CHOOSE FRANCE

Through its burgeoning connections with industry, research, and the world, French higher education is demonstrating its capacity to respond to our changing world.

The people of France’s universities and other postsecondary institutions know that studying abroad is an experience not to be missed. That’s why France, with a population of just 65 million, is the world’s fourth most popular destination for international students.

At the beginning of the 2011 academic year, 12 percent of the 2.4 million students enrolled in French institutions of higher education were from outside France.

That 288,000 students from all over the world have chosen France’s universities and postsecondary schools reflects not only the quality and diversity of French education, but also the country’s cultural richness and its economic dynamism.

OPEN NEW HORIZONS

1. A PLEASANT AND SATISFYING LIFESTYLE
2. AN INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGE
3. CONTEMPORARY CULTURE

CREATE PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

4. A DYNAMIC ECONOMY
5. SECTORS OF EXCELLENCE

STUDY IN AN ENVIRONMENT OF EXCELLENCE

6. EDUCATION: A TOP PRIORITY FOR FRANCE
7. ADVANCED RESEARCH
8. A HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM WITH SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE
9. A HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM ENDORSED BY STUDENTS AND EMPLOYERS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

FRANCE IN THE EYES OF THE WORLD

10. A CERTAIN JE NE SAIS QUOI

www.campusfrance.org
OPEN NEW HORIZONS
A pleasant and satisfying lifestyle

For quality of life, France is number 2 in the world
- A nation of civil liberty under law, France's stable parliamentary democracy offers political and civil rights, favorable labor laws, and attractive social benefits
- The country's health-care system is excellent, says the World Health Organization
- Paris is the world's best city for students
  - At number 1, Paris tops London and Boston
  - Lyon is number 14 in the world
  - Toulouse is number 40
- France offers a pleasant environment, thanks to its temperate climate, well-developed environmental consciousness, and geographic diversity, with easy access to a wide variety of recreational and leisure options (sea, mountain, city, arts and culture)
- French cooking, classified by UNESCO as one of the world’s intangible cultural assets, pleases palates at all price levels

The world's most-visited country
- More than 80 million tourists visit France each year
- 37 UNESCO world heritage sites are found around the country
- Paris is the world’s 3rd most popular destination for international conventions
- The Eiffel Tower is one of the world's most-visited monuments

In the heart of Europe
- 9 countries border France
- Roissy Charles-de-Gaulle is Europe's 2nd busiest passenger airport and 1st for freight
- High-speed trains connect France's cities with the other great cities of Europe (including London, Berlin, Brussels, Madrid, Amsterdam, and Geneva)
- A single visa enables one to travel within the 25 countries of the Schengen area
- A single currency, the euro, is used in the 17 countries of the euro zone

1International Living magazine, which monitors the quality of life around the world, 2011 ranking. Countries are compared on the following criteria: cost of living, culture and leisure, economy, environment, freedom, health, safety and security, infrastructure, and climate.
2QS, 2012 ranking. Cities are compared on 12 criteria divided into 5 groups: university status in QS rankings, the proportion of domestic and international students, quality of life, recognition of the quality of education by domestic and international employers, and the cost of living (including tuition levels).
3World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), 2010
4Ministry of Tourism, 2011
5United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), 2011
6International Congress and Convention Association (ICCA), 2012
7Air Cargo International, 2010
A language spoken throughout the world
- French is the most widely taught foreign language after English
- The 9th most widely spoken language in the world, French is, along with English, the only one used as an official language on all five continents
- 220 million people speak French on 5 continents
- The world has 75 French-speaking governments and states

A language useful in an international job
- Speaking French is a sign of cross-cultural skills and is valued by French firms operating abroad
- French opens employment opportunities with French firms and other French-speaking employers in every country in the world

A language of culture
- French is an international language of cooking, wine-making, fashion, theater, the visual arts, dance, and architecture

The second language of international relations
- French is one of the official working languages of the United Nations (and the first language of UNESCO), the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the International Olympic Committee, the European Union, and the European Commission

A language that makes it easier to learn other languages
- Knowing French makes it easier to learn other Romance languages: Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, and Romanian
- 50% of modern-day English vocabulary came from French

A language of the mind. French is ...
- Analytical
- Ideal for structured thought
- Conducive to a critical spirit
- Useful in discussions and negotiations

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Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2012
* Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie, 2012
A country of philosophers since the Age of the Enlightenment (18th century), France is nonetheless firmly anchored in the modern world. Its contemporary thinkers and artists are famous throughout the world.

Literature and the humanities
- Albert Camus, Nobel prize in literature, 1957
- Jean-Paul Sartre, Nobel prize in literature, 1964 (refused)
- Pierre Bourdieu, sociologist, Huxley memorial medal for his work in anthropology in 2000
- Jean-Marie Le Clezio, Nobel prize in literature, 2008
- Claude Lévi-Strauss, anthropologist and ethnologist, whose works have been translated into 26 languages
- Michel Houellebecq, France's best known living author, whose works are available in 30 languages

The internationally known "French Touch"
- Electronic music: Air, Daft Punk, Phoenix, Justice, Martin Solveig, David Guetta, Bob Sinclar, and so much more
- Fashion: Paris Fashion Week, high fashion, ready to wear, Saint-Laurent, Chanel, Dior, Hermès, Louis Vuitton, Louboutin, and so much more

Film and photography
- The Lumière brothers invented moving pictures in 1895
- The New Wave, a film movement of the 1950s and 1960s, featured films by François Truffaut, Jean-Luc Godard, Claude Chabrol, and others
- Many French films have received international awards in recent years—among them The Fifth Element, Amélie, La Vie en Rose, The Artist, The Intouchables
- Award-winning French directors include Michel Hazanavicius, Jean-Pierre Jeunet, Luc Besson, and Jacques Audiard
- French actors and actresses enjoy world renown. Just think of Marion Cotillard, Audrey Tautou, Vincent Cassel, and Jean Dujardin
- There are 2,050 movie theaters throughout France
- Yann Arthus-Bertrand is among the world's most famous photographers

.../...
OPEN NEW HORIZONS

Contemporary culture

Architecture and design
- French architects include Gustave Eiffel (Eiffel Tower, Statue of Liberty), Le Corbusier, Jean Nouvel (Louvre Abu-Dhabi, Musée du Quai Branly), Christian de Portzamparc (Cité de la Musique in Paris, Cité de la Musique in Rio de Janeiro, LVMH Tower in New York)
- Designers Philippe Starck, Charlotte Perriand, André Putman, Matali Crasset, and Ora-Ito are world-renowned

Contemporary art
- Among the notable French artists of the 20th century are Pierre Soulages, Yves Klein, César, and Marcel Duchamp
- Artists from all over the world exhibit in France—among them Murakami at Versailles (2010) and Ai Wei Wei at the Musée du Jeu de Paume (2012)

The art of living à la française
- Social and cultural events lend rhythm to daily life
  - July 14, the Fête de la Musique, the urban beaches of Paris-Plages, Christmas fairs and markets
  - International sports events, such as the Tour de France, the French Open at Roland Garros, the Vendée Globe round-the-world yacht race, the French Cup
  - France's 7,000 museums, including 1,200 that offer free admission on the first Sunday of the month
  - The Louvre, the most-visited museum in the world
  - 35,000 musical performances (19 million tickets sold)
  - 32,300 theatrical performances in national and private theaters

Festivals for every art form
- Music: Annual festivals include the Festival des Vieilles Charrues, Francofolies, Jazz in Marciac, Eurockéennes de Belfort, Roque d'Anthérès, Printemps de Bourges, Rock en Seine, and many more
- Theater: Crowds flock to the Avignon festival, the Printemps des Comédiens in Montpellier, and the international festival of street in Aurillac
- Street arts: A distinctively French flavor is found at festivals in Chalon dans la Rue in Chalon-sur-Saône, Furies in Châlons-en-Champagne, Cergy, Solfi in Cergy, and Voyage à Nantes, featuring the international Royal de Luxe street theater company
- Photography is the subject of the Rencontres in Arles and Visa pour l'Image in Perpignan
- Cinema: In addition to the Cannes Film Festival, consider the international short-film festival in Clermont-Ferrand, the animated film festival in Annecy, the festival of American film in Deauville, the festival of Latin American cinema and culture in Biarritz, the open-air film festival of La Villette-Paris, and the Cinéma du Réel at Beaubourg (Pompidou Center)

10 Ministry of Culture and Communication, Chiffres clés (Key Figures), 2011
CREATE PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES
A dynamic economy

The world's 5th largest economy, and Europe's 2nd largest 11
- France is the world's 6th largest exporter of goods 12
- and the 4th largest exporter of services 12
- 35 French firms are among the world's 500 largest (Germany: 34, United Kingdom: 30) 13
- France produces 4% of global GDP 14
- and is the 4th largest recipient of foreign direct investment in Europe in 2010, with €25 billion 14

Some internationally prominent French firms
- Food products: Danone, Yoplait
- Fashion and luxury goods: LVMH, Saint-Laurent, Dior, L'Oréal
- Banking and insurance: BNP, Axa
- Automobiles: Peugeot-Citroën, Renault, Michelin
- Pharmaceuticals: Sanofi-Aventis
- Technology and aeronautics: Thalys, Airbus, Dassault
- Air transport: Air France-KLM
- Telecommunications: Alcatel-Lucent, Orange
- Energy: Total, Areva

In 2009 and 2010, 1.3 million new firms were created in France
CREATE PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Sectors of excellence

Leading Industries
- Pharmaceuticals: France 1st in Europe and 3rd worldwide
- Aeronautics: 1st in Europe
- Chemicals: 2nd in Europe
- Food products and processing: 3rd in Europe and 4th in the world
- Information and communication technology: 3rd in Europe
- Nuclear power: 1st in Europe

The international influence of French know-how
- Hotels and restaurants: Relais-Châteaux, Accor, Club Med, Alain Ducasse, Joël Robuchon, Paul Bocuse
- Applied arts: fashion, graphic design, 3D animation
- Performing arts: music, dance, theater, modern circus arts, street arts
- Fine furniture and wood-working, masonry, ceramics, fragrances
STUDY IN AN ENVIRONMENT OF EXCELLENCE

Education: a top priority for France

Public investment in education
- 6.9% of France's GDP is spent on education (the OECD average is 6.1%) [22]
- Under the "Investing in the Future" program, €35 billion will be spent to meet France's major challenges, of which €18.3 billion will be devoted to higher education and research [23]
  - The Excellence Initiative: €7.7 billion has been earmarked for support of ambitious scientific projects that raise the profile of French science abroad, accelerate innovation and technology transfer to firms, and create opportunities for close partnerships among universities, Grandes Ecoles, and research bodies
  - Laboratories of Excellence: €7.9 billion will go to support laboratories at the highest level of science that enjoy international recognition, attract the most qualified researchers, and are working on innovative projects
  - Operation Campus: €1.3 billion is being spent to upgrade university facilities and equipment

Accessible programs, with quality assured by the French government
- Each year, the French government spends €11,260 per student on postsecondary education [23]
- As a matter of public policy, international students are treated the same as French students
  - All students pay the same tuition rates
  - Tuition rates in public institutions were as follows for the 2012–13 academic year:
    - €181 for licence (bachelor's) programs
    - €250 for master's programs
    - €586 for programs leading to the Diplôme d'Ingénieur
    - €360 for doctoral programs
  - In private institutions, tuition for the 2012–13 academic year ranged from €181 to €8,000
- All students enjoy the same benefits:
  - Student health insurance (about €200 per year for students under age 28)
  - Housing assistance (monthly rent subsidies from the Caisse d'Allocations Familiales (CAF, family assistance fund)
  - Meals (access to inexpensive university dining facilities)
  - Discounts (transportation, amusements, etc.)
- Recommended budget for a student in France
  - Living expenses (including housing): €700–1,000 per month
STUDY IN AN ENVIRONMENT OF EXCELLENCE

Advanced research

Publicly supported research: a point of pride
- Domestic R&D spending in France amounted to €42.7 billion in 2009 (2.26% of GDP)
- France ranked 6th in the OECD in R&D spending in 2009 after South Korea (3.36% of GDP), Japan (3.33%), the United States (2.70%), and Germany (2.76%)
- France accounts for the 6th highest share of global scientific publications (4.1%)
- The country is 4th in the world in the number of patent applications filed at the European Patent Office

International prizes for French researchers
- 11 of 52 winners of the Fields Medal, the world's top prize in mathematics, have come from French institutions
- Mathematicians from French institutions have won the Fields Medal more often than those of any other country except the United States
- France has one of the highest number of Nobel Prizes (55 in total), ranking alongside the United States, the United Kingdom, and Germany; 14 prizes have been awarded to French writers, 12 to French physicians, and 8 to French chemists

41% of doctoral candidates in French institutions are international students
STUDY IN AN ENVIRONMENT OF EXCELLENCE

A higher education system with something for everyone

A centuries-old tradition of higher education and research
- Founded in 1253, the Sorbonne is the world's second-oldest university

A wide and diverse array of programs. France has ...
- 80 public universities
- 225 schools of engineering
- 220 schools of business and management
- 120 schools of art and 20 schools of architecture
- 3,000 specialized schools in every imaginable field: cooking, hotel administration, fashion, film, animation, video gaming, performance arts, journalism, communication, paramedical specialties, social work, and more.

A strong emphasis on employability and career planning
- Preparing students for jobs is a key mission of French institutions of higher education
- Links to the work world are integrated into the curriculum:
  - Most students complete internships in businesses and research centers
  - Guest faculty from the business world enrich the curriculum
  - Research training agreements known as CIFREs enable doctoral candidates to participate in joint research efforts between industry and an external laboratory
  - Doctoral contracts that function like employment agreements support doctoral candidates until they complete their dissertation
  - International students who earn a master's degree are eligible for a work permit if they are hired within six months of graduation
STUDY IN AN ENVIRONMENT OF EXCELLENCE

A higher education system endorsed by students and employers from around the world

A system that appeals to students
- France is number 4 in international student enrollments after the U.S., the U.K., and Australia
- France is the first choice among non-English-speaking countries
- French higher education institutions enrolled 288,000 international students in 2011, 12% of the nation's postsecondary enrollments

A system that is recognized by specialized higher education publications
- France's academic system is ranked the world's 7th best
- Of the world's top 10 business master's programs, 5 are in France

A system that is recognized by employers
- 95% of graduates from France's schools of engineering and management are employed within six months
- 50% sign an employment contract before graduating
- Their average gross salary is €34,200/year

A unified European academic area
- In French institutions, the academic year is organized into semesters
- University programs are offered at three levels: licence (bachelor), master, doctorate
- Students earn transferable academic credit under ECTS, the European Credit Transfer System
- Degrees are certified by the French government

Degrees that fit with those of other higher education systems
- The French system facilitates student mobility within Europe and around the world
- Students receive a diploma addendum written in English

Dual degrees signify the dynamism of French higher education

Renowned French institutions with campuses abroad (a nonexhaustive list)
- Université de la Sorbonne in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates
- École Centrale in Beijing, China
- École de Management de Lyon in Shanghai, China
- ESSEC and INSEAD in Singapore
- Bordeaux École de Management in Dakar, Senegal
- Université Paris-Dauphine in Tunis, Tunisia
- HEC in Doha, Qatar
- École Supérieure des Affaires in Beirut, Lebanon
France's image around the world

- More than 70% of Brazilians, Poles, Indians, Moroccans, Germans, Egyptians, and Japanese say that they have a favorable or very favorable impression of France.
- The idea of living, working, and studying in France appeals strongly to respondents. For example, 74% of Brazilians say they would like to live there, 77% would like to work there, and 81% would like to study there.

Liberté, Égalité, Fraternité

- France is admired for its solid respect for human rights.
- The country’s motto speaks to people throughout the world.

International students in France: Oui!

- 4 out of 5 students who earn a French degree are satisfied with the quality of their education and the added value of their degree.
- 80% of those who have studied in France would recommend it to others.
- 91% of international students now in France or having completed their studies are satisfied with their stay in France.
TO LEARN MORE

Agence Campus France
- Campus France
  www.campusfrance.org
- Ministère des Affaires Étrangères (MAE)
  Ministry of Foreign Affairs
  www.diplomatie.gouv.fr
- Ministère de l'Enseignement Supérieur et de la Recherche (MESR)
  Ministry of Higher Education and Research
  www.enseignementsup-recherche.gouv.fr

French higher education
- Ministère de l'Enseignement Supérieur et de la Recherche (MESR)
  Ministry of Higher Education and Research
  www.enseignementsup-recherche.gouv.fr
- Campus France
  www.campusfrance.org
- Conférence des Présidents d'Université (CPU)
  Conference of University Presidents
  www.cpu.fr
- Conférence des Grandes Écoles (CGE)
  Conference of Grandes Écoles
  www.cge.asso.fr
- Conférence des Directeurs des Écoles Françaises d'Ingénieurs (CDEF)
  Conference of Presidents of French schools of Engineering
  www.cdef.fr

Research
- Agence Nationale de la Recherche
  Agency for the Evaluation and Higher Education
  www.agence-nationale-recherche.fr
- Agence d'Évaluation de la Recherche et de l'Enseignement Supérieur (AERES)
  Agency for the Evaluation of Research and Higher Education
  www.aeres-evaluation.fr

International student services
- Campus France
  www.campusfrance.org
- Centre National des Œuvres Universitaires et Scolaires (CNUUS)
  National student service centers
  www.cnous.fr
- Webzine for students in Paris
  www.etudiantdeparis.fr

Embassies and consulates, foreign policy
- Ministère des Affaires Étrangères (MAE)
  Ministry of Foreign Affairs
  www.diplomatie.gouv.fr

Economy
- Ministère de l'économie, des finances et de l'industrie
  Ministry of the Economy, Finance, and Industry
  www.industrie.gouv.fr
- French agency for international investment
  www.invest-in-france.org

Culture
- Ministère de la Culture et de la Communication
  Ministry of Culture and Communication
  www.culturecommunication.gouv.fr
- Institut Français
  www.institutfrancais.com
- International Living Magazine
  www.internationalliving.com

Tourism
- Fédération Nationale des Offices de Tourisme et Syndicats d'Initiative
  National federation of offices of tourism and economic development
  www.tourisme.fr
- Official Website of France
  www.france.fr

French language
- Agence pour l'Enseignement Français à l'Etranger (AEFE)
  Agency for the teaching of French language abroad
  www.aefe.diplomatie.gouv.fr
- Fondation Alliance Française
  www.fondation-alliancefrancaise.org
- Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF)
  www.francophonie.org

Media
- France Télévision
  www.tf1.fr (in French)
- www.france24.com (in English)
- Radio France Internationale
  www.rfi.fr

www.campusfrance.org

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