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FRENCH HIGH EDUCATION SYSTEM

The article considers the basics of the French higher education system and what its peculiarities of the higher education system. There is also a brief comparison with between Ukrainian and French universities and their educational processes and examinations.

Key words: French universities, higher education system, university courses, study fees.

French education system includes more than 3 500 institutions of higher education, both public and private. Universities, grandes écoles (high, most prestigious academies) or high schools of art or architecture: the choice is great for the French students as well as for the international applicants who what to study in France

There are more than 3,500 public and private institutes of higher education in France: 72 universities, 25 multi-institute campuses, 271 Doctoral schools, 227 engineering schools authorised to award the title of engineer, 220 business and management schools, 45 post-secondary public schools of art, 22 schools of

architecture and 3,000 private schools and institutes.

Universities: higher education accessible for everyone

Overall, 75% of the French universities are the foreign students who have chosen France for their higher education. These public higher education institutions are funded by the French state. Universities spread throughout France and issue national degrees (Bachelor, Master's, PhD) all of which have the same academic value throughout the country.

First-year enrollment is open to all holders of a high school national exam results. Science, literature, languages, the arts, the humanities, health and sports, university courses cover all areas of sciences and research.

University of Sorbonne



The Grandes Ecoles (the most prestigious academies): Culture of excellence in the French style

These academies are also open to the international students (20% of total students enrolled). Higher Normal Schools (NSEs), Institutes of Political Studies (IEP), Engineering Schools, Business and Management Schools, Veterinary Schools and a few other schools, these large academies are either public or state-recognized private institutions. They issue diplomas at the Master's level (5 years of higher education), some of which issue the Master's degree. Many courses are delivered in English.

Admission to these institutions is very selective. It is done by competition after two years of preparatory classes. The cost of registration and study fees are

much higher than at university.

Higher education schools and specialized institutes: practical/applicable sciences

Nearly 3,000 public and private higher education institutions offer courses in specific sectors such as health, audiovisual, communication, journalism, fashion and design, agronomy, political science, etc.

These institutions issue diplomas and certificates recognized or not recognized by the state. Admission to these specialized schools and institutes is done based on the high school grade competition or the profile competition. The duration of the studies is usually two to five years.

High schools of art and applied arts

In France, nearly 50 public art and design colleges that below of the Ministry of Culture. The art, design and communication courses are organised either within the Bachelor or Master's degrees and they are confirmed by national diplomas.

Four well-known public arts schools depend directly on the Ministry of Higher Education: the Boulle, Olivier de Serres, Duperré and Estienne schools. They deliver national degrees in the fields of graphic design, space design, fashion or crafts.

Some private or chamber-of-commerce schools issue their own diplomas. Some are registered in the National Register of Professional Certifications (RNCP). These institutions of higher education of art and applied arts recruit very selectively after competitions of profiles and/or based on the interviews.

National high schools of architecture (ENSA)

The National Higher Schools of Architecture form a network of 20 public schools under the Ministries of Culture and Higher Education, Research and Innovation. The architecture schools offer three courses of training that deliver national degrees recognized by the state: bachelors, master's and doctoral degrees. Applications can also be submitted online on the Campus Art website.

French system after the Bac exam

French education system is very different from the Ukrainian. The french high school ends up with a nationwide exams that contains most important subjects like languages, literature, mathematics, chemistry, biology and other sciences.

After the exam/s, called 'BAC' (an equivalent to Ukrainian 3HO) which take place in several sittings, a pupil gets his/her average that is mostly based on the final exams. With this average score where 20 points is maximum. French grading system has 20 as a maximum grade in school and in university.

After the announced results a future student though the national online system can choose about 3 universities/faculties according to his/her grades, profile and personal preferences. The application is taking place on the national website for the prospective students and then followed by interviews in some private or very selective fields.

If a pupil is ranked higher in the national list then have have "better" choices and can select a very prestige and popular university then a student who is ranked lower in the national list. When the choices have being made and approved then the universities where the enrollees' requests have been sent respond to the candidate.

A DIVERSIFIED HIGHER EDUCATION OFFER

"More than 1,200 classes are provided in English. Short programmes that consist of learning French thanks to cultural visits are also offered to foreign students. There are more and more MOOC offered in French. The acronym FUN, for France Université Numérique (Digital University France), refers to the first French online course platform. It provides nearly 300 courses from over 80 institutes, with enrolment near the one million mark."



Students in classroom at the university

A TIGHT ACADEMIC SCHEDULE

In France, the academic year begins in September or October, depending on the institution and programme. It is punctuated by holidays, including two weeks at year-end. At the end of the first semester, classes are briefly interrupted for exams. The summer holidays start in May or June at the end of the second semester exams. In general, these holidays last at least two months.

CLASS FORMATS IN HIGHER EDUCATION IN FRANCE

In French universities, instructors and researchers give students two types of classes:

- cours magistraux (lectures): a professor presents a subject to students in an amphitheatre for 100 to over 1,000 people. These non-mandatory classes are often written up and handed out by the instructors to students in the form of pamphlets, which can prove very handy when it comes time to revise for exams at the end of the semester;
- travaux dirigés (TD tutorials) and travaux pratiques (TP- practical or lab work): these mandatory classes are for smaller groups and are a complement to the lectures, with the intention of applying and deepening theoretical understanding. Company internships may also be required in addition to the tutorials and practical work.* (based on the internet open source information)

When comparing the French and Ukrainian higher education system, it goes

without saying that the French system is concentrated more on the group/project work more than on general lectures or personal study time. The group projects allow build up and share the knowledge as well as learn from working together, manage and organise their preparation time.

In the end of the semesters the exams are held based on the topics discussed and presented within the projects. The exams event when learning foreign languages (English, Spanish, German are the most popular languages) are written and almost never oral

The student are highly encouraged to do at least one exchange semester in a different European country of a student's choice - to learn the language, break the psychological barrier when learning a foreign language and to enlarge their worldview and obtain more wider experience.

The libraries are free for the students enrolled to the university and are equipped with the specialised literature as well as the computers. There students spend time to prepare for the exams and meet with their project groups in order to prepare their presentations.

The lectures, book reports and interaction with the professors are not as widespread as in Ukrainian universities. Projects, participation in the group works and the written exams constitute the majority of the grade.

Література:

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PROBLEMS OF MARKETING. (TARGETING)