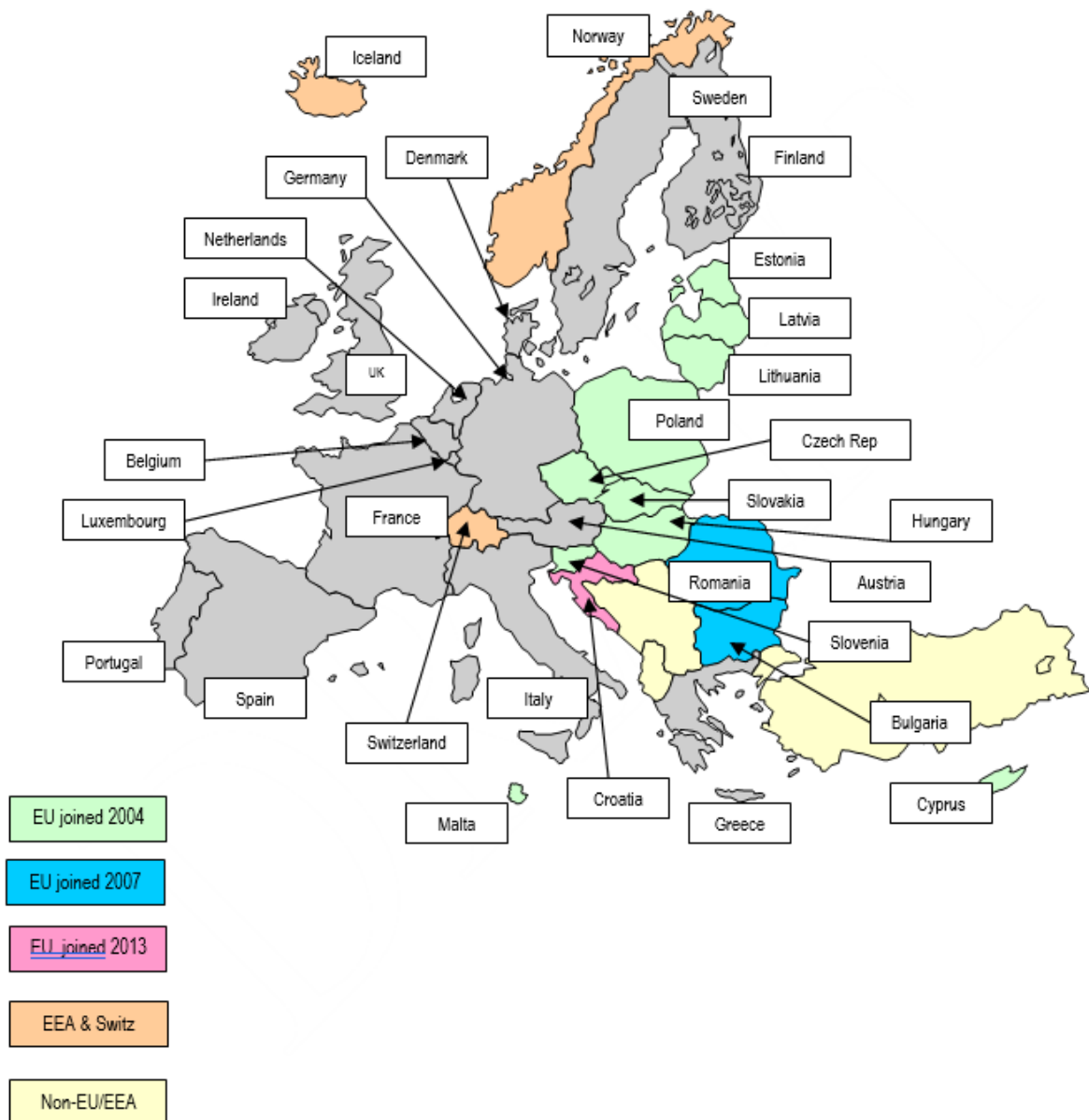


Council of European Dentists

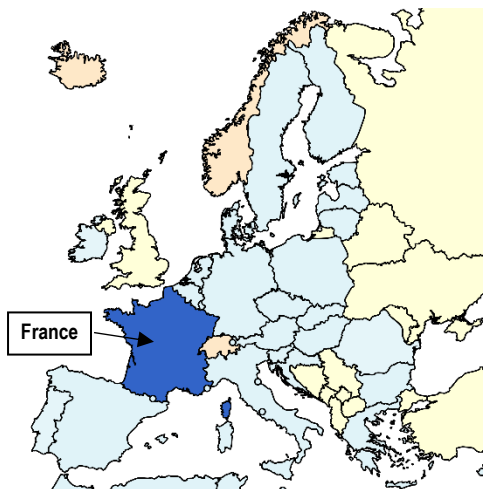
MANUAL OF DENTAL PRACTICE 2026

France





France



Date of last revision: 02 February 2026

In the EU/EEA since	1957
Population (2024)	68 401 997
GDP PPP per capita (2023)	39 113€
Currency	Euro € (EUR)
Official language	French

The French healthcare system is mostly centralised, with some planning and financial responsibility transferred to regional health agencies (ARS). France is based on a mixed social insurance system, established by law and divided into 6 major branches. All residents benefit from statutory health insurance and 95% have complementary health insurance. 83% of oral healthcare is provided by self-employed dentists (in 2023). Almost all dentists practise within an agreement called the *Convention*.

Number of dentists (active)	38 062
(Active) dentist to population ratio (per 100 000 inhabitants)	55.6
Members of CDF	12 000
Members of ADF	25 000

Specialities recognised in France include orthodontics, oral surgery, oral and maxillo-facial surgery and oral medicine. Dental chairside assistants and dental technicians are recognised in France. Continuing education has been mandatory since 2004.

Government and healthcare in France

France is a democratic republic with a President, elected by universal suffrage. There is a bicameral Parliament, consisting of the Senate or Sénat (348 seats - members are indirectly elected by an electoral college to serve nine-year terms) and the National Assembly or Assemblée Nationale (577 seats - members are elected by popular vote under a single-member majoritarian system to serve five-year terms). There is a third chamber, *le Conseil Economique, Social et Environnemental*, the Economic, Social and Environmental Council, with an advisory function, composed of association representatives and of the professional world.

Although the organisation of government is centralised, two political and administrative structures exist below the national level, with 18 regions and 101 departments (including 13 metropolitan regions and 5 overseas departments: French Guyana, Martinique, Guadeloupe, Reunion, Mayotte).

Even though the French system exhibits strong liberal traditions, salaried professionals account for a growing share of practitioners, with 15.3% of employed dental practitioners outside the hospital sector in 2023 (according to the DREES).

The Overseas Territories comprised of French Polynesia, Wallis and Futuna, and the French Southern and Antarctic Lands are fully part of the French Republic. However, territorial governments are totally independent in the field of health.

The social insurance system was established by law in 1945 and is, since 2020, divided into six major branches under the General Scheme: Sickness Funds (*Assurance Maladie*, distinguished between a sickness branch and an occupational risk branch), Pension (*Assurance Retraite*), Family (*Allocations Familiales*), Unemployment (*Assurance Chômage*) and Autonomy (CNAF).

Each of these is managed by Councils independent of the state. They are made up of employers and employees' representatives, mainly funded through taxes and social

contributions. The *Caisse d'Assurance Maladie*, the statutory health insurance of the sickness branch, is administered by a board with an elected president and a government-appointed director. Social security as a "private law association", is under the control of the state.

		Year	Source
% GDP spent on all healthcare	11.6	2023	OECD
% of this spent by government	85	2021	OECD
% GDP spent on dental care	0.6	2023	OECD
% of out-of-pocket expenditure on total dental care costs	7	2021	OECD

The Assurance Maladie is divided into three major schemes (*Caisses*), to which individuals automatically affiliated to one of the them: the CNAM (*Caisse nationale de l'assurance maladie*) as General Scheme regrouping recently both salaried and independent professionals (88% of the total population); the MSA (*Mutualité Sociale Agricole*) for agricultural workers (5%); and small schemes for special regimes (national railway company, civil servants, notaries: 7%). The *Assurance Maladie* itself is funded by personal contributions and income tax.

The statutory health insurance covers all legal residents in France and is based on universal health coverage. In 2023, 95% benefited from a complementary health insurance (private health insurance), covering some co-payments. Co-payments (*tiers-payant*) are common for almost all health services under the SHI.

A recent healthcare reform in 2020 improved coverage of basic dental care including of dental prosthetics under the "100% Santé" reform.

Education, Training and Registration

Undergraduate Education and Training

Access to dental studies is open after the Baccalauréat and the end of secondary school.

Two pathways are currently available for accessing dental studies: the *Parcours Spécifique Accès Santé (PASS)*, a first year carried out in a Faculty of Health. If the student passes the first year of study, he may apply to dental school or continue with university studies; or the *Licence avec une option Accès Santé (LAS)*, a first university year with an optional course in health. If the student passes his first year, he may apply to dental school or can alternatively pursue another university degree.

In both cases, a student having failed the first year is not entitled to pursue either of his studies. The number of available places in dental faculties is determined each year by the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health. In 2023-2024, the number was fixed at 7 265 students (previously *numerus apertus*). Since a reform in June 2025, the responsibility for the allocation of the number of places has however been progressively transferred to regional health agencies (ARS).

The duration of dental studies is 6 years and is divided into 3 cycles. A first degree, *Diplôme de Formation Générale en Sciences Odontologiques (DFGSO)*, is delivered after 3 years of study. A second degree, *Diplôme de Formation Approfondie en Sciences Odontologiques (DFASO)*, is then delivered after 2 years of study. The third cycle is principally a "short" cycle of 1 year and validated by the defense of a thesis. This third cycle can be extended for a specialisation in orthodontics, oral surgery or oral medicine (*internat*), with a limited number of spaces available through state examination.

Year of data	2024
Number of schools	21
Student intake	7 265
Number of graduates a year	7 265
Gender balance (% of female students)	60-70%
Duration of studies	6

The dental schools, or *Unité de Formation et de Recherche (UFR)* are all state funded.

The responsibility for quality assurance in the faculties is by the Ministry of Education, the University President and the Dean of the Faculty.

Registration

One of the functions of the Council of the Order (*Ordre National des Chirurgiens Dentistes*) is to administer the registration of dental surgeons. It ensures that the dental surgeon has a legally required diploma. It also regulates the profession and controls processes of de-registration for disciplinary or health reasons.

The list of dental surgeons entitled to practice is held primarily by Departmental Dental Councils, but a national list is also available. The Council has a consultative role in the monitoring of educational standards in universities.

Practitioners have to pay an annual fee to remain on the register.

L'Ordre National has also administrative, regulatory and jurisdictional competences, and endorses the role of checking conditions of registration of foreign dentists (automatic recognition) including appropriate diploma and French language ability.

Cost of registration	€440 (annual membership fee)
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Language requirements

The president of the departmental section of the "Ordre" examines the language skills of the candidate.

Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

Continuing Professional Development is mandatory in France, with an obligation to provide proof of completion of CPD courses every two years to the respective dental council, led by the national agency in charge of CPD, *l'Agence Nationale du Développement Professionnel Continu (ANDPC)*. 14 hours of CPD are covered free of charge by the ANDPC. The ethical code gives the moral duty to every practitioner to undertake continuing education during his professional life.

CPD, or "*Développement Professionnel Continu*" (different from the EU CPD), is divided into 3 schemes with an obligation to carry out training in at least two, between continuing education, evaluation of professional practice (*EPP*) and risk management (*GDR*). It is controlled by the Ministry of health and organised by different dental councils or associations (including *l'Association Dentaire Française, ADF*).

Specialist Training Requirements

Since 2011, France has recognised three dental specialties: orthodontics, oral surgery, oral medicine and OMFS.

– **Orthodontics:** 3 years training, part-time in university clinics. A national specialist diploma is then awarded: "*diplôme d'études spécialisées d'orthopédie dento-faciale*". The professional title is: "*chirurgien-dentiste spécialiste qualifié en orthopédie dento-faciale*". 52 incoming students accepted in 2023.

– **Oral Surgery:** 4 years training, part-time in university clinics. A national specialist diploma is awarded: "*diplôme d'études spécialisées en chirurgie orale*". The professional title is: "*chirurgien-dentiste spécialiste qualifié en chirurgie orale*". 24 incoming students accepted in 2023.

– **Oral Medicine:** 3 years training, part-time in university clinics. A national specialist diploma is awarded: "*diplôme d'études spécialisées en médecine bucco-dentaire*". The professional title is: "*chirurgien-dentiste spécialiste qualifié en médecine bucco-dentaire*". 44 incoming students accepted in 2023.

Workforce

Dentists

The number of practising dental surgeons has seen a significant increase since 2010, with an increase in the number of places opened for dental students in dental faculties with the opening of 8 new faculties in 2022, as well as a growing registration of dental surgeons graduated from both EU and third countries. The average age of dental surgeons is on the decline, and the share of female dental surgeons is consistently increasing.

Year of data	2025
Total Registered (2025)	48 545
In active practice (2025)	38 062
Self-employed	38 062
Employed dentists	8 584
Dentist to population ratio* (2025)	55.6
Percentage female	50.3%
Qualified overseas	14%
*Active dentists only per 100 000 inhabitants	

It was reported by the CDF that an unknown and marginal number of salaried dentists were unemployed in 2025.

Movement of dentists across borders

In 2023, more than half of new applicants for registration had obtained their diploma outside of France. There was a total of 2 717 new registrations that year, with 1 329 holding diplomas from French dental faculties, 1 351 from another EU country (with the highest number of graduates from Spain, Portugal and Romania), and 37 from third countries.

Year of data	2023
Total of new applicants	2 717
French diplomas	1 329
EU diplomas	1 351
Non-EU/third-country diplomas	37
Total of French nationals*	1 982
*Dental surgeons with French nationality having obtained both French and foreign diplomas	

It is not possible to identify the number of French dentists practising abroad.

Specialists

As stated above, since 2011 there have been four dental specialties recognised in France – orthodontics, oral surgery, oral medicine and oral maxilla-facial surgery.

Most orthodontists work in private practice. There is no referral system in France for access to dental specialists – patients may go directly to them.

Year of data	2025
Oral Surgeons	251
Orthodontists	2 470
Oral Medicine	115

Auxiliaries

In France, dental chairside assistants are officially recognised since 2016. The only recognised auxiliary personnel are dental assistants, including dental help (“aides dentaires”), receptionists and dental technicians.

Year of data	2022
Technicians	NA
Chairside assistants (including “dental help”)	20 000

Dental Chairside Assistants

Dental assistants qualify after 18 months alternative training in dental practice. This training representing 590 hours is mainly governed by the Commission paritaire nationale de l’emploi et de la formation professionnelle, CPNEFP. Dental assistants are registered health professionals within regional health agency (Agence Régionale de Santé, ARS).

They represent 85.1% of all employed auxiliaries in dental practices.

A close future revision in the training of dental assistants is to introduce the possibility of specialisation, with a “level 2” dental chairside assistant. This speciality would be comparable to that of dental hygienists in other countries. This would allow a higher delegation of tasks, with the possibility for level 2 dental assistants to undertake preventative care and scaling.

Dental Help (“Aides Dentaires”)

The distinguished profession of “dental help” exists in France and is closely linked to dental chairside assistants. Dental help carry out similar tasks to dental assistants, including sterilisation of instruments, preparation of the chair and practice before arrival of patients, as well as implementing and ensuring compliance to hygiene measures.

They are however not authorised to carry out chairside assistance or any procedure in interaction with the patient.

Dental help must obtain a professional certificate (Certificat de qualification professionnelle) after 12 months of professional training.

They represent 2.3% of all employed auxiliaries in dental practices.

Dental Technicians

Dental technicians do not need to be registered. They undertake a minimum 3-year training in laboratories and schools. 3 qualifications are available to practice as a dental technical, delivering with three possible professional titles: “technicien en prothèse dentaire”, “technicien spécialisé en prothèse dentaire”, “prothésiste dentaire”. They have no direct contact with patients, working only under the prescription of the dental surgeon.

Most dental surgeons use independent laboratories, as well as some salaried workers. Some practitioners employ technicians directly in their own private laboratories.

Other Useful Information

Main national associations

National dental associations	
Les Chirurgiens-Dentistes de France (CDF) <i>Previously La Confédération Nationale des Syndicats Dentaires (CNSD)</i>	Association Dentaire Française (ADF)
54 rue Ampère 75849 Paris Cedex 17 FRANCE Tel: +33 1 56 79 20 20 Email: contact@lescdf.fr Website: https://lescdf.fr/	22 Avenue de la Grande Armée 75017 PARIS FRANCE Tel: +33 1 58 22 17 10 Email: adf@adf.asso.fr Website: http://www.adf.asso.fr

Competent authorities

Ordre National des Chirurgiens-Dentistes (ONCD) 22 rue Emile Ménier BP 2016 75761 Paris Cedex 16 FRANCE Tel: +33 1 44 34 78 80 Email: courrier@oncd.org Website: https://www.ordre-chirurgiens-dentistes.fr/	Collège des Chirurgiens-Dentistes de la Principauté de Monaco 3 avenue Saint Michel Monte Carlo - MC 98000 Tel: +377 93 25 66 66 Fax: +377 93 15 09 54 Email : fissore@monaco.mc
MACSF, Service Assurance Dentaire (Professionnal Insurance Fund) Groupe MACSF 10 cours du Triangle de l'Arche 92919 LA DEFENSE Tel: +33 1 71 14 32 33 Emergency line: +33 1 71 25 20 25 Website: www.macsf.fr	

Publications

Le CDF-mag
Weekly publication. Editor : Les Chirurgiens-Dentistes de France 54 rue Ampère 75849 Paris Cedex 17 France Tel: +33 1 56 79 20 20 Email: cdmag@lescdf.fr Website : https://lescdf.fr/cdf-mag/

Dental Schools:

Universities offering first-year programmes, prior to entry into dental schools:

The table below shows the number of students accepted into the 2nd year of dental studies. These students are selected from first-year courses led by health faculties or generalist universities and will then integrate one of the 21 dental schools in France.
Therefore, the number of locations below is higher than the total number of schools.

Location	Number of 2 nd year undergraduates (2023-2024)
Université Angers	22
Besancon	34
Bordeaux	80
Brest	31
Caen	32
Clermont Ferrand	57
Corte (Corsica)	6
Creil (Picardie)	50
Dijon	45
Grenoble	17
Lille	90
Limoges	14
Lyon	99
Marseille	72
Montpellier	71
Nancy	NA
Nantes	NA
Nice	44
Paris Sorbonne	13
Paris 7 (Université Paris Cité)	74
Paris Est Créteil (UPEC)	16
Paris Saclay	14
Versailles Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines	13
Poitiers	21
Point-à-Pitre (Guadeloupe) Université des Antilles	14
Reims	40
Rennes	67
Rouen	43
Saint-Denis (La Réunion)	12
Saint-Etienne (Université Jean Monnet)	16
Strasbourg	67
Toulouse (Université Toulouse III Paul Sabatier)	94
Tours	28

Dental schools (21):

Amiens (created in 2023) UFR D'odontologie Université de Picardie Jules Vernes Pôle Campus sud Chemin du Thil, 80025 Amiens Tel: +33 (0) 22 82 77 13 Email: scol-DFGSO@u-picardie.fr Website: https://odontologie.u-picardie.fr/ Number of students (2024-2025): 46	Besançon UFR Sciences médicales et pharmaceutiques Université Franche-Comté 19 Rue Ambroise Paré, 25000 Besançon Tel: +33 (0)3 63 08 23 99 Email: scolarite-odontologie@univ-fcomte.fr Website: http://medecine-pharmacie.univ-fcomte.fr/pages/fr/menu4155/formations/odontologie-18412.html Number of students (2024-2025): 94
Paris Université Paris Cité Faculté Santé UFR Odontologie Tel: +33 1 58 07 67 10 Email studies: scolarite.odonto@u-paris.fr Email CPD: service.fc.odonto@u-paris.fr Website: https://u-paris.fr/odontologie/ Two teaching sites: Site de Garancière : 5, rue Garancière 75001, Paris Tel : +33 1 57 27 87 13 Site de Montrouge : 1 rue Maurice Arnoux 92120 Montrouge Tel : +33 1 58 07 67 00 Number of students (2024-2025): 850	Brest Université de Bretagne Occidentale Faculté d'Odontologie de Brest 22 avenue Camille Desmoulins 29238 Brest Cedex 3 Tel: +33 2 98 01 66 34 Fax: +33 2 98 01 6932 Emails : scolarite.odonto@univ-brest.fr secretariat.odonto@univ-brest.fr Website : https://www.univ-brest.fr/odontologie/fr Number of students (2024-2025): 177
Bordeaux Collège Santé Université Victor Segalen Bordeaux II UFR d'Odontologie 16, cours de la Marne 33082 Bordeaux Cedex Tel: +33 5 57 57 30 01 Fax: +33 5 57 57 30 10 Email: admin.odonto@u-bordeaux2.fr Website: https://sante.u-bordeaux.fr/Composantes/UFR-Sciences-odontologiques Number of students (2024-2025): 500 (This university welcomes overseas French territory students)	Caen (created in 2022) Université de Caen Normandie UFR Santé, Sciences Odontologiques Pôle des formations et de recherche en santé (PFRS) 2 rue des Rochambelles CS 14032 14032 Caen Cedex 5 Tel : +33 2 31 56 60 12 Email studies: jessica.mercier@unicaen.fr Email CPD: constance.ambroise@unicaen.fr Website : https://uniform.unicaen.fr/catalogue/formation/docdent/7369-docteur-d-etat-en-chirurgie-dentaire-docteur-en-chirurgie-dentaire Number of students (2023-2024): 32
Clermont Ferrand UFR d'Odontologie 2 rue de Braga 63 100 Clermont-Ferrand Tel: +33 4 73 17 73 00 +33 4 73 17 73 73 Email: ufr-odontologie@u-clermont1.fr eric.miniscloux@uca.fr Website: https://odontologie.uca.fr/ Number of students (2024-2025): 156	Dijon (created in 2022) Cursus Odontologie UFR des Sciences de Santé 7 Boulevard d'Arc 21000 Dijon Tel : +33 3 80 39 32 58 General email: odontologie@u-bourgogne.fr Administrative issues: caroline.houtmann@u-bourgogne.fr Studies: Sophie.regard@u-bourgogne.fr Number of students (2024-2025): 60
Lille	Lyon

Université de Lille 2 – Droit et Santé Faculté d'Odontologie Place de Verdun, 59000 Lille Tel: +33 3 20 16 79 00 Tel studies : +33 3 20 16 79 60 Fax : +33 (0)3 20 16 79 51 Email: phdupas@univ-lille2.fr chirdent-scol@univ-lille.fr Website: https://ufr3s.univ-lille.fr/odontologie Number of students (2024-2025): 650	Université Claude Bernard Lyon 1 Faculté d'Odontologie Rue Guillaume Paradin 69372 Lyon Cedex 08 Tel: +33 4 78 77 70 00 +33 4 78 77 86 78 Email: claire.guichard@univ-lyon1.fr direction.odontologie@univ-lyon1.fr Website: https://odontologie.univ-lyon1.fr/ Number of students (2024-2025): 470
Marseille Aix Marseille Université Faculté d'Odontologie 27 Boulevard Jean Moulin 13385 Marseille Cedex 5 Tel: +33 4 86 13 68 68 Email undergraduate studies: smpm-dentaire-scol@univ-amu.fr Email CPD : smpm-dentaire-fc@univ-amu.fr Website: https://smpm.univ-amu.fr/fr/formations/medecine-dentaire Number of students (2024-2025): 420	Montpellier Faculté d'Odontologie Université Montpellier 1 545 avenue du Professeur Jean Louis Viala 34090 Montpellier Cedex 5 Tel: +33 4 67 10 44 70 Email: odonto-scolarite@umontpellier.fr Website: http://www.odonto.univ-montp1.fr/ Number of students (2024-2025): 586
Nancy Faculté d'Odontologie de Lorraine UFR d'Odontologie Campus Brabois Santé Faculté d'odontologie de Lorraine 7 avenue de la Forêt de Haye - BP 20199 54505 Vandoeuvre les Nancy Tel: +33 3 72 74 67 68 Contact: webmaster@uhp-nancy.fr odonto-scolarite-contact@univ-lorraine.fr Website: https://odonto.univ-lorraine.fr/ Number of students (2024-2025): 633	Nantes Nantes Université UFR Odontologie de Nantes 1 Place Alexis Ricordeau, BP84215 44042 Nantes Cedex 1 Tel: +33 2 40 41 29 21 Email : accueil.odontologie@univ-nantes.fr Email studies: scolaritedentaire@univ-nantes.fr Website: https://odontologie.univ-nantes.fr/ Number of students (2024-2025): 434
Nice Université Nice Côte d'Azur Faculté de Chirurgie dentaire Site St Jean d'Angély Bat. SJ2 5, rue du 22èmeBCA 06300 Nice Tel studies: +33 4 89 15 22 40 Tel CPD: +33 4 89 15 22 53 Mail: odontologie.scolarite@univ-cotedazur.fr Website: https://odontologie.univ-cotedazur.fr/ Number of students (2024-2025): 280	Reims Université de Reims Champagne-Ardenne UFR d'Odontologie 2 rue du Général Koenig 51100 Reims Tel: +33 3.26 91 34 55 Contact: scol.odontologie@univ-reims.fr Website: https://www.univ-reims.fr/ufrodontologie Number of students (2024-2025): 428
Rouen (created in 2023) Université de Rouen Normandie UFR Santé – Département Odontologie 22 Bd Gambetta 76000 Rouen General Tel: +33 2 35 14 85 55 Tel studies odontology: +33 2 35 14 84 13 Email studies: scolarite.odontologie@univ-rouen.fr Website: https://medecine-pharmacie.univ-rouen.fr/departement-odontologie-745918.kjsp Number of students (2024-2025): 65	Rennes Université de Rennes UFR d'Odontologie 2 avenue du Professeur Léon Bernard (Bat 15) 35043 Rennes Cedex Tel: +33 2 23 23 43 11 Contact : martine.naour@univ-rennes.fr Website: https://odonto.univ-rennes.fr/ Number of students (2024-2025): 380-420

Strasbourg	Toulouse
Université de Strasbourg Faculté de chirurgie dentaire 8 Rue Sainte Elisabeth F-67000 Strasbourg Tel : +33 3 68 85 39 09 Contact : doyen.dentaire@unistra.fr Website : https://chirurgie-dentaire.unistra.fr/ Number of students (2024-2025): 437	Université de Toulouse Faculté de santé UFR d'Odontologie 3 chemin des Maraichers 31400 Toulouse Cedex 9 Tel: +33 5 62 17 29 29 Fax: +33 5 61 25 47 19 Email: dentaire.secretariat@univ-tlse3.fr Website: https://dentaire.univ-tlse3.fr/ Number of students (2024-2025): 680
Tours (created in 2022)	
Université de Tours UFR d'Odontologie Cinquième étage de la faculté de médecine de Tours 10 boulevard Tonnellé BP 3223 37032 Tours cedex 1 Email Dean: doyen.odonto@univ-tours.fr Tel Dean : +33 2 47 36 63 90 Email Secretariat: sophie.lavergne@univ-tours.fr Tel Secretariat: +33 2 47 36 60 73 Website: https://odontologie.univ-tours.fr/ Number of students (2024-2025): 88	