BANKING

The banking world has been shaken by many upheavals: privatizations, the advent of a single European currency, increased competition from international banks, and the entry of nonbanking actors (supermarket chains), international deregulation, the spread of new technologies that have done away with unskilled jobs and pushed customers toward online systems, and the necessity to cooperate with authorities against money laundering from criminals and terrorist networks.

Banks have adapted to this new order by increasing the professionalism of their employees, diversifying services (automated teller machines, investment services, financial and securities transactions, economic forecasting, insurance, and travel), merging these to attain a critical mass while, of course, continuing to expand their international operations.

Careers in banking today include marketing, customer service, asset management, and business consulting. Universities and the *grandes écoles* provide professional training to the banking sector. They prepare students for entry into this dynamic and international industry: France is the world's third leading country for credit institutions after Japan and the United States. Most operate in Europe, but 63 French banks operate in the United States, 115 in the Asia-Pacific region, and 31 in Latin America. Five hundred banking institutions employ 500,000 people in France, the country's third leading employer in the private sector.

For more detailed information about banking in France, see the file on "Economics."

Institutions and programs

**UNIVERSITIES**

Universities provide instruction at all academic levels: licence and licence professionnelle (bac + 3), master (bac + 5), doctorat (bac + 8). The following lists are not necessarily exhaustive.

- **Licence programs (bac + 3)**
  Licence programs (including many terminal programs) prepare students for executive positions in banking based on studies in economics.
  - Bordeaux IV, [http://www.montesquieu.u-bordeaux.fr](http://www.montesquieu.u-bordeaux.fr) : Licence professionnelle in banking
  - Dijon, [http://www.u-bourgogne.fr](http://www.u-bourgogne.fr) : Licence professionnelle in banking, finance, insurance, specialization in client banking and insurance.

- **Master’s programs (bac + 4/5)**
  At the bac + 5 level, research and terminal master’s programs offer many specializations: actuarial principles, banking and financial law, banking and finance, asset management, accounts, risk management, international finance analysis.
  - Clermont-Ferrand I, [http://www.u-clermont1.fr](http://www.u-clermont1.fr) : Wealth management


GRANDES ÉCOLES

In addition to a solid training in economics and finance, France's grandes écoles of business often provide a finance track. For example, at HEC, the École des hautes études commerciales, http://www.hec.fr, students may concentrate in finance in their last year.

The grandes écoles also offer programs leading to the mastère spécialisé. Such programs are of very high quality but also tend to be expensive.

- HEC, MS in International Finance
- ESSEC, MS in Finance
  ESCP-EAP Paris, MS in Wealth Management

- HEC also offers a doctorate in finance listed in the EduFrance catalog.

As for the IEP, their section « eco-fi » is especially well adapted to the banking sector and focuses on an international dimension.

USEFUL LINKS

http://www.campusfrance.org
more than 40 programs are listed in the CampusFrance catalog

- associations and research organizations
  http://www.cnrs.fr, Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique
  http://dr.education.fr/dea.html, les écoles doctorales en France informations générales

- general information
  http://www.fbf.fr, French banking federation
  http://www.onisep.fr, click on "atlas" for a compendium of training programs in France