

# 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 since leaving secondary school and their equivalent in European credits under the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS)\*:

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

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

- Like the *licence*, master, and doctorate, 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  |   |  |
| 8      | <b>DOCTORATE</b><br>16 semesters (+ 8 years)          | • Doctorate  | <i>Grandes Écoles</i><br>Schools of business<br>Schools of engineering  | Schools of art<br>Schools of architecture<br>Other institutions<br>( <i>lycées</i> , specialized schools)                          |
| 7      |   |  |   |  |
| 6      | 12 semesters (+ 6 years)                              | • State diploma of doctor of dental surgery<br>• State diploma of doctor of pharmacy               | • Specialized mastère – Ms<br>• Master of Business Administration – MBA   | • HMNP (professional credential in architecture to apply for a building permit)  |
| 5      | <b>MASTER</b><br>10 semesters (+ 5 years)<br>300 ECTS | • Research master<br>• Professional master<br>• Engineering degree                                 | • Engineering degree<br>• Master of Science – MSc<br>• Business school diplomas<br>• Degrees of the <i>Grandes Ecoles</i> | • Diploma of Art schools (DNSEP)<br>• State Diploma of architect<br>• Diplomas of specialized schools (health, social, tourism...) |
| 4      |   |  |   |  |
| 3      | <b>LICENCE</b><br>6 semesters (+ 3 years)<br>180 ECTS | • Licence (bachelor)<br>• Licence professionnelle (professional bachelor)                          |   | • Diplomas of Art schools (DNAT – DNAP)<br>• Architecture diploma  |
| 2      | 4 semesters (+ 2 years)                               | • University diploma in technology (DUT)<br>• University diploma in science and technology (DEUST) | • preparation for selection to the <i>Grandes Écoles</i> – CPGE   | • Diploma of Art schools (DMA)<br>• Higher technical certificate (BTS)   |
| 1      |   |  |   |  |

Completion of secondary school + baccalauréat = access to higher education



## 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.

\*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](http://ec.europa.eu/education/lifelong-learning-policy/doc48_fr.htm)