

THE RIGHT TO EDUCATION

"Education, housing and hospitals are the most important things for society." -Zaha Hadid

The *grandes écoles* of France are elite higher-education establishments. They are generally focused on a single subject area (e.g., engineering or business), have a small size (typically between 100 and 300 graduates per year), and are highly selective. They are widely regarded as prestigious, and most of France's scientists and executives have graduated from a *grande école*.

National rankings are published every year by various magazines. While these rankings slightly vary from year to year, the top *grandes écoles* have been very stable for decades:

- science and engineering: Ecole Normale Supérieure, Ecole Polytechnique, Mines ParisTech, and CentraleSupélec;
- humanities: three Écoles Normales Supérieures and Ecole des Chartes;
- business: HEC Paris, ESSEC Business School, ESCP Europe, EMLyon and EDHEC;



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