

STUDY
IN
FRANCEDEGREES IN
ART AND CULTURE

France sets the international standard in the fields of art and culture, in part because the country has always creative excellence in all of the arts: architecture, fashion, design, the visual and graphic arts, film, and even comic art and graphic novels.

The nation's privileged position rests on a strong artistic tradition that is expressed both in public access to art and culture and in the presence of a network of educational institutions that offer a great array of training programs in art. In France more than 450,000 people are employed in cultural and culture-related businesses, attesting to the economic vitality and impact of the nation's passion for the arts.

French arts, crafts, and know-how are found in more than 38,000 workshops, 100,000 artisanal enterprises, and 217 different occupations grouped into many specialty areas—including jewelry and watchmaking, woodworking, the graphic arts, the performing arts, precious metalworking, calligraphy and illumination, engraving, bookbinding, restoration (drawings, prints, paintings), decorative arts, costume making,

furniture making, framing, manufacture of stringed instruments, basket making, and so on—all of which exemplify the living traditions that help account for France's international influence.

*A long tradition
of artistic training*

National public institutions in France have offered training in the classical arts—music, dance, and theater—since the end of the eighteenth century. Today, in Paris and in every region of the country, one finds public postsecondary schools of art (nearly 60), as well as schools administered by local chambers of commerce and industry (called *écoles consulaires*), private schools, and art-related programs in nearly 50 universities. Given this variety anyone can find a program to suit his or her educational goals.

WHY STUDY ART IN FRANCE?

■ Because of the quality and variety of the available programs

Training is available in every conceivable field of art: the graphic arts, industrial design, interior architecture, theater sets, film, visual communication, infographics, digital arts, photography, animation and multimedia, fashion design, model-making, and crafts, as well as related fields such as museum management, cultural interpretation, art restoration, art dealing, and art history and theory.

■ Because you are sure to find a program that matches your goals

- Pursue a career as an artist: Choose a postsecondary school of art or applied arts, or a private school of art, that offers a program that precisely matches your interests and talents.
- Become an art critic, academic, manager, or conservator: Look for appropriate programs in France's universities.

■ Because your degree will be recognized around the world

France's postsecondary schools of art and applied arts, like its universities, are excellent public institutions that award **national diplomas** recognized by the French government and transferable credits under the European Credit Transfer System.

Some private schools, including those administered by local chambers of commerce, can issue occupational titles recognized by the **Commission Nationale de Certification Professionnelle** (CNCP, national commission on occupational certification).



USEFUL

LINKS

- ADÉRA, Rhône-Alpes association of art schools: Annecy, Grenoble, Lyon, Saint-Étienne, Valence et Clermont-Ferrand: www.adera-reseau.fr
- ANdÉA, National association of postsecondary schools of art: www.andea.fr
- Agence pour la promotion de la création industrielle (association for the promotion of industrial design): www.apci.asso.fr
- Agence photographique de la Réunion des musées nationaux (photography agency of the assembly of national museums): www.photo.rmnm.fr
- APPEA, National association of public preparatory programs for the postsecondary schools of art: www.appea.fr
- Archives françaises du film (French film archives): www.cnc-aff.fr
- Archives nationales (national archives): www.archivesnationales.culture.gouv.fr
- Atlas, the base for works displayed in the Louvre: <http://cartelfr.louvre.fr>
- CampusArt, online application to art schools, design, fashion, ... : www.campusart.org
- Capadoce, foundation for the information and documentation centers of the Ministry of Culture: http://capadoce.ext.culture.fr/capadoci/jsp/system/win_main.jsp
- Catalog of the Bibliothèque nationale de France (national library of France): <http://catalogue.bnf.fr>
- Centre national des arts plastiques (national center for the fine arts): www.cnap.fr
- Centre Pompidou, Musée national d'art moderne (national museum of modern art): www.centrepompidou.fr
- Cité de la musique: www.citedelamusique.fr
- Collection of the Musée national d'art moderne (national museum of modern art), with more than 60,000 works on line): <http://collection.centrepompidou.fr>
- Collections du Musée de la musique (museum of music): <http://catalogue.philharmoniedeparis.fr>
- Contemporary music information center (CDMC): www.cdmc.asso.fr
- Culturethèque – Institut Français: www.culturetheque.com
- Digital heritage, a catalog of collections: www.numerique.culture.fr/pub-fr/index.html
- Enluminures (120,000 images of illuminations, 5 000 medieval manuscripts): www.enluminures.culture.fr
- Fédération Française des Festivals Internationaux de Musique (French federation of international music festivals): www.francefestivals.com
- Film festivals in France: www.festivalscine.com
- Fonds national de promotion et de communication de l'Artisanat (national foundation for promotion and awareness of arts and crafts): www.choisirlartisanat.fr/metiers
- INMA, Institut National des Métiers d'Art (national institute of crafts): www.institut-metiersdart.org
- Institut national du patrimoine (INP, national heritage institute): www.inp.fr
- Institut de recherche et coordination acoustique/musique, Ircam (Ircam, institute for musical and acoustical research and coordination): www.ircam.fr
- Joconde, catalog of the collections of the museums of France: <http://www2.culture.gouv.fr/documentation/joconde/fr/pres.htm>
- Kandinsky Library, information and research center of the Musée national d'Art moderne (national museum of modern art) – Centre de création industrielle (center for industrial design): <http://bibliothequekandinsky.centrepompidou.fr>
- Master inventory of cultural heritage: www.inventaire.culture.gouv.fr
- Media center of the École nationale supérieure des beaux-arts de Paris (80,000 reviews of contemporary art): www.ensba.fr/exl-php/cadcgp.php
- Media center of the directorate of music, dance, theater, and show: <http://www2.culture.gouv.fr/documentation/malraux/acc-dmdts.htm>
- Ministry of Culture: www.culture.gouv.fr
- Musées de France, master catalog of the libraries of France's national museums: <http://auroch.culture.fr>
- Muséofile, a directory of French museums: <http://www2.culture.gouv.fr/documentation/museo>
- Narcisse, scientific images of museum laboratory works (12,000 articles and images): <http://www2.culture.gouv.fr/documentation/lrmf/pres.htm>
- National directory of occupational certifications (RNCP): www.rncp.cncp.gouv.fr
- PhoCEM, database of the photography collections of the Musée des civilisations de l'Europe et de la Méditerranée (museum of European and Mediterranean civilizations): <http://www2.culture.gouv.fr/documentation/phocem/accueil.htm>
- Répertoire des arts du spectacle (performing arts directory): <http://rasp.culture.fr>
- Réunion des musées nationaux (RMN, assembly of national museums): www.rmngp.fr
- Techniques contemporaines utilisées dans les monuments historiques (TCMH, contemporary techniques used on historic monuments): www.tcmh.culture.gouv.fr

SPECIFIC PUBLIC POSTSECONDARY

NATIONAL SCHOOLS OF ART

Like engineering and management, the arts in France have their very selective *Grandes Écoles*, the public postsecondary national schools of art confer master-level institution diplomas in applied arts, visual arts, design and creation, industrial design, and photography.

- *École Nationale Supérieure des Arts Décoratifs* (ENSAD), Paris : www.ensad.fr
- *École Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-arts* (ENSBA), Paris : www.ensba.fr
- *École Nationale Supérieure de la Création Industrielle* (ENSCI-Les Ateliers), Paris : www.ensci.com
- *École Nationale Supérieure de la Photographie* (ENSP), Arles : www.enp-arles.com
- *Le Fresnoy - Studio National des arts contemporains*, Tourcoing : www.lefresnoy.net

■ Two schools offer a 2–4 year curriculum in theater and film

- *École Nationale Supérieure des Arts et Techniques du Théâtre* (ENSATT), Lyon : www.ensatt.fr
- « *La Fémis* » - *École Nationale Supérieure des Métiers de l'Image et du Son* (ENSMIS), Paris : www.femis.fr

PUBLIC POSTSECONDARY

(Écoles Supérieures d'Arts Appliqués, ESAA)

SCHOOLS OF APPLIED ARTS

The ESAAs award national diplomas in very specific areas upon completion of a 2–4 year curriculum. Graduates are prepared to begin careers in a variety of design-related fields: graphic design (media, multimedia); spatial design (interior architecture, lifestyle, sets); fashion, textile, and environmental design; design of products and services; and crafts (textiles, jewelry, books, glass, ceramics, and others).

■ List of ESAAs:

www.designetartsappliques.fr >Formation

PUBLIC POSTSECONDARY

SCHOOLS OF ART AND DESIGN

SUPERVISED BY THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE

Some 50 schools of fine arts (national, regional, and municipal), are sites of training and creative activity that combine learning with practice in the artistic act, artistic theory, research, and experimentation in contemporary art. Programs are offered at two levels (capping 3 or 5 years of postsecondary study). These schools confer national diplomas in art, design, and communication.

■ A complete list of public schools and their specialties

is available on the Web site of ANdÉA (the national association of postsecondary schools of art): www.andea.fr



SCHOOLS FOR THE PRESERVATION

AND PROMOTION

OF HISTORIC AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

Three public schools of historic and cultural heritage offer advanced programs.

Some curricula prepare students for careers requiring knowledge of historic and cultural heritage (art historians, guides and presenters), others for careers involving its preservation (conservators, restorers, architects of historic monuments and properties).

- *École du Louvre* (EDL), Paris : www.ecoledulouvre.fr
- *École Nationale des Chartes* (ENC), Paris : www.chartes.psl.eu
- *Institut National du Patrimoine* (INP), Paris : www.inp.fr

PRIVATE POSTSECONDARY

SCHOOLS OF ART

Many private schools offer 3–5 year postsecondary programs and confer diplomas specific to the school. Such programs are often costly. Some are listed in the RNCP, the national registry of professional certifications: www.mcp.cnpc.gouv.fr

NATIONAL DIPLOMAS AWARDED BY FRANCE'S PUBLIC POSTSECONDARY SCHOOLS OF ART

ARTS AND CRAFTS

L2 Level / 2-year postsecondary study

> **DIPLÔME DES MÉTIERS D'ART - DMA**

The successful practice of arts and crafts demands several years of training to master essential techniques and acquire know-how and dexterity. More technical than the BTS in applied arts (see below), the DMA enables students to specialize in a craft of their choice and to acquire know-how accumulated over many generations. The degree also opens opportunities for jobs as creative design assistants and allows students to develop the skills needed to start and manage a business of their own.

Institut National des Métiers d'Art - INMA : www.institut-metiersdart.org

APPLIED ARTS

L2 Level / 2-year postsecondary study

> **BREVET DE TECHNICIEN SUPÉRIEUR - BTS EN ARTS APPLIQUÉS**

BTS programs in applied arts train designers in several specialties: interior architecture and model-making, creative design (textile, industrial design, interior and landscape architecture, visual communication), fashion, arts and techniques, communication, typography, and medical and scientific illustration. Success on en-



trance exams often requires a year of preparation after leaving secondary school.

L3 Level / 3-year postsecondary study

> **DIPLÔME NATIONAL DES MÉTIERS D'ART ET DU DESIGN - DNMADE**

French *baccalauréat* or equivalent +3 years of study - leading to a Licence-level degree.

The DNMADE sanctions the 1st cycle in ESAA over 3 years (180 ECTS) and offers several mentions: Animation, space, event, graphics, innovation, instrument, book, materials, fashion, digital, object, heritage, show ...

M2 Level / 5-year postsecondary study

> **DIPLÔME SUPÉRIEUR EN ARTS APPLIQUÉS - DSAA**

French *baccalauréat* or equivalent + 5 years of study; BTS, DMA, DNA or equivalent + 2 additional years leading to a master-level degree. In their final year, students complete a project on a specific theme. DSAA programs train true creative designers. The degree recognizes artistic training accompanied by practical internships.

FINE ARTS

L3 Level / 3-year postsecondary study

> **DIPLÔME NATIONAL D'ART - DNA**

French *baccalauréat* or equivalent +3 years of study, leading to a Licence-level degree. The DNA is the diploma that marks completion of the 1st cycle art over 3 years (180 ECTS) of the public postsecondary schools of Art. A common core year ends with an examination, after which successful students choose one of three tracks: art, communication, or design. The next 2 years (known as the program phase) are spent in that track.

M2 Level / 5-year postsecondary study

> **DIPLÔME NATIONAL SUPÉRIEUR D'EXPRESSION PLASTIQUE - DNSEP**

French *baccalauréat* or equivalent +5 years of study; DNA or equivalent + 2 years leading to a master-level degree. For 2 years (known as the project phase), students pursue a personal path within a creative research workshop (known as an ARC, for *Atelier de Recherche et de Création*). During this time they earn credits that are formally issued by an external creditgranting institution. The DNSEP exams have three parts: an examination of the student's academic record; a review of the student's best work; and the student's defense of that work before a jury of five individuals appointed by the Ministry of Culture. Students may take the DNSEP examination no more than twice.



> NOTE

- Students who hold a degree in fine arts from a public or private institution of higher education in France or abroad may apply to a national commission on equivalences to have their work recognized by a national, regional, or municipal school of art.
- Certificates awarded by the school and approved by the Ministry of Culture and Communication mark the completion of various steps in the educational process: with 8 credits after the second year is the *Certificat d'Études Plastiques (CEAP)*, and upon completion of the fourth year is the *Certificat d'Études Supérieures d'Arts Plastiques (CESAP)*.

ART SCHOOL ADMISSIONS

- France's schools of art are all highly selective. Applicants with a secondary school diploma are admitted on the basis of an examination and a portfolio. Students may also be admitted after a preparatory program of 1 or even 2 years of art study. Some of the best of France's postsecondary schools of art admit no more than 5 percent of applicants. A wide variety of public and private programs prepare students for the art school entrance examinations.
- Programs of preparatory training in applied arts (known as MANAA, for *Mise à Niveau en Arts Appliqués*) are offered in institutions overseen by the Ministry of National Education. They prepare students for admission to 2-year (L2) postsecondary degree programs. Students are admitted to MANAA programs on the basis of their secondary-school record. The preparatory training is provided over the course of 1 academic year (7–8 months, with 30–35 hours of coursework per week). 54 MANAA programs are in operation, 41 of them in public institutions that offer free tuition, and the rest in private institutions under contract to the ministry. The latter charge approximately €1,800 per year.



UNIVERSITY

DEGREES

Most French programs in art history and theory – history of art, theater, cinema, and music – are offered in the universities at all three major degree levels: *Licence* (bachelor), Master, and Doctorate. Academic programs leading to a *Licence Professionnelle* or professional master include a practical training component.

www.campusfrance.org/en >Find your program

The universities offer three major art tracks:

- **Performing arts:** with programs in film analysis, the history of directing, and so on
- **Fine arts:** with programs in art history, the analysis of works of art, and aesthetics, among other subjects
- **History of art:** with programs in the history of artistic creation, painting, sculpture, architecture, and more.

Research in artistic fields is performed by more than a hundred teams affiliated with about 30 doctoral departments operating within institutions throughout France.

DEGREES FROM PRIVATE SCHOOLS

AND SCHOOLS ADMINISTERED BY CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE

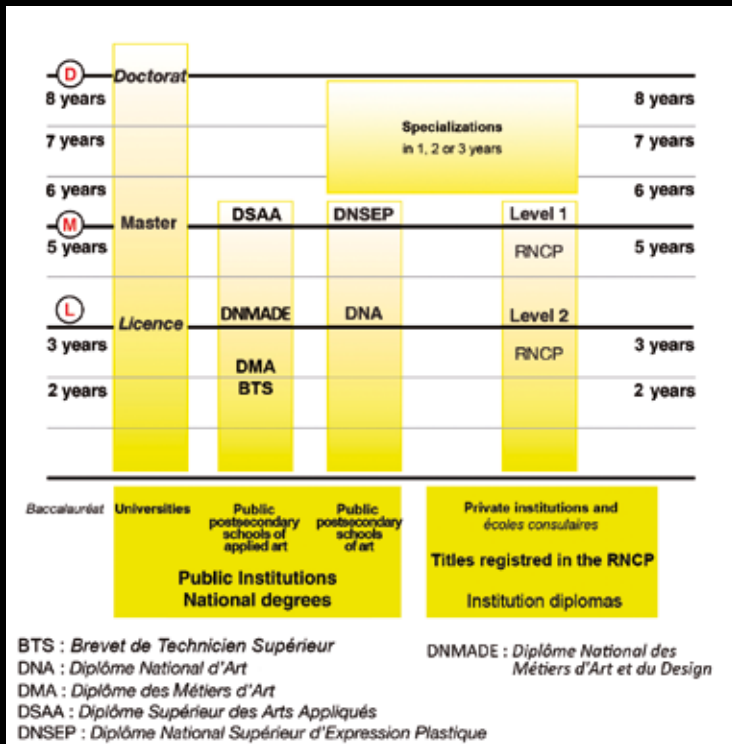
A large number of private schools award certificates or diplomas or prepare students to seek admission to national schools of art.

A French baccalauréat or equivalent secondary-school diploma is required for admission to these private schools. Many offer 3- to 5-year postsecondary programs. The degrees are particular to each school and vary widely in cost and quality. Some of the **certificates** and **titles** conferred are registered in the RNCP, the **National Directory of Professional Certification**. Admissions are selective and based on an entrance exam, an application file, and/or an interview.

www.rncp.cncp.gouv.fr



Art degrees and Culture within the LMD system



APPLICATION ONLINE WITH CAMPUSART

www.campusart.org

- **CampusArt** is a network of approximately **120 French institutions** (public and private schools, plus universities), hosted by Campus France, offering more than **500 programs in art and architecture** at the *Licence* (bachelor), Master and Post-master levels. Applicants complete an online application form (under certain conditions) that is accessible by all members of the network. Applicants can track online their file to the point of receiving offers of admission.
- To apply through CampusArt, students must:
 - justify 1, 2 or 3 years of training in art or architecture (outside requests in preparatory classes)
 - depending on the training, justify a certain level of French
 - present their work online (personal website, blog, portfolio ...) if necessary.

GOOD

TO KNOW



■ **The portfolio** (often called *le book* in French) is an indispensable part of the application for admission to a postsecondary school of art in France.

■ **Universities and some private schools offer programs** in theoretical and critical aspects of art and in the business and management of art (administration of cultural institutions, organization of artistic events, gallery management, sales).

■ **Except for preparatory classes**, a good command of French is indispensable for the successful study of art in France. Students must score at level B2 or C1 or above on the Common European Framework for Languages.

