

EURAXESS Members in
Focus: FRANCE

France – A knowledge based economy with a strong tradition in research and innovation



EURAXESS – Researchers in Motion is an initiative of the European Research Area (ERA) that addresses barriers to the mobility of researchers and seeks to enhance their career development. This pan-European effort is currently supported by 40 countries. Here, we focus on the Republic of France.

French Laboratories welcome more than 1,800 researchers, 2 500 engineers and 1,800 foreign researchers and students every year (Source: CNRS).



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France is a knowledge-based economy and home to numerous Fields Medals, Nobel Laureates and multinational's CEOs who were trained in the French Grand Ecoles or its Universities. Interlaced in the European Network, France aims to tackle new societal challenges by boosting research, innovation and entrepreneurship.



Worldwide, France is ranked:

6th in the number of scientific publications and researchers

4th in the number of Nobel Laureates (61) in all fields

2nd for Field Medals with 11 laureates



Powerful public-sector research bodies drive the country's research strategy.

- The (National Centre for Scientific Research), France's principal multidisciplinary research body, has produced 16 Nobel Prize winners and 11 Fields Medal winners.
- The CEA (French Atomic Energy and Alternative Energies Commission) has 8,500 employees and almost 150 research and experimentation sites.
- The INSERM (National Institute of Health and Medical Research) employs 13,686 people, of whom more than 1,660 are foreign researchers.



France is attractive for its quality of life and its culture, but also for its research institutions which cover a wide range of scientific fields. **France has the third largest amount of foreign students** and the language barrier is fading thanks in large part to an international and European research environment. Led by a **tradition of excellence, cutting edge research and innovation, France is a leading country in fundamental research and has a history in developing breakthrough technologies.**

- 2.23% of the GDP is devoted to R&D, 60% comes from private companies which have a key role in the French R&D
- There are about 420,000 full-time employees in R&D activities with 260,000 researchers who work in enterprises or in one of the 30 national public research institutions such as the worldwide known CNRS or the more specialized CEA, INRIA, INRA, INSERM, Institut Pasteur



France's leading industrial sectors are aerospace, automobiles and land transport, electronics and info-communication technology, pharmaceuticals and nuclear power.

France's expertise in these sectors is well represented through **cutting edge companies based in Singapore** such as Airbus, Veolia, Gemalto, Bouygues, Alstom, Essilor, Thales, ST Microelectronics or Sanofi who all have R&D activities here and collaborations ongoing.

In the next few years, France aims to develop new technologies in 9 societal challenges, defined by France Europe 2020 strategic plan:

- Efficient resource management and adaptation to climate change
- Clean, secure and efficient energy, Industrial renewal



- Life, health and well-being, Food security and demographic challenges
- Sustainable mobility and urban systems
- Information and communication society
- Innovative, inclusive and adaptive societies
- Freedom and security of Europe, its citizens and its residents

For more information please visit www.institutfrancais.sg



About EURAXESS France

The EURAXESS FRANCE network currently consists of 23 service centres located mainly at universities across the country.

The service centres offer free and personalised assistance to researchers and their families helping them to:

Prepare their stay in France: assistance on entry, residence and work procedures (visas, work permits, residence permits)

Help them settle in France: assistance in finding accommodation, health cover, bank account etc..

Help them with the daily administrative procedures: social security, family benefits, taxes, pensions...

Facilitate integration: French language classes, cultural activities, sports, children schooling etc.



For more information please visit the [EURAXESS FRANCE website](http://www.euraxess.fr)