

FRENCH-NUS DOUBLE DEGREE PROGRAMME

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

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SELECTION OF GRANDE ÉCOLE

1. Which Grande École is suitable for my major?

Every Grande École has its own specialization and specific requirements for admission. For example, École Polytechnique prefers to accept students majoring in Mathematics. Other Grandes Écoles may be able to accept only students with an Engineering background. We advise students to refer to the respective DDP coordinators in their faculties for more information.

2. What are the requirements of the Grandes Écoles?

The six Grandes Écoles have different requirements e.g. while some require high competency in Math and Physics (competence assessed by entrance tests), others look for personal qualities (assessed through interviews). We advise students to refer to the respective DDP coordinators in their faculties for more information.

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

Normally, we allow students to indicate their own preference and rank them in terms of priority. Your indication may or may not be the finalized list as after your submission, the Faculties will review your choices.

4. How many Grandes Écoles can I select?

Some students select only two Grandes Écoles and some even up to five but this does not mean you will go for five interviews. The final decision lies with the Faculties and the Grandes Écoles and is likely to depend on your academic background.

5. Is there a guarantee that I will get a place at the Grande École?

No, there is no guarantee.

6. What if I do not get selected by any of the Grandes Écoles?

If you do not get selected, then unfortunately, you will have to leave the programme. However, as you have invested much time and effort taking up the additional modules – French, maths and physics, we hope that you will consider going on the student exchange programme (SEP) to France for one or two semesters. There are a number of SEP Awards that you

can apply for, in particular the NASA (Exchange) Awards. For more information, please refer to the IRO website at <http://www.nus.edu.sg/iro/nus/students/Programmes/Awards/index.html>.

APPLICATION TO GRANDES ÉCOLES

7. When do I start to apply for admission?

Application for admissions into the Grandes Écoles normally starts in semester 1 of Year 2. We will inform all students when the applications are opened. Meanwhile, it will be good for you to start your research and consult your faculty DDP coordinators as well as past year DDP students for advice.

8. I understand that there will be a test conducted by the Grandes Ecoles. May I know when the test will be held?

The test will be held in Semester 1 of Year 2. We advise students to refer to the respective DDP coordinators in their faculties for more information.

9. What must I prepare for the application to the Grandes Écoles?

The application for each Grande École varies. Furthermore, each Grande École may change its requirements each year. You may wish to check the Grandes Écoles website for more information.

Generally, students will need to apply either online, for Grandes Écoles that have online application or download the application form from the Grandes Écoles website or simply just submit the necessary documents.

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

- CV
- Motivation letter
- Certified true copies of your exam result slip/ transcript
- Certified true copies of your passport (particulars' page) or birth certificate to proof your citizenship.
- 2 referral letters from your professors/academic supervisors
- Bank Receipt for €60, only for application to École Polytechnique (Subject to change)
- Any other items as requested on the Grande École website

10. Where can I find information on the Grandes Écoles applications?

Please check the following links:

- École Polytechnique (in English):
http://www.polytechnique.fr/concours/voie2_et/etranger/english/anql_requi_re.php

- École Centrale Paris (in English)
http://www.ecp.fr/en/D_international/D2_reseaux_internationaux/D2a_time.htm

The application form is located at *“Registration on T.I.M.E. & other programmes leading to a double degree”*

- École Supérieure d'Electricité (in French)
http://www.supelec.fr/cgi-bin/reframe?http://www.supelec.fr/fi/admission/adm_1a_concours/adm_1a_concours.html

The application procedure and form has to be requested by letter or by email.

- École des Mines de Paris (in French)
http://www.ensmp.fr/Fr/Formation/2emeCycle/IngCivil/Intro/admissions_IC.html

- Telecom Paris (in English)
http://www.enst.fr/en/abroad/courses_degrees/entering_1st_year.php

- Institut National des Télécommunications (in English)
<http://www.int-evry.fr/international/studentguide/admissions.php>

The application procedure and form has to be requested.

11. Some of the Grandes Écoles require officially translated documents. How can I get that?

You can approach language schools in Singapore for translation services.

12. I need someone from NUS to sign my application form to the GE. Whom can I approach for this?

Please approach your home Faculty.

13. How can I get an official transcript?

From the Registrar's Office. It costs \$5.25 per transcript. You can apply online at <http://www.nus.edu.sg/registrar/info/transcript.htm>. As it takes about 4 days to get the official transcript, please plan well ahead.

14. What happens after I submit my application to my Faculty?

We will then forward the applications to the Grandes Écoles. Short listed students will sit for an interview and/or written tests in Singapore and/ or France.

15. I am unable to find someone suitable to provide the referral letters. What should I do?

If there are no faculty members with whom you are in close contact such as tutor, supervisor, advisor or lecturer, the Faculty coordinators can be one of your referees.

16. When will the interviews take place?

The interviews are normally arranged in October/November or during the second language immersion in France in December.

17. Can we get the definite dates for the interview dates in December?

This will depend very much on whether you are shortlisted for the interviews, the subsequent rounds and when you will finish your exams at NUS. Once these are determined, you will be notified of the dates.

18. I heard that the application to École Polytechnique (X) takes place much earlier than the rest. How is the application process for École Polytechnique?

Students who wish to apply to X are required to complete the online application form found on X's website. In addition, students will have to print a copy of the application form. Please forward the application form and all other supporting materials as mentioned at Question 8 to your Faculty. We will collate the applications and then courier them to X for their consideration.

19. I am interested in École Polytechnique. May I know which disciplines are recommended for the institution?

École Polytechnique (X) may be more suitable for students from FoS and SoC.

20. When must I apply to École Polytechnique?

Normally, it takes place around September. We will inform you once we confirm the date with X.

21. I notice that students have to pay €60 application fee for X? Will I be reimbursed?

The €60 is payable by everyone who wishes to apply to École Polytechnique. NUS will not reimburse the student.

22. How do I pay for the €60 application fee?

To make the payment, you will have to go to the bank and arrange for a Telegraphic Transfer. The bank details can be found at Ecole Polytechnique website. Once you have made the payment, the local bank will issue you a receipt. You need to submit the receipt, together with the other supporting documents.

23. I am holding a scholarship. Do I still have to pay the €60 application fee for X?

NUS students holding a scholarship from NUS or a Singapore-based agency are exempted from paying the €60 application fee*. However, you need to attach your scholarship certificate or letter to support your claim. For others, who do not hold any form of scholarship, you are required to pay the application fee.

* Subject to change.

24. In the application to École Polytechnique, there is a question about official ranking. How do I get the “official ranking”?

You can attach your Dean's List certificate. Even though the certificate does not indicate your specific rank, it is an indication that you are among the top 5%.

INTERVIEWS/TESTS AT GRANDES ÉCOLES

25. 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 the syllabus taught during the technical preparation modules in NUS (see Academic and Curriculum Issues). It depends on the student's preferred specialization in the Grande École applied for. The exams will be in French and/or English. By then, students would be considerably fluent through the French language and immersion programs.

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

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

27. When will the interviews/tests take place?

The interviews are normally arranged in October/November or during the second language immersion in France in December.

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

Generally, the outcome of the interviews will be made known to the students around January.

ADMISSION TO GRANDE ÉCOLE

29. When will I receive my letter of admission to the Grande École?

Each Grande École operates differently. In general, the letter of admission will be sent to the students about 1 to 2 months before the start of the semester.

30. 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 by some of the 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 April (Year 2, Sem 2) as they have to follow a special "bridging" programme.

31. If I have to be in X in April, how will I take my exams at NUS?

Alternative arrangements will have to be made with your Faculty. You are advised to discuss this with your Faculty DDP coordinator to arrange for NUS exams to be taken at X. If this is not possible, your departure for X will have to be delayed.

APPLICATION FORMS

32. 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 certificate. If you have learnt French at NUS, please enclose your transcripts. If you have learnt French externally, then please enclose the necessary supporting documents.

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

As you only get social security in France, you do not have to provide any information here.

34. 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 Ecole, you are not required to pay tuition fees at the Grande Ecole, so you do not have to indicate anything.

ACADEMIC AND CURRICULUM ISSUES

35. Do I have to register for all the technical preparatory modules?

As the recommended technical preparatory modules are an integral part of the DDP, all DDP students are required to register for all the necessary technical preparatory modules (e.g. Mathematics and Physics). As there are no extra S/U options for the French DDP, you might need to audit one or more of the modules (i.e. sit in the lectures but not participate in any assessment).

36. Who can help me in the mapping of partner-university modules and selection of NUS modules to ensure that all requirements of the DDP are satisfied?

The Faculty DDP coordinators and Administrators track the mapping of modules and selection of NUS modules to ensure that all requirements of the DDP can be satisfied. In consultation with the DDP Coordinators in the respective faculties, they will be able to advise you on the various necessary requirements (where applicable).

37. Will I be assigned Advisors to guide me through the French Double-Degree Programme?

Yes, the Faculty DDP Coordinators and Administrators in your respective faculty will guide you through the DDP.

38. Will I get credits for the French modules that I take as part of the French language preparation?

Part of the French language preparation is outside of the NUS curriculum but you will also be encouraged to register for one or more NUS French modules, possibly as S/U modules.

39. 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 of the student and is to be avoided.

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

We shall be computing an equivalent grade, taking into account that you are being assessed in relation to France's top students, who are studying with you at the Grande École.

41. Are there any circumstances where I can be 'kicked out' of the program?

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.

42. I will be having midterm tests on Saturdays. The lecturer has made it clear that he will not hold any make-up tests? What should I do?

Students may be excused from the regular Saturday DDP classes in such circumstances but this is to be minimized as the classes are very important in preparing students for their studies in France.

LANGUAGE IMMERSION

43. Is the language immersion compulsory?

Yes

44. When is the language immersion held?

Throughout the course of the DPP preparation, students are encouraged to go for two language immersions in France. 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.

However, students will be required to travel to France immediately after the exams to attend interviews etc. at the Grandes Ecoles before the start of the language immersion.

45. Where will the language immersion be held?

In the past years, the June immersion was held at CUEF in Grenoble <http://w3.u-grenoble3.fr/cuef/anim.html> and the December immersion in Rambouillet <http://www.rambouillet.com/>. However, it will vary from year to year. Details will be given at a later date.

46. How long is each language immersion?

Each language immersion will last about 3 to 4 weeks.

47. How many language immersions will there be?

There will be two language immersions. The first immersion is held after semester 2 of Year 1 in June and the second immersion is held after semester 1 of Year 2 in December. There may be a third immersion or Intensive French course provided by the Grande École, free or otherwise, or through scholarships such as Eiffel Scholarship. Where it is not provided by the Grandes Écoles or through scholarships, then there will not be any additional language immersion for students. Students however, can on their own, take up additional courses to prepare themselves well for their 2 year stint in France.

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

You should arrive one day before the start of the language immersion.

49. Can I arrive earlier? Will accommodation be provided?

No, you can't arrive earlier as accommodation will not be provided. If you are arriving earlier, you will need to make your arrangements for a hotel.

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

Students will be required to participate in two language immersions in France in June and December. The accommodation and tuition fees will be covered. 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 \$2,000. Students who are under scholarship may enquire with the scholarship agencies on whether they will be reimbursed for such costs.

51. I am an international student. Can I return home for a visit before going on the immersion in France?

Yes, as students are responsible for their own travel arrangements, we leave it to you to make your own plans and to ensure that you attend the immersions on the specified dates.

52. 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.

53. Is home-stay guaranteed?

No, it is subject to availability.

54. If home-stay is not available, what other accommodation is possible?

University residence

55. I have been given home-stay with a host family in France. I would like to contact them in advance. However, they do not seem to have any email address or it does not work. What should I do to contact them?

You should have been provided the telephone number of the host family. In this case, we suggest a direct telephone call instead to ensure immediate communication.

56. Where do I meet the host family?

It varies from year to year, but normally, you are required to wait for the host family to pick you up at the train station.

57. When and what time will the host family meet me?

Students will have to arrive one day before the start of the course at the designated train station. The students can contact the host family directly to make the meeting arrangements. Such details will be confirmed later.

58. I am arriving at a place/time where the host family is unable to fetch me. What should I do?

In that case, you need to book a hotel room to stay for the night and then make your way to the train station to meet the host family.

59. How many hours of practice do we receive at the language school? It is possible to increase the hours?

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. It is possible to increase the number of hours but it will also mean higher cost.

Instead, students are encouraged to make full use of their time in France and speak as much French as possible.

60. 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.

61. Are credits given for the French modules taken during the language immersion?

No.

62. Will NUS arrange for common flights for the students going to the same university?

No.

63. Where can I get my flight ticket? Does NUS have any travel agency to recommend for the purchase of cheap flight tickets?

Students are expected to source for their flight ticket independently. You can attempt to search online or approach travel agencies. A possible choice of travel agency will be Student Travel Agency. More information can be found on <http://www.statravel.com.sg>.

64. How do I get to the destination from Paris?

Generally, information on how to get to the language school or Grande Ecole from Paris can be found on the website of the language school or Grande Ecole.

65. 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 http://www.ambafrance-sg.org/article.php3?id_article=380

66. Will NUS apply for the student visas?

No. Visa application is the responsibility of the students. Applications have to be handled personally by you, and the granting of visas is entirely up to individual embassies. Students have to ensure that they apply in advance and to prepare the relevant documents to apply for the visa.

67. When do I apply for visa?

Upon receiving your admission letter from the Grande École/language school, you will have to apply for a visa at the French Embassy in Singapore.

For more information, please refer to:

<http://www.edufrance.fr/en/a-etudier/etudes05-1.htm>

http://www.france.org.sg/rubrique.php3?id_rubrique=137

68. 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.

However, if you intend to 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 French Embassy website at http://www.ambafrance-sg.org/article.php3?id_article=380

69. Where do I apply for a French visa and what are the necessary documents?

The general requirements are as follows:

- Proof of Acceptance at Grande Ecole/ Language School
- Proof of Financial Support
- Proof of Accommodation
- Insurance Coverage
- Flight Schedule

For exact details regarding French visa and the necessary documents, please contact the French Embassy at http://www.ambafrance-sg.org/article.php3?id_article=380

70. How much will my visa cost? Is it free?

Information regarding visa application can be found on the French Embassy website at http://www.ambafrance-sg.org/article.php3?id_article=380

71. How long will it take to get a visa?

For certain nationalities, visa applications can take up to 2 months. Students have to ensure that they apply in advance and prepare the relevant documents in order to apply for the visa. Students are advised to contact the French Embassy directly for more information at http://www.ambafrance-sg.org/article.php3?id_article=380

72. 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.

73. Do you I need transit visas?

Yes, you will need transit visa if you are national who requires a visa to go the particular country. You are advised to check with the immigration website of such countries.

74. 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 approach the Registrar's Office or your Faculty.

75. I need the letter of admission from the Grande Ecole 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 Grande Ecole to help you to send the above documents quickly.

PLACEMENT TEST

76. What is the Placement test? Why must I sit for the test? When must I sit for the test? Where is the Placement Test held?

The Placement test is a test to determine the level of your French proficiency. You are required to sit for the test at the Centre for Language Studies (CLS) after every language immersion so that you can take a French module 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/>. The tests for the general NUS student population are conducted around 2 weeks before the start of the semester. DDP students are required to take a separate placement test usually a week earlier (i.e. 3 weeks before the start of the semester) in order to give them priority over other NUS students. This test is also conducted at CLS.

77. I am not able to make it for the Placement Test. Can alternative arrangement be made?

We do not have control over the dates arranged by CLS. You may contact CLS for alternative arrangement. As part of the commitment to the Double Degree Programme, it is your responsibility to ensure that you attend the Placement Test.

FRENCH LANGUAGE AT THE CENTRE FOR LANGUAGE STUDIES

78. Can I map the French language modules taken at CLS during the semester?

Yes, students are just taking the usual French modules offered by CLS during regular semesters.

79. The module given to me clashes with my other subjects? What should I do?

First, please approach CLS whether there are other time slots for the same module that you can take. If this is not possible, please change the timing for some of your other courses to accommodate your French modules. If this is not possible, please consult your Faculty DDP administrator for assistance.

If all fails, then you are encouraged to learn/practice on your own by getting notes from other DDP friends, seniors etc. You may also consider signing up for private lessons at Alliance Francaise or NUS Extension. The external courses at Alliance Francaise or NUS Extension will at your own cost. 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.

80. When is the French Language Intensive conducted during the term break? Where is the French Language Intensive conducted?

It is conducted in May and will cover the whole month. It is conducted at the Centre for Language Studies (CLS) at NUS.

81. Are credits given for the French modules taken in May, during the term break?

No

AT GRANDE ÉCOLE (2 YEARS FOR DIPLÔME D'INGÉNIEUR)

GENERAL INFORMATION

82. 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.

83. A French student takes 3 years to earn the Diplôme d'Ingénieur while the NUS student needs only 2 years to do that. How is this possible?

The Diplôme d'Ingénieur of 3 years for the French students includes 'Masters'. NUS students only do 2 years at the Grandes Écoles as they return to NUS to do the Masters which actually takes more than 1 year. So in fact, the NUS students take more than 3 years to get the Masters and Diplôme d'Ingénieur.

FRENCH LANGUAGE COURSES

84. 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. Information on these courses can be found at the university website.

85. Are the French language courses at the Grandes Écoles free?

Some French Grandes Écoles do offer intensive French language courses prior to the start of the new semesters at no cost. Students are encouraged to find out more at the partner university website.

86. How can I apply for the French language courses at Grandes Écoles?

For courses that start before the semester, you need to indicate it in the partner university application form.

For courses that are conducted during the semester, you need to select the French modules as one of the subjects that you will be doing at the partner university.

TUITION FEES

87. 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.

88. What are “administrative and compulsory fees”?

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, computer and others.

VISA

89. 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 http://www.ambafrance-sg.org/article.php3?id_article=380

90. Will NUS apply for the student visas?

No. Visa application is the responsibility of the students. Applications have to be handled personally by you, and the granting of visas is entirely up to individual embassies. Students have to ensure that they apply in advance and to prepare the relevant documents to apply for the visa.

91. When do I apply for visa?

Upon receiving your admission letter from the Grande École/language school, you will have to apply for a visa at the French Embassy in Singapore.

For more information, please refer to:

<http://www.edufrance.fr/en/a-etudier/etudes05-1.htm>

http://www.france.org.sg/rubrique.php3?id_rubrique=137

92. What kind of visa should I get?

Students going for more than 90 days will have to apply for a long-stay visa. If you intend to travel around Europe during your exchange, you will require a Schengen visa as well. For more information on types of visa, please visit the French Embassy website at http://www.ambafrance-sg.org/article.php3?id_article=380

93. Where do I apply for a French visa and what are the necessary documents?

The general requirements are as followed:

- Proof of Acceptance at GE
- Proof of Financial Support
- Proof of Accommodation
- Insurance Coverage
- Flight Schedule

For exact details regarding French visa and the necessary documents, please contact the French Embassy at http://www.ambafrance-sg.org/article.php3?id_article=380

94. How much will my visa cost? Is it free?

Information regarding visa application can be found on the French Embassy website at http://www.ambafrance-sg.org/article.php3?id_article=380

95. How long will it take to get a visa?

For certain nationalities, visa applications can take up to 2 months. Students have to ensure that they apply in advance and prepare the relevant documents in order to apply for the visa. Students are advised to contact the French Embassy directly for more information at http://www.ambafrance-sg.org/article.php3?id_article=380

96. 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.

97. 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?

Students who have applied for exchange will receive a letter from NUS verifying that they are NUS students who have applied for exchange. The letter will be sent to students by mail.

98. I need the letter of admission from the GE 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 GE to help you to send the above documents quickly.

INSURANCE

99. Is medical insurance provided?

No, it is at your own expense. When you apply for a visa at the French Embassy, you will have to show proof of medical insurance for the duration of your visa.

For your 2 year stay in France, you will need to apply for residency permit within 2 months after arriving in France. You will need to apply to the administrative centre (préfecture) of the area you are living in. You will need to provide various documents; they vary from a department to another, but all documents have to be in French or certified translations. The Grande École which you are admitted to will assist you in this matter.

The residency permit will provide social security, including medical expenses. You may wish to take additional medical coverage if necessary.

100. What kind of insurance do I have to purchase before going to France?

You will be required to show proof of medical coverage for the duration of the visa that you are applying for when you apply for the French visa. The amount of coverage varies and you are advised to check with the French Embassy.

101. What kind of insurance do I have to purchase when I am in France?

Students will be required to apply for the Sécurité Sociale for medical and accident expenses.

102. I am already covered by an insurance policy that includes worldwide coverage. Is it necessary for me to take up additional insurance when I go to France?

It is compulsory for all students who are below 28 years old and non-EU citizens to purchase Sécurité Sociale.

103. What must the insurance cover?

It will be best to approach your insurance agent for advice. Usually, the insurance should cover medical and accident worldwide coverage.

104. How many months should the insurance cover?

The insurance that you purchase in Singapore should cover the time period of the visa.

105. Can NUS recommend an insurance policy?

It is strongly advised for students to check with their personal insurance agent regarding policies.

106. Does NUS provide insurance coverage for overseas exchanges?

No

107. The policy offered by UHWC includes worldwide coverage. Do I need to take additional insurance?

It is strongly advised for students to check with their personal insurance agent regarding policies.

ARRIVING IN FRANCE

108. When should I arrive in France at the Grande Ecole?

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

109. Will there be someone to fetch me from the airport?

Depending on universities, some university residences have people fetching students from the nearest train station or airport. Students are encouraged to check with their university for such services.

110. How do I find my way to the university?

For more information regarding how to get to your university, please contact your university. Information on 'Getting There' is usually available on the university websites.

111. How should I bring my money over to France?

It is advisable for students to bring traveller's cheques with them to cover the first few weeks, including for rent, deposits etc. as it may take some time to open a bank account. Compared to cash, traveller's cheques are safer to carry. It is also useful to have an international credit card (Visa, MasterCard, etc.) that will allow students to withdraw cash in France. However, do be informed that there is a fee for the service.

RESIDENCE PERMIT

112. Do I need to apply for the Carte de Séjour (residence permit)? What will I need? What are the procedures to apply for it?

Students planning to study in France for more than 3 months will have to apply for a temporary residence permit. Please refer to http://www.expatica.com/actual/article.asp?subchannel_id=22&story_id=3225 for more information under the section "Nationals from outside the EU".

FRENCH SOCIAL SECURITY

113. Do I have to apply for the Sécurité Sociale (French Social Security)?

Please refer to the following website for more information regarding the French Social Security. <http://www.escp-eap.net/academic/faq/q8.html>

BANK ACCOUNT

114. How do I open a bank account in France?

You are advised to check with the bank. Generally, you are required to have the following documents:

- Valid passport
- Carte de Séjour
- Proof of address - e.g. telephone or electricity bill; rent receipt; certificat d'hébergement (official document stating that you are staying with a private resident, obtained by your French host from the local mairie); etc.

It is generally free of charge to open a bank account. Fees might be imposed for some services (like a stop-payment order if your chequebook or credit card is lost or stolen). Some banks also charge for closing an account.

FRENCH ORIENTATION PROGRAMMES

115. Do exchange students have to pay for orientation activities?

Orientation programmes are organized for exchange students a few days before the start of the semester are usually free. Please do note that such orientation programmes are different from the language courses. Students are strongly advised to check with their partner university regarding cost of orientation activities.

WORKING IN FRANCE

116. Can I work part-time in France?

For more information on student part-time employment, please visit <http://www.ambafrance-us.org/visitingfrance/student.asp>.

117. What are the types of jobs that I can apply for?

Students are to source for part-time jobs independently. You could write directly to the French Ministry of Labour for more information. The website of the French Ministry of Labour is given by <http://www.travail.gouv.fr/>.

118. Are there any restrictions to exchange students working in France?

Yes. There is a restriction of 19.5 working hours per week for all student part-timers.

COST OF LIVING IN FRANCE/SCHOLARSHIPS/FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

119. 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 etc.

120. I have a scholarship. What should I do?

Students who are already in receipt of scholarships or awards should write to inform their respective agencies, and get official approval to be enrolled on the DDP.

121. Does DDP provide scholarships?

No, scholarships are not provided. Students are advised to have their own funds for the duration of the DDP. Students who are not on scholarship may apply for scholarships on their own after enrolment on the DDP. 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 Registrar's Office which has financial assistance for students
<http://www.nus.edu.sg/registrar/sfau/ug.htm>

You may also wish to check with your Faculty for financial assistance.

122. I am a Singaporean. Who can I apply to for scholarships? Can I apply for scholarships on my own?

For scholarships to DSTA, EDB and PSC, we can submit your applications on your behalf. For all others, we encourage you to apply on your own.

123. Are scholarships guaranteed?

No, scholarships are not guaranteed. The selection of the students for scholarship is at the discretion of the scholarship agencies. Students are advised to have their own funds for the duration of the whole DDP.

124. When will the interviews be conducted and when will we know the outcome of the scholarship applications?

We cannot advise you on the exact dates for the interview as each scholarship agency will have its own specific scholarship application cycle. From our previous experience, most of them would get back to you before you go to the Grandes Écoles for your 2 year stint.

125. I am not a Singaporean. How can I get financial assistance?

You will have to seek scholarships on your own. We suggest that you discuss with your family as it is a very important decision that you are making. In addition, you may consider taking an education loan from a bank.

For financial assistance from NUS, you may wish to check with the Registrar's Office which has financial assistance for students
<http://www.nus.edu.sg/registrar/sfau/ug.htm>

You may also wish to check with your Faculty for financial assistance.

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

Yes, you can contact the Grandes Écoles for financial assistance. 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.

127. Can NUS appeal to the Grandes Écoles to give financial assistance to NUS students?

NUS is not in a position to influence the Grandes Écoles where discretionary awards are concerned. The selection of the students for financial assistance is at the discretion of the Grandes Écoles. Students are advised to have their own funds for the duration of the DDP.

128. Which Grandes Écoles offer financial assistance?

The financial assistance from the Grandes Écoles varies from year to year. You are advised to consult the Grandes Écoles upon your admission.

129. What kind of financial assistance is provided by the Grandes Écoles?

The Financial Assistance is administered by the Grandes Écoles. You are encouraged to speak to your seniors who have received this scholarship.

130. 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 <http://www.egide.asso.fr/uk/programmes/eiffel/>

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.

131. What does the Eiffel Scholarship cover?

The Eiffel Scholarship is administered by the French Government. We only have general information found at <http://www.egide.asso.fr/>. You are encouraged to speak to your seniors who have received this scholarship.

132. I have applied for the Eiffel Scholarship. However I have yet to receive the outcome of my application. Can NUS help?

The Eiffel Scholarship is administered by the French Government and not by NUS. You are encouraged to write to the Grande Ecole which applied for the scholarship on your behalf or EGIDE <http://www.egide.asso.fr/>.

133. I have been successful in my application for the Eiffel Scholarship. However I have yet to receive any concrete confirmation or documents. Can NUS help?

The Eiffel Scholarship is administered by the French Government and not by NUS. You are encouraged to write to the Grande Ecole which applied for the scholarship on your behalf or to EGIDE <http://www.egide.asso.fr/>.

134. The Eiffel Scholarship mentions about a language course. How do I go about applying for it?

The Eiffel Scholarship is administered by the French Government and not by NUS. You are encouraged to write to EGIDE <http://www.egide.asso.fr/>.

RETURNING TO NUS

135. When do I return to NUS?

If all goes well, you should be back in NUS by Year 5, Semester 1. You are advised to keep in touch with your Faculty on your plans and when you will be returning to NUS.

AT NUS (MASTER'S PROGRAMME)

MASTERS PROGRAMME

136. What is the cost of doing a Masters programme at NUS?

For information on tuition fees for the Masters programme, please check the Registrar's Office website at

<http://www.nus.edu.sg/registrar/graduate/info/fees.htm>

137. Do I apply for the Masters Programme (i.e. MEng, MSc or MComp) or will I automatically be admitted into the Masters programme? When do I apply?

No, you are not automatically admitted into the Masters Programme. As part of Double Degree Programme commitment, you are responsible to ensure that you apply and are accepted to the Masters programme. For information on application deadline, application forms etc. please refer to your Faculty website at:

Graduate School of Engineering

<http://www.gse.nus.edu.sg/>

Faculty of Science

<http://www.science.nus.edu.sg/graduate/>

Graduate Programmes in Computing

http://www.comp.nus.edu.sg/prospective_students/

138. Will I automatically be given a research scholarship?

No, you will not be automatically given the Research Scholarship. Research scholarships are at the discretion of the Faculties.

For more information on the Research Scholarship, please check the website at:

<http://www.nus.edu.sg/registrar/prospective/graduate/researchscholarship.htm>

139. I do not wish to continue with my Masters after I return from France as I am not sure if I will get the research scholarship? Is that possible?

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

140. Do I have to pay the tuition fees at NUS during the Masters year?

In the case that you do not receive the research scholarship, you are required to pay the NUS tuition fees at the prevailing rates. Students are advised to have their own funding or to seek scholarship from scholarship agencies.

141. What are the tuition fees for the Masters Programme at NUS?

For information on tuition fees, please check the Registrar's Office website at: <http://www.nus.edu.sg/registrar/graduate/info/fees.htm>

142. How do I find a research supervisor while I am in France?

At the start of Year 4 in France, students are advised to communicate with potential supervisors for their NUS FYPs/MEng projects. They could then begin their background work and preliminary studies for the projects in their final semester at the Grande Écoles.

FINAL YEAR PROJECT

143. What about my final year project? Will I be given time to finish?

Students should try to complete the Final Year Project in the first semester. In order for this to be possible, students need to have begun background and preliminary studies related to the topic of the FYP/M.Eng project.

TUITION FEES

144. Do I have to pay the tuition fees at NUS?

Yes, you continue to pay the NUS tuition fees, including the Masters year at the prevailing rates.

WITHDRAWAL FROM DDP

145. What if I do not fulfil my requirements at the Grandes Ecoles?

You will need to withdraw from the programme. The experience at the Grandes Ecoles will be treated as SEP. The modules taken will be mapped to NUS modules 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.

146. Do I have to do the Masters programme? Can I withdraw from the programme after I return from the Grande Ecole?

We strongly encourage you to continue to do your Masters programme as otherwise you will not receive your Diplôme d'Ingénieur. Otherwise, you will just receive your Bachelor's degree.

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

No, there is no penalty. However, as you have invested much time and effort taking up the additional modules – French, maths and physics, we hope that you will consider going on the student exchange programme (SEP) to France for one or two semesters. There are a number of SEP Awards that you can apply for, in particular the NASA (Exchange) Awards. For more information, please refer to the IRO website at <http://www.nus.edu.sg/iro/nus/students/Programmes/Awards/index.html>.

CONFIRMATION OF CERTIFICATES

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

Once you have completed all the Masters requirements, we will let the Grande Ecole know and they will prepare the Diplome certificate.

149. Will I receive both the Masters and Diplome certificates at the Commencement at NUS?

Most likely, you will just get the Masters degree from NUS as the Grande Ecole may take sometime to prepare the Diplome certificate

150. Will the Diplome certificate be sent to me or to NUS?

The Grande Ecole will send the Diplome certificate directly to you.

151. Is there a graduation ceremony in France?

Yes, and the Grande Ecole will contact you directly on this matter.

152. What if I cannot attend the graduation ceremony in France?

You can ask the Grande Ecole to send you the Diplome certificate to be sent to you directly.

EXTENSION OF STUDIES

153. Is it possible to do a PhD instead of Masters? Will I still get the Diplôme and Masters certificate?

Yes, as long as you pass the qualifying exams, the Grandes Ecoles agree to award you the Diplôme. You will not get the Masters certificate, instead you will get your PhD upon completion.

MORE INFORMATION

154. Can I know more about the education system in the French Grandes Écoles?

Students might find helpful information about Grand Écoles at:
http://www.ecp.fr/en/A_ecp/A1_aujourd'hui/A1b_grande_ecole.htm

155. The French Grandes Écoles advocate a five-year course. In the first two years, do the French students do the preparation of Maths and Science similar to that in NUS?

The two years of Preparatory Classes after the Baccalaureate (equivalent to our GCE 'A' Levels) are more intensive and demanding in Mathematics & Physics than the NUS preparation (because our students have other courses to take). The routes to the Diplôme d'Ingénieur in all partner Grandes Écoles follow something like the one here:
http://www.ecp.fr/en/B_formations/B1_formation_ingenieur/B1f_RecrutementModalite.htm#4

156. How can I get in touch with the past DDP students from NUS?

You can get in touch with your Faculty Administrators who will then be able to put you in touch with the previous students.