

Degrees



The degrees awarded in the French higher education system are based on the European ladder of Licence, Master, and Doctorat. Degrees are awarded based on the successful completion of a specified number of semesters or years of study, expressed in credits as defined by the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS):

Licence = 6 semesters = 180 ECTS
(baccalauréat* + 3 years)

Master = 10 semesters = 300 ECTS
(baccalauréat + 5 years)

Doctorat (PhD) = 16 semesters
(baccalauréat + 8 years)

* baccalauréat : completion of secondary education.

French degree programs are based on the harmonized European system of Licence, Master, Doctorat.

At the core of the French degree system are a set of **"national diplomas" that have the same value** regardless of the institution that grants them, thanks to the supervision and support provided by the French government.

D	+ 9 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• State diploma of doctor of medicine	DOCTORAT
	+ 8 years 16 semesters	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Doctorat (PhD)	
	+ 6 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• State diploma of doctor of dental surgery• State diploma of doctor of pharmacy	
M2	+ 5 years 10 semesters	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Research Master• Professional Master	MASTER
M1	300 ECTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Graduate engineer• Graduate of school of business and management	
L3	+ 3 years 6 semesters 180 ECTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Licence (Bachelor)• Licence professionnelle (Professional Bachelor)	LICENCE
L2	+ 2 years 4 semesters	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• University diploma in technology (DUT)• Higher technical certificate (BTS)	
L1			
Completion of secondary education + <i>baccalauréat</i> or equivalent = access to higher education			

Please note

• Any foreign student enrolled in a course of higher education at home is eligible to apply for admission to a French institution and may be admitted if he or she meets the established criteria.

• ECTS (European Credit Transfer System): a European system for transferring academic credits within Europe.

Credits, corresponding to an evaluation of the amount of work a course represents within the overall volume of work required for a successful academic year, are assigned to each course. 60 ECTS credits are awarded for a year, 180 for the licence level, and 300 for the master level.

Further information:

europa.eu.int/comm/education/programmes/socrates/ects_en.html