



The System of French Higher Education

CAMPUS FRANCE

THE FRENCH AGENCY FOR THE PROMOTION OF
HIGHER EDUCATION AND INTERNATIONAL
MOBILITY

2025



French higher education institutions

MORE THAN 3.500 HIGHER EDUCATION
INSTITUTIONS OFFERING THOUSANDS
OF COURSES

01



Figures

412 000

International students
welcomed in France in
2024

3 500

Higher education institutions in France (both
public and private)



78

Public universities ,
COMUEs - EPE



267

Doctoral Schools



200

Engineering Schools
(Engineering degree)



90

Business Schools
(recognition by the Ministry
of HE)



120

Higher Education Public
Institutions art programs



22

Schools of Architecture



3 000

Others specialized schools
and private Institutes

On the podium of international

FRANCE IN INTERNATIONAL RANKINGS



French higher education institutions in 6 rankings:

- Shanghai Ranking
- CWUR 2024
- QS World Ranking
- CWTS Leiden Ranking
- Times Higher Education
- Financial Times



FRANCE IN INTERNATIONAL RANKINGS



Shanghai Rankings 2024

(published in August)

- 12^E Université Paris-Saclay
- 33^E Université PSL
- 41^E Sorbonne Université

France ranks 3rd in the Shanghai ranking for the number of schools in the top 20

84 higher education institutions in 51 of the 55 in the theme-based classification; mostly in mathematics, oceanography, ecology...

Center for World University Rankings 2024

(published in April)

- 19^E Université PSL
- 31^E Université Paris-Saclay
- 33^E Université Paris-Cité

73 French universities ranked, including 5 in the top 50 (vs. only 1 at the time of creation in 2012)



On the podium of international rankings

FRANCE IN INTERNATIONAL RANKINGS



QS World University Ranking 2025

(published in June)

- 24^E Université PSL
- 46^E Institut Polytechnique de Paris
- 63^E Sorbonne Université

35 French establishments ranked, including 4 in the top 100

Theme-based classification:

- INSEAD: 2nd in business studies
- Sciences Po: 3rd in political studies
- HEC Paris: 6th in marketing...



CWTS Leiden Ranking 2024

Gender ranking

(published in April)

- 15^E Paris-Cité
- 25^E Sorbonne Université
- 70^E Paris-Saclay

32 French institutions ranked in the Scientific Impact ranking, including 14 in the top 500

FRANCE IN INTERNATIONAL RANKINGS



Times Higher Education 2025

(published in October)

- 42^E Université PSL
- 64^E Université Paris-Saclay
- 70^E Institut Polytechnique de Paris

50 French universities ranked, including 14 in the top 500
French institutions in thematic rankings:

- 35 in engineering
- 33 in physical sciences
- 28 in social studies
- 27 in computer sciences
- 23 in life sciences



Theme-based thematics Financial Times 2024

Masters in Management

- 2^E HEC Paris
- 3^E INSEAD
- 4^E Edhec Business School

The world's top 4 Masters in Finance are 100% French:

- 1^{er} ESCP BS
- 2^e HEC Paris
- 3^e Skema BS
- 4^e Essec BS

FRENCH HIGHER EDUCATION

400

French educational members

The board of the Forum studies the institutions' membership applications and guarantees the quality of its members .
The board is headed by 3 establishment conferences :

France Universités



CDEFI



CGE



Campus France Forum



Higher education institutions



UNIVERSITIES

Universities deliver national diplomas (Bachelor (Licence), Master, Doctorate) which all have the same academic value regardless of the university , as well as universities diplomas .

The first -year registration is open to students who have a baccalauréat or an equivalent diploma .

University courses include all fields of education and research (science, humanities , languages , arts, social sciences, health studies , sport, etc.)



SCHOOLS OF ENGINEERING

The engineering title is equivalent to the national Master diploma . This diploma is considered as equivalent to a *Master in Engineering* by the AACRAO (american accreditation organism) and enables student to pursue doctoral studies .

Engineering courses also include management and international dimensions with a **multidisciplinary approach** . Most of the time, courses are taught in english and engineering schools are in close collaboration with enterprises .

Higher education institutions



PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF ART AND APPLIED ARTS

Schools of art and design are overseen by the Ministry of Culture . Nearly 50 national and territorial schools of art and design . Programs in art, design, and communication organized into 3 cycles (3 years and 5 years capped by national diplomas , post - master diplomas available).

Schools of applied arts and design are overseen by the Ministry of National Education . 4 public institutions of great renown – Boule, Estienne, Duperré and ENSAAMA. Public and private secondary schools under contract .
2 national diplomas (3 years and 5 years) in every specialized fields : graphic art and design ; space design ; fashion ; textiles and environments ; arts and crafts .



SCHOOLS OF ARCHITECTURE (ARCHITECTURE, URBAN PLANNING, LANDSCAPE DESIGN)

A network of 20 public schools operating under the oversight of the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Higher Education and Research . 2 schools authorized to confer degrees recognized .

3 cycles deliver national diplomas . The Diplôme d'État d'Architecte (equivalent to a Master's degree) opens the way to doctoral studies .

The Habilitation à la Maîtrise d'Oeuvre en son Nom Propre (HMONP) requires a sixth year of study and the completion of an internship .

Some schools offer a double degree in architecture and engineering in partnership with Engineering schools .

FOCUS

IAEs

The Instituts d'Administration des Entreprises are a clever combination of private management schools' advantages and universities's values.

Created by the French Ministry of Education, IAEs deliver Bachelor's , Master's and Doctorate degrees , as well as MBAs and university diplomas in all areas of management.

[Find out more about the 1.000 management courses offered by IAEs](#)



Higher education institutions



SPECIALIZED SCHOOLS AND INSTITUTES

More than 3,000 specialized schools and institutions , public and private, in **specific sectors** : paramedical , social work, tourism, culinary, arts , hotel management, tourism ...

These institutions issue :

- **State -registered diplomas** (does not apply to all institutions)
- **Institution -specific certificates** (not recognized by the state)

Programs require **2-5 years of study** and the admissions are based on application files or on competitive admission .



BUSINESS SCHOOLS

One the French higher education's strength, with **23% of international students enrolled in Business Schools** .

24 French master's programs mentioned in the Financial Time 2024 and the world's **Top 4 of master's programs in Finance** are French ones .

19 French schools have tripled accreditation (AACBS, AMBA, EQUIS)

Courses at Grandes Ecoles : numerous courses at different levels, mostly private . Programs are available in French or English .

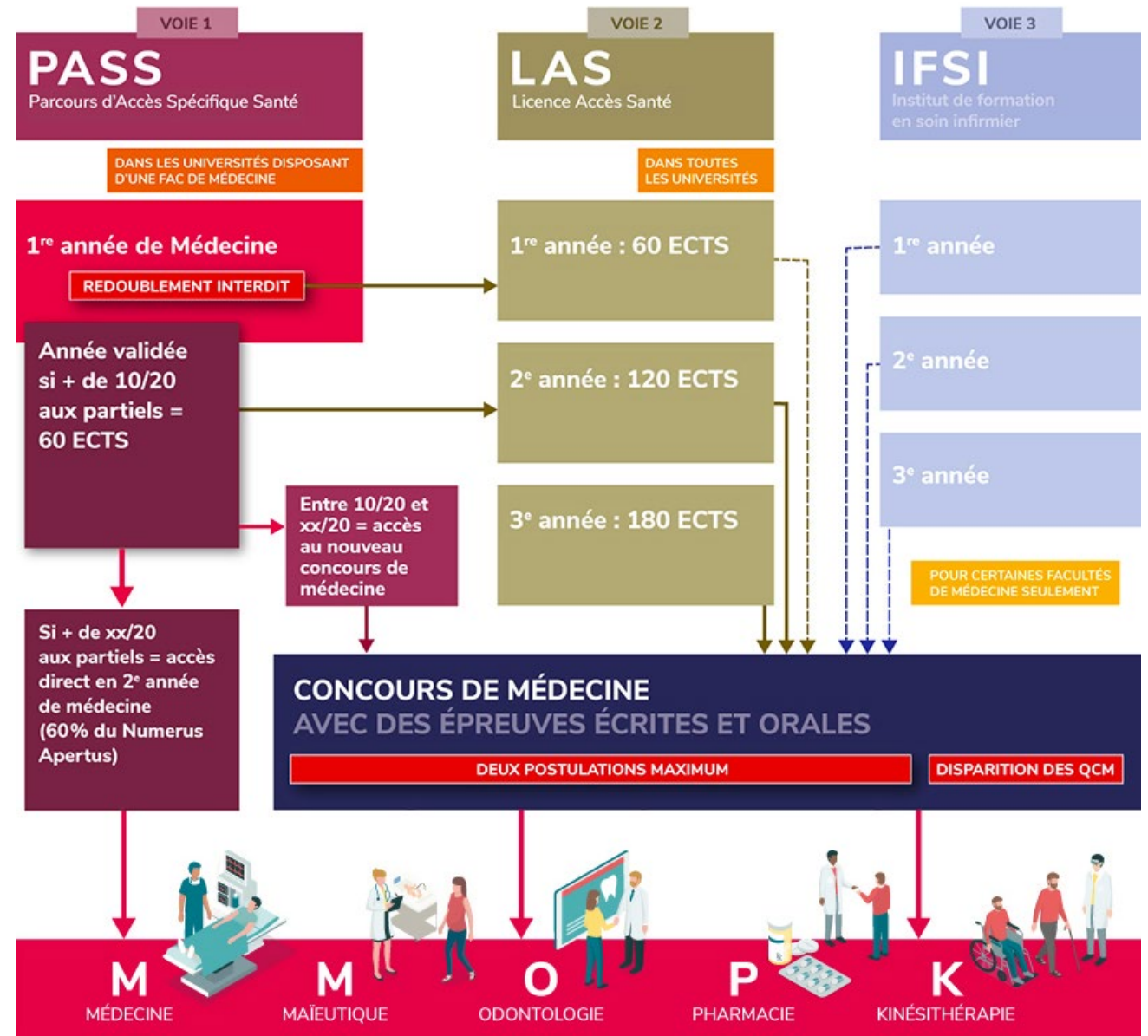
FOCUS

Programs in medicine

2 possible paths for medicine programs after 1, 2 or 3 years of the first cycle and possible choices between several options :

- Licence of various disciplines including a « health access » option (LAS) in more than 112 institutions
- 35 specific Health access courses (PASS) offered only by Universities with UFR Health and including an option of another disciplinary field
- Paramedical studies

→ in all cases, a continuation of studies is guaranteed in the event of failure at admission to health training or if the admitted candidate wishes to pursue studies in another field



FOCUS

Doctoral studies

41 % OF FOREIGN DOCTORAL CANDIDATES



The doctorate is prepared in a Doctoral School (ED). It is carried out under the supervision of one or two thesis directors. Curriculum focused on research work in laboratories, research centers, etc. Very few courses.

Doctoral thesis written and defended. Can be done in English with a summary in French.

Length of training : 3 to 6 years (by special dispensation), depending on discipline.

Doctoral programs : Full doctorate, co-directed or co-tutored, joint European doctorates (e.g. Erasmus Mundus), Doctorat en Entreprise (CIFRE). Doctoral funding is often a prerequisite for enrolment.

In a nutshell

LE SCHÉMA DES ÉTUDES SUPÉRIEURES

Les filières présentées ici sont accessibles directement après le bac.
D'autres accès existent, ainsi que des passerelles.



MINISTÈRE
DE L'ÉDUCATION
NATIONALE ET
DE LA JEUNESSE

MINISTÈRE
DE L'ENSEIGNEMENT SUPÉRIEUR,
DE LA RECHERCHE
ET DE L'INNOVATION

L'université dispense
des formations générales
et professionnelles.
Elle prépare aussi
aux études de santé.

Ces écoles forment
à différents domaines :
communication, art, industrie,
tourisme, commerce, transport,
social, paramédical...

Le lycée dispense
des formations
de niveau
bac + 2 ou bac + 3.

Les écoles d'ingénieurs ou
de commerce, les ENS, les IEP
et les écoles d'art publiques
délivrent des diplômes
de niveau bac + 5.

UNIVERSITÉ

ÉCOLES SPÉCIALISÉES

LYCÉE

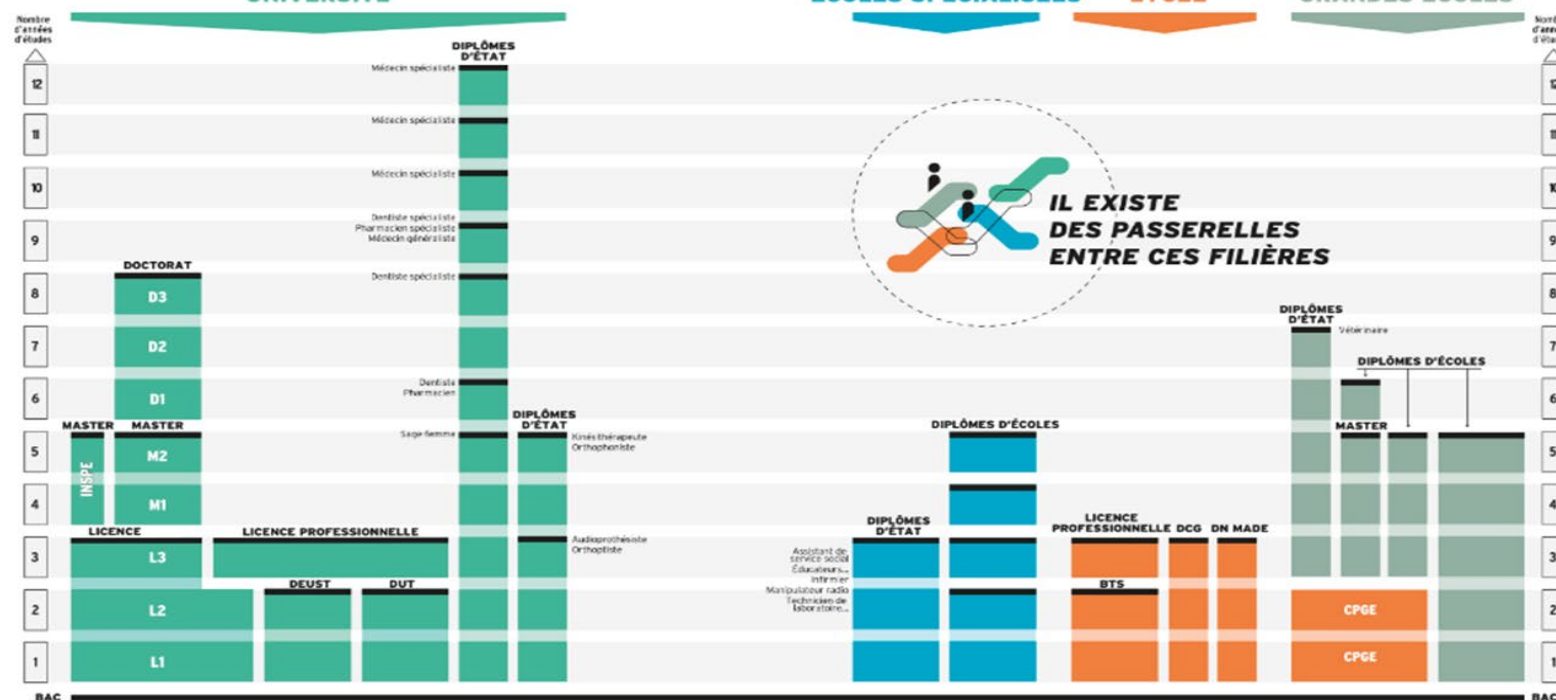
GRANDES ÉCOLES

LE LMD, UN CADRE EUROPÉEN

La plupart des formations françaises de l'enseignement supérieur ont adopté l'organisation européenne des études avec trois paliers en 3, 5 et 8 ans après le bac : licence (L), master (M) et doctorat (D). Double objectif : des diplômes reconnus dans toute l'Europe et au-delà, et une mobilité des étudiants facilitée grâce au programme Erasmus+. Pour chaque diplôme, les enseignements sont scindés en semestres, correspondant chacun à 30 crédits, capitalisables et transférables en France (d'un établissement supérieur à l'autre) et en Europe (d'un pays à l'autre). Sont également organisés selon le LMD : les DUT, les BTS, les prépas, les études de santé, d'architecture...

— Diplôme délivré

BTS : brevet de technicien supérieur
CPGE : classes préparatoires aux grandes écoles
DCE : diplôme de comptabilité et de gestion de 3^e niveau et 4^e
DEUST : diplôme d'études universitaires scientifiques et techniques
DN MADE : diplôme national des métiers d'art et du design
DUT : diplôme universitaire de technologie
ENS : école normale supérieure
IEP : institut d'études politiques
INSP : institut national supérieur du professorat et de l'éducation
L1 : 1^{re} année de licence
M1 : 1^{re} année de master
D1 : 1^{re} année de doctorat



IL EXISTE
DES PASSERELLES
ENTRE CES FILIÈRES

Higher education diplomas

02



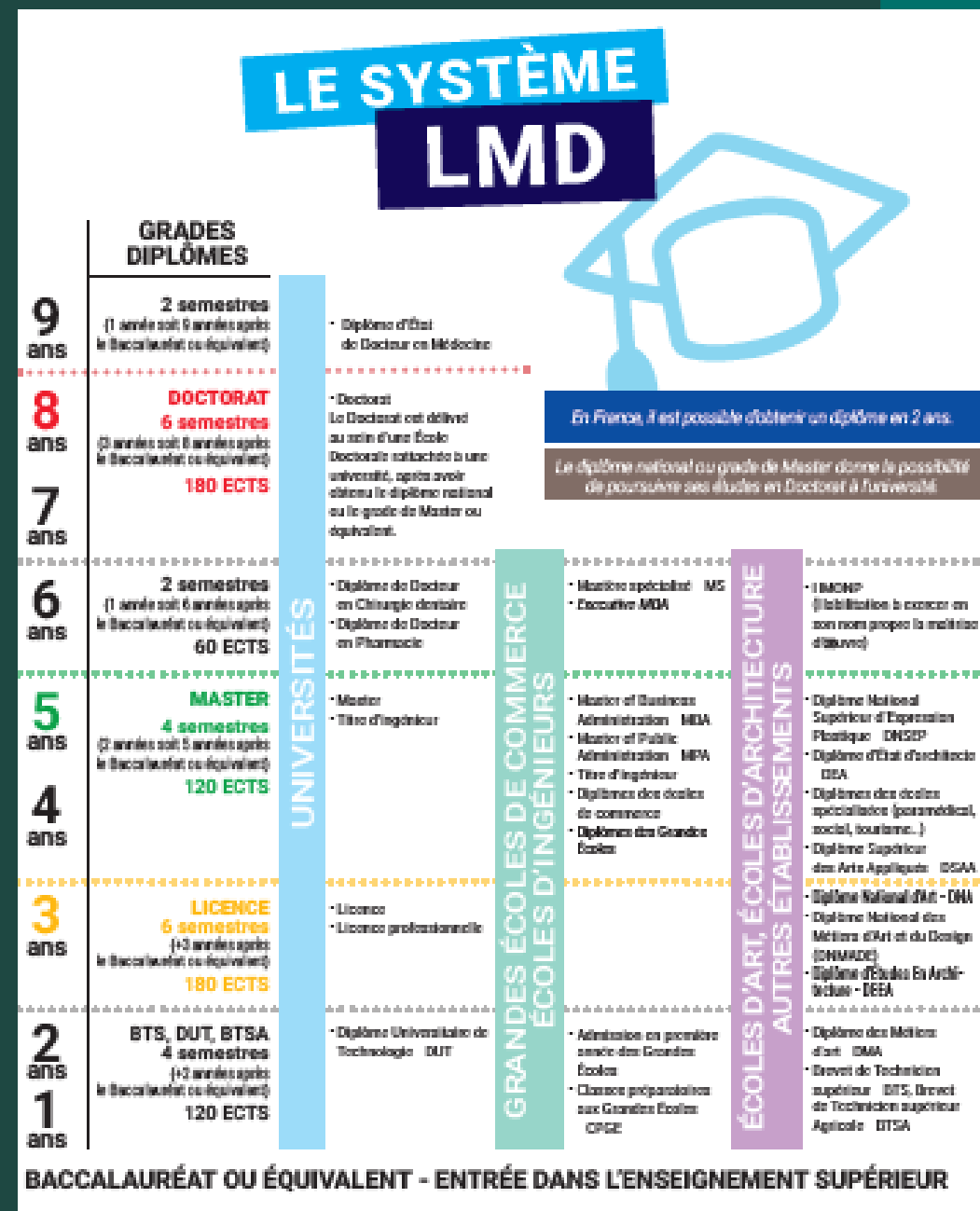
The LMD system

In France, higher education diplomas are structured around the common European Licence, Master, Doctorate (LMD) system.

The three - cycle organization of higher education is common to most countries in the European Union; in France, it's known as the Licence - Master - Doctorat or LMD organization. This system has made it possible to standardize cycles and organize the recognition of diplomas between countries. It facilitates student mobility in Europe and the rest of the world.

LMD degrees are awarded on the basis of the number of semesters completed since entry to higher education.

The student earns 30 ECTS (European Credits Transfer System) each semester, which can be capitalized and transferred from one country to another.



Diplomas' recognition

Diplomas recognized and guaranteed by the State

The value of a French higher education diploma is guaranteed by the State when it is a national diploma, a diploma approved by the Ministry of Higher Education or titles registered with the RNCP (National Register of Professional Certifications).

For some Grandes Ecoles , Business Schools and Engineering Schools , the quality of training and diplomas can also be guaranteed by independent bodies that award accreditations or labels .

LABELS MONITORED BY MESR

In a fast - changing educational landscape , and with a view to providing the most accurate and documented information possible, the French Ministry of Higher Education and Research has decided to label all higher education courses which academic quality is specifically controlled by the French government , whether they are offered by a public or private institution.



Tuition fees

Tuition fees at public higher education establishments are among **the lowest** in the world, thanks to the fact that **the State covers the actual cost of studies** (€14,000/student/year).

Differentiated fees apply to non -EU students arriving in France at public higher education establishments under the authority of the **MESR**. This is the case for all public universities, for example (decree of April 19, 2019).

Please note that some non -EU students may be **exempt from the differentiated tuition fees** (partial or total). This is the case, for example, for **all French government scholarship holders** .

	DROITS CLASSIQUES	DROITS DIFFÉRENCIÉS
CYCLE LICENCE	175 €	2850 €
CYCLE MASTER	250 €	3879 €
FORMATION INGÉNIEUR	618 € *	VARIABLE
DOCTORAT	391 €	

Courses in a private institution (between 1.500€ and 30.000€ per year (10.000€ on average) are more expensive than in university .

Resources

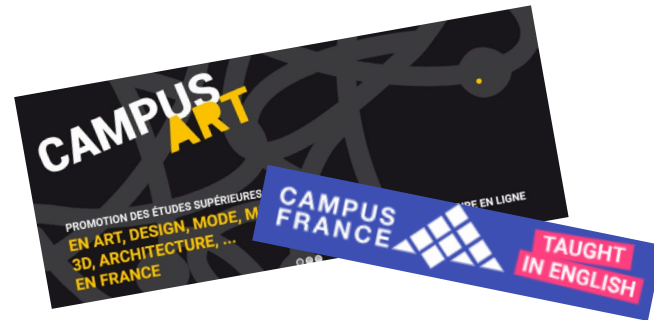
03



Promoting our courses offer

INTERNET BROWSING

[taught in English](#),
[formations d'art](#),
[licences](#), [masters](#),
etc.



DIPLOMAS, FIELDS AND INSTITUTIONS BROCHURE

Consult them in our
[collection](#)



FRENCH RESEARCH PORTAL

Directory, list of
offers, financing
programs



INFORMATION GUIDES

Information on
[everyday life](#) in
France...



Observing and understanding international mobility

20 publications each year

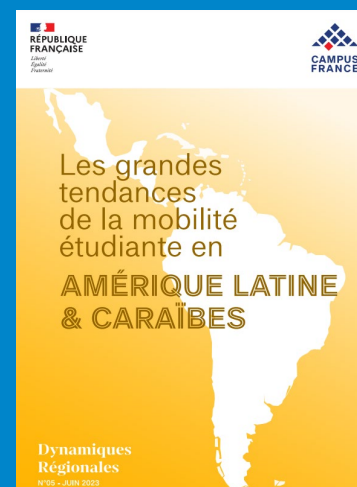
→ COLLECTIONS



KEY FIGURES*



COUNTRY FOCUS



REGIONAL DYNAMICS



TOPICAL FOCUSES

The Bienvenue en France label



Quality label for higher education institutions



6 FIELDS OF APPLICATION AND 28 INDICATORS

19 CERTIFICATION COMMISSIONS BETWEEN 2019 AND 2025

159 CERTIFIED INSTITUTIONS

65% OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS ENROLLED IN THESE INSTITUTIONS

FRENCH HIGHER EDUCATION

Campus France Live

24 LIVES IN 2024

Live on all Campus France social
networks

Promoting the institutions' training
offer and international strategy





The floor is
yours!

