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Institut national
des langues
et civilisations orientales

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Higher Education and Research

Est. 1795

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Since it was founded in 1795, Inalco has developed unique expertise in contemporary languages and societies and a capacity for in-depth analysis based on field research, while continuing to adapt to a changing world in all its diversity and complexity. The expertise derived from 200 years of experience, sound research methods and our highly specialized scholars has enabled us to develop teaching programs of the highest quality with a strong concern for employability. Our program offering stands out for its breadth, covering more than 100 languages and regions of the world, and disciplines ranging from history, anthropology, sociology and geography to political science and economics, linguistics and literature.

No other institution or country offers such a diversity of courses, such opportunity to expand horizons and such a wealth of knowledge, all in one place.

Inalco is a key player in promoting and preserving the world's languages and cultures. We strive every day to disseminate the knowledge and skills essential for people to understand and engage meaningfully with each other, culturally and socially as well as professionally.

Jean-François HUCHET
President





The richest and most diverse range of language courses in the world

The Institut national des langues et civilisations orientales (Inalco) is the only public higher education and research institution in the world to offer such a vast range of internationally recognized language and cultural studies courses. Languages and cultures are Inalco's core concern and underpin our innovative range of professional concentrations in various fields: language processing and multilingual engineering, international relations, international business, and communication.

Over the centuries, Inalco has become an institution of unrivaled scope, teaching languages that span Central Europe, Africa, Asia, America and Oceania.

In 2019, Inalco completely redesigned its program offering, which now consists of four bachelor's programs and eight master's programs with a professional focus.

Inalco is the only institution in the world to offer a degree program in Arabic and Hebrew.

A hundred languages and cultures

Inalco offers a huge diversity of courses in languages and cultures—over 100 languages and cultures and five professional streams. Students at Inalco benefit from quality, research-led teaching with a strong concern for employability.

Our language and culture courses are taught by world-class academics who are specialists in their fields and by native-speaking tutors of the languages studied at Inalco. From the undergraduate to doctorate levels, our teaching caters to students of all ages, be they fresh out of high school, undergraduate or graduate students, or adult students in continuing education.

Recognized, professionally relevant qualifications

The undergraduate, graduate and continuing education courses offered at Inalco allow students to gain:

- mastery of one or two languages,
- a thorough knowledge of the societies that speak those languages (through their history, literature, culture, etc.),
- professional skills (international relations, international business, translation, etc.),
- a global outlook through the study of themes such as religion, orality, global political issues, linguistics, environment, etc.

Our courses lead to five professional pathways in international business, international relations, communication and intercultural training, language teaching, and multilingual computing.

Bachelor's degrees: courses by language and world region. Option from second year of two foreign languages or one of five professional tracks, plus a professional bachelor's in "Emerging Markets."

Master's degrees: eight master's programs offering regional tracks focused on a research discipline or professional direction (translation, interpretation, international relations, business, etc.)

Doctorate: PhD research at Inalco's Doctoral School.

Inalco diplomas: certificates, introductory diplomas, language and culture diplomas.

The Moniteur du commerce international (MOCI) ranked Inalco's Master's in International Business among the top eight degree programs in international business for 2019.

Training for professionals and companies

Inalco is the place to go for any institution or professional looking to develop their international skills. With Inalco's continuing education courses, you can not only learn or perfect a language, but also gain an understanding of cultural codes, expected behaviors and local issues through several possible formats:

- Evening classes
- Saturday classes
- Intensive individual or group courses

Our network of specialists also provides expertise for companies and institutions: specialized translation and semiological analysis, country dossiers, regional issues, geopolitical environment, macroeconomic perspectives, risk management, etc.

We have worked with:

Banque populaire, GMF assurances, Miele SAS, Cityvision, BBL Invest, Itochu France, Cetexel, and more

Career prospects

International business: import-export, marketing, logistics, finance, corporate consulting

International relations: diplomacy, defense, communications, humanitarian work, intercultural mediation, business intelligence, journalism

Language professions: multilingual engineering, SEO specialist, language processing, translation and interpreting

Culture and tourism: cultural activities, interpreting, transportation companies, cultural heritage conservation

Education and research

Distance learning

VIDEOCONFERENCING

Inalco offers distance courses via video-conferencing and online access to teaching and learning material: Inuktitut (Inuit language), Estonian, and Swahili (African language).

MOOCS

Inalco is a global pioneer in the production of Moocs for learning non-Western languages and offers Moocs in Arabic, Chinese and Czech. The first three courses have proven very popular with nearly 26,000 people registered in more than 130 countries. New Moocs in other languages are under development.



Specialized basic and applied research

Research at Inalco combines area studies and academic disciplines. The intersection of these fields is particularly fruitful in scientific terms and is explored through the study of languages in conjunction with the history, geography, institutions, political, economic and social life of the countries and regions concerned.

Inalco's researchers and research teams work on all the major world regions (Europe, Asia, Africa, the Americas, Oceania), favoring an approach that is at once situated, thematic and (inter) disciplinary.

Inalco has 14 research teams, half of which are run jointly with the research organizations CNRS and IRD.

A unique theoretical and practical approach

Inalco is not just a recognized language institute; it is a research-intensive institution specialized in the humanities and social sciences. Basic and applied research at Inalco is conducted by 14 multidisciplinary teams and covers a wide range of disciplines: history, anthropology, sociology, geography, political science, economics, linguistics and literature.

At Inalco, researchers employ a distinctive approach that combines four dimensions: in-depth knowledge of the areas concerned, command of the region's languages, an approach by discipline, and field research conducted using local sources (ethnographic observations, interviews, documentation). Thus the study of societies and cultures is carried out on sound theoretical and methodological bases, while giving central epistemological importance to the local language as an indispensable medium for understanding a culture. This approach to cultures and societies, based on a decentered view of its research subjects, is what ensures the dynamism, relevance and specificity of Inalco's research in the field of area studies, nationally and internationally.

In a world that is increasingly difficult to decipher, this specificity produces essential keys to understanding global and local, national and international issues and interactions.



Les Presses de l'Inalco

Les Presses de l'Inalco publishes scholarly books and journals that combine area studies and disciplinary fields. Publications are organized into collections by geographic area and series corresponding to disciplinary groupings. Les Presses de l'Inalco enjoys full academic and editorial independence.

The hallmark of research at Inalco: four interwoven dimensions

- in-depth knowledge of the areas studied
- command of the language
- field research using local sources
- a discipline-based theoretical approach: history, anthropology, sociology, geography, economics, political science, literature, and linguistics

Inalco research centers

Inalco brings to bear its unique perspective through its 14 research centers and a research policy that places a strong emphasis on academic collaboration with its national and international partners. As well as being home to renowned research teams working at the junction between the social science disciplines and area studies, Inalco supervises with CNRS and IRD all the mixed research units in areal linguistics in Paris.



235
tenured faculty



300
PhD students



14
research
units



+ 250
academic events
a year

An organization to facilitate research

The research teams and doctoral school are housed in a historic townhouse dedicated entirely to research. Our scholars have access to a full range of support functions: assistance in preparing research proposals and grant applications, internal funding, publication support, and looking for partnerships and funding. We ensure our research teams have the means to organize academic events to promote their work. As such, Inalco is able to offer a rich program of events with more than 250 symposia, workshops and lectures held each year.

Unique expertise recognized in business and institutional circles

Whether in the fields of specialized language training, development and humanitarian aid, international business, international relations, global and intercultural communication, or automatic language processing, Inalco conducts research projects with a societal impact in collaboration with public institutions, governmental and non-governmental organizations, and companies that care about cultural diversity.



Inalco in France and around the world

An international institution

With over a hundred languages and cultures taught, students and faculty of more than 120 nationalities, and research projects in over a hundred countries, Inalco's global outlook is unmistakable. We are constantly developing cooperation with foreign universities, which involves both maintaining and enriching a network of contacts on a global scale and institutionalizing relations with our partners.

Thanks to over 200 partnership agreements, Inalco conducts research projects in over one hundred countries and offers joint programs with foreign universities.

Inalco students and the students of our international partners can take advantage of an immersion experience to complement their studies.



+ 120

nationalities on our campus



+ 250

partner universities
all around the world



150

exchange students choosing
INALCO each year

Inalco Langues O' Foundation

Inalco has set up a foundation to promote the values of excellence, humanism and the dissemination of cultures that it has upheld for several centuries, and to finance the teaching and research of tomorrow.

The Foundation's work in support of Inalco's missions—education, research, and advancing knowledge and skills in a globalized world—takes various forms:

- Establishing teaching and research chairs on innovative themes
- Supporting excellence and encouraging student mobility (international mobility grants)
- Enabling refugee students to undertake a degree program (Inalc'ER)
- Renovating our historic building (rue de Lille)
- Developing language teaching at Inalco and remotely

The Foundation is authorized to receive donations and legacy gifts and offers a tax deduction to individuals and companies.

Inalco Alumni

Inalco Alumni is the official network of Inalco students and alumni. Its aim is to maintain a dynamic community that promotes career development, solidarity and mutual aid among its members. Through the alumni.inalco.fr platform, members can access the alumni directory and a careers space, and contribute to group discussions on their specialization. The network regularly holds events to highlight the careers of alumni and encourage meetings among alumni and between alumni and students (conferences, afterwork socials, mentoring program, etc.).

Inalco, a meeting place for the world's cultures

An authority in teaching and research on today's languages and cultures, Inalco also offers a quality program of cultural and scientific events.

Our community organizes more than 400 cultural and scientific events per year that highlight the languages and cultures taught at Inalco. This rich program of events offers a unique perspective on the world in all its diversity and complexity. It is part of what makes Inalco a meeting place for the world's cultures, a hub for cultural diversity.



Key dates

1795

The Ecole spéciale des langues orientales (special school for oriental languages) is founded

1914

The school becomes affectionately known as Langues O'

1971

The school is renamed the National Institute for Oriental Languages and Cultures or Inalco (Institut national des langues et civilisations orientales)

1985

Inalco is recognized as a *grand établissement*, the category defining France's most prestigious research and higher education institutions.

2010

Inalco becomes a founding member of Sorbonne Paris Cité

2011

Inalco centralizes all its courses under one roof at 65 rue des Grands Moulins in the 13th arrondissement of Paris

2019 - 2020

The historic site on rue de Lille (7th arrondissement of Paris) is being entirely renovated. It will reopen in early 2020

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Notable Inalco alumni include:

LORÀNT DEUTSCH

(Actor/Hungarian)

JEAN-LUC DOMENACH

(Sinologist, political scientist/Chinese)

SYBILLE DUBOIS FONTAINE TURNER

(President of the France-China Committee/Chinese)

ISABELLE HUPPERT

(Actor/Russian)

CLAUDE HAGEGE

(Linguist/Hebrew, Chinese, Russian)

JACQUES LACAN

(Psychoanalyst/Chinese)

HERVÉ LADSOU

(Diplomat, French foreign ministry/Chinese, Malay-Indonesian)

JEAN-DAVID LEVITTE

(Diplomatic advisor/Chinese, Indonesian)

THÉODORE MONOD

(Naturalist/Arabic)

KEN MOROI

(CEO of URANKEN Japan/Japanese)

MARC RAYNAUD

(Executive committee member, BNP PARIBAS INVESTMENT PARTNERS/Russian)

ANDRÉ SANTINI

(Deputy and mayor, former Minister/Japanese and Korean)

SVETLANA TENAUD

(Director Sisley Russia/Russian)

ROGER TRAN

(General manager CHINA, CASINO Group/China)



Founded in 1795, the Institut national des langues et civilisations orientales (Inalco) is the only public higher education and research institution in the world to offer such a vast range of internationally recognized language and cultural studies courses. From diplomas to doctoral degrees, Inalco's courses are characterized by their great diversity with more than 100 languages and cultures taught and several professional concentrations. Students at Inalco benefit from quality, research-led teaching with a strong concern for employability.

Inalco teaches and conducts research on the languages of Central and Eastern Europe, Middle East, Asia, Oceania, Africa and the indigenous peoples of the Americas, and on the geography, history, institutions, and political, economic and social life of the countries concerned.

Inalco has 14 research teams, half of which are run jointly with the research organizations CNRS and IRD. Their spheres of interest correspond to the different world regions or disciplines in the humanities and social sciences (language sciences, literature, social sciences).