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The Higher School of the Horse and Horse
Riding (École supérieure du cheval et de l'équitation - ESCE)

**2016 Catalogue of Training
Courses Available For
Foreign Students**





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Welcome to ... the Higher School of the Horse and Horse Riding!

In France, horse riding is a hobby, a sport, a profession and an art. It is France's third national sport and the country has over one million horses. The diversity of uses (racing, sports, leisure, and work) and the quality of its production (the Selle Français breed is one of the best studbooks for sport horses, best endurance horses, etc.) make it one of the leading equine countries in the world.

Placed under the joint supervision of the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry for Youth and Sports, the IFCE is a public institution in charge of supporting the development of the horse industry in France. It has a Higher School of the Horse and Horse Riding (École supérieure du cheval et de l'équitation - ESCE) located on two prestigious sites.

The ESCE was built around the Cadre Noir of Saumur on the Saumur site in the Pays de Loire region. It provides initial and advanced training for French and foreign students, teachers and competition riders. The school benefits from the experience of Cadre Noir instructors who perpetuate equitation in the French tradition, which was incorporated into UNESCO's List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in 2011.



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In Normandy, France's archetypal breeding region where many champions have been born, French and foreign students come for initial or vocational training at the Higher School of the Horse and Horse Riding on the estate of the Haras National du Pin. They benefit from the expertise of the best teachers in driving, riding and training young sport horses as well as research professors in breeding and farming.



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ESCE courses - Le Pin site

The ESCE - Le Pin site is a school, a research institute and an information centre.

The ESCE - Le Pin site in a few figures:

- 14 trainers
- 100 school horses (13 stallions, 60 mares, 20 driving horses, etc.)
- facilities:
 - 2 indoor schools, sand and grass outdoor arenas, a cross country course, lunging rings, walkers, 50 km of paths and tracks
 - 1 media library devoted to horses
 - 1 covering centre, 2 ultrasound rooms, 6 insemination stalls, 2 fresh and frozen sperm straw preparation laboratories, 1 embryo transplantation laboratory



Aerial view of the Haras du Pin

The ESCE – Le Pin site offers short courses on various topics: reproduction, breeding, riding and driving. These courses help acquire basic knowledge or improve skills in the chosen discipline. The training programmes listed below can be adapted to the specific needs and level of students. Specific training courses can be offered on request.

Theme	Training course price (€/day)*	Public concerned	Length (best time of year)
Breeding techniques	350	Breeders	5 days (all year)
Breeding	400	Veterinary surgeons, stud farm managers and inseminators	5 days (February to October)
Advanced training in riding techniques (dressage, jumping, eventing)	240-350**	Teachers and competition riders	5 days (all year)
Advanced training in horse driving techniques (single horse or pair hitch)	400	Teachers and competition riders	5 days (all year)
Introduction to saddlery	400	Open to the public, students,	5 days (all year)
Initiation	300	Students	14 days (all year)

* Approximate price which does not include the cost of transport to Le Pin, accommodation and meals on-site, and livery for any horses students might bring with them.

** Price according to the number of students.



Breeding

Objective: improving artificial insemination techniques for fresh, chilled, or frozen semen and embryo transfers.

Pre-requisites for students: veterinary training, basic knowledge in horse anatomy, physiology and handling

Specific course feature: theoretical and practical instruction

Maximum number of students: 5

Best time of year: February to October

Price: €400/day of training (approximate price)

Content:

Sires (5 days):

- reproductive anatomy and physiology of the stallion
- different types of covering
- fertility calculation
- prevention of venereal diseases
- heat detection, teaser selection, taking mares to the tease rail
- how to behave with a sire
- preparing sires for covering
- safe live covering
- semen collection and quality control
- semen analysis
- preparation of insemination straws of fresh, chilled, or frozen semen
- maintenance of laboratories and laboratory equipment



Mares (5 days):

- reproductive anatomy and physiology of the mare
- preparing mares for the covering season
- heat detection and management
- preparing mares for covering
- managing mares during live covering
- pregnant mares
- different assisted reproduction techniques
- preparing mares for artificial insemination
- insemination with fresh, chilled or frozen sperm
- Collection, handling and implantation of embryos
- performing or demonstration of an ultrasound (depending on the student's level)



Tour option: 1 day:

- Tour of a stud farm





Breeding techniques

Pre-requisites for students:

basic knowledge of horse anatomy, physiology, and handling

Specific feature: theoretical and practical instruction

Maximum number of students: 5

Price: €350/day (approximate price)

Content:

Nutrition:

- anatomy of the digestive system of the horse and practical consequences
- knowledge of the various types of feed and assessment of their quality
- special needs (growing young horses, brood mares, sires, working horses)
- behaviour of horses alone and in groups, concept of food competition
- verification, calculation and comparison of rations
- financial approach: comparison of ration costs and means for optimisation
- assessment of the body condition of a horse, estimation of body weight
- main diseases related to diet (what to do in case of colic, auscultation, prevention of parasitism, coprology, etc.)
- pasture management and optimisation

Management of the mare, pregnancy, and foaling:

- anatomy and physiology of the pregnant mare
- care and monitoring of mares in the last stages of pregnancy
- anticipation, preparation and monitoring of foaling
- detection of problems and appropriate action
- care for the mother and new born foal, management of the transfer of immunity
- pre and post-natal stages of growth and development of the foal
- behavioural, health and physiological monitoring of the foal at birth
- main neo-natal diseases and ailments: foal diarrhoea,
- respiratory diseases, diseases of the musculoskeletal system,
- management of a mare with foal at foot,
- foals before weaning and weaning
- orphan foals



Option:

- Tour of a local stud farm (e.g. stud farm specialising in adoption)
- Teeth and prevention of dental problems; observation of dental care
- Tour of a farm with hay drying in a barn



Advanced training in riding techniques (Dressage, show jumping and eventing)

Objective: improving riding techniques (with the aim of competing in dressage, show jumping or eventing)

Pre-requisites for students: advanced level in riding (equivalent to French Galop 7)

Maximum number of students: 8

Horses: personal horses (or school horses if need be)

Price: €240-€350/day (approximate price)

Content:

- Work methodology
- evaluation of the level of participants and their horses using a simulator
- work sessions
- advanced training in show jumping: gymnastics for the horse, work over ground rails and single jumps, jumping a course, walking the course, warm up, mental preparation
- advanced training in dressage: lead changes and work on two tracks
- debriefing using a video of sessions
- choice of bits and training aids
- lunging and long rein work
- temporary tack/farriery repair solutions
- introduction to the Blondeau method: loading and unloading a horse easily
- competition regulations and safety rules (dressage, show jumping, eventing)
- development of a personalised work programme





Advanced training in driving techniques

Objective: improving driving techniques in a single horse or pair hitch (with the aim of competing in dressage, cone or marathon driving trials)

Pre-requisites for students: advanced level in driving

Maximum number of students: 2

Horses: personal horses (school horses if need be)

Price: €400/day (approximate price)

Content:

- evaluation of the technical level of participants and the level of dressage of their horses
- work methodology
- identification of key points to improve
- work on the flat for driving
- work using long reins
- carriage work: dressage, cones and marathon
- walking a cone or marathon course
- visit to the Saumur site and work using long reins with a Cadre Noir instructor
- personal achievement assessment
- development of a personalised work programme



*Renaud Vinck and Don Camillo
2014 World Single Driving Championships silver
medallist*

Introduction to saddlery

Objective: learning and mastering basic saddlery techniques and making simple items of tack

Pre-requisites for students: beginner level

Maximum number of students: 10

Price: €400/day (approximate price)

Content:

Theoretical and practical instruction

Leather and materials

- use of different types of leather, evaluation of leather quality
- different saddles and items of tack
- saddles, bridles, girths and training aids
- machines and tools
- pattern making

Leather working techniques

- cutting and preparing leather
- assembly, finishing and stitching techniques
- make simple items of tack





Initiation

Objectives: improving riding techniques, learning about work on foot and driving and acquiring basic knowledge in breeding techniques

Pre-requisites for students: advanced level in riding (at least equivalent to French Galop 5)

Maximum number of students: 12

Horses: school horses

Price: €300/day (approximate price)

Content:

Riding lessons: 10 - 13 lessons

- evaluation of the technical level of participants using a mechanical horse
- classical riding lessons
- lunging and use of long reins
- vaulting
- liberty work
- driving

Discovery tours (programme tailored to the group of students)

- Esce – Le Pin site
- Haras National du Pin:
- Normandy stud farms
- Mont Saint-Michel Bay
- races and/or equestrian events depending on the date
- a veterinary clinic
- horse institutions in Caen
- Deauville: the race course, the Arqana Auction House, the Pôle Européen du Cheval

Theoretical instruction and demonstrations

- horse nutrition and digestion
- observation and analysis of behaviour of horses alone and in groups, concept of food competition
- assessment of the body condition of a horse, estimation of body weight
- grooming
- knowledge of the main diseases and prevention of digestive parasites
- colic: actions to take
- practical work: auscultation of a horse, dressing a wound
- mucking out
- temporary farriery repair solutions
- demonstration of breaking in a horse
- loading and unloading a horse

Personal achievement assessment





ESCE courses - Saumur site

The ECE - Saumur site provides training for careers in the horse industry and high-level sport. These courses are provided by **Cadre Noir instructors**.

The ESCE Saumur site in a few figures:

- 35 teachers and instructors
- 300 horses
- Facilities:
 - 300 hectares of land and 50 km of landscaped trails
 - 4 large stables with 500 boxes
 - 7 indoor schools and 18 Olympic-sized outdoor arenas
 - 4 walkers and 3 lunging rings
 - 1 lecture theatre
 - 1 media library
 - 1 sports medicine centre
 - 1 veterinary clinic



Courses provided by the Saumur site are available in the form of long courses and short technical courses (July-August) and can also be provided abroad.

Course	Training course price*	Public concerned	Length and time of year
Long sports training course	€8,000 for ten months	Elite athletes and coaches	10 months (October to July)
Tailor-made technical courses	€240-€350/day**	Elite rider/coach looking to improve their riding or teaching techniques	1-8 weeks (July - August)
Course taught by an instructor outside of France	€1,000/day		On request (all year)

* Approximate price which does not include the cost of transport, accommodation and meals on-site, and livery for any horses students might bring with them.

** Variable rate based on number of students and technical level.



Long sports training course (ten months)

Objective: obtaining a teaching or coaching qualification (Vocational Training Certificate or State Diploma) while competing in French pro 2 and pro 1 level events.

Diploma: this course leads to the award of a French diploma. The student should check whether an equivalence between it and a diploma awarded in their country exists with the IGEQ (International Group for Equestrian Qualifications).

Pre-requisites: riders with sports results (dressage: French amateur 2 level: lead changes and half-pirouettes; show jumping or eventing: FEI International "Junior individual class" level, **fluent French**).

Maximum number of students: 9

Time of year: October to July

Horses: personal horses (1 or 2 horses per student)

Price: €8,000 (approximate price)

Content:

Vocational training programme (teaching):

Validation of the following skills:

- Supervision and management of leisure, initiation, discovery activities, etc.
- Organisation of equestrian activities
- Participation in running the structure
- Training and developing the horses
- Care and maintenance of equipment and facilities

State Diploma training programme (coaching):

Validation of the following skills:

- Development of a sports training programme
- Coordinating the implementation of a sports training programme
- Implementation of a sports training approach in the discipline
- Safe supervision of the discipline
- Supervising a high-level rider
- Assisting a rider to excel in a discipline (dressage, show jumping, eventing), physical preparation, knowledge transfer
- Theoretical classes about teaching, coaching, communication and knowing your public
- Hippology classes (general knowledge on horses, care, behaviour, anatomy, etc.)
- Management, accounting, communication classes, etc.





Tailor-made technical courses

Technical courses meet a request for technical or teaching development. They are designed for groups of riders or teachers who all speak the same language, have the same level, and have the same sports or teaching objectives.

Objective: improving teaching and/or riding techniques in sporting disciplines (dressage, show jumping, eventing, etc.)

Pre-requisites for students: advanced level in riding, professional riders and/or coaches and/or teachers.

Number of students: group of between 3 and 10 people at the most

Best time of year: mainly in July-August.

Horses: school horses

Price: €240-€350/day

Content:

The technical and/or teaching skills listed below are worked on in detail for each topic. They can be studied over the course of one or more weeks as required. Each topic can be studied in more detail or be combined with other topics as desired.

Riding and teaching techniques

- Improving teaching and/or riding techniques in dressage, show jumping, or eventing
- Improving teaching and/or riding techniques with seat exercises in dressage or over jumps
- Training a horse and organising seat exercises (lunge, vaulting, workshops)
- Training a horse and organising horseball sessions

Coaching techniques

- Improving dressage, show jumping, or eventing coaching (including with disabled people)
- Designing and implementing a training programme for your students
- Educating and training a young horse in a discipline
- Improving driving coaching techniques

Teaching techniques

- Improving the development of training and organisation techniques
- Improving pedagogical communication
- Developing a training programme
- Succeeding in your training, tutoring, or evaluation mission
- Acquiring the methods and tools to successfully implement a federal plan
- Improving teaching skills in driving and draught power

Diversification of practices

- Learning how to combine work, health, and human performance in riding
- Improving work on foot, lunging and long rein techniques
- Discovering Equitation in the French Tradition
- Improving your relationship with the horse to limit risks

Example of a one week show jumping and eventing programme

(free time on Sunday)

- 3 riding sessions per day
- 3 physical and mental preparation sessions
- 2 video analysis sessions





ESCE training provided abroad

The IFCE can assign experts to conduct an audit or appraisal or provide advice or project support abroad. An instructor from the Saumur site or a trainer from the Le Pin site can also provide training abroad.

Course	Training price*	Public
Provision of expertise on request	€500**	Any request
Advanced training in reproduction, breeding techniques, and horse driving	€1,000**	Students, breeders, stud farm managers, inseminators, drivers
Advanced training with a riding instructor	€1,000**	Experienced rider

** Excluding the trainer's travel and accommodation expenses

Expertise provided abroad on request:

Objectives: developing the horse industry outside of France

Price: €500/day of expertise provided (approximate price)

Skills provided:

- organisation and development of a horse industry
- equestrian facility engineering (creation of riding centre, racetracks, breeding centre, etc.)
- health traceability (identification, epidemiological surveillance, information systems)
- breeding programmes (evaluation of horses, production of phenotypic indicators and genetic indicators, development of a breeding plan, maintenance of studbooks)
- development of breeding or a breed
- implementation of a training programme.



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Training provided abroad

Advanced training in breeding techniques

Objective: improving the management of sires and rearing young stock

Pre-requisites: veterinary surgeons, stud farm inseminators and managers
Fluent in French, English, or German (or accompanied by an interpreter).

Number of students: group of between 3 and 10 people at the most

Length: as requested

Best time of year: all year

Content: The course is designed according to the needs expressed and the length requested.

Advanced training in driving or riding

Objective: improving the teaching of and participation in driving or riding (dressage, jumping, eventing)

Pre-requisites: advanced level, professional riders, coaches, teachers. Fluent in French, English, or German (or accompanied by an interpreter).

Number of students: group of between 3 and 10 people at the most

Length: as requested

Best time of year: all year

Content: The course is designed according to the needs expressed and the length requested.

Practical information

Request for information

Contact: international@ifce.fr

Pre-requisites

- Be at least eighteen years old (or accompanied by a legally responsible adult)
- Have a visa valid for the entire stay in France
- Have health insurance cover and third party liability insurance cover
- Have complementary health insurance cover and an equestrian licence issued by your federation

At least two weeks before the start of the training course you must:

- email the information sheet to: esce@ifce.fr
- pay by bank transfer.

Accommodation and meals

ESCE- Le Pin site

Accommodation:

Possibility of renting a house nearby (10 people: €1,500 / week)

Accommodation available on-site (single room for €30/day)

Meals:

Full board available for €25 /day including tax

Fully equipped kitchen available on-site

ESCE- Saumur site

Accommodation:

Village Hôtelier apartments available for rent in Saumur

Find out more: <http://www.villagehotelier.com/tarifs/>

Meals:

Lunch available for €12.50 / meal including tax

Fully equipped kitchen available on-site





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Access - Address

ESCE- Le Pin site:

Address:

Les écuries du bois, 61310 Le Pin-au-Haras, France

- Arriving by plane

- Departure from Roissy Charles de Gaulle (RCG) Airport: go to Roissy Charles de Gaulle's TGV station and take the train to Argentan or Surdon.
- Departure from Orly Airport: go to Montparnasse station and take the train to Argentan or Surdon.
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- Arriving by train: take the Paris underground to Montparnasse station and take the train to either Argentan or Surdon.

The ESCE – Le Pin site is about 15 minutes away from both Argentan and Surdon stations.

ESCE- Saumur site:

Address:

Terrefort- 49411 - Saint Hilaire Saint Florent, France

The ESCE - Saumur site is about 10-15 minutes away from Saumur station.

Bus from the station to the ESCE: take line 01 at the bus stop at the SNCF station and get off in the town centre (town-centre stop).