



GUIDE TO THE FRENCH EDUCATION SYSTEM AND ASPECTS TO BE CONSIDERED FOR THE RECOGNITION OF HIGHER EDUCATION TITLES IN COLOMBIA

INTRODUCTION

The Colombian Ministry of National Education (*Ministerio de Educación Nacional - MEN*) has been working on the creation of guides of educational systems from different countries. These instruments may make the where and what to study decision-making process easier, as well as illustrate the procedure and requirements for the recognition of higher education degrees in Colombia.

The Office of Higher Education Quality at MEN (*Dirección de Calidad de la Educación Superior del MEN*) examined the guides of foreign educational systems which are already published on this website. In the exercise, the need of bringing the technical language of education closer to the citizen was highlighted, as well as generating an interactive instrument. In this order of ideas, MEN, in agreement with the Colombian Association of Universities (*Asociación Colombiana de Universidades – ASCUN*), updated and redesigned these guides.

For the creation of this guide, information from various official sources was consolidated, originating a practical and relevant instrument for the citizen. Pertinent information on four central aspects is therefore included: (1) a description of the higher education system; (2) the quality assurance of institutions and higher education programs; (3) the legality of higher education programs and institutions; and, 4) steps for the recognition of higher education degrees from abroad.

All information here presented considers different accessibility requirements of tools and web products, facilitating the access for people in a condition of disability. This



work was made possible by an invaluable teamwork with the National Institute for the Blind (*Instituto Nacional para Ciegos – INCI*).

1. FRANCE'S HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM

In France, the educational system is based on fundamental principles, some of them inspired by the Revolution of 1789, in the laws passed between 1881 and 1889, under the Fourth and Fifth Republics, and in the Constitution of October 4, 1958, which expresses it as follows: *"the organization of compulsory, free and secular public education at all levels is a duty of the State"*. Based on this, it is framed by the following principles: (i) Freedom of education; (ii) Free of charge; (iii) Neutrality; (iv) Secularism; (v) Compulsory schooling (Ministry of National Education, Youth and Sports, 2020).

Structure of the French Educational System

The structure of the education system is summarized (European Commission/EACEA/Eurydice, 2019) below:

- **Early childhood education:** it is categorized as the first cycle of the system, being part of the responsibilities of the Ministry of Education, with a duration of four (4) years. Students' ages range from two (2) to six (6) years old.
- **Primary education:** this phase of education lasts six (6) years and is divided into two cycles, as follows:
 1. **Cycle 2:** training cycle for children between six (6) and nine (9) years of age, with a duration of three years.
 2. **Cycle 3:** it is aimed at children from nine (9) to eleven (11) years old.
- **General secondary education:** within this level of training are cycles three and four, comprising seven (7) years of education. The ages of students range from eleven (11) to eighteen (18) years.



- **Vocational secondary education:** from the age of 15 to 18 years old. Students may also opt for this type of education in preparation for higher education or to acquire skills necessary for work.
- **Higher education:** at this level of training, students must have completed previous phases of education, taken the Bac -Baccalauréat test-, where the national baccalaureate diploma is obtained, a requirement for access to university education.

Most French higher education courses have adopted the European study organization, according to the Bologna Declaration of 19 June 1999, where France was one of the first signatory countries. It establishes three levels of education in three, five and eight years after baccalaureate: bachelor's degree (L), master's degree (M) and doctorate (D). This organization aims at two fundamental objectives: qualifications recognized throughout Europe and beyond, and student mobility, mobility between disciplines and between vocational and general training, facilitated by the Erasmus+ programme. (Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation, 2020).

For each degree, the courses are divided into semesters, each corresponding to 30 capitalizable and transferable credits in France, from one higher education institution to another, and in Europe, from one country to another (Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation, 2020).

It is important to mention what is referenced in the different levels of higher education on bac + # (e.g. Bac + 3 – Bachelor's degree). Here's some guidance on this:

- Baccalauréat/Baccalauréat (studies prior to higher education in France);
- Addition symbol (+) to indicate the addition in time;
- Number: these are the years of training after baccalauréat/baccalaureate.



Degrees

Registration for the first year of license:

Registration as a European student: students who have a nationality from:

- One of the 28 countries of the European Union
- One of the countries of the European Economic Area (EU + Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein)
- Switzerland
- Monaco, Andorra.

These students follow the same steps as French students to enroll in a French higher education institution, making their application on the "[Parcoursup](#)" (Campus France, 2020) platform.

Registration as a student without being European: in the case of students who do not have the French or European nationality but wish to start their undergraduate studies in France (degree corresponding to three years of study), they must submit a "[Demande d'Admission Préalable - DAP](#)" (application for prior admission). This application must be submitted between the months of November and January, prior to the start of the university course in which they wish to start their studies in France.

The Cooperation and Cultural Action Service of the Embassy of France -Campus France-, in each country of residence of the interested party, is responsible for receiving and managing applications for admission. The files are categorized by colors, depending on the type of application:

1. White, for applications for admission to the first year of university studies;
2. Yellow, for applications that correspond to the first year in schools of (Campus France, 2020)architecture.

Gráfico 1. Resumen Estructura de Estudios en Francia



AÑOS DE ESTUDIO	GRADOS DIPLOMAS	LMD		
	9	18 semestres (+ 9 años)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diploma de Estado de Doctor en Medicina 	
8	DOCTORAT 16 semestres (+ 8 años) 480 ECTS	ESCUELAS DOCTORALES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Doctorado El Doctorat es otorgado dentro de una Escuela Doctoral que depende de una universidad, después de haber obtenido el diploma nacional o el grado de Master o equivalente. 		
7				
6	12 semestres (+ 6 años)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diploma de Estado de Doctor en Odontología (Cirugía dental) Diploma de Estado de Doctor en Farmacia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mastère spécialisé (Mastère especializado) - MS Master of Business Administration - MBA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HMONP : Habilitación para ejercer en su propio nombre la responsabilidad de una obra
5	MASTER 10 semestres (+ 5 años) 300 ECTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Master recherche (Master de investigación) Master professionnel (Master profesional) Título de ingeniero 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Título de ingeniero Master of Science - MSc Diplomas de Escuelas de Administración de empresas Diplomas de Grandes Écoles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diplomas de escuelas de arte DNSEP Diploma de estudios de arquitectura Diplomas de escuelas especializadas (paramédico, social, turismo...)
4				
3	LICENCE 6 semestres (+ 3 años) 180 ECTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Licence Licence Professionnelle (Licence Profesional) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diplomas de escuelas de arte DNAT - DNAP Diploma de estudios de arquitectura
2	4 semestres (+ 2 años) 120 ECTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diploma Universitario de Tecnología - DUT 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Admisión en primer año de Grandes Écoles Clases preparatorias para ingresar a Grandes Écoles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diploma de escuelas de arte - DMA Diploma de Técnico Superior - BTS Diploma de Técnico Superior Agrícola - BTSA
1		Universidades	Grandes Écoles Escuelas de Administración de empresas Escuelas de Ingeniero	Escuelas de arte Escuelas de arquitectura Escuelas especializadas, liceos
Fin de estudios secundarios + baccalauréat o equivalente = ingreso a los estudios superiores				

Fuente: [Campus France Colombia](#)

The Bachelor's Degree (Undergraduate) / The Licence

In France, the national bachelor's degree is prepared in six semesters (3 years). This replaces the old diploma of general university studies (D.E.U.G. for its acronym in French), corresponding to two years, now accompanied by an additional year of undergraduate studies.

Technical studies

It is a training of the same level as the *licence* (more academic). A three-year cycle of technical studies with a professionalizing vocation is maintained. However, after



having completed this training, there is also the possibility of continuing with master's studies.

These technical studies are made up of the certificates of superior technician (B.T.S. for its acronym in French), the university degrees of technology (DUT, for its acronym in French. Formerly known as DEUST). These courses take two years and can be complemented by a one-year professional degree (Bac +3). Thus, they can later integrate into a Master's degree or start their professional exercise (Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation, 2020).

The Master / Le Master

This level corresponds to a common base of knowledge, skills and competences acquired through different ways. It combines general education and vocational training with a twofold objective:

1. It allows students to complement their knowledge, deepen their culture and professional integration of high academic/scientific level.
2. It initiates them in scientific research in order to continue with doctoral studies.

Usually, this training corresponds to four (4) semesters of post-undergraduate studies (Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation, 2020).

For the entry/registration process, non-European students residing in Europe, who wish to continue their studies in France for a master's degree, should immediately contact the relevant higher education institutions (Campus France, 2020).

There are also two (2) typologies in the Master, which mentioned below (Campus France Colombia, 200):



1. **The Master Recherche (research / academic):** it is the recommended training to be prepared for the doctorate. The teaching is oriented towards research and the definition and methodology of a thesis project for the doctorate.
2. **The Master professional:** it is focused on the world of working. The knowledge given is very specific, and students have to do work placements in companies to put the acquired knowledge into practice.

The organization of the master's degrees, which is distributed over four semesters (in most cases), covers different areas of knowledge. Master's degrees are composed of compulsory and optional subjects.

However, the organization of studies depends on the university. Sometimes, the training is organized in two years with a progressive specialization during the four semesters. In some universities there is a common block for what corresponds to the first year (M1) and different specializations in the second year (M2). Some are aimed at direct access to employment and others to research (the distinction is made in the fourth semester or during the M2 internship) (Campus France Spain, 2020).

The Doctorate / Le Doctorat

For admission/registration at this level of study, students should contact the relevant higher education institutions (Campus France, 2020). The PhD is a three-year postgraduate programme. It is carried out in a doctoral school, after obtaining a degree that confers the level of master's degree or equivalent. This training allows to obtain, after the defense of a thesis, the title of doctor. This level of studies corresponds to the highest degree in higher education and refers to training in research, through research itself and, as such, certifying professional research experience. This level of advanced training leads to the production of new knowledge.



Under the responsibility and advice of one or more thesis directors, the doctoral student conducts research. The doctoral training process is usually carried out in research units or teams whose quality is recognized by the State through a periodic national evaluation. The thesis document represents the individual or collective realization of an original scientific work by the doctoral student, and gives rise to a defense before a jury, who is responsible for sanctioning it before obtaining the title of doctor.

The training period of the doctoral student is generally three (3) years, equivalent to full-time dedication to the research of his thesis. In other particular cases and, in general, when the candidate for a doctor is working (salaried), the period here can be maximum up to six (6) years (Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation, 2019).

At the end of the studies and while the administrative process of issuing the doctoral degree is completed, doctoral schools usually issue a Certificate of Success of doctoral studies - *Attestation de réussite à la scolarité doctorale* (in French). However, this document is not valid for initiating processes of recognition of the title in Colombia. The degree certifying training at this level is required.

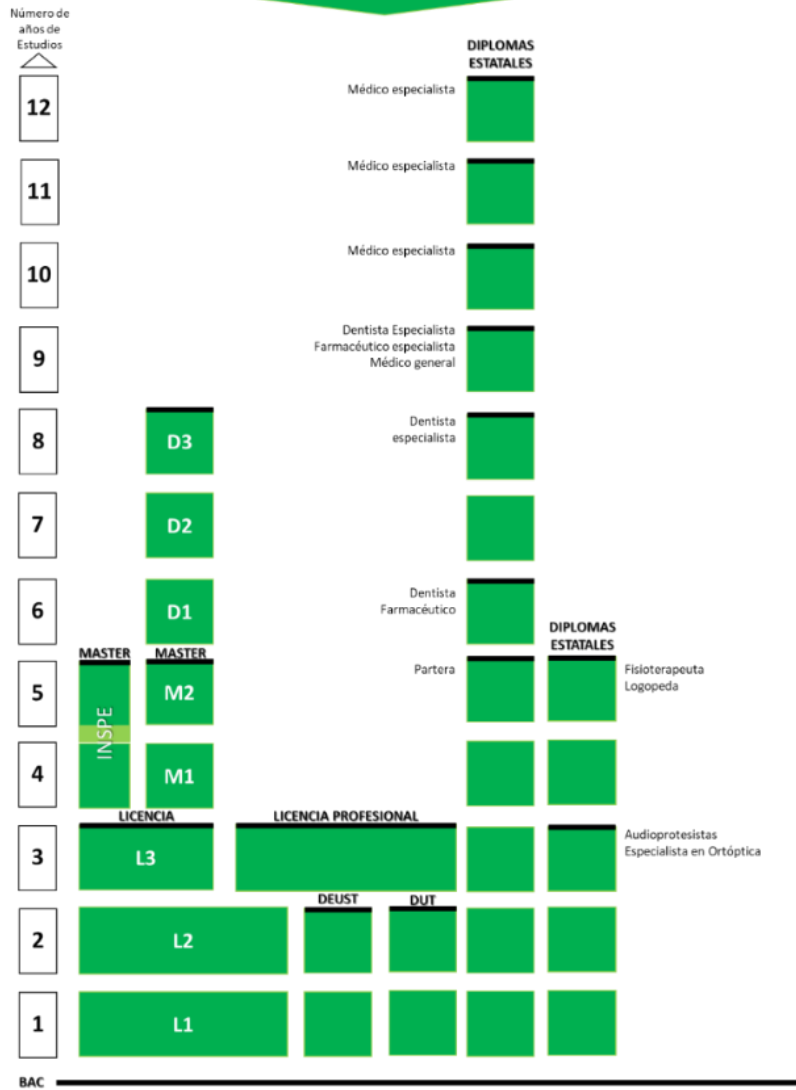
Health Studies

Figure 2. Detail of Structure of Studies in Universities



UNIVERSIDAD

La Universidad ofrece formación general y profesional. También se prepara para estudios de salud.



Source: based on [Schéma des études supérieures en France](#)

The particularities for access to this type of study in France are detailed below:

Studies in midwifery (half-11), medicine, pharmacy, dentistry (dental surgery):

these are fields that attract many high school students, and are demanding. The studies last around 5 to 12 years, in total. Within these programs, the theoretical component and a lot of practice are quite relevant (L'Onisep, 2019).



High school students can access studies in midwifery, medicine, dentistry, or pharmacy after one, two, or three years of higher education, or continue with an undergraduate program.

However, universities offer two options or types of courses aimed at this area: specific courses for access to health programs (**PASS "Parcours d'accès spécifique santé"**, for its acronym in French) and a license with option of access to health sciences – L.AS "**Licence, avec une Option Accès Santé**" (L'Onisep, 2020).

The L.AS are undergraduate training studies that include courses corresponding to the chosen discipline (for example: biology, letters, mathematics, law...) that are complemented by courses linked to the "health" option, with the aim of providing the necessary skills for studies in health (e.g. teaching in basic sciences, teaching in human and social sciences applied to the field of health). English courses, modules to discover the health professions and preparation for the tests that allow you to apply for these studies are also included (L'Onisep, 2020).

In the case of the PASS, this is carried out for a year in a unique way and for a single time, allowing the acquisition of the knowledge and skills necessary for the development of studies in one of the health areas. PASS can only be taken at universities with health faculties. This training course is composed of a "specialization" (in French, d'une "majeure") of health and one of "minor" category (in French, d'une "mineure") of another field of knowledge chosen by the student. The detail of the training year can be read below (anemf, 2020):

- The health major is the common core of all PASS students. In it, the foundations of fundamental sciences (such as biochemistry, biophysics, biostatistics), human and social sciences applied to health (functioning of the health system, medical ethics, good use of medicines, etc.) are acquired. The PASS year includes English training courses and orientation modules.



- The lower category: it is composed of 10 ECTS, which allow students to expand their professional project around a discipline of choice (law, letters, physics, mathematics, etc.).

Schools

Fourth (4) types of *Grandes Écoles* can be referenced: a) engineering schools; (b) trade schools; (c) institutes of political studies (IEP); and (d) the Higher Normal Schools (ENS). For more information on this type of schools, please consult here: <https://www.espagne.campusfrance.org/los-estudios-en-las-grandes-ecoles>.

Of the first types of establishments are the *Grandes Écoles* (Great Schools), which refer to institutions that allow foreign students to obtain European master's degrees. They may also offer intermediate or specialization degrees such as:

Figure 3. Detail of structure of studies in other institutions of higher education



Número de años de Estudios
△

SPECIALIZED SCHOOLS

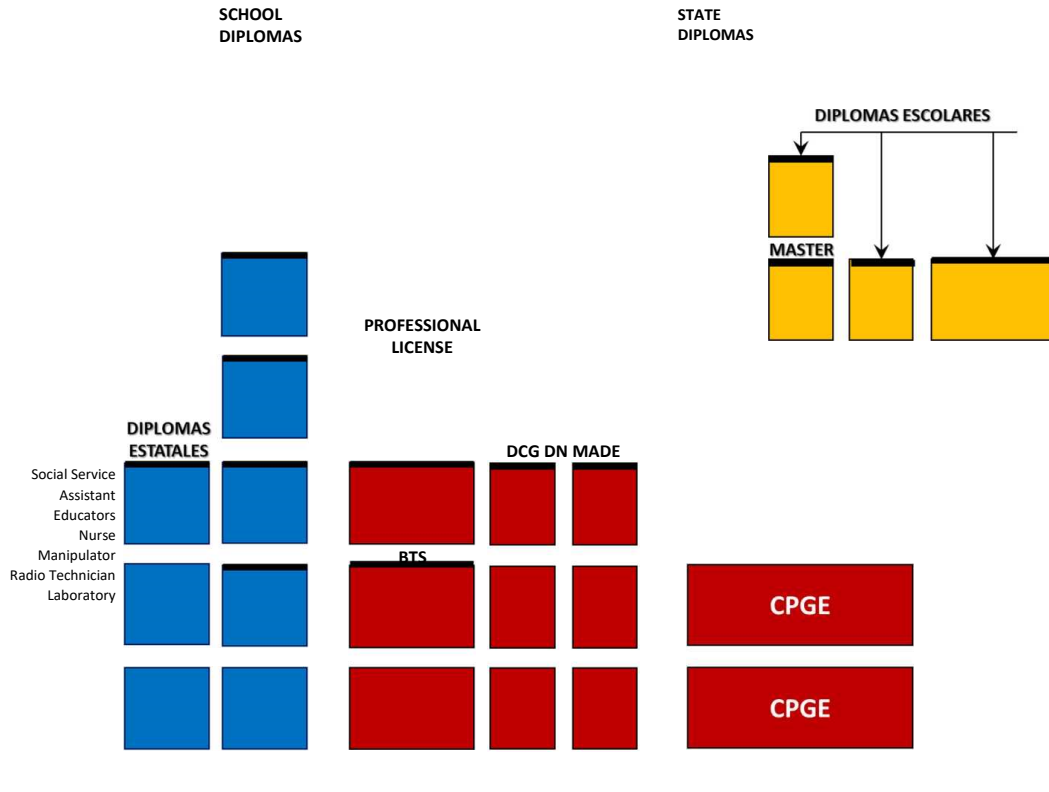
These schools offer training in different areas: communication, art, industry, tourism, commerce, transport, social, paramedical

SECONDARY SCHOOLS

The school offers bac + 2 or bac + 3 level training

GRANDES ÉCOLES

Engineering or business schools, ENS, IEP and public art schools deliver bac + 5 levels of diplomas



Source: based on [Schéma des études supérieures en France](#).

In the case of higher studies in art, there are about 50 higher schools of public art and design under the Ministry of Culture. The art, design and communication training courses offered in these centers are organized into two cycles of three or five years, validated by national degrees. Some also offer a third cycle.

The exception arises with four (4) public art schools of great reputation, which report directly to the Ministry of Higher Education in France. These are: the Boule, Olivier de Serres, Duperré and Estienne Schools. They award national degrees in graphic design, spatial design, and fashion or artistic craftsmanship.



Applications may be submitted at:

- Online through the [Campus Art](#) website
- Or directly with the institution.

For more details of this type of artistic training, please consult the following links:

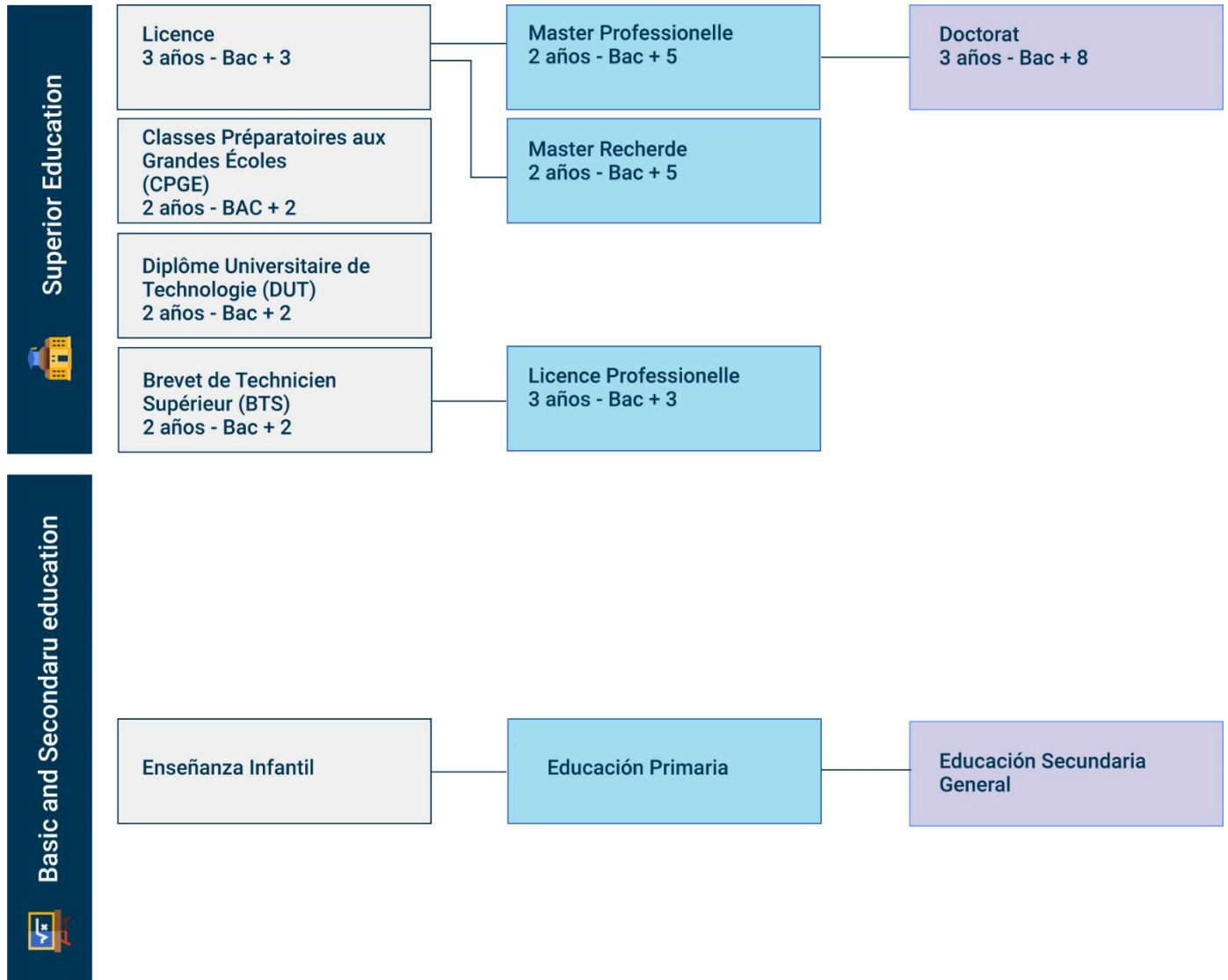
- <https://www.campusfrance.org/en/resource/degrees-in-art-and-culture>
- <https://www.colombie.campusfrance.org/artes-y-diseno>

The information can be consulted and validated on the website of the **Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation**: <https://www.enseignementsup-recherche.gouv.fr/cid20190/organisation-licence-master-doctorat.html>.

The following is a graphic summary of the structure by levels of study and of specializations in France:



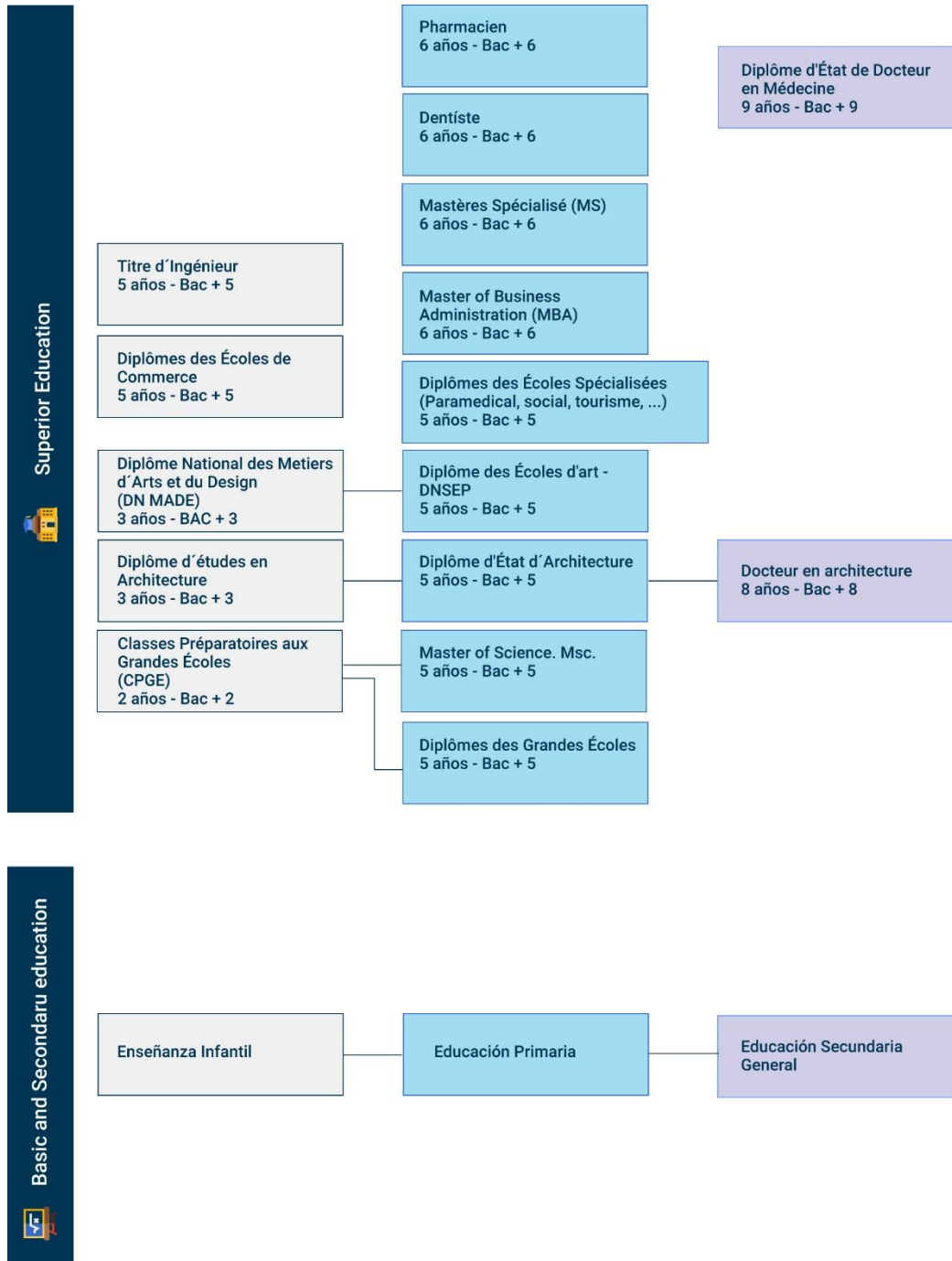
Structure of the French education system



Source: Based on the Diagram of higher education in France: [Schéma des études supérieures en France](#)



Structure of the French Educational System (French specificities)



Source: based on the [Schéma des études supérieures en France](#)



Comparative table of educational levels in France and Colombia

It is important to know the particularities of each of the educational levels, both in France and Colombia. Therefore, the following table presents a comparative analysis of both systems. In this comparison, reference is made to higher education levels:

- Level 8: PhD level or equivalent.
- Level 7: Masters level, specialization or equivalent.
- Level 6: Degree in tertiary education or equivalent level.
- Level 5: Short-cycle tertiary education.

Educational levels in France (regular training) / Colombia

NIVELES CINE-UNESCO	DENOMINACIÓN NIVELES FRANCIA	AÑOS	Bac +	DENOMINACIÓN NIVELES COLOMBIA	AÑOS
8	Doctorat	3	Bac+8	Doctorado	4–5
7	N/A	-	-	Especialización Médico Quirúrgica	1-5
7	N/A	-	-	Especialización Médica	2
7	Master recherche Master Professionnelle	2	Bac+5	Maestría	2
6	N/A	-	-	Especialización Universitaria	1
6	Licence Licence Professionnelle	3	Bac+3	Título profesional universitario	4–5
5	N/A	-		Especialización Tecnológica	< 1
5	N/A	-		Especialización Técnica	1
5	N/A	-		Tecnólogo	3
5	Diplôme Universitaire de Technologie (DUT)	2	Bac+2	Técnico Profesional	2
5	Brevet de Technicien Supérieur (BTS)	2	Bac+2		
5	Classes Préparatoires aux Grandes Écoles (CPGE)	2	Bac+2		



Source: based on UNESCO Institute for Statistics (2013) and the link and liaison <https://www.enseignementsup-recherche.gouv.fr/cid20186/schema-des-etudes-superieures-france.html>.

Education levels – France (French specificities) / Colombia

NIVELES CINE-UNESCO	DENOMINACIÓN NIVELES FRANCIA	AÑOS	Bac +	DENOMINACIÓN NIVELES COLOMBIA	AÑOS
8	Diplôme d'État de Docteur en Médecine	9	Bac+9	N/A	-
8	Docteur en architecture	8	Bac+8	Doctorado	4-5
7	Mastère spécialisé (MS) Master of Business Administration (MBA)	6	Bac+6	Especialización Médico – Quirúrgica	1 – 5
7	Dentiste Pharmacien	6	Bac+6	Especialización Médica	2
7	Titre d'Ingénieur Master of Science. Msc Diplômes des écoles de commerce Diplômes des Grandes Écoles	5	Bac+5	Maestría	2
7	Diplôme des Écoles d'art – DNSEP Diplôme d'État d'architecte Diplômes des écoles spécialisées (paramédical, social, tourisme...)	5			
6	Diplôme d'études en architecture	3	Bac+3	Título Profesional Universitario	4 – 5
6	Diplôme National des Métiers d'Art et du Design (DN MADE)	3	Bac+3		

Source: based on UNESCO Institute for Statistics (2013) and the web site <https://www.onisep.fr/Choisir-mes-etudes/Pres-le-bac/Principaux-domaines-d-etudes/Les-etudes-de-sante-l-organisation-des-etudes> y <https://www.campusfrance.org/en/resource/degrees-in-art-and-culture>



It is important to highlight the measure of dedication corresponding to educational levels and its comparison with international standards:

1. **Academic credits:** both in Colombia and France, the estimated time of academic activity of the student according to the academic competences that the program is expected to develop, is expressed in units called academic credits.

Academic credit in Colombia

It is a unit of measurement of the student's academic work that indicates the effort to be made to achieve learning results. It is equivalent to forty-eight (48) hours for an academic period. Institutions must determine the ratio between the direct relationship with the teacher and the student's independent practice, justified according to the training process and the learning outcomes expected for the program.

The institutions must express in academic credits of all the training activities that are in the curriculum (2019 Decree 1330, article 2.5.3.2.4.1).

Academic Credit in France

The European Union ECTS credit accumulation and transfer system is used, according to which a credit is equivalent to between 25 and 30 hours of work, within which the time devoted to teaching hours, study hours, tutorials, seminars, works, internships or projects is considered, in the same way as the time required for the preparation and conduction of exams and evaluations.

1. **ISCED-UNESCO levels:** the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED), proposed by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), is a frame of reference for collecting, compiling and analyzing internationally comparable statistics in the field of education.



LEGALITY OF HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAMMES AND INSTITUTIONS

In France, the entity set up to ensure the financing, regulation and improvement of vocational training and the apprenticeship system is *France compétences* (National Authority for the Financing and Regulation of Vocational Training and Apprenticeship). Therefore, it has two (2) established directories, which constantly update on professional certifications and provide a guarantee of the legality of higher education institutions in France. These directories are (France Compétences, 2020):

1. Professional certifications, registered in the National Directory of Professional Certifications ([RNCP](#), for its acronym in French), allow the validation of acquired skills and knowledge necessary for the exercise of professional activities, classified by level of qualification and the area of knowledge of the activity.
2. Certifications and authorizations, registered in the specific [RS](#) directory, correspond to professional competences, complementary to the professional certifications (for example: security authorizations, transversal competences or specializations).

QUALITY ASSURANCE

The quality assurance of higher education in France depends on: 1) recognition by the State, or 2) accreditations or 3) quality certifications, which, through different variables or indicators, allow the evaluation of quality and define the value of the educational offer and the degrees that each higher education institution offers (Campus France, 2020).

National Titles - guarantee of quality



Degrees that obtain the status of ***national*** in France are recognized and accredited by the State, which implies a guarantee and assurance about the training quality. Titles with these characteristics include (Campus France, 2020):

- Higher technical qualifications (Brevets de technicien supérieur– BTS), technological university diplomas (Diplômes universitaires techniques – DUT), professional bachelor's degrees and bachelors, master's degrees and doctorates awarded by French universities;
- The engineering degree, which confers the master's degree, issued by the CTI (Commission of Engineering Degrees);
- The diplomas of the schools of commerce and administration which have obtained the approval of the CEFDG (Commission for the Evaluation of Management Training and Diplomas);
- Vocational training registered in the National Register of Professional Certifications (RNCP, in French);
- Specific training courses (architecture, arts, political science, etc.) that have obtained the approval of the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation.

Certifications/Accreditations established for the Schools of Commerce and Administration

In the case of schools specializing in commerce and administration, the quality guarantee is granted by independent associations or foundations that are recognized by the State. These accreditations provide certainty and confidence in the quality of the training offered and the qualifications awarded by such schools.



Quality certifications are valid for periods of three (3) to six (6) years. Among the recognized associations or foundations, are (Campus France, 2020):

- [EFMD](#): European Foundation for Management Development;
- [AMBA](#): Association of MBAs;
- [AACSB](#): Association for the Advancement of Collegiate Schools of Business.

Accreditation seals provide guarantees of quality in the educational offer

Accreditations granted through seals mean reliability when judging the quality of the educational offer or, specifically, of a center. In the case of the area of engineering knowledge, two are recognized: (Campus France, 2020):

- **QUESTE**: Quality System of European Scientific and Technical Education – Label of Excellence;
- [EUR-ACE](#): Accreditation of European Engineering Programs.

The Conference of Grandes Écoles (CGE) grants two specific quality seals to grandes écoles: (Campus France, 2020)

- The [Specialized Master \(MS\)](#), which certifies a level of training equivalent to six years of higher studies within the framework of a post-master's specialization. It is reserved for administrative schools, engineering schools and some large centers such as the Conservatoire National des Arts et Métiers (CNAM).
- The [Master of Science in Management \(MSc\)](#), which is awarded to bachelor's level training (bac+5) within the framework of management schools or



engineering schools. These courses, which are clearly internationally oriented, are usually taught in English and mainly aimed at foreign students.

In addition to the aforementioned recognitions and accreditations, there is an entity that has as a mandate, thanks to 2013 [Law of July 22nd](#), to accompany, evaluate and analyze how to support the quality of education and research in France. This entity is the Higher Council for the Evaluation of Research and Higher Education (Hcéres) (The High Council for the Evaluation of Research and Higher Education (Hcéres), 2020).

Hcéres' evaluations and analyses must meet a large number of requirements related to professional ethics and European principles of quality assurance, among other. Therefore, Hcéres has established and implemented its own quality assurance system, which supports all its actions and is available in its strategic plan (The High Council for the Evaluation of Research and Higher Education (Hcéres), 2020).

ASPECTS TO BE CONSIDERED FOR THE PROCESS OF RECOGNITION OF HIGHER EDUCATION DEGREES OBTAINED IN FRANCE

2019 Resolution 10687 of the Ministry of National Education regulates the recognition of higher education diplomas awarded abroad, identifying the quality assurance systems of the countries where the diplomas were obtained.

The process of recognition of higher education diplomas in Colombia is part of the Quality Assurance System for Higher Education, which allows society to guarantee that, as well as the national offer, that from other countries is officially recognized by the states where the certificates were issued.

IMPORTANT: if an undergraduate degree is in law, accounting, education, or part of the health sciences, additional requirements must be verified, stipulated in chapters one and two of 2019 Resolution 10687 of the Ministry of National



Education, available at the following link:
https://www.mineducacion.gov.co/1759/articles-401316_archivo_pdf.pdf.f.

It is worth recalling that it is not compulsory to advance the process of validation of higher education diplomas obtained in other countries. Recognition is required in the following cases:

1. For regulated professions where recognition is required by professional bodies.
2. For persons wishing to work in the public sector as contractors or civil officers.
3. For participating in public tenders where specifications indicate it as necessary.
4. For teachers in public education institutions to be properly graded.

To study in France and, subsequently, obtain recognition of the degree in Colombia, the following must be considered:

1. Studies must be advanced at an institution of higher education recognized by the State of France.
2. Have the respective apostille or chain of legalization in the documents.
 1. **Apostille:** the apostille is a stamp granted by the competent authority in the country of issue of the document for the purpose of confirming the authenticity of a signature or stamp on a public document.
 2. **Public document:** a public document is understood as any document issued by an authority or official of the State (civil status items, certificates of criminal record, notarial acts and notarized signature certificates, justice decisions, certifications of all kinds issued by official bodies, certificates issued by public institutions, etc.).

How do you get apostille in France?



- In France, the apostille is under the jurisdiction of the Courts of Appeal (Cour d'Appel).
- The certification of Diploma and Certificate of trade marks before a Mayor's Office in France must be obtained. The apostille is then placed only on documents by an Appellate Court Jurisdiction Authority: for example, the one located in Paris has jurisdiction over some departments: departments 75-77-89-91-93-94.
- Departments 78, 92 and 95 are under the jurisdiction of the Court of Appeal of Versailles.

The different recognition criteria must be considered, according to the program and the higher education institution that grants it.

For the process of recognition of French degrees, the official translation of the qualifications, title and the Certificate of Supplement to the Title is required. The list of official translators can be found in the database of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, where the directory of official translators should be consulted.

Diploma Supplement

The Diploma Supplement is a document that helps employers and educational institutions better understand what a particular degree consists of.

This document provides information on personal achievements during the training process such as qualifications and credits earned, including knowledge acquired.

The information that this document reports is as follows:

- The type and level of qualification obtained;
- The institution that issued the title;



- The content of the courses taken and the results obtained;
- The national education system.

The Diploma Supplement at the higher education institution where the studies were taken can be requested (Europass European Union, 2020).

In case of having a degree issued by a higher education institution in France, and its recognition to be required in Colombia, the following questions and answers can help understand the process:

1. When is it necessary to recognize a foreign higher education degree? The answer to this question can be found at the following link:
<https://www.mineducacion.gov.co/portal/convalidaciones/Convalidaciones-Educacion-Superior/350670:Know-the-process>
2. What is the difference between homologation and recognition? The answer to this question can be found at the following link:
<https://www.mineducacion.gov.co/portal/convalidaciones/Convalidaciones-Educacion-Superior/355353:Preguntas-Frecuentes>
3. In case of doubt, who can help? The answer to this question can be found at the following link:
<https://www.mineducacion.gov.co/portal/convalidaciones/Convalidaciones-Educacion-Superior/355353:Preguntas-Frecuentes>
4. What are the steps for the recognition of higher education diplomas? The answer to this question can be found at the following link:
<https://www.gov.co/ficha-tramites-y-servicios/T366>
5. What are the costs of the process of validation of higher education diplomas? The answer to this question can be found at the following link:



<https://www.mineducacion.gov.co/portal/convalidations/Convalidations-Education-Superior/350995:Cost-and-duration.>

In case of more questions regarding the process, the following link might help:
<https://www.mineducacion.gov.co/portal/convalidaciones/Convalidaciones-Educacion-Superior/355353:Preguntas-Frecuentes.>

Consulted sources

(Ministère de L'Enseignement Supérieur, de la Recherche et de l'Innovation. (2020, 10 14). *Schéma des études supérieures en France*. Récupéré sur Schéma des études supérieures en France: <https://www.enseignementsup-recherche.gouv.fr/cid20186/schema-des-etudes-superieures-france.html>

anemf. (2020, 10 31). *anemf - Association Nationale des Étudiants en Médecine de France* . Récupéré sur La Paces: <https://www.anemf.org/paces/>

Campus France. (2020, 10 31). *¿Cómo evaluar la Calidad de un Diploma o de un Centro?* Récupéré sur Campus France: <https://www.campusfrance.org/es/sellos-centros-Francia>

Campus France. (2020, 10 31). *Campus France (Agence française pour la promotion de l'enseignement supérieur, l'accueil et la mobilité internationale)*. Récupéré sur Candidater si vous résidez en Europe mais n'êtes pas Européen: <https://www.campusfrance.org/fr/candidature-etudiant-non-europeen-resident-pays-UE>

Campus France. (2020, 10 31). *Campus France (Agence française pour la promotion de l'enseignement supérieur, l'accueil et la mobilité internationale)*. Récupéré sur Solicitar una inscripción en Francia si eres estudiante europeo: <https://www.campusfrance.org/es/aplicacion-estudiante-europeo>

Campus France Colombia. (200, 10 31). *Campus France Colombia*. Récupéré sur Máster: <https://www.colombie.campusfrance.org/master>

Campus France España. (2020, 10 31). *Campus France España*. Récupéré sur La Enseñanza Universitaria: <https://www.espagne.campusfrance.org/la-ensenanza-universitaria>



- Comisión Europea/EACEA/Eurydice. (2019, 10 18). *Oficina de Publicaciones de la Unión Europea*. Récupéré sur Structures des systèmes éducatifs européens 2019/2020: <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/d7885072-f3ac-11e9-8c1f-01aa75ed71a1/language-fr/format-PDF>
- Europass Union Européenne. (2020, 10 31). *Europass Union Européenne*. Récupéré sur Supplément au diplôme: <https://europa.eu/europass/fr/diploma-supplement>
- France Compétences. (2020, 10 31). *Certifications : le rôle de France compétences*. Récupéré sur France Compétences: <https://www.data.gouv.fr/fr/datasets/repertoire-national-des-certifications-professionnelles-et-repertoire-specifique/>
- Le Haut Conseil de l'évaluation de la recherche et de l'enseignement supérieur (Hcéres). (2020, 10 31). *Démarche qualité*. Récupéré sur HCÉRES: <https://www.hceres.fr/fr/demarche-qualite>
- Le Haut Conseil de l'évaluation de la recherche et de l'enseignement supérieur (Hcéres). (2020, 10 31). *Faire connaissance*. Récupéré sur HCÉRES: <https://www.hceres.fr/fr/faire-connaissance>
- L'Onisep. (2019, 10 26). *Onisep (Office national d'information sur les enseignements et les professions)*. Récupéré sur Les Études de la Santé: L'organisation des Études: <https://www.onisep.fr/Choisir-mes-etudes/Apres-le-bac/Principaux-domaines-d-etudes/Les-etudes-de-sante-l-organisation-des-etudes>
- L'Onisep. (2020, 11 09). *L'Onisep (Office national d'information sur les enseignements et les professions)*. Récupéré sur Les voies d'accès aux études de Maïeutique, Médecine, Odontologie, Pharmacie: <https://www.onisep.fr/Choisir-mes-etudes/Apres-le-bac/Principaux-domaines-d-etudes/Les-etudes-de-sante2/Les-voies-d-acces-aux-etudes-de-maieutique-medecine-odontologie-pharmacie>
- Ministère de L'Education Nationale, de la Jeunesse et des Sports. (2020, 7 8). *Ministère de L'Education Nationale, de la Jeunesse et des Sports*. Récupéré sur Système éducatif: <https://www.education.gouv.fr/valeurs-et-engagement-89246>
- Ministère de L'Enseignement Supérieur, de la Recherche et de l'Innovation. (2019, 02 25). *Ministère de L'Enseignement Supérieur, de la Recherche et de l'Innovation*. Récupéré sur Doctorat: <https://www.enseignementsup-recherche.gouv.fr/cid20185/le-doctorat.html>



Ministère de L'Enseignement Supérieur, de la Recherche et de l'Innovation. (2020, 10 31). *Étudiants en Situation de Handicap*. Récupéré sur Étudiants en Situation de Handicap: <https://www.enseignementsup-recherche.gouv.fr/pid24670/etudiants-en-situation-de-handicap.html>

Ministère de L'Enseignement Supérieur, de la Recherche et de l'Innovation. (2020, 10 31). *Ministère de L'Enseignement Supérieur, de la Recherche et de l'Innovation*. Récupéré sur Ministère de L'Enseignement Supérieur, de la Recherche et de l'Innovation: <https://www.enseignementsup-recherche.gouv.fr/cid20190/organisation-licence-master-doctorat.html>

Ministère de l'Enseignement supérieur, de la Recherche et de l'Innovation. (2020, 10 31). *Ministère de l'Enseignement supérieur, de la Recherche et de l'Innovation*. Récupéré sur Master : son évolution, ses objectifs: <https://www.enseignementsup-recherche.gouv.fr/cid20184/master-son-evolution-ses-objectifs.html>

Ministère de l'Europe et des Affaires Étrangères. (2019, 08 08). *Ministère de l'Europe et des Affaires Étrangères - Ambassade de France à Bogota*. Récupéré sur Légalisation de documents / Apostille: <https://co.ambafrance.org/Legalisation-de-documents-Apostille>

Ministerio de Educación Nacional. (2019, 07 25). Decreto 1330 de julio 25 de 2019. *Decreto 1330 de julio 25 de 2019*. Bogotá D.C., Cundinamarca, Colombia: Ministerio de Educación Nacional.

Links of consultation and interest – Recognized and Quality

Institutions that are legally established and have an active recognition of quality in France can be consulted in the following links. Similarly, entities or organizations with relevant information on Higher Education in France:

ENTITY	LINK
Legally Established Institutions	
RNCP National Register of Professional Qualifications	https://www.data.gouv.fr/fr/datasets/repertoire-national-des-certifications-professionnelles-et-repertoire-specifique/
Instituciones Reconocidas de Calidad	
Hcéres High Council for the Evaluation of Research and Higher Education	https://www.hceres.fr/en/rechercher-une-publication?key=&f%5B0%5D=type_publication%3A476



<p>CTI Comission des titres d'ingénieur / The Engineering Degree Commission</p>	<p>https://www.cti-commission.fr/accreditation</p>
<p>CDEFI Conférence des Directeurs des Écoles Françaises d'Ingénieurs / Conference of the Directors of French Schools of Engineering</p>	<p>http://www.cdefi.fr/fr/ecoles-ingenieurs</p>
<p>CEFDG Commission d'évaluation des formations et diplômes de gestion/ Committee for the Evaluation of Training and Diplomas in Administration and Business</p>	<p>https://www.cefdg.fr/fr/ecoles-et-formations-visees</p>
<p>France Compétences / Competences in France</p>	<p>https://www.francecompetences.fr/qualite/</p>
<p>Otros enlaces de relevancia</p>	
<p>Ministère de l'Enseignement supérieur, de la Recherche et de l'Innovation (MESR) / Ministry of Higher Education</p>	<p>https://www.enseignementsup-recherche.gouv.fr/</p>
<p>Campus France - French agency for the promotion of higher education, international reception and international mobility.</p>	<p>https://www.campusfrance.org/es</p>
<p>Étudiant.gouv.fr – Student life, every day</p>	<p>https://www.etudiant.gouv.fr/</p>
<p>Parcoursup - National platform for pre-registration in the first year of higher education in France (for undergraduate option)</p>	<p>https://www.parcoursup.fr/index.php?desc=</p>
<p>Conférence des Grandes Écoles / Conference of the Great Schools</p>	<p>https://www.cge.asso.fr/listings/</p>
<p>Conférence des Presidents d'Université – CPU / Conferencia de los Presidentes de Universidades</p>	<p>http://www.cpu.fr/presentation/commission-et-comite/</p>
<p>Policies and provisions for students with disabilities by each Institution</p>	<p>https://www.enseignementsup-recherche.gouv.fr/pid38493/carte-handi.html</p>