

HOW TO STUDY SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT IN FRANCE



France is a world leader in the spheres of both culture and business

According to UNESCO statistics, France is the world's third most popular destination for international students

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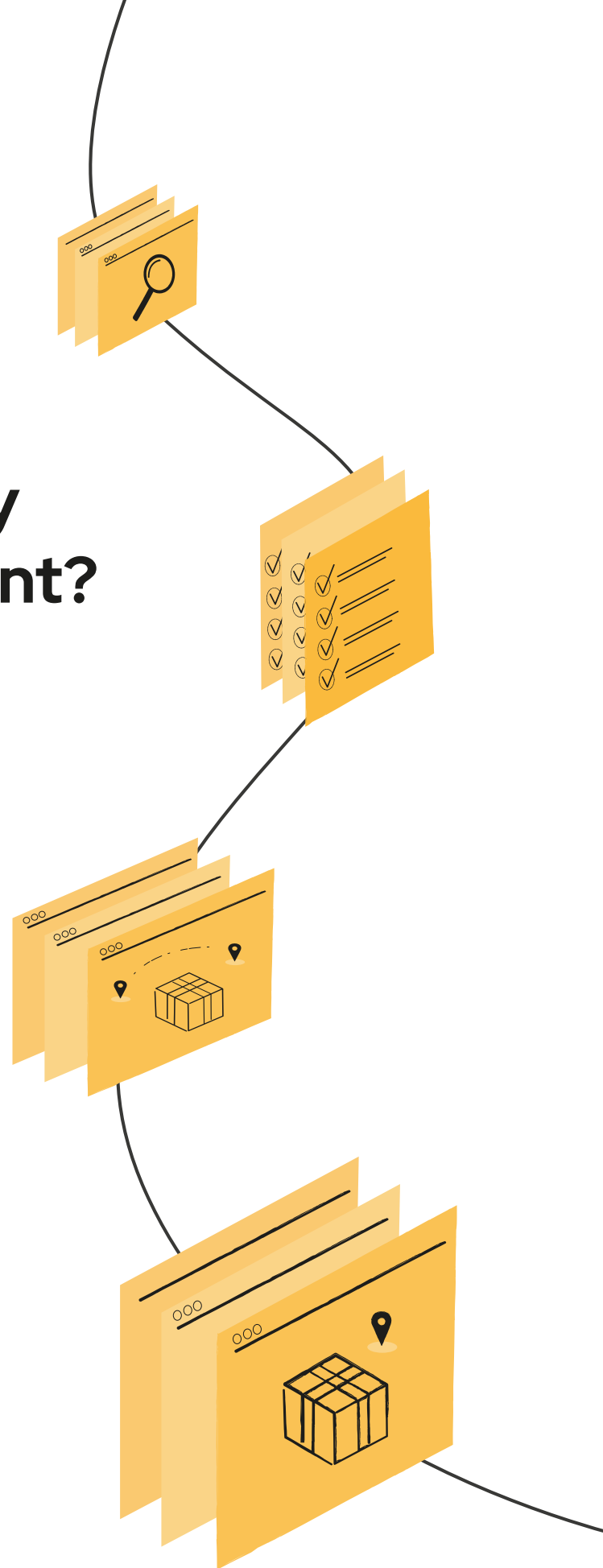
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Why study supply chain management?

Supply chain management can be defined as the processes and activities of sourcing raw materials or components a business needs to create a product or service and deliver it to customers.

Good supply chain management, including software, can improve performance and make a business more effective by reducing waste and decreasing costs. Globalisation and supply chain management are intertwined, as players in this industry often span across countries and even continents. Optimisation of a supply chain ensures high quality products and services across differing levels of resources and legislation.

Improvements in efficiency and productivity have a lasting impact on the bottom line of a company. A well-managed supply chain helps to cut excess costs and deliver products to consumers quicker. Nowadays, Big Data affects supply chains as data analysts have access to huge amounts of data on all parts of the supply chain, and therefore can focus on what can be done to optimise it.



According to CIO, there are six core components of supply chain management:

Planning: Companies must plan and manage resources to meet customer demands. The supply chain must also be designed to ensure it is efficient, and to ensure the right metrics are used to judge this.

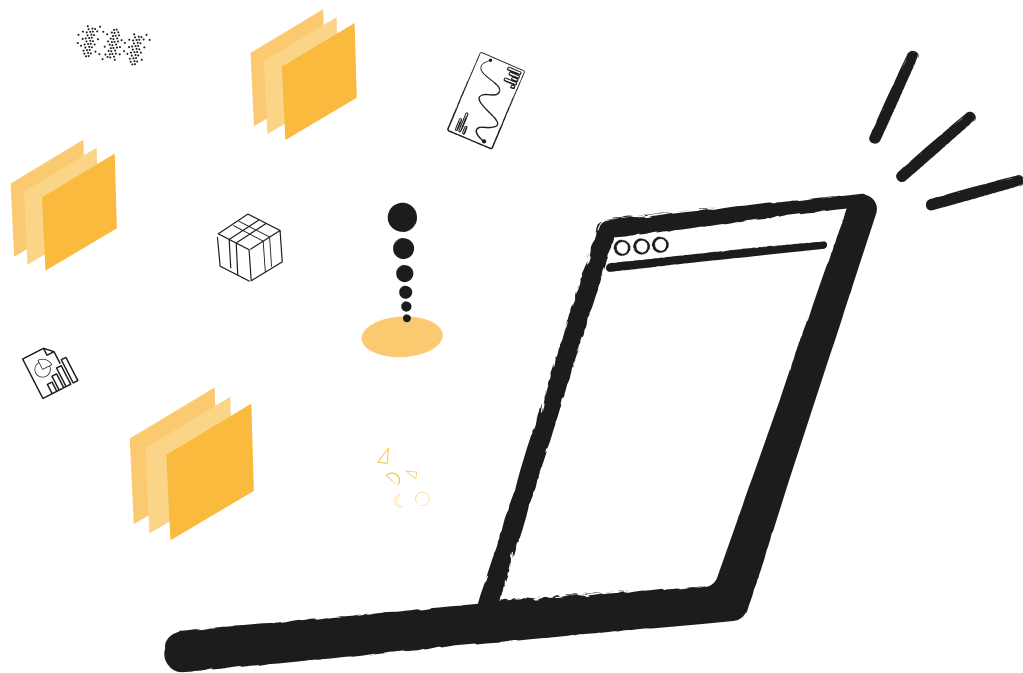
Sourcing: Choosing the right suppliers to provide goods and/or services needed to create a product. This also covers monitoring and managing relationships with suppliers.

Making: Co-ordinating the activities needed to accept raw materials, test for quality, manufacture the product and schedule for delivery.

Delivering: Also known as logistics, this covers many aspects including coordinating customer orders, scheduling and dispatching deliveries, invoicing customers and receiving payments. The delivery process is often outsourced to specialised firms (such as UPS).

Returning: A network must be in place to take back unwanted, defective or excess products. Defective products are usually reworked or scrapped, whereas unwanted or excess products can be returned to the warehouse for sale.

Enabling: For an efficient supply chain, there are multiple support processes to monitor information. These include finance, IT, HR, portfolio management, facilities, sales, product design and quality assurance.



If you're interested in studying supply chain management, you'll find a range of degree options available to you - each suited for a different purpose. For example, EM Normandie Business School offers a specialised master's in supply chain, logistics and innovation as well as an MSc Supply Chain Management and an MSc International Logistics and Port Management.

As the names suggest, each programme has its own specific focus and there is also a range of ways for these degrees to be studied. For example, each of these programmes

is available as a final year specialisation within the wider Master in Management (Grande Ecole Program), and the two MSc programmes can be studied in the final year of the school's new two-year MSc track, which is intended for those who wish to pursue an international management career.

EM Normandie also offers courses designed to prepare students for the digitalisation of supply chains, exploring issues connected to the growth of e-commerce and how its forcing businesses to adapt how their systems operate.

Why study supply chain management in France?

France is a world leader in the spheres of both culture and business. Indeed, not only is Paris world-renowned as the 'City of Lights', it's also home to Europe's largest purpose-built business district. This 'best of both worlds' quality goes a long way to explaining why the country draws in so many aspiring international students.

According to UNESCO statistics, France is the world's third most popular destination for international students, and the most popular non-Anglophone international student destination. France's higher education system is widely known for its prowess in the humanities and arts, but it's also well-established among the best places to study business and management courses such as a supply chain management degree.

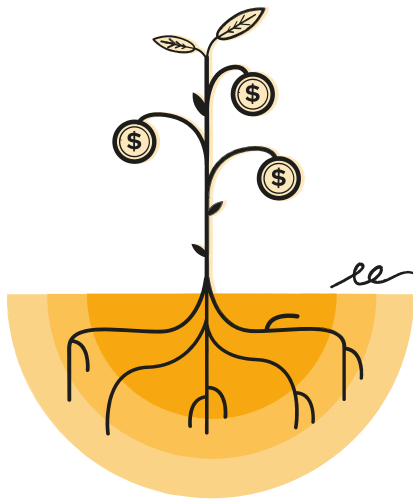
If you've liked what you've heard so far, here are five reasons why studying supply chain management in France could be right for you.

France is home to some of the world's most prestigious business schools

Many of France's business schools (or écoles de commerce) stand among the global elite. Schools such as EM Normandie have a strong focus on local ties, drawing on links with regional industries to provide a business curriculum with a strong emphasis on workplace experience.

The school offers two MSc programmes in logistics and supply chain management, as well as one "Mastère Spécialisé"®. Each of these study options covers a range of innovative topics and enables students to take up a course in English within an international environment.

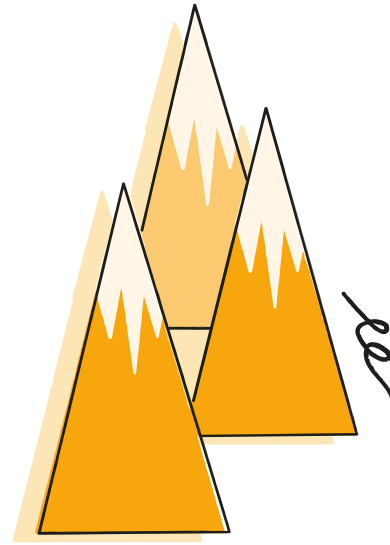
With a huge selection of dedicated business schools across France, there's guaranteed to be a programme and a location aligned with your interest.



A dynamic, opportunity-rich economy

The French economy is huge, one of the largest in the eurozone. As mentioned earlier, Paris boasts Europe's largest purpose-built business district, La Défense, a cluster of sleek skyscrapers home to some of the continent's largest companies such as AXA, Total, Carrefour, PSA Peugeot Citroën... the list of leading French businesses goes on, spanning a wide range of different sectors.

It's well known that France in general and Paris in particular are considered world centres for fashion. France is also the second-largest exporter of agricultural products and services worldwide, which unsurprisingly means there are plenty of career opportunities for supply chain management graduates, as well as a promising selection of exciting companies at which to seek internships while you study.



An abundance of natural beauty

One of the reasons France is such a popular destination among tourists is that it is simply a beautiful land. From the ancient grandeur of the monastery-fortress Mont Saint-Michel to the wild, rural splendour of the Limousin region, France has sights to please all tastes.

As it happens, many French universities and business schools are located in very scenic areas. EM Normandie has a number of campuses across Normandy's Côte Fleurie (Flowery Coast).

France is a feast for the eyes. Outdoorsy individuals will adore the rolling hills and dramatic mountains its interior regions have to offer, while urbanites can bask in the cosmopolitan glory of Paris' regal architecture – not to mention the city's disproportionately high population of statuesque models... And of course, given France's storied past, history buffs will have more castles, mansions and courts to visit than they have time for.

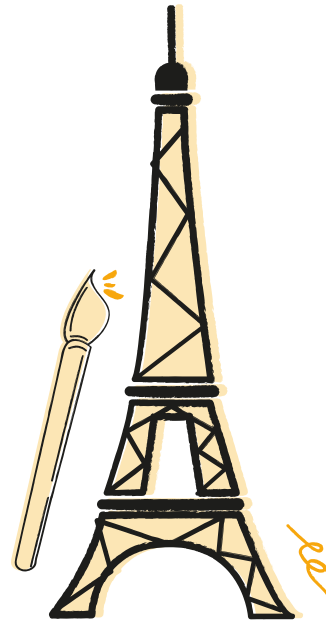


Develop your French language skills

French is one of the most widely spoken languages worldwide. Not only is it one of the official languages of the United Nations, but there are 29 countries where French is an official language. From Canada to Comoros, Madagascar to Monaco, French is a language that opens doors. After all, it's spoken and understood by roughly 274 million people...

In order to study supply chain management in France, you'll usually need at least a bit of French language comprehension – and of course you'll need to be fluent if you plan to study your entire degree in French. However, there are a growing number of degrees taught in English at both undergraduate and postgraduate level.

Courses with English as the medium of instruction are more common at master's and MBA level. EM Normandie, for example, offers eleven (plus the Master in Management English track) 100 percent English-taught master's degrees.

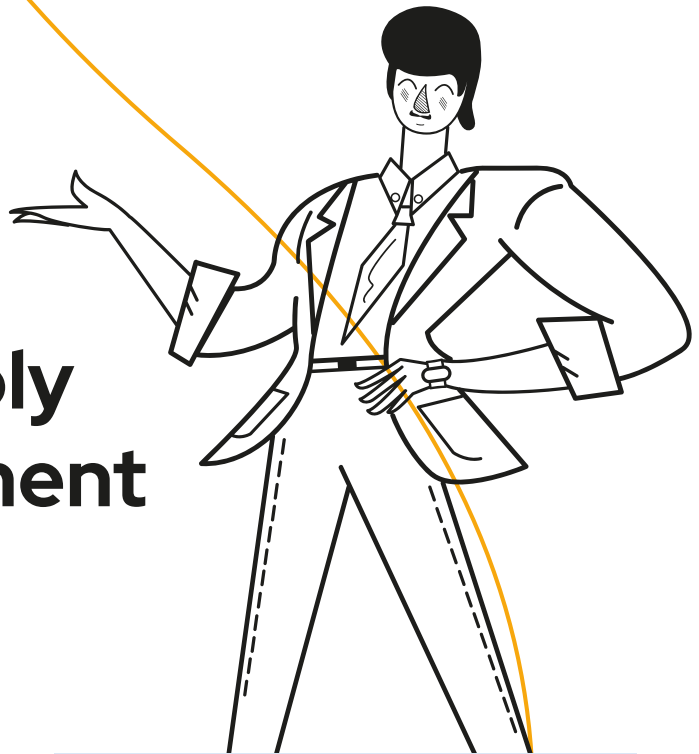


Become immersed in the cultural wealth of France

France is resplendent with grand museums and galleries, of which the most famous is surely the Louvre. If art isn't your scene, trek out to one of the country's vineyards and enjoy the (fermented) fruits of their labours. If you're looking for something to do during your winter break, look no further than an adrenaline-soaked ski trip to the French Alps! Many universities and business schools organise ski trips for students, which are almost always far more affordable than going independently.

If this hasn't convinced you about the benefits of studying business in France, we don't know what will!

Careers in supply chain management



Supply chain management is a fast-growing field, with the US Bureau of Labor Statistics projecting that professions in supply chain management will grow seven percent in the next 10 years. Almost every large-scale company will have a supply chain, so you have the opportunity to work in a wide range of sectors globally.

There are a huge variety of roles that you can choose from in supply chain management, including logisticians, purchasing managers, transport, storage and distribution managers, operations managers and cost estimators.

Logisticians, who co-ordinate and analyse a company's supply chain and manage the lifecycle of a product, generally command the highest median salaries (around US\$148,700). According to PayScale, the average salary for supply chain management jobs in the US is US\$81,439.

At postgraduate level, logistics and supply chain management degrees such as the ones offered by EM Normandie are the ideal preparation for working in roles such as logistics consultant, head of procurement and head of distribution.

The top 10 companies for supply chain management careers according to Gartner's Supply Chain Top 25 are:

1. Unilever
2. Inditex
3. Cisco Systems
4. Colgate-Palmolive
5. Intel
6. Nike
7. Nestle SA
8. PepsiCo
9. H&M
10. Starbucks

Studying supply chain management in France: FAQ

Do I need a visa to study in France?

Students from EU/EEA countries do not need a visa to study in France. Those from elsewhere will need to apply for an extended-stay visa with residency permit (VLS-TS), either via the CEF process (see question 4) or from their nearest French embassy. When considering visa applications, officials are required to consider applicants' academic background, level of preparation, study plans, and proficiency in the French language.

Applicants are also asked to show they have sufficient financial resources – around €615 (US\$670) per month, the equivalent of a base-rate monthly governmental scholarship.

Do I need to be fluent in French?

France offers a large selection of English-taught courses at postgraduate level. Government agency Campus France offers a searchable online database of English-taught programs, and you can also search for relevant courses in France using QS Course Finder.

Depending on the language in which the program is taught, students may be asked to submit proof of proficiency in either French or English. This can be proved through evidence of completing an earlier degree in the relevant language, or by taking a language test such as the DELF, DALF, IELTS or TOEFL.

Can I work in France while I study?

Students from within the EEA and Switzerland are free to pursue work alongside their studies without any restrictions. Those from other countries can work up to 965 hours per year (equivalent to 60% of a full working year), as part of the permissions granted with the VLS-TS visa and residency permit. Internships completed as part of a study program are not counted within this.



Can I get a scholarship to study in France?

Talented international students may be able to obtain funding via the Eiffel Excellence Scholarship Programme. This provides an allowance of €1,181 per month for 12-36 months at master's level, and €1,400 per month for up to 10 months at PhD level. Other funding options available to international students include grants via the EU's Erasmus program, awards from individual universities and schools like EM Normandie and funding provided via regional councils, usually in partnership with public research agencies such as the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS).

Can I stay and work in France after I graduate?

In order to stay on and work in France after graduating, you'll need to apply for a change of residency status; this can be done via the local prefecture once an offer of employment has been received and accepted.

Alternatively, international students graduating at master's level or above can seek permission to extend their student residence permits for up to a year. During this time, they can work for up to 60% of the legal working week without applying for a change of status, unless their earnings exceed 150% of the minimum wage (€9.61 per hour as of January 2015); if this is the case, they must apply for full-time employment status.

