

# Enrolling in a French institution of higher education

All international students, whether or not they receive additional financial aid, enjoy the same low tuition rates as French students at universities and other public institutions (€170 to €550 per year). The true cost of the education they receive is much higher (€8,000 to €14,000 per year), but the difference is paid by the French government. Thus most students at public institutions, French and foreign alike, are the beneficiaries of a generous amount of "invisible financial aid."

## Enrollment is a three-step process:

- **Obtaining an offer of admission** from a French institution. The offer of admission is a precondition for obtaining a visa to enter France.
- **Administrative registration.** Upon arriving in France, students must report to their new institution and pay tuition and fees for the coming year. The student receives proof of enrollment and a student ID card.
- **Academic registration.** Following administrative registration, the student is invited to visit his new academic department to register for specific classes at specific times and to be briefed on examination procedures. No additional charges are assessed for academic registration. This step **completes the admission process.** Note that international students intending to **enroll in the first year of university studies must follow special procedures.**

Holders of a French *baccalauréat* must apply online at [www.admission-postbac.fr](http://www.admission-postbac.fr). Others must use the so-called DAP process. Forms may be downloaded from [www.enseignementsup-recherche.gouv.fr](http://www.enseignementsup-recherche.gouv.fr) > « enseignement supérieur ».

### Note:

**There are no officially recognized equivalences between French degrees and foreign degrees.** Institutions make independent determinations of equivalence, translating each applicant's academic background into a certain number of years of education in the French system. The institution may also give credit for the applicant's professional experience. **Each institution has full discretion to admit applicants and to determine the level at which they will be admitted—that is, the amount of credit to be granted for prior academic work.**

In France, students' tuition payments cover only a fraction of true the cost of public higher education. The French government provides the bulk of the system's financing.



## Paying tuition to a French institution of higher education

The tuition rates charged by public educational institutions in France are set by decree.

### Annual tuition rates for degree programs in public institutions, 2009–10

- €171 for *licence* programs
- €231 for master's programs
- €350 for doctoral programs
- €550 for engineering programs

In addition to these basic charges, students may have to pay additional fees for specific services or special programs.

Private institutions, including schools of business, are more expensive. There, tuition varies between €3,000 and €10,000 per year.

A convenient online application process is in place for applicants from 32 countries. Nationals of those countries must use the online process.

With Internet access, students can:

- Submit a single application to multiple institutions
- Track the progress of their application
- Apply for a visa, in cooperation with a CampusFrance local office
- Communicate with CampusFrance

The process also involves taking a test of French proficiency (if required by an institution to which the student has applied) and ends with a **personal interview in which the student has the opportunity to present his educational plan.**

Participating countries: Algeria, Argentina, Benin, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Republic of Congo, Gabon, Guinea, India, Ivory Coast, Japan, Republic of Korea, Lebanon, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Russia, Senegal, Syria, Taiwan, Tunisia, Turkey, United States, Vietnam

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

> Apply online

