

STUDY
IN
FRANCE

DEGREE IN ARCHITECTURE

There are nearly 30,000 architects in France. The country's Écoles Nationales Supérieures d'Architecture (ENSA) together enroll approximately 19,000 students, 12% of whom are from outside France. The share of women in ENSA enrollments continues to grow, standing presently at 57%. About 85% of graduates find employment in the field. Postsecondary studies in architecture cover the range of disciplines necessary for the carrying out of architectural projects in cities as well as landscapes.



Higher education in architecture in France is provided by a network of 20 Écoles Nationales Supérieures d'Architecture (ENSA), located throughout the country. The ENSAs operate under oversight of 2 ministries, the Ministry of Culture and Communication and the Ministry of Higher Education and Research. Two other institutions, the *Institut National des Sciences Appliquées* (INSA) in Strasbourg and the *École Spéciale d'Architecture* (ESA), a private institution in Paris, confer diplomas that are recognized as equivalent to the national diplomas awarded by the ENSAs.

The professional practice of architecture

Degree programs in architecture prepare graduates for employment in firms and agencies providing services

in architecture, city planning, interior architecture and design, engineering and consulting, construction, public works, and land use and development. Depending on the degree level, the architect's role ranges from design to the supervision of a building site. The terms of independent practice of architecture are set by law. To operate as an architect under one's own name in France requires the completion of a sixth year of postsecondary study and the acquisition of a credential known as **HMONP** (*Habilitation à la Maîtrise d'Œuvre en Nom Propre*).

Multidisciplinary training

The curriculum in Schools of architecture consists in equal measure of instruction in project management and in related disciplines—chief among them the humanities and social sciences, the visual and representational arts (including freehand drawing, perspective, axonometrics, photography, and film), technical sciences, and the history of architecture and urban planning. Training in architecture therefore is provided by multidisciplinary teams composed of professional architects (70% of ENSA faculty are active professional architects), engineers, sociologists, historians, geographers, and others.

PROGRAMS IN ARCHITECTURE ARE DESIGNED FOR INDIVIDUALS WHO...

- Want to practice as an architect
- Seek an internationally recognized master-equivalent in architecture
- Wish to acquire cross-disciplinary skills in architecture, art, and humanities
- Seek the advantages of training closely aligned with the work of active professional architects.



A DEGREE LADDER CONSISTENT WITH THE LMD SYSTEM

Architecture studies are organized into 3 stages harmonized with the European LMD system, thus facilitating transfers, exchanges, mobility, and international partnerships.

The **first stage, lasting 3 years, is organized into 6 distinct semesters (180 ECTS)** representing a total of 4,200 of work, including 2,200 hours of instruction. Upon completion, students receive the **Diplôme d'Études en Architecture (DEEA)**, which is **equivalent to the Licence**.

The diploma signifies acquisition of the fundamentals of architecture, the design process, and the project. The first stage includes two mandatory internships, fully integrated into the curriculum and representing 6 weeks (210 hours) of work. It also includes the preparation and successful presentation of a final report worth 4 ECTS credits. In some Schools, the entire class participates in an international study trip for several days during the first semester.

The **second stage**, which lasts 2 years, leads to the **Diplôme d'État d'Architecte (DEA)** which is **equivalent to a Master**. Graduates master the fine points of managing architectural and city-planning projects and become familiar

with the various forms and areas of professional practice as an architect. The **44 distinct semesters of this stage carry 120 ECTS**. The stage requires a total of 2,600 hours of work, 1,200 hours of instructional time. Instruction is broken down by theme (including project units, seminars linked to projects or to research, and related thematic electives).

The second stage also includes a mandatory full-time internship lasting 8 weeks and carrying 8 ECTS. The last credit in the second stage is awarded for the final project, which represents 200 hours of individual work over a semester.

The DEA opens the way to advanced study leading to the **Diplômes nationaux de Spécialisation et d'Approfondissement en architecture (DSA)** and **Diplômes Propres aux Écoles d'Architecture (DPEA)** which require 1–2 years of work. Students who earn a DEA with a concentration in research may enroll in a **Doctoral program** in one of 40 research units maintained by the ENSAs in cooperation with university Doctoral departments. Approximately 300 candidates are pursuing a Doctorate in architecture at any given time.



FRANCE'S 20 ÉCOLES NATIONALES SUPÉRIEURES

D'ARCHITECTURE

- École nationale supérieure d'architecture et de paysage de Bordeaux (ENSAPBX): www.bordeaux.archi.fr
- École nationale d'architecture de Bretagne (ENSAB): www.rennes.archi.fr
- École nationale supérieure d'architecture de Clermont-Ferrand (ENSACF): www.clermont-fd.archi.fr
- École nationale supérieure d'architecture de Grenoble (ENSAG): www.grenoble.archi.fr
- École nationale supérieure d'architecture et de paysage de Lille (ENSAP Lille): www.lille.archi.fr
- École nationale supérieure d'architecture de Lyon (ENSAL): www.lyon.archi.fr
- École nationale supérieure d'architecture de Marseille (ENSA Marseille): www.marseille.archi.fr
- École d'architecture de la ville et des territoires à Marne-la-Vallée: www.marnelavallee.archi.fr
- École nationale supérieure d'architecture de Montpellier - La Réunion (ENSAM): www.montpellier.archi.fr
- École nationale supérieure d'architecture de Nancy (ENSA Nancy): www.nancy.archi.fr
- École nationale supérieure d'architecture de Nantes (ENSA Nantes): www.ensanantes.fr
- École nationale supérieure d'architecture de Normandie (ENSA Normandie): www.rouen.archi.fr
- École nationale supérieure d'architecture de Paris-Belleville (ENSA Paris-Belleville): www.paris-belleville.archi.fr
- École nationale supérieure d'architecture de Paris-La Villette (ENSAPLV): www.paris-lavillette.archi.fr
- École nationale supérieure d'architecture Paris-Malaquais (ENSA Paris-Malaquais): www.paris-malaquais.archi.fr
- École nationale supérieure d'architecture Paris-Val de Seine (ENSA Paris-Val de Seine): www.paris-valdeseine.archi.fr
- École nationale supérieure d'architecture de Saint-Étienne (ENSASE): www.st-etienne.archi.fr
- École nationale supérieure d'architecture de Strasbourg (ENSAS): www.strasbourg.archi.fr
- École nationale supérieure d'architecture de Toulouse (ENSA Toulouse): www.toulouse.archi.fr
- École nationale supérieure d'architecture de Versailles (ENSA-V): www.versailles.archi.fr

2 other institutions confer diplomas that are recognized as equivalent to the architecture degrees conferred by the ENSAs:

- École spéciale d'architecture de Paris (ESA): www.esa-paris.fr
- Institut national des sciences appliquées de Strasbourg (INSA Strasbourg): www.insa-strasbourg.fr



DUAL DEGREE IN

ARCHITECTURE AND ENGINEERING

The ENSAs in Clermont-Ferrand, Lyon, Marne-La Vallée, Marseille, Nantes, Paris-Belleville, Paris-La Villette, and Toulouse train architect-engineers in cooperation with nearby schools of engineering. Students who complete the special curriculum receive a professional degree in architecture and the Titre d'ingénieur equivalent to a Master in engineering. Students must begin the dual curriculum in their first year of training. They also must demonstrate special aptitude for science and complete remedial courses offered by their school.

DEGREES IN

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

Training leading to the *Diplôme de Paysagiste (DPLG)*, which is equivalent to a Master, is available in the *Écoles Nationales Supérieures d'Architecture et de Paysage (ENSAP)* of Bordeaux and Lille and by the *École Nationale Supérieure de Paysage* in Versailles.

Admitted according to their performance on a common examination and open to holders of a 2-year national postsecondary diploma, students study for 4 years, completing a total of 2,630 hours of instruction: three years of 800 hours and a final year of individual work performed through thematic seminars (230 hours).

Holders of the DPLG perform a variety of functions—among them consulting, studies, assistance with project development, design and management, planning, teaching, and research. They may practice in a variety of settings, including independent practice (self-employment) and salaried employment in specialized private firms; local, regional, or national government; large national or international companies; and institutions of higher education.

INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH

The ENSAs have maintained the tradition of the “*Voyage en Italie*” as one of the components of architectural education.

As early as the first year in some schools, half of the class spends a semester studying abroad, with side trips interspersed with coursework in history, architectural theory, and urban studies. European exchange programs and international cooperative agreements provide academic credit for other forms of study abroad, generally in the third or fourth year of postsecondary study. Exchanges allow students to enrich their knowledge by providing opportunities to learn about other cultures and methods, as well as other architectural challenges.



USEFUL LINKS

- Académie d'architecture (academy of architecture): www.aa.archi.fr
- Albums of junior architects and landscaper designers: <https://ajap.citedelarchitecture.fr>
- ANABF, the national association “architects of the buildings of France”: www.anabf.org
- ArchiRès, the network of libraries of French-speaking schools of architecture: www.archires.archi.fr
- Architecture and heritage database (280,000 notices on French heritage objects, including 25,000 illustrated works and 5,000 files of documents): <http://www2.culture.gouv.fr/culture/inventai/patrimoine>
- CampusArt: online application to architecture schools: www.campusart.org
- Cité de l'architecture et du patrimoine (architecture and heritage city): www.citedelarchitecture.fr
- Conseil National de l'Ordre des Architectes (national council of the order of architects): www.architectes.org
- European France : www.europanfrance.org
- Fédération nationale des Conseils d'architecture, d'urbanisme et de l'environnement (national federation of architectural, urban, and environmental consultants): www.fncaue.com
- Historical and artistic cities and countries: www.vpah.culture.fr
- La Médiathèque de l'architecture et du patrimoine (architecture and heritage media center): www.mediathèque-patrimoine.culture.gouv.fr
- Les Grands ateliers de l'Isle d'Abeau (workshops of the Isle of Abeau): www.lesgrandsateliers.org
- Ministère de la Culture : www.culture.gouv.fr/Thematiques/Architecture
- Pavillon de l'Arsenal: www.pavillon-arsenal.com
- RAMAU, network of activities and occupations in architecture and city planning: www.ramau.archi.fr
- Réseau @archi.fr, a network: www.archi.fr
- TCMH, contemporary techniques used in work on historic monuments: www.tcmh.culture.gouv.fr

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 Postmaster 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



- **ENSA tuition** for 2018–19 is €370 for the first stage of training (*Licence* level) and €506 for the second (Master) stage.
- **The DEA (*Diplôme d'État d'Architecte*)** requires 10 semesters of postsecondary study and represents 300 ECTS credits.
- **Transfers into the second stage** are possible upon evaluation of the application by a committee on equivalence at each school.
- **A good command of French** (level B2 or C1 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages) is essential for the study of architecture in France.
- **The independent professional practice** of architecture is regulated by laws specific to each country.

