



PARIS SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS
ÉCOLE D'ÉCONOMIE DE PARIS

Studying at the Paris School of Economics

International English Masters programmes ... within the French system !

You're currently studying or working abroad?
You want to start a Masters degree at the Paris School of Economics?
You are looking for funding to finance your stay?
The French education system seems like a puzzle to you?

Even though the PSE offers its masters programs in English in an international environment; it is part of the French higher education system. **Learn to know and understand it better!**



Brochure updated in April 2018

The European System

Thanks to the ECTS (**European Credit Transfer System**) all students - whether they are French or international - can easily understand and compare their degree programme to any other European degree. It is a system of cumulative and transferable educational units. Each Educational Unit (EU) has a value defined in ECTS credits and corresponds to a number of working hours (lessons, tutorials, practical work and personal study, as well as exam) which students must complete to obtain an EU. A successfully completed year represents **60 ECTS credits**, with around 30 ECTS credits per semester. This system facilitates the mobility of students within Europe during their university years.

French higher education is divided into 3 “cycles” in accordance with the common European system: **Licence (Bachelor’s), Masters, and Doctorate (LMD)**.

The number of semesters of postsecondary study and their equivalent in ECTS credits are counted toward the award of degrees:

- **Licence (L)** = A-level + 6 semesters = acquisition of 180 ECTS credits
- **Master (M)** = Licence + 4 additional semesters = acquisition of 120 ECTS credits.
- **Doctorate (D)** = a minimum of 3 years after the Masters (not expressed in ECTS credits)

Masters degree can be either professional or research-based with a possibility of a combination of both. Advancing from one “cycle” to another is not automatic and requires fulfilling certain prerequisites and, in some cases, completing an application process. **At PSE, all masters’ degrees are research-based.** The PhD is a natural continuation of the Masters Degree and graduate students access this path under certain academic and financial conditions. Therefore, there is no direct admission into the Doctoral training. This is the same system as in most US universities, where the first two years of PhD program are devoted to course work (and the admission into the third year is conditional on successful performance on the first two years). Thus, one can think of admissions to PSE master’s in the same way as admissions to the course-work years of a standard US-university-based PhD program. Each year, in early December, Master students wishing to pursue a Doctorate can attend a dedicated meeting.

Organization of the academic year in France

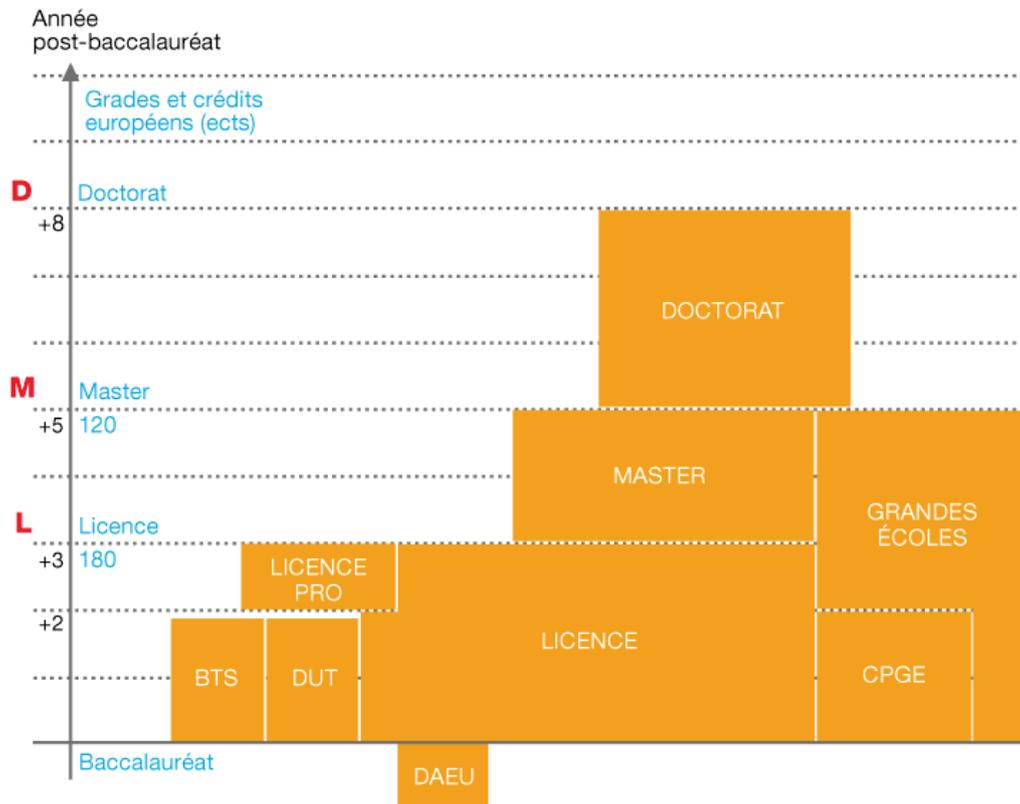
Each university year is divided into 2 semesters of approximately 4 months each:

- **First semester:** from September/October to the end of January;
- **Second semester:** from early February to the end of May.

The examination is held usually at the end of each semester. Certain courses can continue through the summer until September in the following academic year.

At PSE, the academic training starts in September and finishes in August. Therefore there is no possibility to start the programme at a different period of the academic year. The masters' dissertation defense sessions are held in June and, optionally, at the beginning of September.

French Higher Education System at a glance



Source: Campus France

What is the difference between Universities and *Grandes Ecoles*?

Grandes Ecoles are specific to France. They are divided into four main groups:

- Ecoles Normales Supérieures (ENS)
- Scientific and Engineering *Grandes Ecoles*
- Business and Management Schools
- Instituts d'Etudes Politiques (IEP)

Admission is granted upon a successful completion of an extremely demanding entrance examination. Preparatory classes (so called CPGE) equivalent to the first two years of a university course are programmes to prepare students for the entrance examinations. **At PSE, the masters' programmes are jointly organized by some of the *Grandes Ecoles*.**

Cost of studies

University tuition fees are lower than in other units of the French higher education system (about €500 a year, health insurance included) because the government covers much of the true cost of each student's education (which ranges from €8,000 to €14,000 per year). Therefore, **at PSE you will not pay more than €500 for a year of studies.**



Be autonomous and proactive!

The main mission of the French universities is to provide an education of excellence at a low financial cost for the student. Nevertheless, the downside of this policy is that they offer very little personalized service to individuals. Foreign students must be autonomous in their endeavors to get settled in France and fulfill the necessary administrative procedures. Even though the PSE does not provide a dedicated service, **students admitted to one of the masters' programmes are welcome to contact the International Mobility Assistance Service (Acc&ss) at the Cité Internationale Universitaire de Paris before or on their arrival to receive support and solutions to the problems they are experiencing while getting settled in Paris.**



<http://www.ciup.fr/en/mobilite/etudiant/home>

Admission & funding opportunities for international students

Financial aid from different institutions is available for international students to fund their masters degree. However, there are **a few key points to bear in mind if you wish to obtain a grant to study in France.**

The admission into the French higher education institution and the application for a scholarship are two independent processes managed by distinct organizations, even if the academic institution is involved in the grant allocation process, as it is often the case. **At PSE there is no integrated "admission through scholarship" system.**

You must be aware that you should start looking for funding and investigate the possible sources as early as in October, **one year before you start your studies.** The application procedures usually open in December, with deadlines as early as in January. You will encounter grants where candidates apply for funding directly and individually (e. g., government scholarships) as well as grants where applications are sent through the Higher Education institution the candidate wishes to be part of. In such a case, it is the institution accepting the candidate for its training that presents his/her application file for the grant.

At PSE, the admission process deadline (March) in some cases do not meet the calendar of grant allocation deadlines. We do not issue admission letters before the official admission

process outcome (April) nor support candidates that are not yet officially accepted into our programmes. However, do not hesitate to contact the PSE masters office for any other type of document of support for your grant application (letter of eligibility, letter of file reception etc). We invite all the future PSE students to explore Campus France website: <http://www.campusfrance.org/en/page/campusbourses-grant-search-engine>

For PPD master candidates: The PPD master offers two to three scholarships to M1 students who are (exclusively) citizen of a middle or [low-income country](#), based on an assessment of their financial resources. Conditional on full completion of the M1 within a year, each scholarship can be maintained during the M2 year. The amount of the scholarship is 5,000 euros per academic year.

How to apply: See dedicated page [here](#)

The APE program does not provide scholarships for masters students. Depending on your nationality, financial aid may be available from different institutions (central banks, embassies, foundations, etc.). You can download the dedicated brochure "Funding opportunities for Foreign Students" (pdf).

More details on other funding opportunities for foreign students available [here](#)

Each year, **PSE Master students wishing to pursue a Doctorate** are invited to attend, in early December, an information session on PhD funding opportunities. During the academic year they receive the calls for applications for each type of PhD funding.

The Paris School of Economics



PSE – Paris School of Economics aims to develop economics research of the highest international standard and to disseminate the results. It brings together a community of 140 researchers and around 200 PhD students, and offers teaching in Masters, Summer School and Executive Education programs at the cutting edge of the discipline.

Founded by the CNRS, the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, the École Normale Supérieure, the École des Ponts-ParisTech, INRA, and the University of Paris 1 Panthéon Sorbonne, the PSE project involves private and institutional partners. Now firmly established as a feature on the global academic landscape, PSE breaks down all kinds of barriers in order to attain its goal of excellence: it brings together the university and the grands écoles, promotes exchanges between economic analysis and the other social sciences, delivers its scholarship to a broad public, and supports the work of its teams in multiple partnerships with public institutions and private organisations

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