

#COUNTRY PROFILE

France

Imagine breath-taking landscapes, historical buildings and all sorts of artworks, world famous museums, natural splendours galore: you are in France, the world’s leading tourist destination.

The hardest, or maybe the best, part will be to make your choice! Sea or mountain? City or countryside? Sun or snow? Past, present or future? Starred restaurant or local bistro? Music festival or traditional carnivals? Because here, diversity reigns as master, often for the best.

Brittany and its windy coast, the colourful Basque Country that reaches out to Spain, Paris and its Eiffel Tower, the Côte d’Azur and its seaside resorts, snowy Mont Blanc, isolated Mont-St-Michel, the Loire castles Loire ... the list is endless.

France is a mosaic of regions with marked identities, rich in know-how and own traditions. Join the festivities that animate the small villages, meet the artisans and sit at their table, because the most delicious gastronomic specialities, including wines and cheeses, are waiting for you all over the Hexagon, especially in Paris for the pre-congress and in Strasbourg for the congress!
Do you know Strasbourg?
Strasbourg in Alsace is one of the most beautiful cities in the world – because of its landmark, the cathedral (in French: Cathédrale Notre-Dame de Strasbourg), which celebrated its millennium in 2015. The place in front of the cathedral is one of the most beautiful marketplaces in whole Europe, also because picturesque half-timbered houses with four two five floors can be found here. The "Maison Kammerzell ", one of those houses, is a real symbol of this place.
The whole city centre of Strasbourg, which is also named "Grande Île " (Big Island) has been declared world cultural heritage by the UNESCO because of its interesting architecture. Last but not least, there are numerous institutions of the European Union in Strasbourg, as the European parliament, the Council of Europe and the European Court for Human Rights, because Strasbourg is the European capital.

Did you know that the National Union of Students in Dental Surgery (UNECD) is the representative association of French students in dental surgery and nationally federates the 16 representative associations of the 16 schools of dental surgery?
UNECD was created in 1961. We have 3 annual meetings with the students who represent their schools. Participation is open to all dental students who want to attend the meeting. During these meetings, we have discussions about our studies, about the reform etc. We also provide training sessions to the students, about communication, creating projects, managing the funds or their association, and lot of other thematics. We have two projects of international solidarity during the summer, one is in Nepal, the other in Morocco.
Moreover, we have a big prevention project called "Gardez le sourire" (Keep the smile) to provide prevention by dental students to students of our cities.

We also bet you didn’t know that with the oldest dental student association, French dental students were the founders of IADS in February 1951.
From the IADS History Book: In February 1951, the French Dental Students invited some students from other countries to attend their Annual Meeting in Paris where the Danish, Dutch and Swedish representatives proposed to establish an International dental student’s organization.

French dental students hosted IADS three times in Paris:
- Mid Year Meeting (Business Meeting) 1951
- Annual Congress 1967
- Mid Year Meeting 1994

Guess you could say it’s the event of the ‘century’ with the 4th IADS meeting being held after 25 years, again, in Paris! See what we did there?

Did you know that in France dental studies last 6 years and prospective students are elected by a contest? Also, that clinic starts in the 4th year and starting from the 5th year students can compete at an internship if they want to become an orthodontist or oral surgeon?

Surely, dental students here graduate with a DDS (Doctor of Dental Surgery) academic degree. While it is known that dental studies are pretty expensive, here in France we pay our inscription to university, which compared to other private schools could be defined as negligible. It is around 350€/year, but we pay for our own equipment which rounds up to 1000€ for the whole education period. In France dentistry is taught in around 16 public universities. We study theory during the whole 6 years and while we have practical training during our 2nd, 3rd and 4th year, we also start treating patients in our 4th year. After their 6th year, dental students have to defend a thesis in order to graduate, but there is no vocational training required to get your work license after graduation. What you could do, is proceed with post-graduate studies, which by the way are the only programs also offered in English.

You probably didn’t know all these things, and you probably don’t know most of the real French way of life! Come to the next IADS Mid-Year Meeting to discover this singular sensation of feeling French, to taste wine, eat cheese, taste our food, party the French way, attend the lectures of our teachers and researchers, compete with us at the dental Olympic Games and the lecture contest... etc. There’s only one way to do it: come to Strasbourg from the 17th to the 21st of next March! French Delegation is waiting for you!