



Representing  
the French  
engineering schools  
since 1976

Created in 1976, the Conference of Deans of French Schools of Engineering (CDEFI) is a non-profit organization that represents all the deans of French engineering and technology schools.

CDEFI is headed by one president and three vice-presidents. Its Board of Directors is named the Standing Committee and comprises 20 members.

## ◆ Our Missions

CDEFI is the local, national and international political and public voice of around 200 French schools of engineering and universities of technology.

It supports higher education and research both in France and abroad by providing engineering schools a variety of services such as advocacy, policy recommendations, and project management.

CDEFI promotes the training of engineers in France, Europe and throughout the world. Its role is to ensure that engineering schools can successfully achieve their mission of education, research and innovation, so that they can interact with the socio-economic world.

CDEFI advisory services include:

- **offering day-to-day management support to the deans of engineering schools;**
- **publishing and disseminating research and strategic papers to its members;**
- **publicly advocating on all research and higher education topics;**
- **promoting engineering trainings and jobs in France and abroad;**
- **defending the interests of French engineering schools;**
- **organizing and encouraging the exchange of ideas between members through workshops, seminars, and monthly meetings.**







## ◆ Our Activities

CDEFI's activities are organized in five commissions working on key topics : Education and Society, International and Development, Human Ressources and Funding, Research and Innovation, and Higher Education and Research Cooperations.

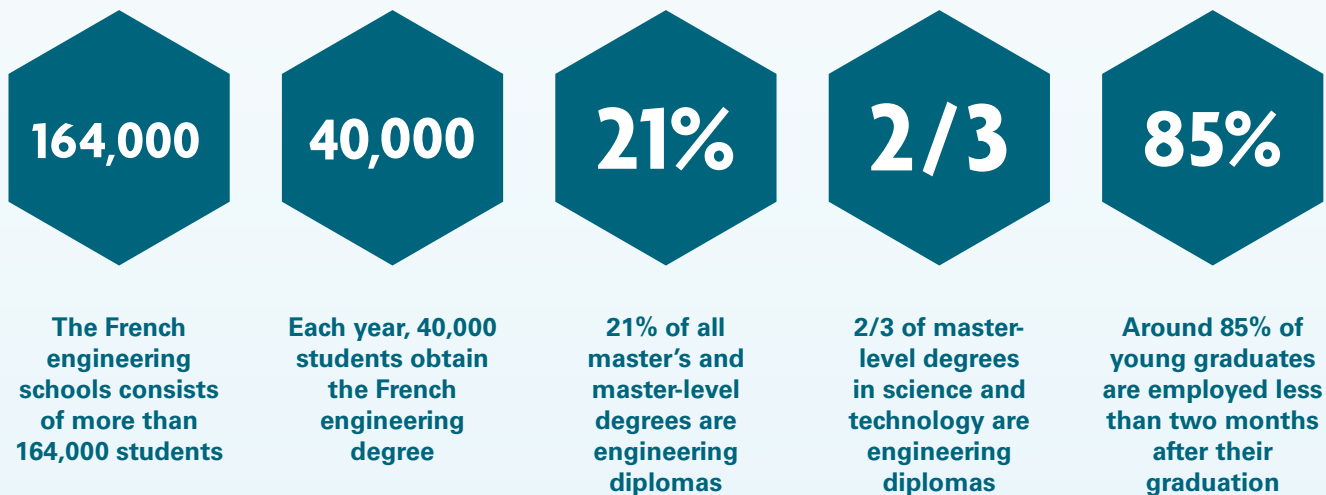
Other working groups focus on news : learning/apprenticeship, Parcoursup (the national admissions platform for the first year of higher education), etc.

CDEFI also helps young people with their career orientation and professional integration, and more broadly promotes and supports the schools' activity through a variety of actions:

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- **“Deviens ingénieur”, a website providing information and guidance to students who are interested in engineering schools and jobs;**
  - **the Ingenious initiative, which fights young women's loss of interest in some engineering branches, promotes equality between women and men and struggles against gender stereotypes;**
  - **the doctoral training course “Skills for business world”, whose purpose is to give PhD students operational skills to help them integrate private French companies;**
  - **the FITEC programs (France Ingénieurs TEChnologie), international mobility programs funded/financed by the French government and other partner countries (Brazil, Argentina and Mexico). These programs support higher education cooperation projects in the field of engineering;**
  - **a data base that allows CDEFI to ensure its mission of representation and provides a better knowledge of the schools' activity.**
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## ◆ Engineering schools in French higher education: major providers of master-level trainings and jobs

Since the Bologna reform, the engineering degree has become a master-level degree. It is one of the main master-level diplomas awarded in the field of science and technology in France.



## ◆ Engineering schools and international exchanges

Higher education is now global, as highlighted by the fact that foreign students account for more than 15% of the French engineering schools total student body.

French engineering schools have been able to expand abroad due to their reputation for academic excellence. As a result, French engineering degrees now enjoy global recognition.

- **The French engineering curriculum requires that students spend time studying in a foreign country. These study abroad programs are generally done through partnerships with leading local universities.**
- **Many engineering schools also have campuses in other countries, such as China or North Africa. Most of the courses based abroad are established by bilateral governmental agreements or through partnerships with local institutions.**
- **29 institutions located in 8 foreign countries can issue French accredited diplomas in Engineering.**

## ◆ Research in engineering schools

French engineering schools lead a high-level research activity that involves them in industrial innovation and contributes to create value.

- **This research work is organized in projects that often expand into several fields and is led in partnership with socio-economic players.**
- **Half of the doctoral students who graduated in Science and Technology were in relation with an Engineering school during their PhD.**
- **60% of all researchers working for a company are graduated in Engineering.**
- **CDEFI promotes the creation of doctoral trainings tied to companies and their need for innovation.**



## ◆ Schools open to all

- **More than 1/3 of the French engineering schools' students benefits from a need-based scholarship, making engineering schools open to all.**
- **15% of graduated engineers followed an apprenticeship training, which is a powerful tool that fosters diversity among students.**
- **There are several and numerous ways of entering an engineering school, all leading to the same diploma.**

## Contact us:

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