

Why Study in France?

If all of the things that we've already told you about France were not enough, what if we told you that the country has one of the most prestigious educational systems in the world, as well? Whether you are an individual seeking undergraduate studies, postgraduate schooling or something else, an amazing education can easily be found in the country. No matter what region that you go to there are numerous universities and educational institutions offering world-class education for people far and wide. There is a reason that so many people choose to come to France to receive their education and when it is the best education that you require, it is well worth your time to look at the colleges and universities that are available throughout the country.

As a student at one of these institutions you can rest assured that you will receive an amazing education, while also enjoying the many other things that are to be loved in the country. The universities in France offer students the chance to attend their institutions, on a full and part time basis, with a number of class schedules and courses available. These courses will all vary by the college, as well the times that you can attend. However, it is quite easy to find something that accommodates your schedule and allows you to go to university in your own time.

Some of the universities in France may also offer their students the chance to complete some of their courses at home via their own computer. This is again something that you should check with the university concerned, as not all of them will offer this option. Additionally, it may not be offered for all courses or for all subjects.

It is a French tradition to welcome foreign students from all across the world. Since the Middle Ages, and the birth of La Sorbonne, the first French University, which occurred more than 800 years ago, students from all across Europe have come to France to study, especially in the areas of theology, medicine and law.

But people are not just coming from Europe any longer. Many students from the USA to attend college in France. There are also a growing percentage of college enrollees from other countries as well. People come to France to get their education because they know what kind of system awaits them. France is keen on providing top of the line education in all subjects and to all students. This is a true statement no matter what university you plan to attend.

No matter what country you are coming from, you can expect to be welcomed with open arms. There is so much diversity in France. It is one of the things that keeps the country such an amazing place to be for all. It is always nice to know that you will fit right in with the crowd when you arrive. No one will question the fact that it can be hard to be the new kid on the block. If you are coming from another nation and culture and are unaware of the country and know no one, it can be far scarier. Knowing that no matter where you choose to go in France you can rest assured that you are going to be welcomed and feel right at home, really is a tremendous boon.

The French government introduced a vigorous support policy in 1998 welcoming foreign students into French educational institutions. The policy was introduced and followed through by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs along with the Ministry of Education and is made up of four different components. These four components are:

- To modify the policy of visas awarded, to contribute to its simplification and to give priority to all students. Two exceptional measures have been passed as well: the refusals of motivation and the right to appeal.
- The creation of the Campus France Agency, especially present in education fairs, to promote French higher education in foreign countries. It is advised that all students interested in studying in France should visit its web site: www.campusfrance.org/en.
- The current creation of a European University to make diplomas available in the country more reliably.
- A new structured program of French Government grants that makes them more attractive to foreign students and also to make these grants match with the internationalization of the French institutions of higher education.

Applying for a position at a higher education institution in France is easy, with foreign students having the ability to apply to as many as 20 different universities with one single application on the web. Since you are unable to apply to colleges in person when you are in another country, this is something that can make it much easier on all students wishing to enroll in a French university. You will also find it fairly simple to browse the colleges that are available in France with the help of the web. All colleges in France have a website that you can visit. When you visit the website of the university that you are interested in, you can learn so much about them and determine if it is a good fit for your specific needs.

France has more than 3,500 institutions of higher education, including the following:

- 77 publicly-funded universities, offering degrees in all disciplines and serving as the primary academic research centers
- A parallel system of Grandes Ecoles offering scientific, business, art and other specific programs, which offer 5-year diplomas which are equivalent to a Masters degree
- Schools of architecture
- More than 3,000 specialized schools offering degrees in a wide variety of subjects, including hotel management, culinary arts, tourism and social work.

Students wishing to attend a French educational institution for higher learning will find there are a good number of financial opportunities awaiting them to make attending university easier. Both loans and grants are available to students who qualify for the money. Additionally, the French government offsets some of the costs of attending university in the country, making it a wise financial choice to attend a college in France. Tuition costs in the country are far lower than in other areas. Combined with the remarkable institutions and learning capabilities in the country, studying in France has a plethora of advantages and benefits that are sure to be appreciated.

The average cost of attending a French institution is 186 EUR for first year degrees and 255 EUR for a master's degree. These figures are accurate for the 2012-2013 school year. Again the actual amount of tuition cost will vary according to the numerous factors that we've already

discussed. These costs are far less than what is found at many other universities and colleges around the world, all for one of the best educations in the world.

Other benefits that make it plausible to attend college in France include the costs of living in the country. It is far more affordable to survive in France than a country such as the United States. Costs are exponentially less for almost everything, whether it is housing, food or even entertainment.

The average costs of popular items in the country:

- Restaurant Meal 10 EUR
- McDonalds Combo Meal 6.50 EUR
- Domestic Beer 3 EUR
- Cappuccino 3 EUR
- Coke/Pepsi 3.00 EUR
- Loaf of White Bread 3.00 EUR
- Milk, 1 litre 1.20 EUR
- Petrol 1.60 EUR per gallon
- Internet 30.00 to 50.00 EUR

These are just a few of the costs of things in the country. Again, the actual amount of money that you will pay will vary according to the location that you are in.

Of course, the chance to live in France is one of the biggest and the best reasons to attend a college in the city of your choice. The country is absolutely elegant in every imaginable way, and something that you really must experience for yourself. There is so much to see and do in every area of the country; as well as some of the world's best restaurants, art galleries and entertainment venues. If you happen to attend a college in Paris, you can experience the wonders of the Eiffel Tower and an array of restaurants with top chefs. France is absolutely breathtaking in beauty and in fun. There is something for guys and girls, as well as individuals of all ages.

Art, museums and wine are three things that you can count on finding no matter where you go in the country. If this is something that interests you, the chance to travel to France for an education will certainly be even more appealing than it may have been before. Not only can you find art classes taught throughout the colleges, you will be amazed at the many museums and wine tasting opportunities that you can also enjoy any time of the year.

There are educational institutions that can be found throughout the country, whether you are interested in learning in Paris or prefer to go closer to the northern or southern borders. Each of the universities offers a different area of specialized learning, so you should base your choice on the area of study that interests you most. Additionally, you will find that some schools offer their courses in English, while others teach in French. This is another decision that must be made in advance. You will find that all of these institutions offer you some very exciting benefits and challenges of attending, but the degree that is earned is always worth this in the end.

There are certainly myriad reasons why attending a college in France is appealing to those from around the world. These include the lowest tuition costs, the chance to explore this amazing country and the benefit of receiving some of the most prestigious education and training from top instructors, but you can be certain that the benefits extend far beyond those that are listed above. No matter who you are or what you want to learn, attending a university in France is one of the best decisions that you will ever make in your entire life.

PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

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MoU on Mutual Recognition of Academic Qualifications between India & France is 'Historic': HRD Minister Prakash Javadekar

Underlining the strong and long-standing relationship between France and India, Unions Human Resource Development Minister Prakash Javadekar termed as "historic" the inking of an MoU between the two countries on "mutual recognition of educational qualifications" between the two countries.

"It is historic...for the first time; a government to government MoU has been signed to mutually recognize academic qualifications. It will help the student community. There used to be only bilateral arrangements between institutions to institutions," he said while speaking at the Knowledge Summit at Pravasi Bharatiya Bhawan, New Delhi in the presence of French Minister of Higher Education, Research and Innovation Mrs Frederique Vidal.

"I hope more and more countries, like France, will come forward for mutual recognition of academic qualifications so that the mobility of students and professionals improves," Mr Javadekar added.

The first high-level India-France Knowledge Summit, 2018 was jointly organized by French Institute in India, along with Ministry of Higher Education, Research & Innovation (MESRI), France and co-Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India.

Pointing that more than 5000 Indian students are studying in France and about 1500 French Students in India, the Minister said the HRD Ministry would launch "Study in India" initiative to attract more and more students from other countries to India.

Apart from MoU on Mutual Recognition of Academic Qualifications between India and France, 15 MoUs between various institutions of India and France in the areas of Higher Education, Research, Innovation, Faculty exchange, Scientific Cooperation were exchanged. He took the opportunity to list out the various initiatives, such as IMPRINT, GIAN, SWAYAM and PMRF taken by Government of India to boost Innovation, Research and accessibility of education in India. He pointed out that under GIAN, which is an initiative where foreign faculty visit India and conduct tailor-made courses for Indian students in certain HE institutions, last year about 30 French Faculty members had visited India to conduct course and this number is expected to grow more.

Under SWAYAM, India's own MOOCs, already more than 700 number of courses have been started and about 2 million students, faculties and professionals have registered themselves for various courses. "Like ATM (AnyTimeMoney), SWAYAM is ATL (AnyTimeLearning) and AWL (AnyWhereLearning)," he said. Underlining the importance of innovation and research in country's progress, Mr Javadekar said his Ministry is giving special thrust to research and innovation. He said under IMPRINT-II, which is an open invitation for innovation by faculties, students, professionals and others in 10 domain frontier areas of innovation, Rs 1000 crore is being allocated to fund high-end research and innovation proposals. Besides, under PMRF, highest ever scholarship of Rs 70000 to 80000 per student per month will be offered to around 1000 students each year. Apart from these initiatives Ministry has created special vehicle called higher education finance agency, through this agency Ministry is mobilising hundred thousand Crore Rupees to put in next three four years essentially in higher education and small portion is school education. He further said that we have

started smart India Hackathon from last year. In the previous year total 42,000 students from 2000 technical and engineering colleges participated. This year around 1 lakh students already participated.

Mrs. Frederique Vidal, Minister of Higher Education, Research and Innovation, Government of France said that the knowledge summit is an essential step toward the goal set by the French Government to attract 10,000 students to France by 2020. Last year, over 5000 Indian students chose France as a study destination, showing a 60% increase from the previous year. The summit explores seven priority sectors for collaboration: space and aeronautics, mathematics and information technology, agronomy and food processing, eco-energy, natural resources and bioactive compounds, architecture and urban planning and urban mobility.