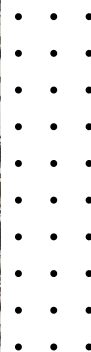


STUDY IN FRANCE

Your dream destination
for pursuing higher education



*A Guide for Hong Kong & Macau students
to understand French education
and its characteristics*



YOUR DREAM DESTINATION



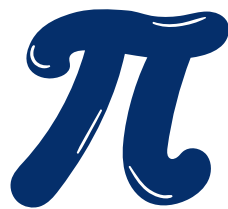
REASONS FOR STUDYING IN FRANCE



KEY FIGURES



**Destination in the
world to travel**



Top country
in the world in mathematics



3500+

Public and private institutions



400 000+
International students
every year

5th

most spoken language
in the world



1750+
English taught
programmes



Advanced scientific research

From René Descartes to Blaise Pascal, and from Louis de Broglie to the recent French Nobel Prize winners in science like Alain Aspect, just to name a few, France benefits from a long-standing tradition of scientific research that underpins the nation's exceptional achievements in fields such as physics, chemistry, medicine, biotechnology, health and mathematics.

- France has a significant number of recipients for the Nobel Prize. The country has generated **sixty-five Nobel laureates**, on a level with the United States, the UK and Germany.
- France is strong in the field of mathematics with **thirteen winners of the Fields Medal**.
- France is the fourth in the world when it comes to the number of patent applications filed to the European Patent Office.

Diverse, high-quality programmes

There are more than 3500 public and private higher education institutions in France responding to the full spectrum of students' academic and professional aspirations: **72 universities, 220 schools of business and management, 227 engineering schools, 45 post-secondary public schools of art, 22 schools of architecture, as well as 3000 other specialised institutions** that offer tertiary training in specific sectors such as allied health professions, social sciences, tourism, fashion, design, art and sports.

Long-standing intellectual tradition

Few countries in the world can take pride in their intellectual and artistic influence as France does. Apart from the above-mentioned research excellence, France also boasts a huge number of philosophers, scholars and painters that have influenced others in the world.



A WORLD-CLASS COUNTRY

A Leader in Europe

France is undoubtedly a leader among European countries as it plays a pivotal role in world affairs. **France is a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council.**

As a founding Member State of the European Union, France has played since the 1950s a major role in the development of European institutions, policies and reforms. A course on Europe or an internship with a European firm is a great way to broaden your French experience and embrace Europe.

Thriving industries and tertiary sector

France is now ranked the world's seventh-largest economy, blending a rich historical legacy with modern innovation. France's economic landscape is characterised by a wide array of thriving industries and a robust tertiary sector. Examples include manufacturing, pharmaceutical production, aerospace, luxury goods, services – especially in tourism and finance and it is renowned for its wine and food industry.

In terms of industrial strengths, France is a manufacturing powerhouse with significant contributions from the car manufacturing and aerospace industries. Companies such as Peugeot, Renault and Airbus highlight France's capabilities in producing **world-class cars and aircraft**. Additionally, the country is also making significant strides in biotechnology, with **investments aimed at developing innovative medical treatments and technologies**.

As the world's most-visited country, **France attracts millions of tourists annually** thanks to its landmarks, cultural festivals and landscapes. The tourism sector is a vital component of the economy, generating substantial revenue and employment opportunities. Meanwhile, Paris, the capital city, is **a major financial hub in the world**, hosting numerous international banks, financial institutions and multinational companies in sectors like luxury goods, insurance and food products.





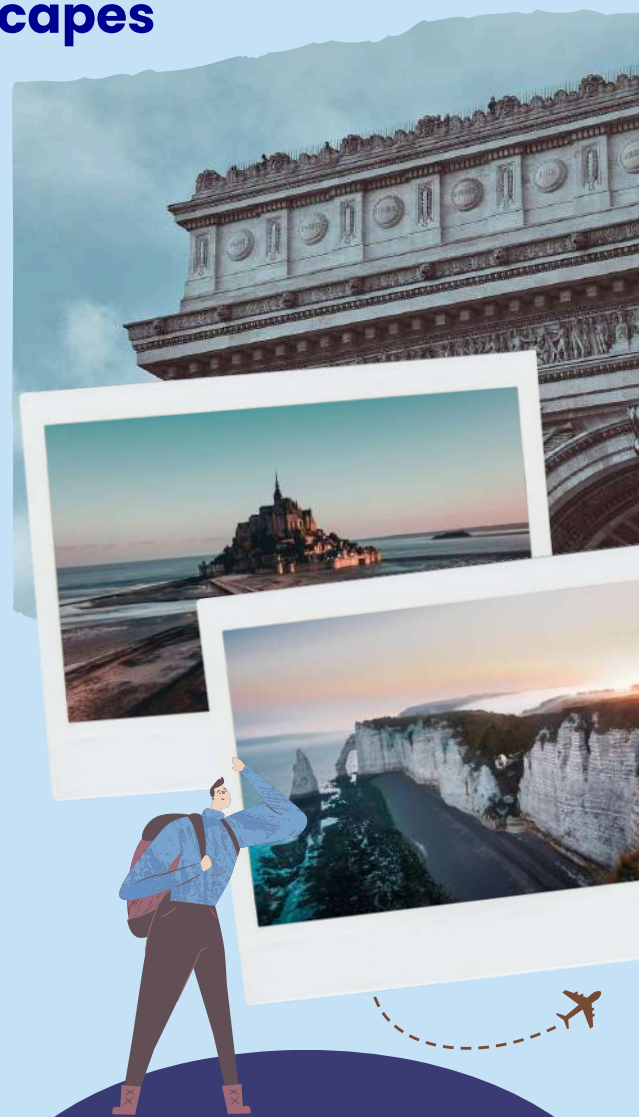
AN UNFORGETTABLE ADVENTURE

Discover Food, Culture and Landscapes

France is undoubtedly a hub of culture. Whether in Paris or beyond, France is characterised by its cultural heritage and dynamism. Fashion, cuisine, food, cinema, art and architecture, etc. Your academic journey in France will be accompanied by a dazzling cultural life.

With no less than **52 sites and monuments that are listed as UNESCO heritage sites**, France's exceptional cultural monuments and natural landscapes attract about 100 million foreign tourists every year. In France, there is always something interesting for everyone! Thanks to an **excellent transportation system**, all these cultural sites are within reach in a few hours. In summer, you can also swim in three seas and three oceans with new friends and people.

Studying in France means having Europe on your doorstep! By train or plane, the major European capitals are all less than two hours from Paris. Bordered by nine countries, France is the ideal place from which to discover Europe. Visit them on weekends or during longer breaks in the academic calendar! You can even make these cities part of your curriculum with the Erasmus+ programme!



Immerse in a new culture

You do not have to speak French to study in France! But if you have been learning in English or Chinese for the most part of your studies and are now wondering “what language should I learn?” **French** is one of the best options a student can choose as the language **is one of the most spoken languages, and the second-most learned language in the world**, after English. Start learning the language now! Besides the academic benefits for university admission, immersing yourself in French offers a unique opportunity for personal and professional growth as well as cultural enrichment.

Build new connections

Studying abroad also means building new connections. Throughout your academic journey, you have countless opportunities to meet people from all walks of life and understand the way they live. Indeed, France hosts more than 430 000 international students every year. It will bring you new perspectives to how you see life in general.



COUNTLESS BENEFITS

To offer a great experience to international students, the French government and higher education institutions have implemented numerous measures.

Reduced tuition
fees

Free/Discounted
Entry to Museums

Cheaper Public
Transportation

Affordable student
meals

Generous social
security
(Health & Housing)

Work Permit after
Master's Level

Scholarships

And more!

Being an international student in France comes with many financial benefits. At most public universities, international students enjoy **reduced tuition fees**. Additionally, students can benefit from **various discounts on cultural activities**, such as free or reduced entry to museums, theatres and cinemas. Public transportation is affordable with student discounts. International students have access to **affordable meals** at university restaurants, where a complete meal costs 3,30 Euros (~30 HKD).

Financial aid for housing and social security for health further helps reduce living expenses. International students may even work or do a work placement during their study in France. Upon finishing their master's degree in France, students can get a visa to find a job, allowing them to get the most out of France, the country of ideas, innovation, history, and fashion.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Furthermore, the Consulate General of France in Hong Kong and Macau, as well as the French government, provide **generous grants and scholarships for students to pursue either their long-term or short-term goals in France** from linguistics scholarships, short-term science courses, culinary courses, Master's scholarships, PHD, research and more.





THE FRENCH HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM

The LMD System (Licence–Master–Doctorat)

The French higher education system follows the Bologna Process, which has successfully harmonised the credit transfer system across European countries.

Degrees awarded in the French higher education system are a reflection of a common European architecture known as the L-M-D system. LMD refers to the degree level and stands for “Licence–Master–Doctorate” – in other words, “Bachelor’s–Master’s–Doctorate” degrees. Each semester awards up to 30 ECTs (European Credit Transfer System) and can be transferred to other countries. Specifically, 1 ECTs credit is equivalent to about 25-30 hours of classes and students are supposed to accomplish 900 hours of coursework each semester.

L

Licence -
Undergraduate degree

3 years, 180 ECTs

1 ECTs = 25-30 hrs
of coursework

M

Master -
Master's degree

2 years, 120 ECTs

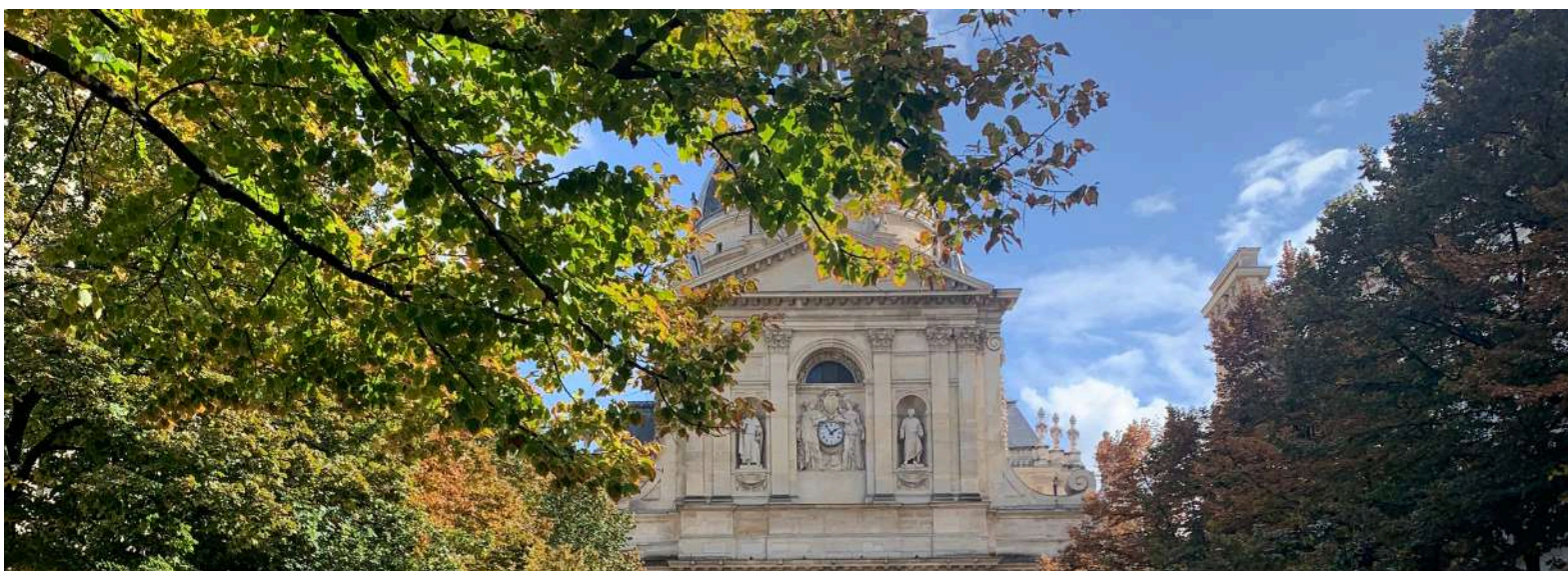
L+M = 300 ECTs
& 5 years

D

Doctorat -
Phd degree

~3 years, 180 ECTs

L+M+D = ~ 460 ECTs
about 8 years





TYPES OF FRENCH HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTION

The French higher education system is renowned for its flexible structure, offering diverse paths to allow students to pursue higher education. Here are the key components of the system:

Vocational education

Professionalized studies that last from 2 to 3 years after a baccalauréat (equivalent to HKDSE) and allow students to be ready to integrate the professional world. Students are usually specialised in practical and manual works, hospitality, technology, and will directly work at the end of the degree.

- **Brevet de technicien supérieur (BTS)**
- **Instituts Universitaires de Technologie (IUT)**
- **Professional degree**

Universities

France has over 70 public universities, offering a wide range of programmes in all fields of study. These universities provide bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees and are known for their low tuition fees, as well as outstanding research and academic excellence.

Specialised Schools

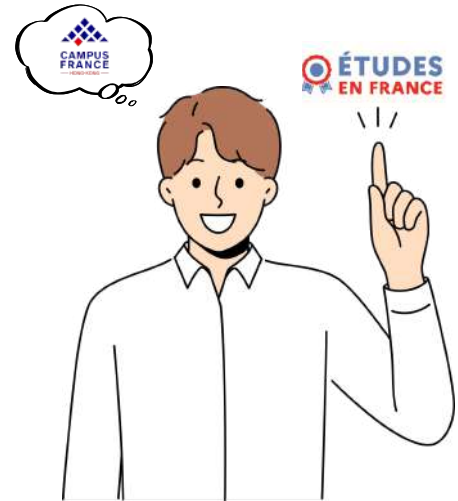
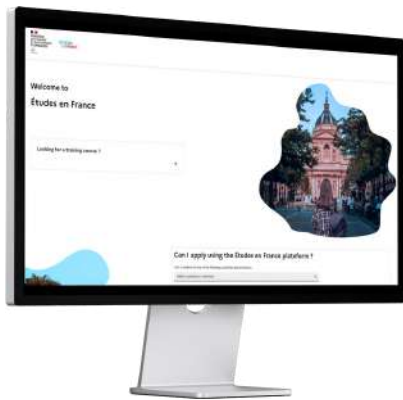
These schools allow students to specialise themselves in defined areas such as business, art, veterinary, architecture and many other fields. Accessible from the first year of undergraduate studies, they are a good alternative for students who have a clear project in mind.

Grandes Écoles

As a particular type of French higher education institution, Grandes Écoles are often smaller and more specialised. These prestigious institutions focus on specific fields such as engineering, art, architecture, business, political science and public administration. Admission to these schools is highly competitive, usually through rigorous entrance examinations through these two paths: a) doing a traditional, two-year Classe préparatoire or b) direct entry after obtaining excellent examination results in the baccalauréat (equivalent to HKDSE). Nowadays, many Grandes Écoles offer admission to international students based on the excellence of their academic record.

ENROLL AND APPLY FOR A STUDENT VISA

Études en France (EEF) Platform



Since 1 October 2023, Hong Kong and Macau have been part of the Études en France platform. This is a unique online service for all the registration procedures in higher education in France and to apply for a visa for foreign students. There are two categories of application procedure on the EEF platform depending on your situation.

I AM APPLYING

Candidates can now use one single electronic system to apply to multiple degree programmes in France. First-year degree applicants must apply as a DAP candidate (Demande d'admission préalable) through Études en France. Second and third year of Bachelor Degree and Masters' degree applicants must also use the platform to apply. If the program is not available on the platform then students need to apply directly to the institution and then use the Pre-consular procedure to obtain the visa.

I AM ACCEPTED

All other students who have already secured their admission within a French university or school not available on the platform or who have been accepted into a study abroad program or a PhD program or who will take a short term course (over 90 days) need to complete a Pre-Consular application on the Études en France platform. The Pre-Consular application is very simple and is a mandatory step before students apply for a student visa.

ART & HUMANITIES

ACADEMIC TRACK

France and its rich cultural heritage offer a wide range of art and humanities programs that allow students to develop their critical thinking, creativity, and openness to the world. Available from the first year of studies to doctoral level, these programmes can take place in high schools, universities, or specialized schools. Students immerse themselves in diverse subjects, from visual arts and design to philosophy and cultural studies, fostering a deep understanding of both historical and contemporary contexts.



175 000+
STUDENTS EVERY YEAR



100+
SCHOOLS OF
ARTISTIC CREATION

AUDIOVISUAL & DESIGN

ENSCI - LES ATELIERS
ECOLE NATIONALE SUPERIEURE DES ARTS DECORATIFS (ENSAD)
ECOLE DE DESIGN NANTES ATLANTIQUE
ENSAAMA - OLIVIER SERRES
ECOLE BOULLE

CINEMA

LA FEMIS
ENS LOUIS LUMIERE
ENSRA
ENSAV TOULOUSE
LES Gobelins

PERFORMING ART

CONSERVATOIRE NATIONAL SUPERIEUR DE MUSIQUE ET DANSE
PARIS CITE
UNIVERSITE TOULOUSE 2 JEAN JAURES
BORDEAUX MONTAIGNE
UNIVERSITE DE POITIERS



JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Graduates can pursue careers in education, cultural management, art, and media. Positions in museums, galleries, and cultural institutions are common, as well as roles in publishing, journalism, and film production. Additionally, the emphasis on interdisciplinary studies equips students for careers in marketing, advertising, and public relations, where communication and creativity are essential. With France's rich cultural landscape, graduates are well-prepared to make meaningful contributions in both national and international contexts.

PHILOSOPHY

FACULTES LIBRES DE PHILOSOPHIE ET PSYCHOLOGIE
UNIVERSITE PARIS NANTERRE
UNIVERSITE PARIS 1 PANTHEON SORBONNE
NANTES UNIVERSITE
UNIVERSITE DE STRASBOURG

ARCHITECTURE

ECOLE BOULLE
ECOLE CAMONDO
ENSAD
ENSAAMA
ECOLE BLEUE

ART HISTORY

UNIVERSITE PANTHEON SORBONNE PARIS 1
SORBONNE UNIVERSITE
ECOLE DU LOUVRE
UNIVERSITE LUMIERE LYON 2
UNIVERSITE PARIS NANTERRE

BUSINESS & ECONOMY

ACADEMIC TRACK

In France, plenty of business and economics oriented schools offer high standard and qualitative education. Whether you wish to study finance, luxury, marketing or else, you will be able to become a specialist and gain a lot of experience. These programmes are offered at various levels, from vocational schools to universities and specialised institutions, making them accessible to a wide range of students. Many programmes are designed to cater to different academic backgrounds and often include preparatory courses to help students transition smoothly. During the last 3 years of study, students can usually specialise themselves in specific areas.



300 000+
STUDENTS EVERY YEAR



200+
PROGRAMMES

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Students in business and economy fields can find roles ranging from market analysts and brand managers to luxury retail executives and strategic planners. With the rise of digital marketing and e-commerce, there is a growing demand for experts who can navigate online platforms and consumer behavior. Additionally, as luxury brands seek to enhance customer experiences, roles focused on customer relationship management and experiential marketing are increasingly important. Meanwhile, the hospitality industry thrives with opportunities for hotel managers who oversee operations and guest experiences, event planners who organise and coordinate events, and travel consultants who assist clients in planning their trips.

ECONOMICS

PARIS 1 PANTHEON SORBONNE
ESJ LILLE
SKEMA
UNIVERSITE TOULOUSE CAPITOLE
UNIVERSITE DE BORDEAUX

BUSINESS STUDIES

HEC
ESSEC BUSINESS SCHOOL PARIS
ESCP
EDHEC
EM LYON

MANAGEMENT

INSEAD
HEC PARIS
ESSEC BUSINESS SCHOOL PARIS
ESCP
INSTITUT D'ADMINISTRATION DES ENTREPRISES

HOSPITALITY

INSTITUT LYFE
VATEL
DUCASSE
FERRANDI
ECOLE SAVIGNAC

STATISTICS

INSTITUT POLYTECHNIQUE DE PARIS
UNIVERSITE SORBONNE
UNIVERSITE PSL
UNIVERSITE PARIS-SCLAY
HEC PARIS

SOCIAL SCIENCES & LAW

ACADEMIC TRACK

Students typically begin with a bachelor's degree in relevant disciplines such as sociology, political science, communication studies, or legal studies. Students engage in foundational courses covering theory, research methods, and critical thinking, along with specialised subjects tailored to their interests. In hospitality, students learn about management, customer service, and event planning, often through hands-on experiences in real-world settings. Many choose to further their education with a master's degree, allowing for deeper specialisation in areas like public policy, international relations, or communication management, often culminating in a thesis or capstone project. For those pursuing academic or research careers, a PhD involves comprehensive study, original research, and the completion of a dissertation.



1500+
PROGRAMMES

COMMUNICATION

CELSA SORBONNE UNIVERSITE
UNIVERSITE PANTHEON ASSAS
SCIENCES PO
AUDENCIA

POLITICS

SCIENCES PO
PANTHEON-SORBONNE PARIS 1
UNIVERSITE PANTHEON ASSAS
DAUPHINE PSL
UNIVERSITE MONTPELLIER



JOB OPPORTUNITIES

In law, professionals can work as lawyers, providing legal representation and advice, or as legal consultants, helping organisations navigate compliance issues. In politics, roles such as political analysts and campaign managers allow individuals to study trends and manage strategies that influence government decisions. The communication sector offers positions like public relations specialists, who manage an organisation's public image, and social media managers, who engage audiences online. These studies also provide access to positions within international organisations such as the European Union, UNESCO and the OECD, opening doors to global career opportunities.

SOCIOLOGY

SCIENCES PO
EHES
UNIVERSITE SORBONNE
DAUPHINE PSL
UNIVERSITE GRENOBLE ALPES

LAW

UNIVERSITE PARIS PANTHEON ASSAS
PANTHEON SORBONNE PARIS 1
DAUPHINE PSL
JEAN MOULIN LYON 3
SCIENCES PO

SCIENCES & ENGINEERING

ACADEMIC TRACK

For engineering or sciences, students begin with a strong foundation in mathematics and natural sciences. Then, students can pursue classes préparatoires aux Grandes Écoles (CPGE) for two years, preparing for competitive entrance exams to top engineering schools. Alternatively, some choose a Diplôme Universitaire de Technologie (DUT) or Bachelor Universitaire de Technologie (BUT), which offer a more hands-on education. Afterwards, students pursue a master's degree, where they can specialise and engage further in research projects or thesis work. Many specialise in fields such as renewable energy or biotechnology at engineering schools or universities. In France, excellent Bachelor's degrees are available in fields like mechanical, civil, or electrical engineering.

ENGINEERING

INSTITUT POLYTECHNIQUE DE PARIS
UNIVERSITE PARIS-SACLAY
INP
INSA
ARTS ET METIERS

EARTH SCIENCE

AMIENS - PICARDIE JULES VERNE
UNIVERSITE DE ROUEN NORMANDIE
UNIVERSITE PARIS-CITE
UNIVERSITE PARIS-SACLAY
UNIVERSITE LILLE

CHEMISTRY

UNIVERSITE DE STRASBOURG
SORBONNE UNIVERSITE
UNIVERSITE PARIS-SACLAY
UNIVERSITE PSL



JOB OPPORTUNITIES

As we face global challenges like climate change and health crises, professionals in these areas are at the forefront of developing groundbreaking solutions. With a growing demand for expertise in renewable energy, biotechnology, and data science, careers in this field promise not only personal fulfillment but also the chance to make a lasting difference in the world. In engineering, they can become mechanical engineers, civil engineers, electrical engineers, or software engineers, each focusing on design, construction, and technology development. In the sciences, they may work as research scientists, conducting experiments, or as laboratory technicians performing tests. Environmental scientists develop sustainable solutions, while data scientists analyse data for business insights.

PHYSICS

UNIVERSITE PARIS-SACLAY
UNIVERSITE PSL
SORBONNE UNIVERSITE
INSTITUT POLYTECHNIQUE DE PARIS
UNIVERSITE GRENOBLE ALPES

AGRONOMY

AGROPARISTECH
INSTITUT AGRO RENNES-ANGERS
INSTITUT AGRO MONTPELLIER
LORRAINE INP - ENSAIA
UNILASALLE

ALUMNI'S TESTIMONIALS



Nancy Law

Université Claude Bernard Lyon 1

France Excellence Yersin scholarship recipient

*"With my experience in combatting COVID in public hospitals, I hope to enhance my knowledge in public health and learn deeper about the complexity of healthcare in France, **a country known for its excellent healthcare services and its state-of-the-art medicine**. Upon completion of my master's study, I hope to initiate a project in health promotion for the underprivileged group in Hong Kong, integrating the knowledge and skills in public health. **Choose France, and it opens possibilities beyond norms.**"*

Brian Cheung

Institut Polytechnique de Paris

French Excellence Yersin Scholarship recipient

"There are many excellent scholars working on theoretical quantum science at the Institut Polytechnique de Paris. Having spent two years in France, I am now able to produce high-quality research."



Austin Wong

HEC Paris

French Excellence Yersin scholarship recipient

"Studying at HEC Paris for the Master in Management Grande École programme has been transformative. With a background in luxury internships in Hong Kong, the move to France significantly broadened my academic and personal horizons."

Chloe Brossard-Ng

INSA Toulouse

French Excellence Yersin scholarship recipient

*"As a first year Master student in the BiotechEco (Industrial biotechnology and bioeconomics) programme at INSA Toulouse, I was given the chance to experience the combination of art, architecture, and young energy – **an exciting mixture that I have never experienced before.**"*



FRANCE ALUMNI

Studying in France is more than a semester or a year experience, it is an opportunity to join a vibrant alumni community. By joining the **French Alumni Association** you will build lasting connections with fellow students and graduates, fostering relationships that extend well beyond your time at university. This network allows you to stay engaged with the community and supports you in your future paths. You can also join the **France Alumni platform** for a more global network to connect and interact with thousands of alumni around the world!



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