

Journée

PAYS-BAS
CAMPUS FRANCE



Franco-Dutch cooperation day, April 3rd

Comparison of French and Dutch higher education and research systems



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Comparative chart : FR and NL higher education degrees

France

The Netherlands



Upper -Secondary Education Pathways

High school in France, three possible paths:

The general track: *Baccalauréat général*
→ University, IUT, Grandes Ecoles, Private schools

The technological track: *Baccalauréat Technologique*
→ Bachelor Universitaire de Technologie (BUT),
Brevet de Technicien Spécialisé (BTS) or specialized
schools

The professional track: *Baccalauréat professionnel*
→ Graduates can enter the labour market directly or
continue with a BTS or additional training

High school in the NL, three possible paths:

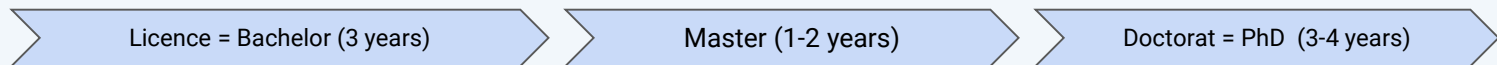
Pre-university education: *VWO diploma*
University (WO) or University of Applied Sciences (HBO)

Senior general secondary education: *HAVO diploma*
Follow up studies: University of Applied Sciences (hbo), or
continue studying for a VWO diploma.

The secondary vocational education: *VMBO diploma*
→ Graduates can enter the labour market directly or
continue studying in University of Applied sciences (HBO)

Higher Education in France and the NL: Similarities

Universities:



Following Bologna Process

France (~80 universities)

- Programs in law, medicine, humanities, science, social sciences, economics...
- L - M - D structure
- Open to anyone with a Baccalauréat or equivalent (=VWO diploma)
- Most French universities are publicly funded
- State-funded and low tuition fees (170-400 euros)
- French and English programmes

Associations representing French universities:

- France Universités
- Udice

The Netherlands (=14 universities)

- Research intensive universities: law, humanities, science, social sciences, economics...
Academic Medical centers
Technical universities
- Open to anyone with VWO diploma (=Bac Général), or with HAVO after completing a year in HBO
- Public institutions, state-funded

Associations representing Dutch universities:

- Universiteit van Nederland (UNL)

Higher Education in France: different options

Grandes Ecoles

- Students can enter after CPGE (Highly selective and intense programs preparing students for competitive entrance exams to “grandes ecoles”) Integrated or at lycée
- Grande Ecole pathway (2 year classes prépas, 3 years grande école = equivalent of master diploma)
- Student can apply for a master program via parallel admission after completing a bachelor
- Conférence des Grandes Ecoles (CGE): association representing Grandes Ecoles

Examples:

- *Business and Management schools*
- *Ecoles normales supérieures (ENS) for research and teaching*
- *IEP (Sciences Po)*

Engineering schools

- Conférence des Directeurs des Ecoles Françaises d'Ingénieurs (CDEFI): association representing all Engineering schools. Some of them are also “Grandes Ecoles” but not all of them
- Strong industry connections
- Obligation to go abroad
- Many options for English–taught programmes



Higher Education in France: different options

Specialized Schools and other private schools

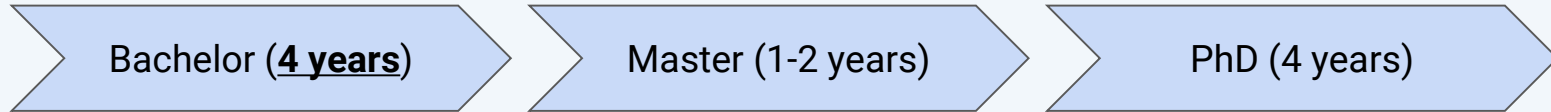
- Schools focusing on art, hôtellerie, architecture, journalism, cinema, IT...
- Admission is selective, often requiring portfolio reviews or entrance exams
- Conservatoires, les Gobelins, le Cordon Bleu,

Institut universitaire de technologie (IUT)

- BUT (bachelor's in technology - 3 years): practical and career oriented studies, including internship
- BTS (higher technician certificate - 2 years): specialized short programs (Business, IT, Healthcare...)
- Mostly taught in French
- Affiliated to universities and in line with Bologna

Higher Education in the NL: different options

Universities of Applied Sciences (UAS)



~ Combination of French universities and IUT

- 36 UAS in the NL
- Open to anyone with a VWO, HAVO and MBO diploma
- Profession-oriented programs for future managers in economics, engineering, agro and food, healthcare, art, social studies and teacher training (for primary education)
- Theory and application of theory + Project-based learning and research + internships

Associations representing Dutch universities of Applied Sciences:

- Vereniging Hogescholen (VH)

Research in France and the Netherlands

Public research actors in France

- Universities with laboratories
- Major national organizations: CNRS, INSERM, INRIA, CEA, INRAE, IFREMER, ...
- Centre hospitaliers universitaires
- Mixed laboratories: partnership between universities, research organizations and business

Private research actors in France

- Many companies have their own research centers (Airbus, Sanofi...)

Public research actors in the NL

- Universities with own research centres and laboratories + Academic hospitals
- Universities of Applied Sciences: Applied research connected to professional practice and education
- Major national organizations: TNO, Institutes of KNAW, Institutes of NWOi

Public/Private research in the NL: Triple helix

- Practical research conducted in close cooperation with small and medium-enterprises., academia and public sectors (eg. New Energy Coalition)
- Many companies have their own research centers

Comparative chart : FR and NL higher education degrees

France

The Netherlands



Funding system and finances

	FRANCE	THE NETHERLANDS
Responsible ministry	Higher Education and Research; Agriculture, Defense, Culture, Economy and Digital Affairs	Education, Culture and Science
Public funding in the budget	Between 60% and 85%, depending on the university	Around 69% of university budgets (in 2022) 93% of University of Applied science budgets
Other funding	<p><u>Public:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Specific funding for research projects (eg. ANR, Horizon EU), regions, France2030 <p><u>Private:</u> Own funds through research contracts, public-private partnerships, apprenticeship revenue, local subsidies</p>	<p><u>Public:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Contractual funding via the Dutch Research Council (NWO) - Specific funding for research projects (eg. Horizon EU), ministries - National Growth Fund <p><u>Private:</u> Research contracts with companies and various grants</p>
Tuition Fees	For EU-students: relatively low (for public universities, around €175-€391 per year) + Grandes écoles and IEP (€620-€15.000), et écoles privées (€175- €20 000) can be expensive.	Tuition fees are higher (legal tuition fee for Dutch and EU students €2,530. For non-EU students it varies between €9,000 - €30,000 per year depending on BA or MA.)
Student loans and finances	No general student loan / bourse, but financial aid for low-income students, bourse sociale, bourse mérite, regions and universities can provide scholarships	DUO, basisbeurs, additional funding for low-income students, and option for loans

FR and NL academic systems

	FRANCE	THE NETHERLANDS
Academic Year	<p>Typically runs from September or October to May /June</p> <p>Academic year = divided in two semesters.</p>	<p>Typically runs from September to June</p> <p>Academic year = divided in 4 blocks, called Terms. It can be divided in two semesters in Universities of Applied Sciences.</p>
Examination system	<p>Two / three exam weeks after each semester (January and June) and continuous assessment.</p> <p>Type of assignments: Written and oral exams, graded papers and presentations throughout the semester</p>	<p>More frequent graded assignments, and mid-terms exams</p> <p>Type of assignments: Graded papers, oral presentations, written and oral exams</p>
Language of Instruction and possibility to learn local language	<p>Bachelor's degrees primarily in French (depends on domains), but many Master's programs available in English, 1800 programmes</p> <p>→ Many options to learn French for English taught programmes</p>	<p>Many programs available in English, Bachelors (30%) especially at the Master's level (73%) in universities, 20% of UAS programs fully or partly taught in english.</p> <p>→ Dutch courses can be followed on demand, usually with a fee</p>

Find out more...



IFNL / Campus
France



Study in NL

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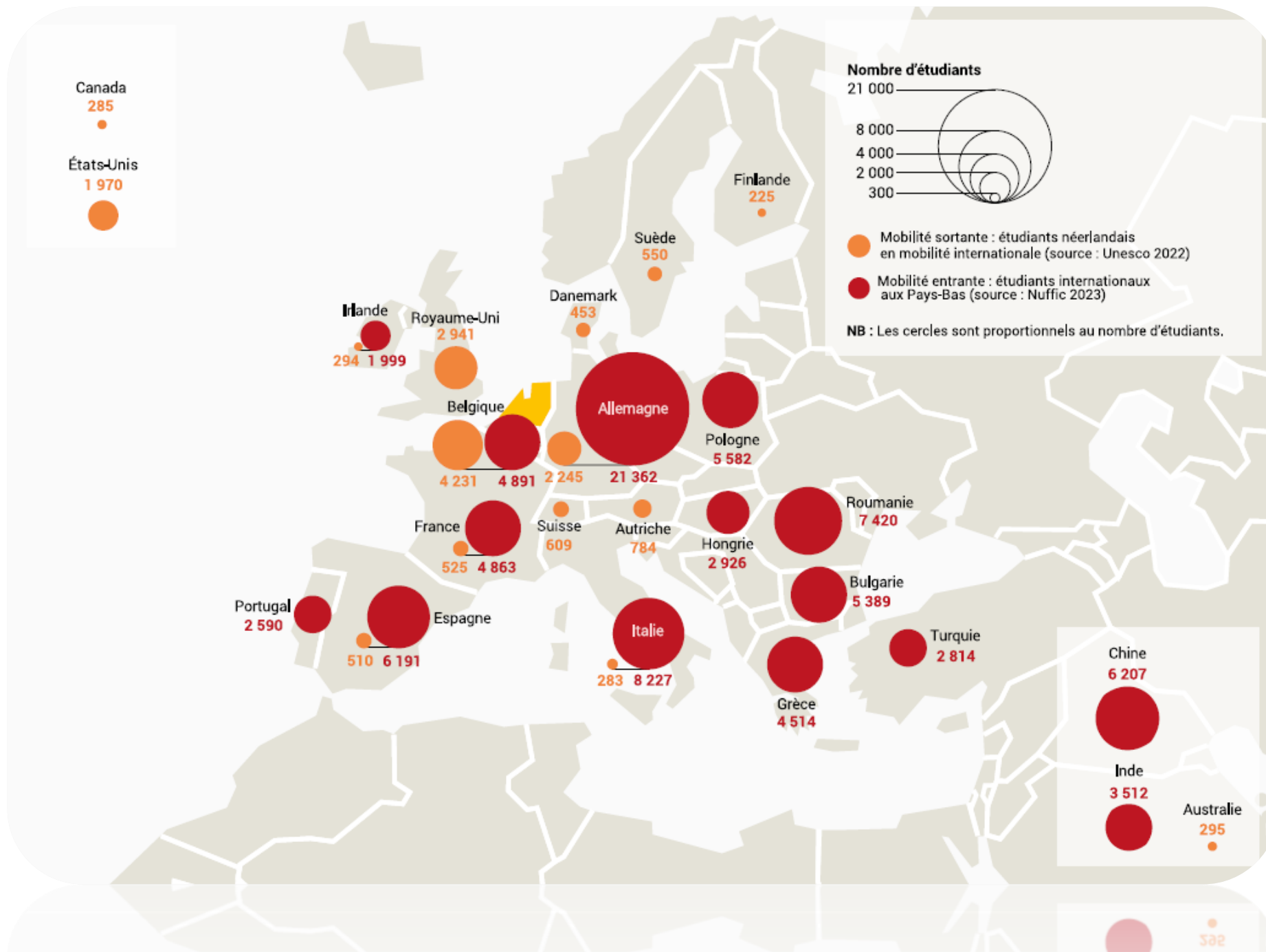
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Student Mobility Between France and the Netherlands: Key Figures

Olivier MARICHALAR
Head of Studies, Press and Communication

2025



128 000
international
degree-seeking students
in the Netherlands

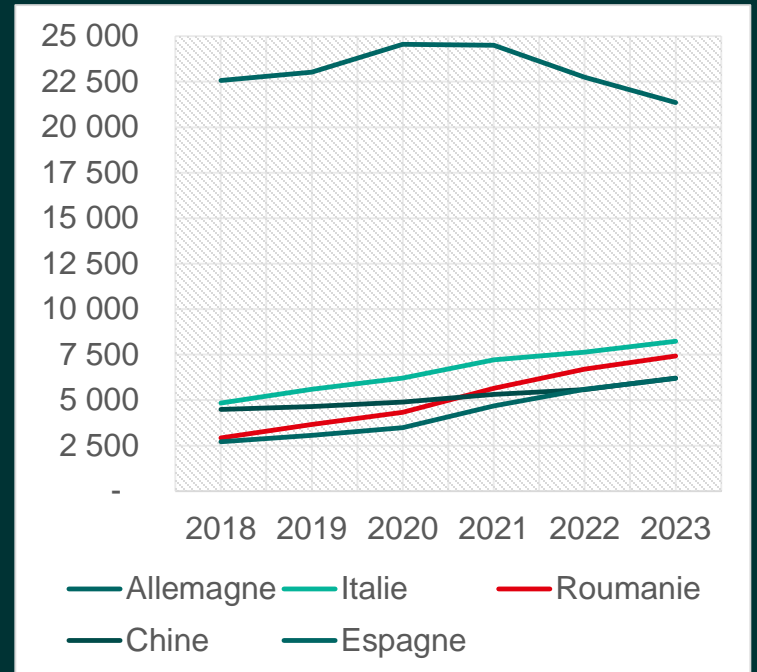
13TH
host country in the world

18 000
Dutch mobile students
in the world

The Top 10 Countries of Origin of International Students in the Netherlands

Country of origin		2023 Headcount	% of total in 2023	5 year progression
1	Germany	21 362	17%	-5%
2	Italy	8 227	6%	+70%
3	Romania	7 420	6%	+154%
4	China	6 207	5%	+38%
5	Spain	6 191	5%	+129%
6	Poland	5 582	4%	+245%
7	Bulgaria	5 389	4%	+72%
8	Belgium	4 891	4%	+36%
9	France	4 863	4%	+76%
10	Greece	4 514	4%	+54%
Total		128 004	100%	+53%

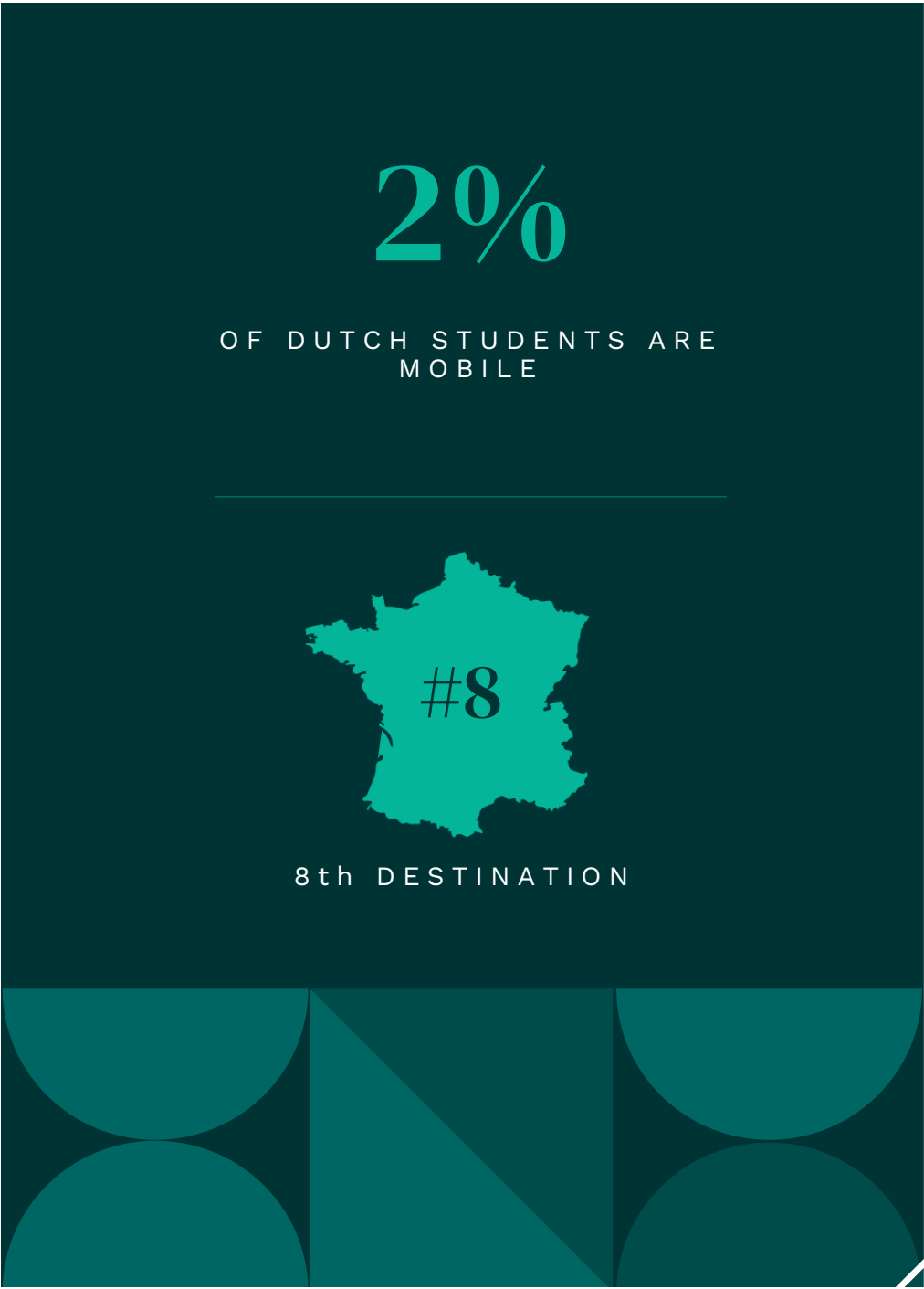
Trends for the 5 first countries of origin



The 10 First Host Countries of Dutch Mobile Students in the World

Host country		2022 Headcount	% of total in 2022	5 year progression
1	Belgium	4 231	23%	-16%
2	United Kingdom	2 941	16%	-16%
3	Germany	2 245	12%	63%
4	United States	1 970	11%	-5%
5	Austria	784	4%	123%
6	Switzerland	609	3%	47%
7	Sweden	550	3%	34%
8	France	525	3%	+18%*
9	Spain	510	3%	69%
10	Denmark	453	2%	-6%
Total		18 245	100%	+0%

Source: UIS, 2024.



Dutch Student Mobility in France

Type of institution	2023-2024 Headcount	Breakdown	2018-2023 Evolution
Universities	860	21%	-2%
Business Schools	253	60%	+22%
Engineering schools	73	10%	+24%
Schools of art and architecture	60	3%	+40%
High Schools (CPGE, STS)	88	1%	+1%
<i>Others Institutions</i>	214	5%	-
Total	1,548	100%	+10%

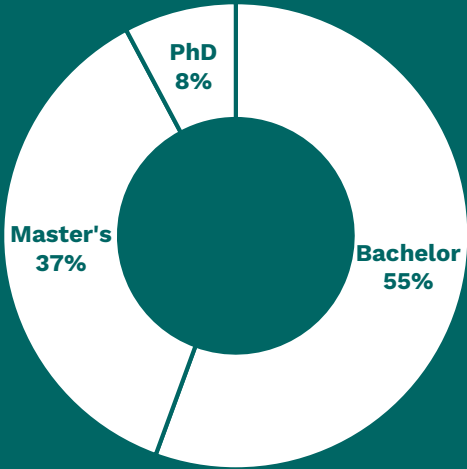
Source: MESR/SIES, 2024.

1 548

DUTCH STUDENTS IN FRANCE

54%

ARE WOMEN



DISCOVER THE KEY FIGURES

Outgoing Mobility of French Students

Top 10 destinations for French students on mobility (2022)

2022 Rank	Destination country	2022 Headcount	2021-2022 Evolution	2017-2022 Evolution
1	Belgium	19,768	+4%	+24%
2	Canada	17,982	+37%	+13%
3	Switzerland	12,548	+2%	+23%
4	United Kingdom	11,726	-16%	-10%
5	Spain	11,140	+8%	+58%
6	Germany	9,671	+7%	+37%
7	United States	5,732	+16%	-12%
8	Netherlands	4,252	+18%	+122%
9	Romania	3,316	+12%	+58%
10	Portugal	2,798	+9%	+315%
Other countries		14,582	+7%	+0%
Total		113,515	+7%	+20%

Source: Unesco, 2024.

114 000

FRENCH STUDENTS ENROLLED
IN INTERNATIONAL MOBILITY

#8

THE NETHERLANDS

Eramus+ Mobilities

To and from the Netherlands

Country of origin	2023 Headcount	% of Total
France	2 764	14%
Spain	2 575	13%
Germany	2 518	13%
Italy	1 747	9%
Turkiye	881	5%
Total	19 507	100%

Host country	2023 Headcount	% of Total
Spain	3 450	18%
Germany	1 781	9%
Italy	1 504	8%
Belgium	1 290	7%
France	1 176	6%
Total	19 095	100%



THE NETHERLANDS ARE THE

6th

ERASMUS+ DESTINATION FOR
FRENCH STUDENTS

6th

ORIGIN COUNTRY IN FRANCE FOR
ERASMUS+ MOBILITY

The French-Dutch Network: Main takeaways and future

French-Dutch Network for Higher Education and Research (RFN) *National, interdisciplinary cooperation structure open to all academic fields*

A national network established in the early 2000s, open to all academic discipline

Multiple supervisory and funding bodies: the French Ministry of Higher Education and Research (MESR), the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (MEAE), the French Embassy in the Netherlands, and the University of Lille.

Hosted and supported by the University of Lille, which provides key resources for the network's operations: one part-time project officer, access to office space, and administrative and financial management support for all activities.

Key Dutch partner : NUFFIC and the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in France.

Three main areas of action:

Grants & Awards :

- *Éole mobility scholarships* (France → Netherlands)
- *Prix d'Amsterdam* (1-year research stay for students in humanities & sciences)

Bi- and Trilateral Events :

- Simple and joint *Créathons* (*cross-border civic & entrepreneurial challenge*)
- *Young Talents* programme (part of the Erasmus-Descartes Conference)
- Bilateral and thematic scientific conferences

Information & Visibility:

- Guides, thematic mapping, and resource documents

Objective: To promote and strengthen academic and scientific cooperation between France and the Netherlands, in line with the European Higher Education and Research Areas.



Créathon - 2020 to 2025

A Créathon is a creative marathon bringing together students and young professionals from France, Belgium, and the Netherlands. Participants from diverse backgrounds collaborate with an entrepreneurial mindset to develop innovative, practical solutions related to a specific topic.

Some of these events are Cross-Créathons, organised in two parts—one in France and one in the Netherlands. While the Créathons held in Lille have mostly been organised in partnership with the Métropole Européenne de Lille (MEL), past Cross-Créathons have involved different partners depending on the theme.

- 2020: Blue links – Urban metabolism and flows: evolution and innovation within the metropolis – 2-4 September (Marseille) & 7-9 October (Rotterdam)
- 2021: Sport, Health and Design – 9, 17-19 March (Lille)
- 2021: Sustainable Urban Design in the face of the health crisis, a potential people-centred solution? – 16-18 September (Paris) & 20-22 October (Eindhoven)
- 2022: Citizen Engagement in Circular Economies – 16-18 March (Maastricht) and 11-13May (Lille)
- 2023: Sustainable food – 2-5 May (Wageningen) and 24-26 May (Lille)

Number of
participant
s per Dutch
institution

Delft University of Technology	6
Maastricht University	4
Eindhoven University of Technology	4
Erasmus University Rotterdam	4
Wageningen University and Research	4
Zuyd University of Applied Sciences	4
Fontys University of Applied Science in Eindhoven	3
Leiden University	2
University of Groningen	2
Hogeschool Rotterdam	1
Radboud University	1
Rotterdam Business School	1
Saxion University of Applied Sciences	1
University of Amsterdam	1
Total	41

Number of
participant
s per
French
institution

Université de Lille	9
Université de Lille ESJ Lille	5
Université Catholique de Lille (ESPOL)	4
École Centrale de Lille	2
ESAAT Roubaix	2
Centrale Marseille Engineer School	1
Ecole Centrale de Marseille	1
Ecole d'Art & de Design ESDAC - Lille	1
Ecole Nationale Supérieure d'Architecture de Marseille	1
JUNIA	1
Université Catholique de Lille	1
Université de Lille Sciences Po	1
Université de Montpellier	1
Total	30

Suspended or discontinued

Eole scholarship programme 2020 to 2024

Grants of €500 and €1,000 for Masters and PhD students from France wishing to study, do a work placement or carry out research in the Netherlands.

- 2020: 102 applications – 37 laureates
- 2021: 139 applications – 47 laureates
- 2022: 173 applications – 35 laureates
- 2023: 187 applications – 34 laureates
- 2024: 195 applications – 38 laureates

Between 2020 and 2024, 10 sessions were held (one in spring and one in autumn each year), awarding scholarships to 191 students from 108 institutions – 38 of which had at least two laureates.

The Éole scholarship programme ended in 2024.

French institutions	Number of laureates
Université de Lille	8
Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne	8
Université Paris Nanterre	7
Université Paris-Saclay	6
Université Toulouse Capitole	6
EPF - Paris	5
Université de Strasbourg	5
Université Paris 8 Vincennes - Saint-Denis	5
Université Rennes 1	4
ENS Paris-Saclay	3
Haute École des Arts du Rhin	3
INSA Lyon	3
ISAE SUPAERO	3
Unilasalle Rouen	3
Nantes Université	3
Université Paris 2 Panthéon Assas	3
Université Paul Valéry Montpellier	3
AgroParisTech	2
AgroSup Dijon	2
Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique et de Danse de Lyon	2
Ecole Centrale de Lyon	2
École Centrale de Nantes	3
École du Louvre	2
École Nationale Supérieure des Arts et Métiers	2
EHESS Paris	2
ENSAD	2
ENSTA Bretagne	2
ENSTA ParisTech	2
EPF - Troyes	2
ESCOM Compiègne	2
INSA Rennes	2

Young Talents – 2020 to 2025

Since 2005 – The Young Talents event, part of the Erasmus-Descartes Conference*, gathers talented young people from France and the Netherlands to debate and work together to find solutions for the future. The debates, ideas and questions raised by the Young Talents are intended to enrich the conference.

*is an annual bilateral event that brings together French and Dutch experts to strengthen cooperation on key societal issues.

- 2020: Sustainable Fashion, Sustainable Materials (Lille)
- 2021: Rethinking the City: From Waste to Innovative Materials (Rotterdam)
- 2022: Sustainable Aviation (Paris)
- 2023: Quantum Leap: Getting Europe ready for Technological Sovereignty (Rotterdam & Delft)
- 2024: A fair energy transition for all (Paris)
- 2025: Cybersecurity (Lille & The Hague) – see next slide
- 2025: Food Security (the Netherlands – city to be confirmed)

Over six editions, the programme has brought together a total of 67 participants, some of whom were already young professionals at the time of their participation.

Number of participants per Dutch institution

Delft University of Technology	14
Leiden University	4
Utrecht University	4
University of Amsterdam	3
Erasmus University Rotterdam	2
Saxion University of Applied Sciences	2
University of Groningen	2
University of Twente	2
Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam	2
Eindhoven University of Technology	1
Rotterdamse Academie van Bouwkunst	1
Royal Academy of Art	1
TNO	1
University of Wageningen	1
Total	41

Number of participants per French institution

Université Grenoble Alpes	3
Ecole Polytechnique	2
Institut Polytechnique de Paris	2
ISAE-Supaero	2
Sciences Po Paris	2
Université de Lille	2
Université de Pau	2
CY Cergy Paris Université	1
Ecole de la Maille de Paris	1
Ecole Supérieure D'ingénieurs du Pôle Léonard de Vinci	1
ENSA Paris La Villette	1
ENSAD École nationale supérieure des Arts Décoratifs	1
ENSEA	1
EPITA	1
Télécom Paris	1
Université Nice Côte d'Azur	1
Université Paris-Saclay	1
Université Savoie Mont Blanc	1
Total	26

Young Talents – special edition

- **2025:** Cybersecurity – Forum InCyber in Lille (spring 2025) – One Conference in The Hague (fall 2025)



Prix d'Amsterdam

Awards a young French graduate with a €15,000 prize to encourage research on Dutch culture and language

- Suzanne Baverez, **2019 laureate** – “La Schildersbent: a network of Dutch artists in Rome in the 17th century (c. 1620–1720)”
Université Paris sciences et lettres (PSL)
- Anton Mbrét, **2021 laureate** – “The role of watches and time-measuring instruments in Northern European painting from the early 16th to the early 18th century”
Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, in joint supervision with the University of Geneva
- Mathieu Le Pors, **2023 laureate** – “Free Trade: Economy and Production of Things in Spinoza”
Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne
- **2025 edition** – postponement considered for 2026 – *to be confirmed*

How can we collaborate together through
the Franco-Dutch Network?

Let's explore possible schemes and ideas
for joint actions!



Nil Toulouse

Vice President International
and European Affairs
Université de Lille

French Institutions	Young Talents	Création	Ecole Scholarships	Total
CY Cergy Paris Université	1	0	1	2
Université Marie et Louis Pasteur	0	0	0	0
Université Le Havre Normandie	0	0	0	0
Université de Toulon	0	0	0	0
Université Paris-Saclay	1	0	6	7
Avignon Université	0	0	0	0
Sorbonne Université	0	0	1	1
Université de Lille	2	15	8	25
Université de Montpellier	0	1	1	2
Université Lumière Lyon 2	0	0	1	1
Université de Strasbourg	0	0	5	5
Université Paris Sciences et Lettres (PSL)	0	0	0	0
EPITECH	0	0	0	0
IFP School	0	0	0	0
ENSTA	0	0	0	0
ISAE-SUPAERO	2	0	3	5
ESTP	0	0	0	0
CESI	0	0	0	0
Grenoble INP-UGA	0	0	0	0
ESTACA	0	0	0	0
Institut Polytechnique de Paris	2	0	0	2
ESIEE-IT	0	0	0	0
ENSAE Paris - IP Paris	0	0	0	0
Efrei Ecole d'ingénieur	0	0	0	0
Centrale Nantes	0	0	3	3
Institut Polytechnique UniLaSalle	0	0	0	0
Ecole Polytechnique	2	0	0	2
Télécom Paris - Institut Polytechnique de Paris	1	0	0	1
Centrale Lille	0	2	1	3
IMT Atlantique	0	0	0	0
ISEP	0	0	0	0
INSA Hauts-de-France	0	0	0	0
IESEG School of Management	0	0	0	0
Institut Mines-Télécom - Business School	0	0	0	0
Université Catholique de Lille	0	6	0	6

Dutch Institutions	Young Talents	Création	Total
Delft University of Technology	13	7	20
Inholland University of Applied Sciences	0	0	0
Utrecht University	4	0	4
Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam	2	0	2
University of Amsterdam	3	1	4
Eindhoven University of Technology	1	4	5
Tilburg University	0	0	0
HvA - University of Applied Sciences Amsterdam	0	0	0
TNO	1	0	1
Avans University of Applied Sciences	0	0	0
Hanze university of Applied Sciences	0	0	0
Maastricht University	0	6	6
University of Twente	2	0	2
Erasmus University Rotterdam	2	4	6