

FRENCH DOUBLE DEGREE PROGRAMME Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

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A. At NUS (Year 1 and 2)

ACADEMIC AND CURRICULUM ISSUES

1. Do I have to register for all the technical preparatory courses?

As the recommended technical preparatory courses are an integral part of the FDDP, all FDDP students are required to register for all the necessary technical preparatory courses (i.e. Special Mathematics and Physics classes).

2. Whom can I approach regarding the fulfilment of my FDDP requirements?

Please approach your Faculty FDDP Coordinator and Administrator.

3. What will happen if I am unable to finish my university/faculty requirements before I depart for France?

The outstanding university/faculty requirements will then have to be completed upon your return from France. This may result in a delay in graduation and/or fees implications to the student and should be avoided. Please consult your Faculty FDDP Coordinator.

4. How is the honours classification/GPA going to be calculated since I spend two years here and two years over in France?

Each FDDP student will have a ranking converted into the 'GPA in the French Institution' and an existing 'NUS GPA' based on all the courses taken for their undergraduate degree. The 'Final GPA' for the undergraduate degree class of honours is the average of student's 'NUS GPA' and 'GPA in the French Institution'.

5. Are there any circumstances where I may be terminated from the programme?

These will be for extreme cases such as a total lack of effort or behaviour that brings discredit to NUS - we certainly do not expect to encounter such circumstances. Students must also ensure that they meet the level of academic performance expected of a FDDP student to remain in the programme.

FRENCH LANGUAGE AT THE CENTRE FOR LANGUAGE STUDIES (CLS)

6. When and where is the French Language Intensive conducted during the term break?

It is conducted in entire month of May at the Centre for Language Studies (CLS) at NUS.

7. Are credits given for the French language courses taken at CLS?

As students will be enrolled in the usual French courses offered by CLS, credits and grades of the course(s) will be counted towards students' GPA.

8. What is the Placement test?

The Placement test is a test to determine the level of your French proficiency. You are required to sit for the test at Centre for Language Studies (CLS) after every language immersion so that you can take a French course that is suitable for your level. To find out more about the Placement test, please check the CLS website at <http://www.fas.nus.edu.sg/cls/>.

9. The course given to me clashes with my other subjects? What should I do?

Please approach CLS to see whether there are other time slots for the same course that you can take. If this is not possible, please change the timing for some of your other courses to accommodate your French courses. If all fails, then you are encouraged to learn/practice on your own by getting notes from other FDDP friends, seniors etc. You may also consider signing up for external private lessons at Alliance Francaise at your own costs. Students who are under scholarship may enquire with the scholarship agencies on whether they will be reimbursed for such costs. Please note that it is the student's responsibility to prepare well for the 2 year stint in France, which also includes a high level of proficiency in French.

LANGUAGE IMMERSION (JUN & DEC)

10. Is the language immersion compulsory?

Yes.

11. When is the language immersion held?

Two language immersions in France would be arranged under the FDDP. The first immersion is generally held after Semester 2 of Year 1, starting on the first Monday of June and ending on the last Friday of June. The second immersion is generally held after Semester 1 of Year 2 in December, starting on the second Monday of December and ending on the last Friday of December. Students, however, can take up additional courses on their own to prepare themselves well for their 2 year stint in France at their own costs.

12. Where will the language immersion be held?

This will vary from year to year. Details will be given at a later date.

13. When should I arrive in France for the language immersion?

You should arrive one day before the start of the language immersion. Students who are arriving earlier will need to make their own arrangements for a hotel as accommodation will not be provided.

14. What is the cost of the language immersion? How much do I need to bring for my own personal expenses?

The accommodation and tuition fees for the two language immersions in June and December will be covered by NUS. However, students are required to pay for their own airfare, local transportation, visa and other related costs. A modest estimate for personal

and travel expenses would be around SGD2,000. Students who are under scholarship may enquire with their scholarship agencies on whether they will be reimbursed for such costs.

15. Is medical insurance provided?

No, it is at your own expense. Before leaving for France, you are required to buy a medical and accident insurance which offers worldwide coverage. This will also be required for international students who require a visa to enter France.

16. How many hours of practice do we receive at the language school?

Generally for language immersions, the guideline is about 75-100 hours over a three to four-week period and is based on cost per hour basis. Students are strongly encouraged to make full use of their time in France and speak as much French as possible.

17. I have been summoned for In-Camp Training which coincides with the immersion period. What should I do?

Singaporean male citizens facing this problem could write in to their unit/camp to request to postpone their training. The process can be lengthy (a minimum of 14 working days), so students should prepare well in advance. If necessary, the Faculty can provide a letter to certify the overseas language immersion.

18. Are credits given for the French courses taken during the language immersion?

No.

SELECTION OF GRANDES ECOLES

19. Which Grandes Ecoles is suitable for my major?

Every Grandes Ecoles has its own specializations and specific requirements for admission. We advise students to consult their FDDP coordinators in their faculties or the Grandes Ecoles directly for more information

20. What are the requirements of the Grandes Ecoles?

The six Grandes Ecoles have different requirements, e.g. some require high competency in Math and Physics (competence assessed by entrance tests), whereas others look for person qualities (assessed through interviews).

21. Do I get to choose the Grandes Ecoles or will the faculty do the allocation/selection for the student?

In general, students are allowed to indicate their own preference and rank their choices in terms of priority. However, the Faculties reserve the right to review your choices, if required.

22. Is there a guarantee that I will get a place the Grandes Ecoles?

There is no guarantee as the discretion lies with the Grandes Ecoles in their selection. Students who are not selected by any of the Grandes Ecoles will have to leave the programme. Given the amount of time and effort invested in taking additional French, Math and Physics courses, students could consider going on a student exchange programme to France.

APPLICATION TO GRANDES ECOLES

23. When do I start to apply for admission?

Application for admissions into the Grandes Ecoles generally starts in Semester 1 of Year 2. We will inform students when the applications open. Meanwhile, it will be good for students to start their research and consult their faculty FDDP coordinators as well as their FDDP seniors for advice.

24. What must I prepare for the application to the Grandes Ecoles?

Application and requirements for each Grandes Ecoles may vary yearly. You may wish to check the Grandes Ecoles website for more information.

Generally, student will need to apply either online or download the application form from the Grandes Ecoles website or simply submit the necessary documents.

Each set of application package should generally include the following documents:

- CV
- Motivation letter
- Certified true copies of exam result slip/transcript
- Certified true copies of your passport details page or birth certificate as proof of citizenship
- 2 referral letters from academic supervisors/professors
- Any other items as requested on the Grande Écoles website

25. Where can I find application information to the Grandes Ecoles?

- CentraleSupélec: www.centralesupelec.fr (application link will be sent to students who indicated their choice to apply to CentraleSupélec separately)
- Mines ParisTech: <http://www.minesparis.psl.eu/International/Etudiants-internationaux-admissions/Formations-diplomantes/>
- Ecole des Ponts ParisTech: <https://www.ecoledesponts.fr/en/applying-degree-program>
- Ecole Polytechnique: <https://www.polytechnique.edu/en>
- ENSTA Paris: <https://www.ensta-paris.fr/en>
- Telecom Paris: <https://www.telecom-paris.fr/en/home>

26. Some of the Grandes Ecoles require officially translated documents. How can I obtain that?

You can approach language schools in Singapore for private translation.

27. I need someone from NUS to sign my application form to the Grandes Ecoles. Who can I approach for this?

Please approach your FDDP coordinators.

28. How can I apply for an official transcript?

Please refer to the information on Registrar's Office website:

<https://www.nus.edu.sg/registrar/student-records/transcripts/official-transcripts>

29. I am required to show proof of my French Language proficiency. How can I do that?

If you have learnt French at "O" or "A" level, please enclose the result slips. If you have learnt French at NUS, please enclose your transcripts. If you have learnt French externally, please enclose the necessary supporting documents.

30. I am required to complete information on social security. What should I write?

As you would only get your social security when you arrive in France, you do not have to provide any information at the point of application.

31. I am required to complete information on tuition/school fees. What should I write?

As part of the reciprocal agreement between NUS and the Grande Écoles, you are not required to pay tuition fees at the Grande Écoles. Thus, you do not have to indicate anything.

32. What happens after the submission of application to my Home Faculty?

The applications will be forwarded to the Grandes Ecoles. Shortlisted students will sit for an interview and/or written tests in Singapore and/or France. Interviews will normally take place in October to December.

33. What should I expect during the entrance exams or interviews at the Grandes Écoles? Are they conducted in French?

The entrance exams would usually test on similar materials taught during the technical preparation courses in NUS and it depends on the student's preferred specialization in the Grandes Écoles which they applied for. The exams will be in French and/or English. By then, students should be considerably fluent through the French language and immersion programs.

34. Are there any alternatives for students who are unable to pass the entrance exams for their desired Grande Écoles?

To ensure continued success, you are strongly urged to attend and study diligently all technical preparation and French language courses in NUS. Doing so would put you in good stead for entry into the Grandes Écoles.

35. When will I know the outcome of the interview?

Generally, the outcome of the interviews will be made known to the students around November/December.

ADMISSION TO GRANDE ECOLES

36. When will I receive my letter of admission to the Grande Écoles?

Each Grande Écoles operates differently. In general, the letter of admission will be sent to the students in the Spring.

37. When do I go to France for my 2-year study?

Students leave for their 2-year study in France in their 3rd year. The French term starts in September (Year 3, Sem 1) but you may have to be there 1- 2 months earlier for the language immersion conducted at the various Grandes Écoles. You are advised to check with the Grandes Écoles upon confirmation of your admission.

Students admitted to École Polytechnique (X) have to be in France from Jan (Year 2, Sem 2) as they have to follow a special "bridging" programme. In other words, they only study for 3 semesters at NUS before leaving for France.

VISA

38. Do I need to a visa to go to France?

It is compulsory for Singaporeans who are going for more than 90 days to apply for a visa. For all other nationalities, please check the French Embassy website at <https://sg.ambafrance.org/-English->.

Visa application is the responsibility of students and applications have to be handled **personally** by students themselves. Granting of visas lies in the discretion of the individual embassies. Students are to ensure that they apply in advance and prepare the relevant documents for the visa application. More information on visa application can be found on the [French Embassy website](#) and [Campus France website](#) (for visa for more than 90 days).

39. When do I apply for visa?

After receiving your admission letter from the Grande Écoles and up to three months before departure, you will have to apply for a visa at the French Embassy in Singapore.

40. What kind of visa should I get?

Singaporeans do not require visa for stays below 90 days. For all other nationalities, please check with the French Embassy.

All students going for more than 90 days will have to apply for a long-stay visa. If it is just for one month, such as the language immersion, you can just apply for a one month visa, if required.

However, if you intend extend your trip or travel around Europe, you will require a Schengen visa as well. For more information on types of visa, please visit the France-Visas website: https://france-visas.gouv.fr/en_US/web/france-visas/welcome-page.

41. Can I apply for visa in another country other than Singapore?

All Singaporeans will have to apply for their French visa in Singapore. Foreign students will have to check with their own home country regarding visa application.

42. I need a letter to prove that I am a student of NUS in order to apply for my visa. Where can I get it?

Please refer to Registrar's website for the information:

<https://www.nus.edu.sg/registrar/student-records/certification-and-status-letters>.

43. I need the letter of admission from the Grandes Écoles and confirmation of accommodation in order to apply for my visa. However, I still have not received it. What should I do?

You are advised to write to the Grandes Écoles to help you to send the above documents quickly.

B. AT GRANDE ECOLES (2 YEARS FOR DIPLÔME D'INGÉNIEUR)

GENERAL INFORMATION

44. What is the academic calendar like in France?

Generally, it follows the structure:
Semester 1: September – January
Semester 2: February – June

Please check the relevant Grande École website for the precise dates.

45. Will the Grandes Écoles offer French language courses?

Most Grandes Écoles offer intensive French language courses before the start of the semester and during the semester. Students are encouraged to find out more at the partner university website.

46. Do I have to pay the tuition fees at the Grandes Écoles or at NUS?

You do not have to pay the tuition fees at the Grandes Écoles as you continue to pay the tuition fees at NUS at the prevailing rates. However, students are expected to pay other administrative and compulsory fees at the Grandes Écoles. Different Grandes Écoles would have different administrative and compulsory fees. In general, such administrative and compulsory fees can include fees for the use of sports facilities, computer and others.

47. When should I arrive in France at the Grandes Écoles?

This will depend on your accommodation, language courses, the Grande École's orientation programme etc. You will need to check with the Grande École directly to determine the appropriate arrival date.

48. Can I work part-time in France?

Please refer to <https://www.singapour.campusfrance.org/work-during-your-studies-in-france>.

INSURANCE

49. Is medical insurance provided?

Yes. You can benefit from the French social security and the reimbursement of your medical fees. When you are enrolled at your French Grande École, you just have to sign up for free and online: <https://etudiant-etranger.ameli.fr/#/>

To increase the amount of your healthcare expenses being reimbursed, you can also subscribe a complementary health insurance called "mutuelle".

RESIDENCE PERMIT

50. Do I need to apply for the "Titre de séjour" (Residence permit)? What will I need? What are the procedures to applying for it?

You will have to apply for a long stay student visa. The procedure can be found on <https://www.singapour.campusfrance.org/get-your-visa>. Within 3 months after arriving to France, you have to validate your visa on the following website: <https://administration-etrangers-en-france.interieur.gouv.fr>. Your long stay visa then becomes the equivalent of a "titre de séjour" (residence permit) in France. Then, 3 months before your residence permit expires, you have to apply online to renew it on : <https://administration-etrangers-en-france.interieur.gouv.fr/>.

COST OF LIVING IN FRANCE/SCHOLARSHIPS/FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

51. How much does it cost for the two year stint in France?

Students are advised to plan for at least S\$30,000 for the 2 year stint in France. This is a very conservative figure and it only covers the basic expenses. You should budget more if you wish to fly back home during the term break, travel around Europe, and etc.

52. Does FDDP provide scholarships?

No, scholarships are not provided. Students are advised to have their own funds for the duration of the FDDP. Students who are not on scholarship may apply for scholarships on their own after enrolment into the FDDP. We suggest that you discuss with your family as it is a very important decision that you are making. In addition, you may also consider taking an education loan from a bank.

For financial assistance from NUS, you may wish to check with the Office of Financial Aid. More information can be found at <http://www.nus.edu.sg/oam/financialaid/>. You may also wish to check with your Faculty for any financial assistance.

53. Can we contact the Grandes Écoles and seek financial assistance?

Yes, you can contact the Grandes Écoles for financial assistance upon your admission. However, please note that the awards are at the discretion of the Grandes Écoles. Furthermore, you will also be competing with other international students from around the world for the award/ financial assistance so please have some contingency plan in case you do not receive any financial assistance. Students are advised to have their own funds for the duration of the FDDP.

54. I have heard about the Eiffel scholarship. What is it about? How do I apply for the Eiffel scholarship?

For information on the Eiffel Scholarship, you can check the website at <https://www.campusfrance.org/en/eiffel-scholarship-program-of-excellence>.

Applications for the Eiffel Scholarship can only be made by the Grandes Écoles. Once you are admitted to the Grande École, you can approach the Grande École and seek their assistance to apply for the Eiffel Scholarship on your behalf.

In addition, you can also try to apply for other scholarships such as the France Excellence Master Scholarship Programme. For information on this scholarship, you can check the website at <https://sg.ambafrance.org/France-Excellence-Master-Scholarship-Programme>

C. AT NUS (MASTER'S PROGRAMME)

55. Do I have to pay for the Master's programme at NUS?

FDDP students will be given tuition fee award for one year only when they return to NUS to embark on their FYP/Master's programme. There is no extension of the tuition fee award beyond one year and students who require more than a year to complete their Master's programme may be liable to pay fees at the prevailing rates. For information on tuition fees for the Master's programme, please check the Registrar's Office website at <https://www.nus.edu.sg/registrar/administrative-policies-procedures/graduate/graduate-fees>.

56. I do not wish to continue with my Master's after I return from France. Is it possible?

It is possible, but not advisable. The agreement for the FDDP is that NUS students in this programme must complete the Master's programme at NUS before the Grandes Écoles will award the Diplôme d'Ingénieur to them. If you leave the programme without completing the Master's programme at NUS, you can only get the NUS Bachelor's (Hons) degree.

D. MISCELLANEOUS

WITHDRAWAL FROM FDDP

57. What if I do not fulfil my requirements at the Grandes Écoles?

You will need to withdraw from the programme. The experience at the Grandes Écoles will be treated as SEP. The courses taken will be mapped to NUS courses or UEs for credits. You have to resume study for your programme at NUS and must fulfill the programme requirements as specified by your Faculty and the University.

58. Is there a penalty if I withdraw from the programme?

Students may be required to reimburse the expenses incurred in the overseas language immersion in France.

CONFERMENT OF CERTIFICATES

59. I have finished my Masters at NUS. When will I receive my Diplôme certificates?

Once you have completed all the Masters requirements, we will inform the Grande Écoles and they will prepare the Diplôme certificate.

60. Will the Diplôme certificate be sent to me or to NUS?

The Grande Écoles will send the Diplôme certificate directly to you.