

STUDY
IN
FRANCE

BREVET DE TECHNICIEN SUPÉRIEUR AGRICOLE (BTSA)

More than 18 000 students are enrolled in programs leading to Postsecondary training centers and the technical sections of many secondary schools offer the higher technical certificate known as the *Brevet de Technicien Supérieur Agricole* (BTSA), in a 2-year French national diploma in 16 agricultural and agri-food specialty areas. BTSA training focuses on the environment, the animal and plant realms, sustainable development, organic farming, new technologies, commercialization of agricultural and agri-food products, and the growth and development of rural areas. Regional economic development, along with rural land use planning and the preservation of natural areas, are central parts of the framework of skills and competencies imparted in BTSA programs. Admission to BTSA programs is selective and based on an application submitted by the candidate.



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In 2 years of postsecondary study, BTSA programs prepare students for a wide variety of occupations involving production, transformation, commercialization, planning, and development in the sectors of agriculture, livestock raising, fisheries and aquaculture, food processing, landscape architecture, and the environment. The curriculum fosters career development by placing students in real employment situations and offering them practical training in farming, operational, or technical settings in numerous sectors—among them agriculture, foodprocessing, forestry, landscape and horticulture, commercialization, and services in rural settings. The BTSA curriculum is distinguished by the fact that it **introduces students to farming or business** by means of 12–16

week internships, **support and attention** from accessible multidisciplinary faculty members (practical training, guidance in achieving personal and professional goals), and **rapid entry into the workforce**: 90% of BTSA graduates find employment soon after receiving their degree.

*“BTSA
programs
prepare
students
in 2 years”*

INTERNATIONAL

BTSA students have the opportunity to participate in the European GLEN GeCo (Global Education Network Generation Cooperation) and receive a grant of €1,200 to cover travel expenses. The program includes a 3-month internship in a European partner country and in an African or Asian country, plus, in Europe, three 4-day training seminars in development and international development assistance. <http://glen-europe.org>



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BTSA SPECIALIZATIONS

PRODUCTION-RELATED SECTORS

- Agriculture in hot regions (development)
- Agricultural business (analysis and operations)
- Agronomy (plant production)
- Aquaculture
- Animal production
- Horticultural production
- Viticulture-enology

AGRICULTURAL EQUIPMENT SECTOR

- Agricultural machinery engineering

TRANSFORMATIONAL (PROCESSING) SECTORS

- Agricultural, biological and biotechnological analysis
- Food sciences and technologies, specialties:
 - > Dairy products
 - > Foods and technical processes
 - > Grain products
 - > Meat and fish products

LAND-USE PLANNING SECTOR

- Forest management
- Land-use planning
- Management and protection of natural spaces
- Water control and management

SECTEURS DU COMMERCE

- Technical-commercial fields:
 - > Agricultural supplies
 - > Food products and beverages
 - > Gardens and ornamental plants
 - > Livestock and service animals
 - > Wines and spirits
 - > Wood and forest products

SERVICE SECTOR

- Development and management of rural areas

Graduates can go on to pursue a *Licence Professionnelle* or enroll in a course to prepare for the entrance examinations of engineering, veterinary, and landscape schools.





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USEFUL LINKS

- European GLEN GeCo program: <http://glen-europe.org>
- French education in agriculture, list of BTSA programs: www.chlorofil.fr/diplomes-et-referentiels/formations-et-diplomes/btsa.html
- List of BTS programs by theme: www.monorientationligne.fr
- List of BTS specialties and frames of reference: <https://www.sup.adc.education.fr/btslst/>
- List of institutions (with contact information) offering BTSA programs and remedial programs for intending BTSA applicants: www.campusfrance.org >What program are you looking for? >Undergraduate level
- Ministry of agriculture, agri-food industry, and forestry: <http://agriculture.gouv.fr/Enseignementagricole>
- Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation www.enseignementsup-recherche.gouv.fr >Enseignement supérieur>Formation et diplômes>BTS
- National registry of occupational certifications (RNCP): www.cncp.gouv.fr
- Training programs in agriculture, forestry, natural spaces, and regions: www.educagri.fr

GOOD TO KNOW



■ **The Brevet de Technicien Supérieur Agricole (BTSA)** 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 BTSA program**, students must hold a French Baccalauréat (technological, vocational, or general tracks) or an equivalent secondary-school credential that entitles the holder to enter higher education in his or her home country. Students already holding a 2-year undergraduate diploma or who can demonstrate that they possess knowledge at that level may be admitted directly into the second year of a BTSA program.

■ **The BTSA is earned in 2 years of study** in special sections of some secondary schools and in private technical schools. Some BTSA 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 BTSA 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 €4 500). 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

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