

# Sports & Athletics



France holds third place in the Global Cup rankings of Greatest Sporting Nation (2021), a distinction awarded each year based on the results of international competitions in 77 sports. At the Olympic Games in Rio, France took 42 medals. It won 33 in the Tokyo Games and 54 at the Paralympics. In 2024, Paris will host the Olympic (July 26 - August 11) and Paralympic (August 28 - September 8) Games.

More than 35 million people in France (that is, two thirds of those 15 or older) engage in a physical or athletic activity at least once a week: walking, swimming, cycling, skiing, football, hiking, running, tennis, etc.).

The growth in athletic activity in France over the past 30 years has been accompanied by increased consumption of sporting goods and athletic services. The number of licenses issued by sports federations has also increased for all sports: 113 federations are recognized by the Ministry of Sports, enabling 16.4 million persons to engage in structured athletic activity. Health and relaxation are the primary motivations.

INSEP, France's national institute of athletic assessment and performance, oversees the training of high-level athletes in cooperation with sports federations and with the goal of ensuring the academic and professional success of athletes.

Three national postsecondary schools have specialized missions in horseback riding, water sports, and mountain sports. They are, respectively, the Institut Français du Cheval et de l'Équitation, the École Nationale de Voile et des Sports Nautiques, and the École Nationale des Sports de Montagne.

"Youth and Sports" degree programs and university certification programs prepare students for sports-related occupations at all levels.

**.845** training facilities in the Federal Performance Projects (2020)

**.15,564** people training in those 845 facilities (2020)

**.272,244** sports facilities (2018)

**.126,000** employees in the private sector; 102,000 in the public sector

**.2.1 million** licenses issued across all sports federations

**.38.1 billion** spent on sports and athletics nationally (2018)

Sources: Ministry of Sports

## International



France is a great nation for organizing sporting events. In the past six years, France has hosted athletic contests in every sport. In 2016 the nation hosted European championships in football (for the third time, which is a record in itself), badminton, cycling, paralympics, archery, and triathlon. France hosted Europe's championships in track and field and BMX cycling in 2017 and in women's handball in 2018. World championships hosted by France include rock climbing and women's squash in 2016, and, in 2017, sea rowing, canoe/kayak slalom, men's handball, and men's squash. The country hosted the FIFA World Cup in 2018 (when France took the cup) and the women's World Cup in 2019. It will host the rugby World Cup in 2023. The following year will see the Paris Olympic and Paralympic Games. France also hosted the Olympic Games in 1900 and 1924 and the FIFA World Cup in 1938 and 1998.

Each year, other world-class competitions are organized—among them the Tour de France (cycling) since 1903, the French Open (tennis) since 1925, and the Grand Prix of Formula 1 racing since 1950.

Among many French champions enjoying worldwide reputations are the figure skating team of Gabriella Papadakis and Guillaume Cizeron, who have been European champions five times and world champions four times,

most recently at the Beijing Winter Olympics, where they took home gold medals. Quentin Fillon Maillet has won five medals in the individual biathlon, including two golds. Julian Alaphilippe was the world's cycling champion in 2020 and 2021. Others are Bernard Hinault, five-time winner of the Tour de France (as well as three in Italy and two in Spain); basketballer Tony Parker, who holds four NBA titles and led France to the European championship in 2013; skier Jean-Claude Killy, winner of four Olympic medals; Marie-Josée Pérec, Olympic double medalist in the 200- and 400-meter events; Alain Prost, winner of four world championships and 51 Formula 1 Grand Prix; and Teddy Riner, ten-time world champion in judo (including twice at the Olympics) and five times European champion.

France's teams in a variety of disciplines have won world championships and Olympic medals: track and field, biathlon, fencing, soccer, handball, swimming, and more.

French brands of sporting goods and apparel are sold on all continents: Le Coq Sportif, Decathlon, Lacoste, Lafuma, Oxbow, Salomon, Vuarnet.

## Useful links

- CNSNMM (national center for Nordic and cross-country skiing): <http://cnsnmm.sports.gouv.fr>
- DRJSCS (regional offices for youth sports and community cohesion): <http://drjscs.gouv.fr>
- ENSM (national school of mountain sports): [www.ensm.sports.gouv.fr](http://www.ensm.sports.gouv.fr)
- ENVSAN (national school of sailing and nautical sports): [www.envsn.sports.gouv.fr](http://www.envsn.sports.gouv.fr)
- FRANCE, Ministère de la jeunesse et des sports: [www.sports.gouv.fr](http://www.sports.gouv.fr)
- IFCE (French riding institute): [www.ifce.fr](http://www.ifce.fr)
- INSEP (national institute of athletic assessment and performance): [www.insep.fr](http://www.insep.fr)
- National federation for vocational training in sports, recreation, and tourism: [www.apprentissage-sport-animation-tourisme.com](http://www.apprentissage-sport-animation-tourisme.com)
- National Museum of Sports: [www.museedusport.fr](http://www.museedusport.fr)
- National Sports Agency: [www.agencedusport.fr](http://www.agencedusport.fr)
- National sports and recreation federation: [www.profession-sport-loisirs.fr](http://www.profession-sport-loisirs.fr)
- Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games: [www.paris2024.org](http://www.paris2024.org)
- Directory of sports federations: [www.sports.gouv.fr/annuaire-des-federations](http://www.sports.gouv.fr/annuaire-des-federations)

# LEVEL Licence

## DIPLÔME D'ÉTAT SUPÉRIEUR DE LA JEUNESSE, DE L'ÉDUCATION POPULAIRE ET DU SPORT

NATIONAL DIPLOMA – 2 YEARS OF HIGHER EDUCATION – L2  
120 ECTS credits

Specialization in the training of athletic technicians and trainers focusing on a particular sport: archery, automobile racing, boxing, canoeing-kayaking, canyoning, caving, cycling, fencing, golf, handball, hang-gliding, high diving, horseback riding, ice skating, judo, land sailing, motorcycle racing, mountain biking, parachuting, parasailing, pétanque, pingpong, polo, rock climbing, rowing, rugby, sailing, scuba diving, soccer, sports for the disabled, squash, surfing, swimming, tennis, track and field, triathlon, volleyball, weightlifting, and more.

## DIPLÔME D'ÉTUDES UNIVERSITAIRES SCIENTIFIQUES ET TECHNIQUES (DEUST)

NATIONAL DIPLOMA – 2 YEARS OF HIGHER EDUCATION – L2  
120 ECTS credits

A DEUST is offered in physical education (known in France as **STAPS**, for **Sciences and techniques of physical and athletic activity**) in a dozen universities, with specializations in coordination and management; exercise and fitness; and adaptive sports.

## DIPLÔME D'ÉTAT SUPÉRIEUR DE LA JEUNESSE, DE L'ÉDUCATION POPULAIRE ET DU SPORT (DEJEPS)

NATIONAL DIPLOMA – 3 YEARS OF HIGHER EDUCATION – L3  
180 ECTS credits

The DESJEPS is a state diploma for prospective facilities directors or athletic directors, with specializations similar to those offered for the DEJEPS above. The degree requires at least 1,200 hours of work, 700 of which must be spent in a training center (vocational training, apprenticeship, league, etc.) approved by one of the regional offices for youth sports and community cohesion (DRJSCS).

## LICENCE

NATIONAL DIPLOMA – 3 YEARS OF HIGHER EDUCATION – L3  
180 ECTS credits

- A Licence can be earned in STAPS (physical education) with one of five majors: adaptive physical activities and health; education and motor function; athletic training; ergonomics and motor performance; sports management.

## LICENCE PROFESSIONNELLE

NATIONAL DIPLOMA – 3 YEARS OF HIGHER EDUCATION – L3  
180 ECTS credits

Adapted physical activity; facilitation and management; development of athletic organizations and agencies; social development and mediation through sports; fitness professions; sports tourism and recreation.

- **Law, Economics, and Management:** majors in Business and in Organizational and Service Development.
- **Humanities and Social Sciences:** majors in Regional Development and in Sports Tourism and Recreation.
- **Science, Technology, and Health:** major in Physical Education (STAPS)

[www.campusfrance.org](http://www.campusfrance.org) > Students > Studying in France > Finding your program

# LEVEL Master

## MASTER

NATIONAL DIPLOMA – 5 YEARS OF HIGHER EDUCATION – M2  
120 ECTS credits

France's universities and the national postsecondary schools in Rennes and Cachan offer many sports-related programs leading to a Master's degree.

- **Law, Economics, and Management:** Event-related communication; Private and public law pertaining to high-level athletes; Management of sports and sports organizations; Marketing of sports and leisure activities; Sports-related legal professions; Economic strategies for sports and tourism.
- **Humanities and Social Sciences:** Concentrations and specializations in Adapted physical activity and health; Equality in and through physical and athletic activity; Management of sports and sports-related recreation; Clinical phenomenology of athletes; Psychology of sports and performance.
- **Science, Technology and Health:** Concentrations in Sciences and techniques of physical and athletic activity (STAPS); tracks in Adapted physical activity and health; Training and optimization of athletic performance; Engineering and ergonomics of physical activity; Sports management.

[www.campusfrance.org](http://www.campusfrance.org) > Students > Studying in France > Finding your program

## INSTITUTION'S DIPLOMA

5 YEARS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

**Master of Science (MSc):** The MSc is awarded within the framework of a program accredited and delivered by a member of the CGE (the accrediting agency for France's Grandes Écoles).

- > *International Sport & Event Management:* <https://kedge.edu>
- > *Sport Sustainable Management:* [www.esc-pau.fr](http://www.esc-pau.fr)
- > *Sports Industry Management:* <https://em-lyon.com>

### List of MSc programs:

[www.cge.asso.fr/formations-labellisees/liste-formation-msc](http://www.cge.asso.fr/formations-labellisees/liste-formation-msc)

### Programs Taught in English:

Approximately ten Master 1 and Master 2 programs: *Sport Leisure and Event Management*, *Sports Sciences and Health and Performance*, *Sciences in Sport and Tourism Management*, *International Sport*, *Sports Federations*, *Sports Photography*, etc.

[www.campusfrance.org](http://www.campusfrance.org) > Students > Studying in France > Finding your program  
> Programs Taught in English

# Sports & Athletics



## NIVEAU

# Beyond the Master level



## MASTÈRE SPÉCIALISÉ® (MS)

INSTITUTION'S DIPLOMA – 1 YEAR OF HIGHER EDUCATION

The **Mastère spécialisé** is an institution-specific credential regulated by CGE, the accrediting agency for France's **Grandes Écoles**. It attests to the acquisition of competence in two related specializations connected with sports and athletics. Programs are taught in French, English, or a blend of both languages.

> Innovate and Succeed in Sports: [www.esc-clermont.fr](http://www.esc-clermont.fr)

> Performance Engineering in Automotive Sports: [www.estaca.fr](http://www.estaca.fr)

> Management of Sports Organizations: [www.audencia.com](http://www.audencia.com)

### List of MS programs:

[www.cge.asso.fr/formations-labellisees/liste-formation-ms](http://www.cge.asso.fr/formations-labellisees/liste-formation-ms)

## INSTITUT NATIONAL DU SPORT, DE L'EXPERTISE ET DE LA PERFORMANCE (INSEP)

INSEP, the national institute of athletic assessment and performance, supports the domestic and international work of France's Olympic and Paralympic federations. It helps shape national policy related to the development of physical and athletic activities and trains high-level athletes and technical personnel, ensuring complementarity between intensive athletic training and academic pursuits (e.g., in Management of Athletic Organizations and in Sports - and health-related occupations). Each year INSEP hosts more than 800 high-level athletes.

INSEP offers various programs for high-level athletes and confers professional credentials and certifications in sports-related occupations. Examples include: DESJEPS (postsecondary diploma in youth, popular education, and sports) with a specialization in athletic performance; Master's degrees in sports expertise and high-level performance (in collaboration with the Université de Paris); Executive Master's degrees; and certificates of specific competencies.

> INSEP: [www.insep.fr/fr/formations-et-diplomes](http://www.insep.fr/fr/formations-et-diplomes)