PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND PUBLIC-SECTOR MANAGEMENT

Studying public administration means studying the functioning of public bodies, the development of public policies, the management of government finances and the principles of management and governance in order to improve the way all of these operate. The upheavals of the 1980s and 1990s, budget problems, citizens’ new demands on government and the interest aroused by reforms in other countries have all made the modernisation of the public sector a necessity. Such a reform involves applying management concepts to the performance of the public services, without dogmatism and taking into account the specific features of public policy. It also entails reflecting on the desirable parameters of public administration in a modern democracy, as well as on the distinction between the citizen or user (deprived of all choice) and the customer (free to choose). In their strategy-making, the public authorities must also take into account pressures which go beyond the need for a new social bond: the fact that purely ‘local’ decision-making no longer exists (owing to the spread of European, EC or international legislation), risk management, aptitude for dialogue and listening to others, need to anticipate and evaluate the repercussions of public policies on the community.

The programs proposed by French educational institutions focus on these aspects of government reform and benchmarking in order to bring students to question the nature of present changes in law and public administration. The study of management methods applied to the central administration or local governments, quality and human resources management are fully integrated into such programs, along with units concerning specific areas such as public health, education, environment and safety.

See the data sheets on “Law” and “Economics” as well.

PROGRAMS OF STUDY

UNIVERSITIES

• Licence
   A large number of French universities offer licence programs in Public Administration (to access the specific content of the programs, click on “Formation”, “Enseignement” or “Études” on the websites of the universities indicated here):

• Masters
   - Aix-Marseille 3, http://www.univ-amiers.fr: Administrative Law and Local Governments (research); Law, Economics and Management of Local Governments; Public Administration Careers (professional); Government Finance and Taxation (research); Quality Management in Public Services, for Public Sector Management (6 specializations); Public-Sector Careers at the IEP in Aix (http://www.iep-aix.fr): Public Policy: Co-ordination and Regulation; Government Contracts, Economic Regulation and Connection.
   - Amiens, http://www.u-picardie.fr: M1 Public Administration at IFAG; Masters 2 Local and Regional Administration; Evaluation and Expertise of Public Policies.
   - Finances of Local and Regional Governments and Groups; Local and Regional Economics and Governance.
   - Clermont-Ferrand 1, http://www.univ-clermont1.fr: M1 Public Governance; N2 Territories, Actors, Modelling (research); Management of Local and Regional Governments, Their Groups and Satellites; High-Level Administration and Justice (professional).
   - Lille 1, http://www.univ-lille1.fr: Administration and Management of Local and Regional Governments; Economics of Public Decision-Making; Public-Sector Management at Local and Regional Level.
   - Paris 1, http://www.univ-paris1.fr: M1 Law and Management of Government Finances; Public-Sector Economics; N2 Public Administration and Management; General Administration; Public
Interest Law - Administration - Enterprises; Law; Administration and Financial Management of Local and Regional Governments; Law and Management of Government Finances; Public Decision-Making, Institutions and Organisations.

- Paris 2, http://www.u-paris2.fr: Law and Management of Government Finances; Administration and Public Policy; Legal Consulting for Local and Regional Governments; Law; Administration and Financial Management of Local and Regional Governments; Administration and Public-Sector Management.
- Rennes 1, http://www.univ-rennes1.fr: Economy, Consulting and Public-Sector Management; M1 and M2 specialisations; Appointment of Local and Regional Public Policy; Central and Territorial Administration.
- Saint-Etienne, http://www.univ-st-etienne.fr: Public Law and Local and Regional Policy; Government Contracts; Consulting in Local and Regional Development.
- Toulouse 1, http://www.univ-toulouse1.fr: M1 Central and Territorial Administration; M2 Local and Regional Authorities; Standards and Public Institutions; Local and Regional Public Management; Public-Sector Responses to Dislocuity; Local Governance, Enterprise and Insecurity; Consulting, Expertise and Public Policy.

- Doctorate

It is possible to pursue doctoral studies in Public Law in all the universities cited above, within their doctoral programs (known as écoles doctoriales) and research laboratories in Law or Economics. Also noteworthy are the "Law, Management, International Relations, International Relations" doctoral program (ED 262) at the Université Paris 5 (http://www.universite-paris5.fr) and two programs - "Law, Europe and Society" and "Economics, Management and Space" at the Université Paris 12 (http://www.univ-paris12.fr).

See the catalogue of doctoral programs on the EduFrance website as well.


Founded in 1945, ENA trains future senior officials in the French and foreign public service. The school offers several programs, aimed at young civil servants or students (limited possibilities of access for the latter, involved in the CIL, CIAP or CSAP, programs described below), and above all experienced civil servants, who are recruited through the French embassy network abroad.

Admissions requirements (certain programs may have particular requirements). See the detailed descriptions on the ENA website or that of the Centre for European Studies in Strasbourg (CESE): being a civil servant, other public employee or, less frequently, a student intending to pursue a civil-service career in his or her country of origin, as well as a long diploma; writing and speaking French fluently; passing the entrance exams organised by ENA. Tuition is free but students are responsible for their living expenses. Candidates can request financial aid.

ENA programs for foreign students (for complete information, see the "International cycles" section on the ENA website):
- Long-Term International Cycle (CIL): 18 months in Strasbourg, general studies integrated into the initial training curriculum for French students; candidates should be under 35 years of age.
- Short-Term International Cycle (CIC): 9 months in Strasbourg, general studies, integrated into the upper-level further training cycle for French administrators, aimed above all at experienced high-level civil servants, mainly diplomats seeking assignments in France; candidates should (in principle) be under 30 years of age.
- International Cycle in Public Administration (ICPA): 6-12 months in Strasbourg, aimed at experienced civil servants (candidates should be at least 25 years of age), specialised in 3 sections: Public Administration and Institutions, Economics and Government Finance, International Relations.
- Some 30 Specialised Short Cycles in Public Administration (CIAP): 2 or 4 weeks of intensive further training carried out mainly in Paris, including several in English and Spanish.
- Long European Studies Cycle (CEES), http://www.cecseurope.fr: en/etudes/masterlong: 7 months at the Centre for European Studies in Strasbourg, aimed at a varied public (high-ranking civil servants, elected officials, corporate managers), permits ongoing professional activity, aimed at citizens of European Union member or candidate countries.

CIL students can complement their training in parallel with applied research leading to a Masters program in Public Administration (MAPP): students who have successfully completed the CIC or CIAP (exam scores of at least 14/20) can apply for this Research Masters program.

European Masters in Governance and Administration (MEGA), set up in 2004, is open to young officials who are citizens of France, Germany and other European Union member or candidate countries; the diploma is granted jointly by the Universities of Poitiers and Paris 1; it is a bilingual French-German program.

Political Studies Institutes (IEPs)
For more information, see the "International Relations" data sheet:
The IEPs offer a wide range of programs in Public-Sector Management, especially at Masters level. They are generally attached to local universities (with the exception of the IEP in Poitiers); their curricula are indicated in the "Universities" section.

POLITICAL STUDIES INSTITUTES (IEPS)
The IEPs offer a wide range of programs in Public-Sector Management, especially at Masters level. They are generally attached to local universities (with the exception of the IEP in Poitiers); their curricula are indicated in the "Universities" section.

SCIENCES PO, PARIS
The Institut d’Etudes Politiques de Paris, http://www.sciences-po.fr/eng/index.html, offers several Masters programs in the field of Public Policy (central or local and regional governments), Professional Masters in Public Affairs or Territorial and Urban Strategies. Research Masters in Economic Governance. Unique in France, the Master of Public Affairs (MPA), http://mpa.sciences-po.fr, is a two-year program (in English) designed in partnership with Columbia University (New York) and the London School of Economics and Political Science. The MPA is aimed at experienced professionals (or recent graduates with excellent academic records) who have already completed a coherent program of study.

GRANDES ÉCOLES
Several "Grandes Écoles" have set up specialized Masters programs focused on Public-Sector Management: ENPC, Paris, http://www.enpc.fr: Public Policy; ESSEC, http://www.essec.fr: Management of Public Services, in partnership with the ISCAE (Morocco); this program has been transferred to Casablanca.

USEFUL LINKS
- CampusFrance catalogue: http://www.campusfrance.org
- OECD file on "Governance and Public-Sector Management": http://www.oecd.org/topic/0,2686,fr_6649_37405_1_1_1_1_37405.0.htm
- http://www.ledroitpublic.com
- http://www.opuscultum.com
- Library for public reports: http://www.lbibdocumentationsaintciergais.fr (heading “Droit, institutions, vie politique”)
- Law in the French-speaking world: http://droit franophone.org