

Ingénieur International en Formation par Apprentissage (I²FA)

Master of Science in Agricultural Engineering by Apprenticeship

The I²FA program is a Master of Science which is best thought of as a Company Sponsored training program in which the graduates earn the ESA “ingénieur” degree (Master of Science in Agricultural Engineering) by apprenticeship while being trained to take up a post with the company which finances their studies and their time in France. The student specializes in one of ESA’s 6 majors according to the company needs: Food Science, Animal Science, Crop Science, Environmental Science, Viticulture/Enology, Agricultural Business.

French companies in the agricultural sector operating abroad use this program as a means of training local people for management positions on their international sites – which is a more efficient means of managing human resources than sending out expensive French expatriate managers who may not necessarily speak the local language or understand the culture and who will invariably want to go home after a certain period of time.

The I²Fa program trains “cultural bridges” who have the local culture and can transfer the strategy, technical know-how etc. of the headquarters in France to their sites abroad. The program has existed since 2002 and we have trained 205 students from 33 countries for 34 French companies.

Main Program Objectives

- To train future technical experts and managers for international subsidiaries :
« Cultural Bridges”
- To understand the workings of a company in order to develop suitable management skills in an international context
- To acquire the capacity for autonomy
- To develop an aptitude for project management

A word about apprenticeship:

The best translation is a «**Work-Study**» program within a strictly controlled academic and judicial framework:

- Content and pedagogy validated by the CTI – ESA accreditation body
- Working conditions overseen by competent labor authorities
- Student internship supervisor coordinates with a member of ESA’s faculty, who as academic advisor ensures that missions accorded to the student by the internship supervisor respect ESA’s academic specifications
- Scientific reports based on these missions are evaluated by the academic supervisor.
- Student validates 48/120 ECTS through scientific reports based on missions undertaken on site: 18 in Master 1 and 30 in Master2

Requirements:

Candidates must have:

- a Bsc or MSc in **Food Sciences, Animal Sciences, Microbiology, Biotechnology**
- a strong motivation for a career in industry

- a desire to learn new cultures and a new language (French)
- a real capacity to overcome challenges and to develop new competencies
- an experience abroad would be appreciated
- **PLEASE NOTE: NO FRENCH REQUIRED TO APPLY**

Graduates appreciate 3 elements of this program in particular:

1. The Research and Innovation internship (RI)

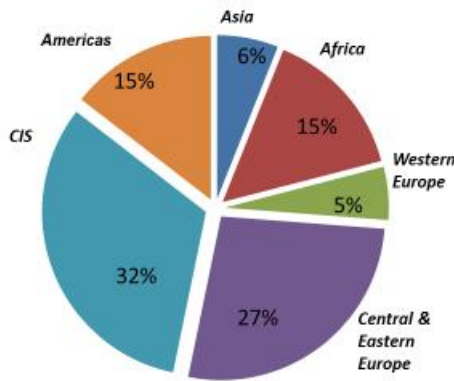
Objective: to conceive and put in place an experimentation protocol

2. The Final Thesis (MFE)

Objective: The application of competencies acquired during the program

3. Project Management: especially during the MFE phase...

Country of origin of I²FA students since 2001



- 249 I²FA students
- 29 currently in training

- Asia
China (8), Indonesia (1), Lebanon (1), Japan (1), India (4)
- Africa
Algeria (17), Egypt (3), Morocco (3), South Africa (9), Ethiopia (1), Zambia (3), Botswana (1)
- Western Europe
Spain (7), Ireland (3), Portugal (2), Sweden (1)
- Central & Eastern Europe
Poland (21), Czech Republic (10), Hungary (6), Croatia (6), Romania (4), Bosnia (3), Serbia (3), Turkey (8), Bulgaria (1), Macedonia (1), Slovakia (1), Slovenia (3)
- CIS
Russia (34), Ukraine (26), Kazakhstan (20)
- Americas
USA (10), Guatemala (2), Brasil (13), Colombia (3), Honduras (1), Mexico (3), Canada (4)

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Some Key Dates/Figures

15th September, 1998: The « Commission du Titre d’Ingénieur » (the French body that verifies the quality of schools offering the Master of Science in Engineering) authorizes ESA to deliver the « Ingénieur » degree by apprenticeship

July 1999: First class of French “Ingénieur” apprentices begin training

January 2001: Maxime Petrov, first international “ingénieur” by apprenticeship begins his training for Bongrain

In 18 years, we have trained apprentices of 35 different nationalities for 30 French companies

2001-2021 => 249 I²FA graduates and 29 currently in training

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