



Commission
des Titres d'Ingénieur

Higher education in France

Short overview

In France, the higher education system (HES) is regulated by the Ministry in charge of the Higher Education (in 2008, « Ministère de l'Enseignement Supérieur et de la Recherche »). Other ministries (the Technical Ministries) such as the ministries of Industry, Defence, Agriculture, ... are often responsible of institutions in their technical domain. The provinces (« Régions ») have no direct competencies in HES, although they support the institutions and laboratories in their area.

Higher education covers all studies after the *baccalauréat* ('A' level equivalent). Two systems exist side by side:

- An **open system** in the universities. Most students study under this system. All *baccalauréat* holders have the right to enter this system without any prior selection procedure. The universities offer an extremely wide range of studies;
- A **selective system** with a limited number of places. Admission is by competitive examination.. This is the system in use in the **grandes écoles** (top graduate schools such as the *Ecole Nationale d'Administration* – French Senior Civil Service School – *Ecole Nationale Supérieure* – national post-graduate school – the « Ecoles d'ingénieurs » and top business schools), the *instituts universitaires de technologie* (IUTs – **university institutes** of technology).. These establishments train mainly public-sector and private-sector senior and middle managers.

Type of institutions

In France, there is by law the freedom to create and run Higher Education Institutions ; however, the « student status » (access to grants, special social security regime,...) is given only to the students of the HEI having a special visa from the State.

There are two main categories of HEI's (visaed by the State) :

- institutions (private or mainly public) which are allowed by law to deliver national degrees (such as Bachelor, Master, « Titre d'ingénieur », Doctorate, ... These institutions receive public funding for their education and scientific research.
- institutions which can only deliver their own degrees.

Higher education is offered by a variety of institutions : universities, colleges, G.E. « grandes écoles », Technology Institutes, ...

Tuition and fees are usually low in public institutions (a few hundreds euros including social security) and are more expensive in private schools (ranging from 4 000€ to 15 000 €)

Type of programmes

The French HES fully complies with the European standards :

- The three-level BMD system: Bachelors/Masters/Doctorates.
- A European Credit Transfer System (ECTS): a credit corresponding to the student workload required to successfully complete a course module. These credits can be accumulated and transferred.
- An organisation into six-month periods and teaching units (modules).

Bachelor's degree (180 ECTS)

- « Licence » : Bachelor's degree with academic orientation opens the way to the master programme
- « Licence professionnelle » : Bachelor's degree with professional orientation

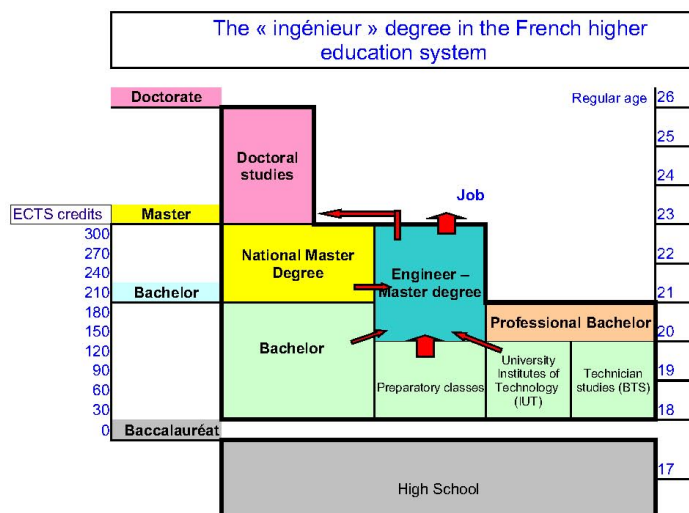
Master's degree (300 ECTS)

- « Master » : master's degree with professional or academic orientation, open to the Bachelor's holders (180 + 120 ECTS)
- « Titre d'ingénieur » qualified master's degree in science and engineering, a fully integrated curriculum (300 ECTS), delivered by institutions accredited by CTI (Commission des Titres d'ingénieurs).

PhD's degree

- Doctorate programme

Overview degree structure



National Qualification framework

A national framework for professional qualifications is developed in France (RNCP, « Répertoire National des Compétences professionnelles »).

Bachelor's degree

- Level in EHEA Qualifications framework : first cycle
- Level in RNCP : level 3 ?
- Credit range : 180 ECTS
- Learning outcomes : [to be added](#)
- General admission requirements : The general admission requirement is the secondary school-leaving diploma (« Baccalauréat », average rate success 80%). Some institutions are allowed by law to have special admission requirements (IUT « Instituts de Technologie », CPGE « Classes préparatoires aux Grandes Ecoles », ...). By individual assessment, admission may be granted to persons who cannot meet the general requirements : foreign students from exchange programs, validation of professional experience, ...)

Master's degree (300 ECTS)

- Level in EHEA Qualifications framework : second cycle - integrated second cycle for « ingénieur diplômé »
- Level in RNCP : level 1
- Credit range : 300 ECTS
- Learning outcomes : [to be added](#)
- Admission requirements
 - For the general master programmes, the Bachelor diploma («Licence»). By individual assessment, admission may be granted to persons who cannot meet the general requirements : foreign students from exchange programs, validation of professional experience, ...)
 - For the « Titre d'ingénieur », qualified master's degree in science and engineering, the selective admission is mandatory from the « Baccalauréat » or from the preparatory cycles (2 years).

PhD's degree

- Level in EHEA Qualifications framework : third cycle
 - Level in RNCP : level 1 ?
 - Credit range : no credit range (3-4 years)
 - Learning outcomes : [to be added](#)
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