

STUDY  
IN  
FRANCE

# BREVET DE TECHNICIEN SUPÉRIEUR (BTS)

Postsecondary training centers and the technical sections of many secondary schools offer the higher technical certificate known as the Brevet de Technicien Supérieur (BTS), a 2-year French national diploma in 88 specialty areas. More than 240 000 students are enrolled in BTS programs. New technical support functions are emerging and expanding in every sector of the economy in connection with the work of engineers, researchers, and top management in government, finance, and business. BTS programs respond to the need for personnel with the appropriate technical skills and competences, training students to begin their career immediately after receiving their diploma.



The BTS curriculum is built on a common base of vocational, technological, and general skills deemed essential for successful performance in a given occupation. Over the course of the 2-year curriculum, students gain professional qualifications in commercial and industrial specialties, agriculture services, or applied arts.

Service specialties account for the greatest share of BTS enrollments. The competencies gained in BTS programs respond to the globalization of economic activity and modern production systems that demand in-

depth technical knowledge, operational know-how, and management skills.

*“The  
compétencies  
gained  
respond  
to the  
globalization”*

**candidate.**

#### INTERNATIONAL

For businesses that compete on the international stage, the BTS responds to the technical and vocational

A recent study showed that a large proportion of BTS graduates begin their careers directly after graduating, as intended. On the other hand, many graduates choose to go on to pursue another degree.

**Admission to BTS programs is selective and based on an application submitted by the**

## WHY PURSUE A BTS?

- **It's a short, focused program of training**  
Earning a BTS requires 2 years of post-secondary study in a public or private secondary school (*lycée*), or in a vocational training center.
- **You can specialize in a particular field**  
Programs combine academic instruction with practical training dispensed by active professionals.
- **After graduation, you'll move quickly and directly into working life.**
- **You'll receive support**  
BTS candidates spend 14 to 18 weeks each year in internships coordinated by a faculty tutor.
- **You'll learn about the world of work**  
The institutions that offer BTS programs organize practical training opportunities in cooperation with businesses. Those businesses are potential employers.

education and training requirements articulated by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (Unesco) and the International Labour Organization (ILO): “General instruction that includes the study of related techniques and sciences, [and] the acquisition of practical skills, attitudes, understanding, and knowledge relevant to the tasks presented in various sectors of economic and social life.”

*(Technical and Vocational Education and Training for the 21<sup>st</sup> century).*



# DISCIPLINARY SPECIALTIES FOR **BREVET DE TECHNICIEN SUPÉRIEUR**

## PRODUCTION-RELATED SECTORS AND TECHNICAL SPECIALTIES



### > CIVIL ENGINEERING, CONSTRUCTION

- Fitting and finishing
- Layout and arrangement (study and implementation)
- Building, building shell (design and construction), frame - roof
- Public works

### > INDUSTRY

- Metal structures (design and fabrication)
- Definition of cutting and stamping processes
- Industrial design and implementation: naval construction, microtechnics, manufactured products, manufacturing processes, manufacturing of automobile bodies, industrial boilers
- Automated industrial control and regulation
- Woodworking processes
- EuroPlastics and composites: tooling, management, and optimization of production
- Foundry, forge
- Ceramic industries
- Leather industries
- Maintenance: construction and handling equipment, vehicles
- Quality assurance in the food and biomanufacturing industries
- Materials processing (heat and surface treatments)

### > INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY

- System maintenance
- Surveying, topography, and digital modeling
- Negotiation and digitization of customer relationships
- IT services to organizations
- Digital systems

### > ENGINEERING

- Aeronautics
- Technical assistance
- Biotechnologies
- Design and implementation of automated systems
- Electrotechnics
- Nuclear environments
- Fluids, energy, household automation
- Textile innovation
- Chemistry-related occupations
- Internal combustion engines
- Process management
- Wood/housing building systems
- Photonic systems
- Techniques and services in agricultural equipment
- Transport and logistical services

# SERVICE-RELATED SECTORS AND TECHNICAL SPECIALTIES



## > BUSINESS AND MANAGEMENT

- Insurance
- Banking – Customer service (consumer and corporate accounts)
- Accounting and management: organizations, small business
- International trade (European framework)
- Legal services
- Real estate professions
- Technical-commercial

## > COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION

- Communication
- Publishing
- Communication project planning

## > ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL

- Social and household economics
- Construction planning and economics
- Services in the health and social sectors

## > MANAGEMENT

- Management of sales teams, management support

## > TOURISM, HOTEL MANAGEMENT

- Hotel/restaurant : hotel marketing and management, culinary arts, restaurant service, management
- Tourism

## > HEALTH

- Analyses of medical biology
- Bioanalysis and control
- Dietetics
- Optician/optometrist
- Pedorthist
- Dental prosthetist
- Prothetist–orthist

## AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

- Agricultural equipment
- Food industry
- Land-use planning
- Sales
- Water management
- Environmental services
- Production (livestock, fruits and vegetables, horticulture, pisciculture)
- Processing



## ARTS, APPAREL

- Fashion design, textiles, and environment: textiles-materials-finishes
- Broadcasting
- Coiffure, cosmetics, perfume
- Fashion: shoes and leather accessories, clothing
- Paints, inks, and adhesives
- Photography



## EARNING ANOTHER DEGREE AFTER THE BTS

Various post-BTS academic options are possible, depending on the specific BTS. BTS graduates enter science-oriented preparatory programs leading to the Grandes Écoles, undergraduate programs leading to a licence professionnelle (professional bachelor), and certain schools of engineering (after a special examination or an interview and/or application).



## USEFUL LINKS

- List of BTS programs by theme: [www.orientation.fr/liste-des-bts.html](http://www.orientation.fr/liste-des-bts.html)
- List of BTS specialties and frames of reference: <https://www.sup.adc.education.fr/btslst/>
- List of BTS programs in agriculture: [www.chlorofil.fr](http://www.chlorofil.fr)
- List of institutions (with contact information) offering BTS programs and remedial programs for intending BTS applicants: [www.campusfrance.org](http://www.campusfrance.org) >Trouvez votre formation>Niveau Licence>BTS
- Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation: [www.enseignementsup-recherche.gouv.fr](http://www.enseignementsup-recherche.gouv.fr) >Formation et diplômes>BTS
- National registry of occupational certifications (RNCP): [www.cncp.gouv.fr](http://www.cncp.gouv.fr)



GOOD

TO KNOW



■ **The Brevet de Technicien Supérieur (BTS)** is a French national postsecondary diploma that has been harmonized with the European LMD degree ladder. Over the 2 years of the program, students earn a total of 120 credits under the European Credit Transfer System.

■ **To be admitted to a BTS program**, students must hold a French baccalauréat (technological, vocational, or general tracks) or an equivalent secondary-school credential that enables the holder to enter higher education in his or her home country. The duration of BTS programs (normally 2 years) and the curriculum may be modified for students possessing certain diplomas or other credentials or who have already completed some higher education.

■ **The BTS is earned in special sections of some secondary schools** and in private technical schools. Some BTS programs are available from institutions offering distance education. Admission decisions are made by individual institutions, which convene committees of faculty members for this purpose. Applicants who have fulfilled all requirements for a given program but are not offered admission may request to be considered for another BTS program at the institution.

■ **Tuition and fees** vary by type of institution: public secondary schools (registration fee only); private secondary schools under contract with the government (between €300 and €900), and other institutions not under government contract (€1,500 to €6,000). Application and test fees (about €100) paid in connection with the preregistration process are not refundable under any circumstances.

## LEARN MORE ABOUT FRENCH DEGREES IN THE RESOURCES CENTER.



Resources Center

[www.campusfrance.org](http://www.campusfrance.org)

- >Resources center
- >Educational and research programs
- >Degree descriptions