

# **THE FRENCH EDUCATION SYSTEM**

1932 : Creation of the « ministère de l'Éducation Nationale »

Depuis 2020, le ministre de l'éducation est Jean-Michel BLANQUER.

In France, education is mandatory from 3 years old ( Emmanuel Macron) to 16 years old ( De Gaulle 1959)

**Jules Ferry was a famous minister of education under the Third Republic**

**He created FREE and SECULAR mandatory primary education  
For boys AND GIRLS aged 6-13**



MANDATORY  
EDUCATION

École maternelle et  
primaire  
3-6 and 6-11

Collège ( Junior High  
11-15)  
DNB

Lycée ( high school)  
15-18

Pre school: 2yo  
Kindergarten 3yo  
Then Maternelles  
to 6 yo

Baccalauréat  
général

Baccalauréat  
professionnel

# L'école maternelle- Pres school



From 3 years old- 3 sections

- la petite section 3-4 yo
- la moyenne section 4-5 yo
- la grande section. 5-6 yo

# L'école primaire / Primary school



6-11 years old

- CP (Cours Préparatoire): reading and writing skills
- CE1 (Cours élémentaire 1ère année)
- CE2 (Cours élémentaire 2ème année)
- CM1 (Cours moyen 1ère année)
- CM2. (Cours moyen 2ème année)

# Le collège: Junior High



4 years

- 6<sup>ème</sup>
- 5<sup>ème</sup>
- 4<sup>ème</sup>
- 3<sup>ème</sup>

At the end of the 3<sup>ème</sup>: FIRST NATIONAL EXAM: le Brevet des collèges.

# L'enseignement professionnel/ professional- vocational



You go to a « professional high school » ( Lycée Professionnel »)

2 years to get

- le **CAP**: certificat d'aptitude professionnelle : for one specific job
- le **BEP** -brevet d'enseignement professionnel- for a more general training into one special field ( ex: trade, salesman...)
- **Le Bac PRO** in 3 years : higher level than BEP

# Le lycée: High school



## 3 levels – 3 years

- Seconde
- Première
- Terminale

In Terminale , there is a final exam called THE BACCALAUREAT

Its process has been changed in 2019



# THE « NEW BAC »

## Before 2019:

- Seconde was general
- Première: you could specialize into literature, maths and sciences, economics or management )
- Terminale : same

Bac L ou ES ou S ou STMG

All the exams were in June ( written and oral) and your grades in this **final national exam** ONLY were taken to pass the Bac

## After 2019:

- Seconde
- Première:
- Terminale

In première, students choose 3 major: 4 hours each

In terminales they only keep 2 major 6 hours each

**60%** of the final grade comes from the grades during the school year BUT : in French, Philosophy and in the 2 major , there is a written FINAL exam **40%** final grade

# L'enseignement supérieur: High education

In France there are three options:

- Universities
- Les « Grandes Écoles » and specific schools ( ex: nurse) : very sélective
- Shorter studies to learn a job BTS, BUT ( 2 years)

# UNIVERSITIES



3 LEVELS :

**la licence/ Bachelor degree** : 3 years

**Master** 2 years after the Bachelor degree

**PHd**: 3 years

In France there are only **PUBLIC** universities and there are pretty cheap

# Les Grandes Écoles

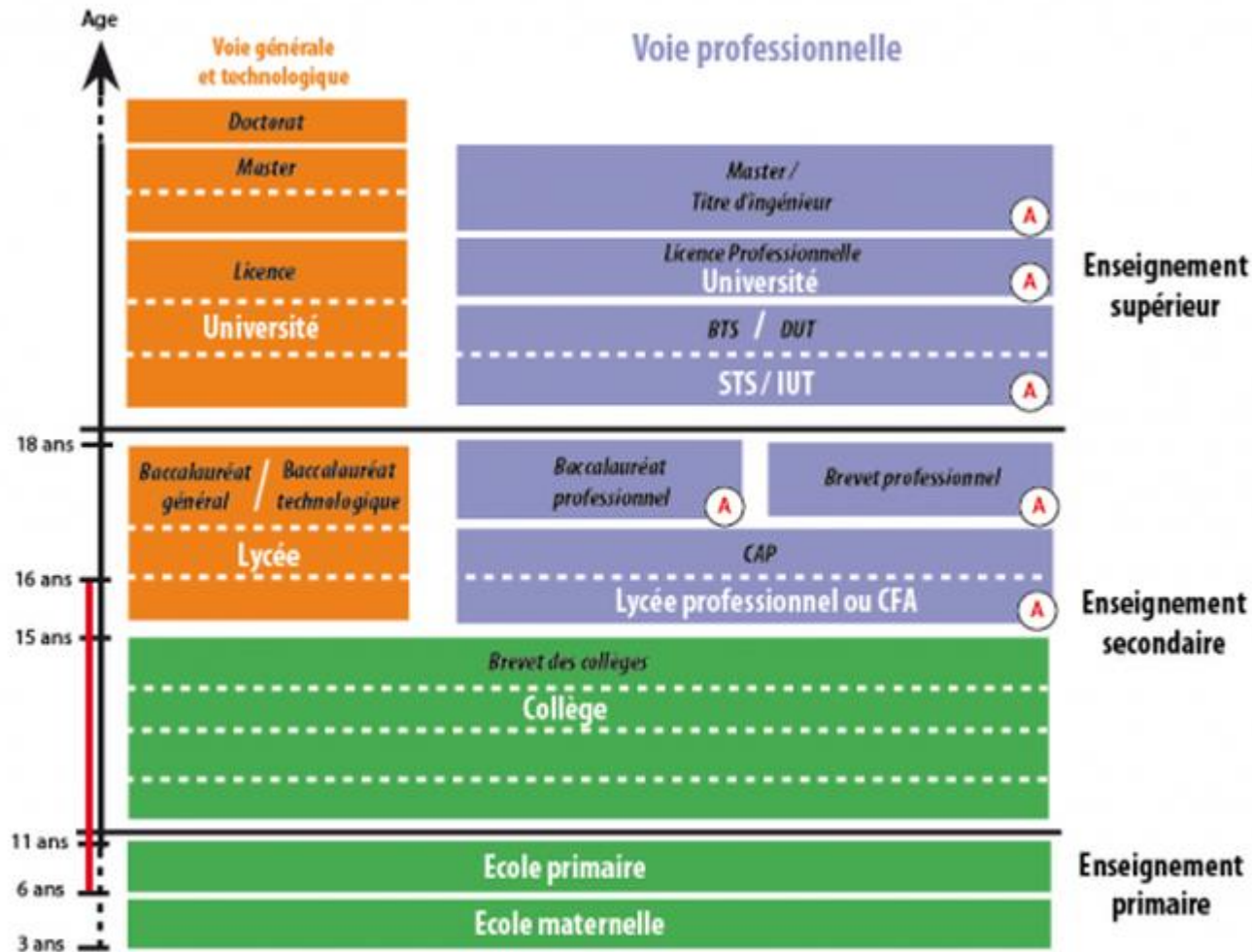
- The most famous are
  - L'École Nationale d'Administration (ENA): high level public servants, politicians
  - L'École Polytechnique : very high level scientists
  - L'École des Hautes Etudes commerciales (HEC) high level trade, management, economics
  - les Écoles Normales Supérieures (ENS) very high level teachers
- TO GET IN THOSE SCHOOLS, THERE IS A VERY SELECTIVE EXAM ( concours d'entrée)
- **2 Years** are needed to prepare for this exam into some selective **CLASSES PREPARATOIRES**

# High Education: SHORT TRAINING

After 2 years, students get qualified into one specific job. These studies are usually based on practice and lots of internships

- Les sections de techniciens supérieurs: to get a **BTS** (Brevet de technicien supérieur)
- Les instituts universitaires de technologie (BUT) to get a **BUT**
- Specialized schools: physiotherapists, Nurses, Midwives....: **3years**

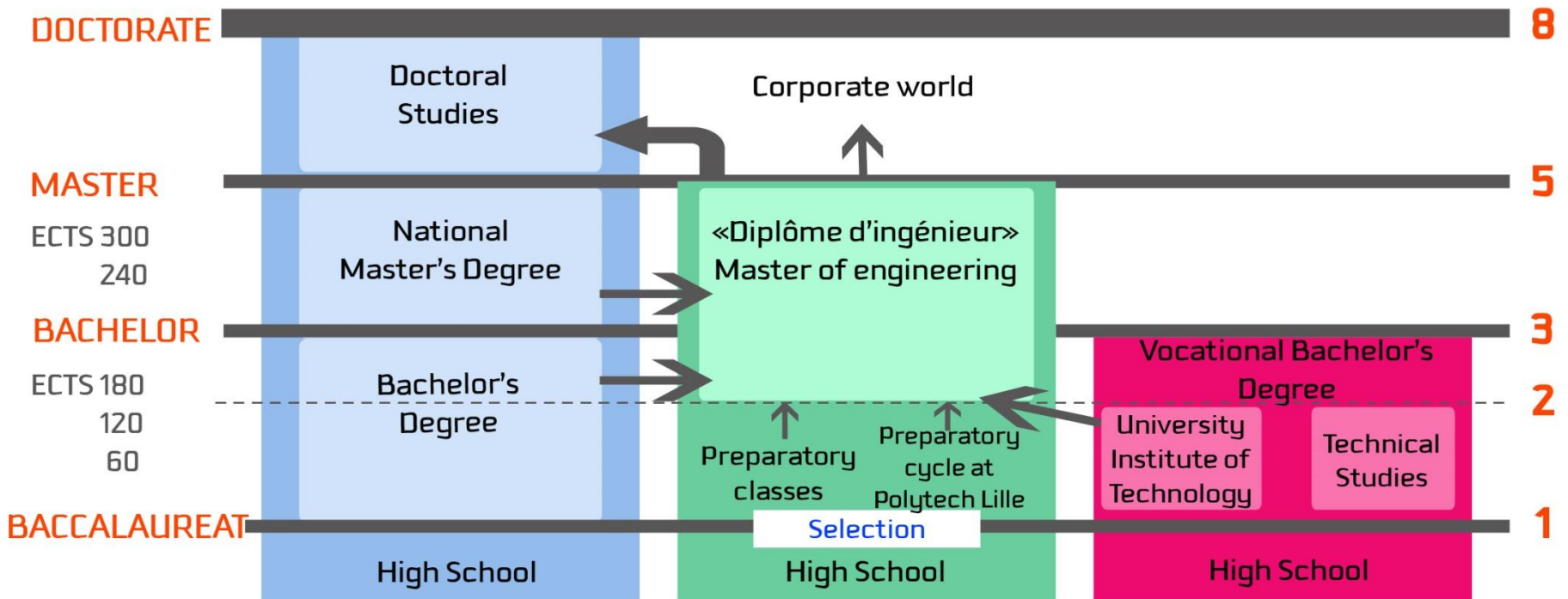
# Le système français



## Légende

- | Scolarité obligatoire
- Scolarité commune
- Voie professionnelle
- Voie générale et technologique
- A Possibilité de préparer le diplôme par apprentissage

# French Higher Education System



## FRANCE

## Âge

## ÉTATS-UNIS

## Maternelle

Petite section

3-4

Nursery

Preschool

Moyenne section

4-5

Pre-K

Grande section

5-6

Kindergarten

## Primaire

CP

6-7

1st grade

Primary /  
Elementary

CE1

7-8

2<sup>nd</sup> grade

CE2

8-9

3rd grade

CM1

9-10

4th grade

CM2

10-11

5th grade

## Collège

6ème

11-12

6th grade

Middle School

5ème

12-13

7th grade

4ème

13-14

8th grade

3ème

14-15

9th grade (freshman)

## Lycée

2nde

15-16

10th grade (Sophomore)

High school

1ère

16-17

11th grade (Junior)

Terminale

17-18

12th grade (Senior)

Université, École...

University, College...