

Urban planning and Design



Urban planning and design covers a set of knowledge and techniques used to build, manage, or enlarge cities. In line with architecture, the specializations of designing and managing urban urban agglomerations require urban planning skills as well as social, economic, and spatial knowledge.

Graduates of urban planning programs exercise a wide variety of professional functions—among them drafting plans for the use of land; developing programs for subdividing lots, setting traffic patterns, or renovating neighborhoods; or preparing studies on the path of a high-speed train.

Undergraduate studies in the field now include new fields such as land-use planning, sustainable development, decentralization, inter-communal cooperation, and the anticipation, negotiation, and mediation of citizen participation.

A hundred different degree programs are available, requiring from two to six years of study and leading to the award of technical certificates, an undergraduate degree, a master's degree, or a post-master's certificate.

- In France, architecture and urban planning account for **€4.1 billion** of the 49.3 billion in cultural value added (2019)
- **11%** of cultural jobs are in architecture (2019)

- **29,700** registered architects in France (2020)
- **80%** of urban planning students find a job in the field after graduating (2020)
- **2,280** international students studying in French schools of architecture in 2020

- **19,800** students enrolled in architecture programs (2020)
- **2,200** students awarded the architecture diploma in 2020

Sources: INSEE, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Higher Education, Research, and Innovation

International

International demand for urban plans and studies is growing steadily, and French specialists are highly sought after. They are valued for their know-how with respect to urban requirements and regulations, their ability to draft strategic, long-term city plans, and for the development of main thoroughfares. Claude Vasconi (Hong Kong T•Park), Jean-Marie Charpentier (Shanghai Opera), Yves Lion (Embassy of France in Beirut; winner of 2006 international competition for holy sites of Mecca), and Jean-Michel Wilmotte (São Paulo convention and exhibit park) are among the French city planners recognized the world over.

The French Partnership for Cities and Regions (PFVT), headquartered within the National Federation of City Planning Agencies (FNAU), is a platform for international exchange and application of French urban development expertise. The two organizations hosted the French pavilion at the tenth session of the World Urban Forum in Abu Dhabi in February 2020. The French Initiative for Essential International Services (IFSEI) was launched to enhance the international visibility of France by contributing to international recovery plans in four areas: water and sanitation; waste management; energy; and transport.



RELATED FIELDS

- Archaeology • Architecture
- Building and public works
 - Consulting • Design
- Environment • Geography
- Governance • Informatics
 - Landscape design
- Land-use planning • Teaching
 - Transportation
- Urban engineering

SUBFIELDS

- Acoustics
- Architectural environments
- Building and public works
- Cartography • Civil engineering
 - Construction and housing
- Consulting • Design • Drafting
 - Interior architecture
 - Eco-materials renovation
- Historic preservation • Materials
- Measurement • Model making
- Modeling • Rail and urban transport
 - Real estate • Renovation
 - Smart cities • Space design
 - Standards and regulation
 - Sustainable development
- Topography • Urban engineering

Useful links

- APERAU, Association for the Promotion of Teaching and Research in City and Regional Planning (French): www.aperau.org
- AFT, French Association of Topography: www.aftopo.org
- ArchiRès, portal for libraries of French schools of architecture: www.archires.archi.fr
- CNJU, National Cooperative of Young City Planners (French): www.jeunes-urbanistes.fr
- Degree in Architecture (informational brief): <https://www.campusfrance.org/en/resource/degree-in-architecture>
- French Council of City Planners: www.sites.google.com/site/cfduurba
- FNAU, National Federation of City Planning Agencies (French): www.fnau.org
- Ministry of Regional Integration and Relations with Regional Councils (French): www.cohesion-territoires.gouv.fr/politiques-publiques
- Ministry of Ecological Transition: www.ecologie.gouv.fr
- OPQU, Professional Office for the Certification of City Planners (French): www.opqu.org
- PFVT, French Partnership for Cities and Regions: www.pfvt.fr

LEVEL Licence

POSTSECONDARY TECHNICAL CERTIFICATE (BTS)

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

> Programs leading to the **BTS** in surveying, topography, or digital modeling are offered at about 20 public and private secondary and postsecondary schools.

UNIVERSITY DIPLOMA (DIPLÔME UNIVERSITAIRE - DU)

2 YEARS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

> A **DU** in land-use planning, urban planning, housing, and environment is offered at the University of Toulouse–Jean Jaurès (UTJ2). The University of the Antilles offers a DU in local development and integration.

ARCHITECTURAL STUDIES DIPLOMA (DEEA)

BACHELOR LEVEL – 3 YEARS OF HIGHER EDUCATION – L3
180 ECTS credits

> The *licence*-equivalent **DEEA**, which requires 3 years, is conferred by France's 20 Écoles Nationales Supérieures d'Architecture (ENSA). The curriculum comprises 4,200 hours of training, 2,200 of which are in the presence of faculty. Graduates master the fundamentals of architecture, design, and project execution. Students must prepare and defend a final report as well as two 6-week internships.

LICENCE

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

> Fifty-odd institutions offer **licence** programs related to urban planning in their faculties of humanities and social sciences; science, technology, and health; or law, economics, and management with majors in **regional and city planning**; geography and land-use planning; engineering; and implementation of regional projects.

> A three-year diploma as an **architect's assistant** may be earned at the École des Ingénieurs de la Ville de Paris (EIVP).

www.eivp-paris.fr

PROFESSIONAL LICENCE

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

> **Professional (or technical) licence** programs are offered at some 20 institutions within the broad field of science, technology, and health, with majors in engineering or **regional and city planning**.

LEVEL Master

MASTER

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

> **Masters** are offered in some 20 universities in the faculty of law, economics, and management; humanities and social sciences; or science, technology, and health, with concentrations in **environmental and urban-planning law**; **urban planning**; geography and land-use planning; and cities and regions; among others.

> Students who complete the **double master in architecture and urban planning** offered by the University of Nantes and ENSA Nantes receive a master's degree in cities and regions and the national architect's diploma (DEA).

> The **master of architecture, urban planning, and political studies** is awarded jointly by ENSA Grenoble, Sciences Po Grenoble, and the Alpine Institute of Urban Planning and Geography.

• Programs Taught in English:

Comparative Urban Governance, Urban planning, Urban policy, Urban regeneration and city planning in Europe, Cooperation in urban planning, Governing Ecological Transitions in European Cities, Governing the large metropolis, City and Urban Environments - Architecture, Atmosphere, Ambiances, Urbanity, Water, Smart cities and Urban policy, Urban Agriculture and Green Cities.

> **Ecological Urbanism**, taught in English, is a joint project of ENSA Versailles and the college of architecture and urban planning at China's Tongji University. Graduates are awarded a Chinese master in urbanism and a French master in architecture.

TITRE D'INGÉNIEUR DIPLÔMÉ (ENGINEERING DEGREE)

MASTER LEVEL – 5 YEARS OF HIGHER EDUCATION – M2
120 ECTS credits

> French schools of engineering confer the title of engineer, a credential accredited by the Commission on Engineering Degrees. Thirty schools count among their specializations **urban planning and design**; **civil engineering**; **building and construction**; and **environmental planning**.

STATE DIPLOMA OF ARCHITECT (DEA DIPLÔME D'ÉTAT D'ARCHITECTE)

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

> The two-year **DEA** is awarded by 20 national postsecondary schools of architecture (ENSAs). The degree trains graduates to design projects in architecture and urban planning, and to act in the various capacities of the architect. The curriculum comprises 2,600 hours of training, of which 1,200 involve faculty contact, and requires a two-month internship.

> A double degree in architecture (DEA) and engineering (*Titre d'ingénieur*) is offered by ten ENSAs in cooperation with schools of engineering. Students must elect the program at the commencement of their training, provide evidence of scientific aptitude, and be willing to complete top-up courses in engineering as needed.

EUROPEAN AND INTERNATIONAL MASTERS

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

> A Franco-German **double master in architecture and urban planning in an international context** is offered by ENSA Strasbourg and the

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faculty of architecture at KIT (Karlsruhe Institute of Technology).

> A **double master in architecture and urban design** is offered by ENSA Paris Val de Seine in partnership with the Politecnico di Milano (Italy).

> INSA Strasbourg and the French University of Egypt (UFE) jointly award the **Diplôme d'État d'Architecte**.

> A **double master in architecture and construction techniques** is offered by the Technical University of Dresden, ENSA Strasbourg, and the Franco-German University (UFA). It is equivalent to the German engineering *diplom* and the French national architect's diploma (DEA). It also confers the UFA's Franco-German certificate.



LEVEL

Beyond the Master level



INSTITUTION-SPECIFIC CREDENTIALS

(M2 + 1, 2, or 3 years of postsecondary study)

> Seven ENSAs offer the **diploma of specialized advanced study in architecture (DSA)** after one or two years of advanced study in project development, risk management, historic preservation, and city planning.

> The special architecture school diploma (DPEA) is awarded by 9 ENSAs after one or two years of study in urban planning, earthquake-resistant construction, design, and other areas.

MASTÈRE SPÉCIALISÉ* (MS, specialized master)

(Master + 1 year of postsecondary study)

The *mastère spécialisé*® is an institution-specific credential certified by the Conférence des Grandes Écoles. MS programs allow students holding a master to develop competence in a complementary field, including architecture, project management, sustainable cities, urban development, design and management of smart cities, sustainable buildings and housing, building renovation, green building, eco-materials, energy efficient building renovation, smart construction, urban engineering and information technology, environmental and industrial rehabilitation, tunnels and underground works, urban rail transit systems, and cities of tomorrow.

www.cge.asso.fr/formations-labellisees/liste-formation-ms/

List of MS programs:

www.campusfrance.org > Find your program