered equivalent:

- The public Institut National des Sciences Appliquées (INSA) in Strasbourg (formerly known as ENSAIS). www.insa-strasbourg.fr
- The private École Spéciale d'Architecture (ESA). www.esa-paris.fr



Schools of art

About 60 *écoles supérieures d'art* and 4 *écoles supérieures d'arts appliqués*

are top-notch public institutions that confer government-regulated national diplomas (DNAP and DNSEP) in recognition of 3 or 5 years of study. Following a core curriculum covering the artistic disciplines, they allow students to specialize in art, design, or visual communication.



Private schools of art, and those affiliated with chambers of commerce and industry (the latter are known as *écoles consulaires*)

confer certificates or professional titles. Those that have earned accreditation are listed in the Répertoire National de Certification Professionnelle (national registry of professional certification, www.cncp.gouv.fr) and classified according to the level of employment for which they prepare their students.

All such institutions admit students selectively by exam or interview.



- >Find your program
- >Search by field of study or >Resource center
- www.culture.gouv.fr
- >infos pratiques
- >formation

Schools and specialized institutes

More than 3,000 educational institutions, public and private, known as *écoles spécialisées*, extend the French system of higher education into specific areas such health, paramedical specialties, audiovisual arts, communication, journalism, social work, fashion, design, tourism, culinary arts, hotel management, agriculture, and agronomy.

These institutions offer government-accredited degrees as well as other credentials specific to the institution that confers them. Programs demand from two to five years of study. Admission is by examination or on the basis of the applicant's academic record.



www.campusart.org

Apply online to the 60 member institutions of the CampusArt network of French schools of art

The CampusArt network offers applicants a choice of some 200 different art programs at the *licence* and master levels. By completing a single online form, students who have completed 3 years of art education may apply for admission to the entire network of schools and track the progress of their application through to the offer of admission.



Poland (Jagiellonian University in Kraków)

Post-secondary non-tertiary education

Post-secondary education is considered to be a part of secondary education. Post-secondary schools (*szkoła policealna*) are intended for graduates of general upper secondary schools who wish to obtain a diploma confirming vocational qualifications.

The schools offer courses lasting from 1 to 2.5 years. The students of post-secondary schools and students of sectoral vocational schools and technical upper secondary schools take vocational exams of the same type.

Post-secondary schools will continue their functioning within the new structure of school education.

Higher education

There are two types of Higher Education Institutions:

- university-type (*uczelnia akademicka*)
- non-university-type (*uczelnia zawodowa*).

They both offer first- and second-cycle programmes as well as long-cycle Master's degree programmes while only university-type HEIs can offer third-cycle programmes (doctoral studies) and are authorized to award doctoral degrees.

Studies are organized in the form of full-time (*studia stacjonarne*) or part-time (*studia niestacjonarne*) programmes.

First-cycle programmes lead to two types of degrees:

- *licencjat* (equivalent of Bachelor's degree) - 3-4 year programmes
- *inżynier* (equivalent of Bachelor's degree) - 3.5-4 year programmes.

Holders of the Bachelor's degree can enter second-cycle programmes, which take 1.5-2 years depending on the area of study.

Only several fields of study offer long-cycle Master's degree programmes that last for 4-6 years. First-cycle, second-cycle and long-cycle Master's programmes end with a diploma examination and students who have passed it are granted a relevant degree.

The Master's degree (*magister* or its equivalent) entitles its holder to practice a given profession and provides access to third-cycle studies. They are organised in HEIs or research and development institutions other than HEIs and last for 3-4 years.

Colleges of social work

These institutions operate in the framework of school education system (not the higher education system) offering education at tertiary level (short-cycle higher education).

Structure of the National Education System

