

TUNISIA HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM

The information presented below covers only aspects directly relevant to purposes of the Diploma Supplement.

1 Types of Programs and Degrees Awarded

In accordance with Bologna process standards, the actual higher education system in Tunisia issues three diplomas: Bachelor's Degree, Master's Degree and Doctoral Degree. The Bachelor's degree requires three years of study. The Master's Degree requires two years of study. The Doctoral Degree requires from three up to five years of study. However, there are specific fields of studies that have different schooling years such as the *Engineering and Architectural studies, Medical studies, Dentistry and Pharmaceutical studies and Veterinary Medicine studies.*

Engineering studies last for 5 years (2 years of preparatory cycle + 3 years of engineering cycle). Upon the completion of the degree program, the candidate gets a diploma in engineering, "*Diplôme National d'Ingénieur*". *Architectural studies* last for 6 years (2 years of preparatory cycle + 4 years of specialized studies). Upon the completion of the degree program, the candidate becomes an architect and gets a diploma in architecture "*Diplôme National d'Architecte*".

Medical studies include 6 years of general studies as a common core (2 years as a first cycle + 4 years as a second cycle) and 2 years of internship for a Family Doctor or 4 up to 5 years of internship for a Specialist Doctor. *Dentistry and pharmaceutical studies* last for 6 years. The same applies to *Veterinary medicine studies.*

Bachelor's and Master's study programmes may be studied consecutively, at various higher education institutions, at different types of higher education institutions and with phases of professional work between the first and the second qualification.

2 Types of Institutions and Institutional Status

The Tunisian Higher Education System aims to provide quality in teaching and learning and to ensure the internationalization of Tunisian higher education. Higher Education Institutions are either state or state-recognised institutions. In their operations, including the organisation of studies and the designation and award of degrees, they are both subject to higher education legislation. Most of public and private Higher Education Institutions can issue one or all diplomas, from Bachelor to PhD (postgraduate and undergraduate instructions). However, so far, none of the private higher education institutions has been authorized to deliver the Doctorate.

3 Approval/Accreditation of Programs and Degrees

Tunisia Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research is in charge of all the aspects that concern higher education in Tunisia. It bears the overall responsibility for developing and implementing higher education policies while decisions are taken after consulting the Universities Scientific Councils/Committees.

4 Access to Higher Education and Admission Requirements

Any student who has completed successfully the secondary/high school education and holder of a baccalaureate degree "*Baccalauréat*" or an equivalent foreign diploma has the right to access higher education. Upper secondary education consists of seven pathways that lead to:

- Baccalaureate degree in Science;
- Baccalaureate degree in Arts;
- Baccalaureate degree in Math;
- Baccalaureate degree in Economics and Management;
- Baccalaureate degree in Sports

- Baccalaureate degree in Technological Studies;
- Baccalaureate degree in Computer Science.

Each baccalaureate degree gives access to specific branches of higher education studies. For entry into the first level university degree (Bachelor’s degree), students must have successfully completed the high school/secondary education. For admission into the second level degree (master’s degree), a bachelor’s degree is required. For admission into the third level degree (doctoral degree), either a master’s degree or the national engineering diploma “*Diplôme National d’Ingénieur*” is needed.

5 Academic Year Organization

An academic year lasts 10 months, from September to June, and is subdivided into two semesters. Each semester is followed by an examination session. Exams are retaken in a second exam session for students who are adjourned. The registration and transition from one level to another are annual.

6 Organization and Structure of Higher Education System and Studies

The figure below describes the structure of Tunisian Higher Education System

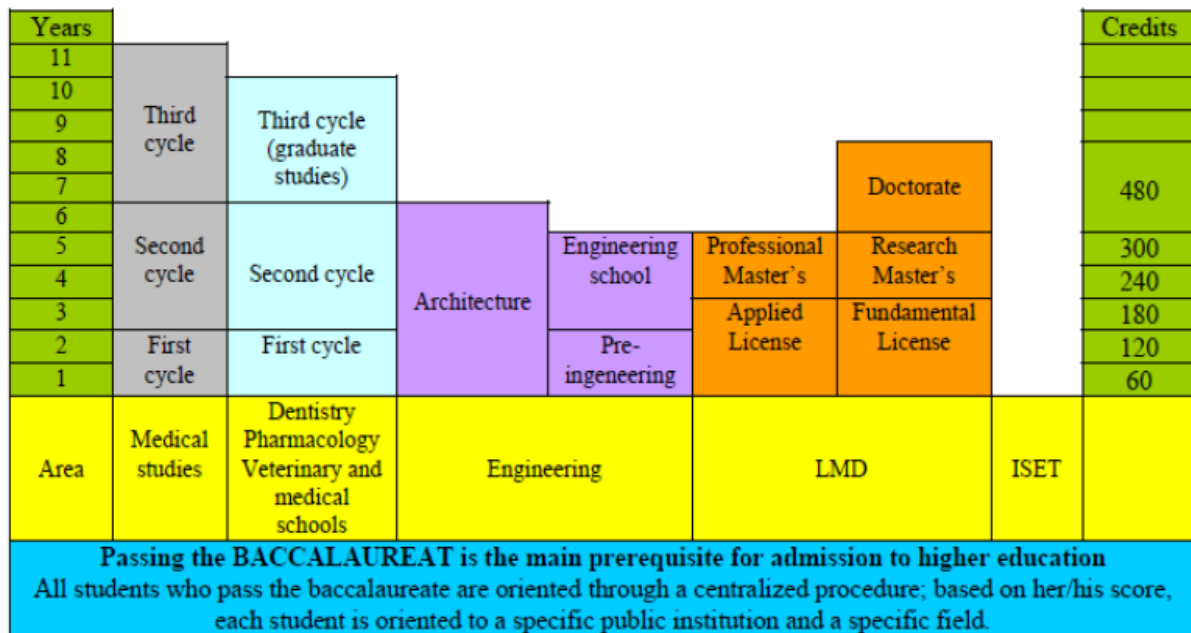


Figure 1: Tunisia Higher Education System, Programmes and Degrees

- **Bachelor’s degree**

Students who have successfully completed high school/secondary education get a bachelor’s degree after the successful completion of three years of study. This training is equivalent to 180 ECTS (over six semesters). The semester includes at least 14 weeks of study and from 5 up to 6 teaching units representing 30 ECTS. Under this level, courses lead to a fundamental or applied national diploma.

- **Master’s degree**

Holders of a bachelor’s degree get a master’s degree after the successful completion of two years of Master studies. The two years are equivalent to 120 ECTS. In Research Master Training, the last semester is devoted to a research project. This degree prepares students to doctorate studies. In Professional Master Training, the last semester is devoted to an internship. This degree prepares students to jobs requiring a specific set of skills.

- **Doctorate**

Holders of a Research master's degree receive their PhD after successfully finishing three years of intensive research in a specific field of expertise (equivalent to 180 ECTS).

▪ ***Engineering Studies***

The engineer's study regime is unified on the basis of five-year studies for all the categories. Engineering students attend two years of preparatory courses (equivalent to 120 ECTS), in the public or private preparatory institutes of scientific and technical studies. Then, they can enroll in the different public or private engineering schools. They have to satisfy three years of engineering studies (equivalent to 180 ECTS) in order to get the National Diploma of Engineering. It is worth mentioning that upon completion of the preparatory cycle, students are awarded the Diploma of Undergraduate University Studies: "*DEUPC: Diplôme des Etudes Universitaires de Premier Cycle*".

Holders of a bachelor's degree can apply to enroll in the first year of engineering studies. Holders of a Master's degree and Students having successfully completed the first year of a master degree program can apply to enroll in the second year of engineering studies.

8.7 National and International Sources of Information

- Tunisia Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research Website: www.mes.tn

- MERIC-Net - Mediterranean Network of National Information Centres on the Recognition of Qualifications: www.meric-net.eu