

# Allied Health Professions



**.1.22** million professionals

**.42,147** certified organizations  
providing health care support (2019)

Sources: [www.insee.fr](http://www.insee.fr) - [www.entreprises.gouv.fr](http://www.entreprises.gouv.fr)

There are more than 1.4 million allied health professionals in France working in about twenty professions, including medical technicians, masseur-physiotherapists, midwives, physiotherapy and medical devices specialists, nurses and pediatric nurses, speech therapists, opticians, medical electroradiology technicians, podiatrists, hearing aid specialists, psychomotor therapists, dietitians, osteopaths, occupational therapists, orthoptists, laboratory technicians, etc.

Some allied health professions, for which practitioners must hold a *Diplôme d'État* (DE), are regulated by a *Conseil de l'Ordre* (massage and physical therapy, speech therapy, podiatry, midwifery). This is a private, administrative, and jurisdictional professional organization for the defense and regulation of allied health professions working for the public service.

Allied health professions comprise three main groups: care (dietetics, podiatry, nursing, child care, midwifery, osteopathy), rehabilitation (masseur-physiotherapist, speech therapy, orthoptics, psychomotor therapy), medical and technical aid and devices (medical biology analysis, electrophysiology and medical electroradiology, optics and eyewear, hearing aids and prostheses).

The government sets the annual number of students admitted into some programs, and some institutes and schools in hearing aid, speech therapy and orthoptics are very selective. Cost of training may vary, reaching up to €7,000 per year in private institutions.

## International

Allied health training opens to various professions and allows one to easily travel abroad. Médecins Sans Frontières, the Red Cross, Handicap International and Médecins du Monde are among the many French NGOs that need the help of allied health professionals on all continents.

### PLEASE NOTE

Individuals with an allied health degree from countries outside the EU cannot practice in France.



### RELATED FIELDS

- Anesthesia and Intensive Care
  - Dentistry • Ethics
- Gerontology • Infectious Diseases
  - Intensive Care • Medical and Social Care • Medical Engineering
- Medicine • Mental Health
  - Oncology Ophthalmology
- Pediatrics • Pharmacology
  - Psychiatry • Psychology
- Public Health • Surgery

### SUBFIELDS

- Childcare • Dental Prosthetics
  - Dietetics • Electroradiology
- Laboratory Analysis Techniques
  - Massage and Physical Therapy
- Medical Devices and Hearing Aids
  - Medical Electrophysiology
    - Midwifery • Nursing
    - Occupational Therapy
    - Optics and Eyewear
    - Orthoptics • Osteopathy
  - Pedorthics • Physiotherapy
- Podiatry • Psychomotor Therapy
  - Speech Therapy

## Useful links

- Assistance Publique - Hôpitaux de Paris - Centre de la formation et du développement des compétences: [www.cfdc.aphp.fr](http://www.cfdc.aphp.fr)
- Association française des diététiciens-nutritionnistes : [www.afdn.org](http://www.afdn.org)
- Association nationale française des ergothérapeutes : [www.anfe.fr](http://www.anfe.fr)
- Conseil national de l'ordre des pédicures-podologues : [www.onpp.fr](http://www.onpp.fr)
- Conseil national de l'ordre des sages-femmes : [www.ordre-sages-femmes.fr](http://www.ordre-sages-femmes.fr)
- Fédération française des masseurs-kinésithérapeutes rééducateurs : [www.ffmkr.org](http://www.ffmkr.org)
- Fédération française des psychomotriciens: [www.psychomotricite.com/ffp/](http://www.psychomotricite.com/ffp/)
- Fédération hospitalière de France : [www.hopital.fr](http://www.hopital.fr)
- Fédération nationale des étudiants en kinésithérapie : [www.fnek.fr](http://www.fnek.fr)
- Fédération nationale des étudiants en orthophonie : [www.fneo.fr](http://www.fneo.fr)
- Fédération nationale des podologues : [www.fnp-online.org](http://www.fnp-online.org)
- Syndicat national autonome des orthoptistes : [www.orthoptiste.pro](http://www.orthoptiste.pro)
- Syndicat français des ostéopathes : [www.osteopathe-syndicat.fr](http://www.osteopathe-syndicat.fr)
- Union des opticiens : [www.uniondesopticiens.org](http://www.uniondesopticiens.org)
- Union nationale patronale des prothésistes dentaires : [www.unppd.org](http://www.unppd.org)

# NIVEL Licence

## BREVET DE TECHNICIEN SUPÉRIEUR (BTS)

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

- **BTS in Medical Biology Analysis:** Prepares students for collecting biological and blood samples and conducting tests.
- **BTS in Dietetics:** Trains students in the fields of biochemistry and biology, physiology, nutrition and food, dieting, cooking techniques, and basic physiopathology. Requires a 20-week internship in the food service industry during the first year and in a hospital or treatment center during the second year.
- **BTS in Optics and Eyewear:** Trains students in geometric and physical optics, optical systems, and vision analysis, with a four to six-week internship.
- **BTS Dental Technician:** Teaches students techniques for making materials and products and computer-assisted design, with a 22-week internship.
- **BTS Prosthetics-Orthotics:** Teaches students about orthopedic appliances, prosthetics (limb replacement), and orthoses (correction and rehabilitation), and how to make these materials.

## LICENCE PROFESSIONNELLE (VOCATIONAL BACHELOR'S DEGREE)

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

The Health Professions: Nutrition and Food program teaches students about food and prepares them to become nutrition professionals.

The Maintenance and Technology program: Medical and Biomedical Technology teaches about the techniques and quality audit, knowledge in several subjects (biology, physiology, radiation physics, electronics) and grants a certification in radiation protection.

The Professions in the Promotion of Health Products program teaches about the promotion of medication and other health care products (medical devices, cosmetics, food supplements, veterinary products, dental care products, etc.).

Other programs related to health include Quality, Hygiene, Safety, Health, Environment; Health, Aging and Adapted Physical Activities. The Bachelor Universitaire de Technologie (B.U.T) offers specialization in Medical Biology, Biotechnology and Dietetics and Nutrition.

## DIPLÔMES D'ÉTAT

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

- **DE Hearing Aid Specialist:** Students learn about anatomy, physiology, audiometry, hearing pathologies and hearing devices.
- **DE Occupational Therapist:** Students learn about anatomy, physiology,

psychology, pathology, and occupational rehabilitation. Students complete a ten-month internship in a hospital.

- **DE in Nursing (L3),** Surgical Nursing (M1), Pediatric Nursing (M1), Nursing Anesthesia (M2)
- **DE in Medical Electroradiology:** Offered in training centers affiliated to University hospitals.
- **DE in Orthoptics:** About a dozen orthoptics schools affiliated with medical colleges offer training in ocular and physiologic pathologies (retinal detachment, cataracts, diabetic retinopathy), with a 12-month clinical internship in ophthalmology departments.
- **DE Podiatry:** Comprises an admission exam. Covers theory (biology, human physiology, lower-body anatomy, specific pathologies, etc.) and includes supervised projects (treatment, design and production of devices) and an internship in a hospital (8 to 24 weeks).
- **DE in Prosthetics and Orthotics:** Training covers production techniques (plastic, metal, etc.), allied health perspective (ethics, legislation, psychology) and includes internships where students learn to make devices.
- **DE in Psychomotor Therapy:** Comprises an admission exam. Includes courses on anatomy, physiology, psychology and psychiatry, psychomotor development and techniques.
- **DE Medical Laboratory Technician:** Teaches students about analyses (blood, urine, and other biological samples) used for diagnoses or processing in laboratories, health centers, or research laboratories under the supervision of a pharmacist or medical biologist.  
[www.aftlm.fr](http://www.aftlm.fr)

[www.campusfrance.org](http://www.campusfrance.org) > Resources center > Higher Education and Research in France > Fields of Study > Health

## DIPLÔME DE TECHNICIEN SUPÉRIEUR (DTS)

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

The DTS in Medical Imaging and Therapeutic Radiology is offered in training institutes and leads to a *Licence*, with courses on medical imaging, radiotherapy, electroradiology, etc. and internships (over 2,000 hours of clinical training).

[www.remede.org/documents/liste-des-etablissements-preparant.html](http://www.remede.org/documents/liste-des-etablissements-preparant.html)

# NIVEL Master

## DIPLÔMES D'ÉTAT

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

- **DE Masseur-Physical Therapist:** Studies in the field are offered in training institutes specialized in massage and physical therapy (IFMK), and are available after completion of the first year, a program called “*accès santé*” (PASS) or after a *Licence* in another subject with the “*accès santé*” option (L.AS). The first cycle (three years) is devoted to theory and practical training, with 70 hours of observation in a hospital. The second cycle (two years) focuses on different pathologies, rehabilitation techniques and includes internships (1,400 hours). The DE will only be awarded to students after their presentation of a clinical case and after having experienced two simulations in hospitals.  
[www.fnek.fr](http://www.fnek.fr) > Les études
- **DE in Speech Therapy:** Comprises an admission exam. Offered in training institutes, the first cycle lasts six semesters (*Licence* level) and the second cycle four semesters (Master level). The program includes various units, the study of specific disorders and rehabilitation techniques, and internships in special education centers, schools, daycares, etc. It grants a *Certificat de capacité* in Speech Therapy, authorizing practice.  
[www.fno.fr](http://www.fno.fr) > Formations
- **DE in Midwifery:** Studies in the field can be done in accredited Midwifery Schools, or after completion of the first year, a program called “*accès santé*” (PASS), or after a *Licence* in another subject with the “*accès santé*” option (L.AS). Two years are devoted to physiology and obstetrics, with clinical internships in obstetrics departments and delivery practice. The *Diplôme de formation générale en sciences maïeutiques* (*Licence* level) is awarded to students after completion of the first cycle. The fourth and fifth years are devoted to studying pathologies and high-risk pregnancies, diagnoses, teamwork and emergencies. A six-month internship in a maternity ward or pediatric clinic and a research thesis are required to get the DE (validation of the *Certificat de synthèse clinique et thérapeutique*) and the *Diplôme de formation approfondie en sciences maïeutiques* (DFASMa, Master level).  
[www.ordre-sages-femmes.fr/etre-sage-femme/formation/](http://www.ordre-sages-femmes.fr/etre-sage-femme/formation/)

## TITRE PROFESSIONNEL

RNCP – 5 YEARS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

The Diplôme d'Ostéopathe (D.O) is offered in government-accredited private institutions and can either be done in five years, or following three years of allied health studies (physical therapy, occupational therapy, nursing), or after a two-year DE in medicine. Training covers theory in basic sciences, biology (osteo-articular, cardiovascular and respiratory devices) and includes practical experience.

[www.solidarites-sante.gouv.fr](http://www.solidarites-sante.gouv.fr)