

# Pathway to residency and working in France

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# My background

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- Born in Lyon, came to Zagreb for MSE.
- 1 year in Bordeaux with the Erasmus Program (4th/5th year)
- French National exams in 2017, chose General/Family Medicine in Centre Val-de-Loire. 3 years of residency.
- Since 2020 working on the island of the Réunion, part of France and EU.

# Overview of my journey through residency



# Overview of Medical Residency in France

- Introduction to the residency system
  - During the 6<sup>th</sup> year of studies, a rank is obtained. (~8000 students per year)
  - Matching (specialty and region) only dependant on this rank
  - All specialties are available nationwide on a first serve basis
  - Residency duration between 4 and 6 years
- Currently a 3-part exam :
  - the EDN (Épreuves Dématérialisées Nationale or National Dematerialized Tests) 60% of the final grade. Minimum required 14/20
  - the ECOS (Examens Cliniques Objectifs et Structurés) or OSCE 30% of the final grade
  - The academic record grade (student's engagement, curriculum, English proficiency, internships, mobility) 10% of the final grade

# Eligibility Requirements for residency

- Croatian MD degrees are fully recognized by France.
- Language proficiency requirements : B2 level in French (TCF, TEF, DELF)
- Citizenship/Visa requirements : EU citizens has the same rights as a French national.  
For Non EU citizens, residence permit necessary (via Talented passport / EU blue card).
- Contact the CNG (National Management Center) to apply as a free/external candidate at least one year before graduation.

# Application Process

Your main contact will be with the CNG by mail and the post. (<https://www.cng.sante.fr/candidats/internats-concours-medicaux>) Start inquiries in 5<sup>th</sup> year.

1. Apply for the 6<sup>th</sup> year exam as an external candidate.
2. Pass the 2 physical steps : Step 1 in October 2024, Step 2 (OSCE) in May 2025, Sept 3 based on academic record.
3. Match process in September 2025

Match Process after exam :

- Only depends on your rank (the sum of the 3 exams)
- 44 specialties, 28 teaching hospitals

Costs and Financial Planning:

- No application or licensing fees other than having your MD translated to French by an official translator.

# All specialties available from first to last filled

- 1- Plastic, reconstructive, and aesthetic surgery
- 2- Ophthalmology
- 3- Dermatology and venereology
- 4- Maxillofacial surgery
- 5- Infectious and tropical diseases
- 6- Otorhinolaryngology - cervicofacial surgery
- 7- Cardiovascular medicine
- 8- Anesthesiology and intensive care
- 9- Oncology
- 10- Nephrology
- 12- Neurosurgery
- 12- Urology
- 14- Orthopedic surgery and traumatology
- 14- Thoracic and cardiovascular surgery
- 15- Neurology
- 16- Hepato-gastroenterology
- 17- Radiology and medical imaging
- 18- Obstetrics and gynecology
- 19- Rheumatology
- 21- Hematology
- 21- Nuclear medicine
- 22- Intensive care medicine
- 23- Visceral and digestive surgery
- 24- Pediatric surgery
- 25- Internal medicine and clinical immunology
- 26- Vascular surgery
- 28- Medical gynecology
- 28- Pulmonology
- 29- Pediatrics
- 30- Oral surgery
- 32- Anatomical and cytological pathology
- 32- Endocrinology-diabetology-nutrition
- 33- Vascular medicine
- 34- Medical genetics
- 35- Physical medicine and rehabilitation
- 36- Emergency medicine
- 37- General medicine
- 38- Allergology
- 40- Forensic medicine and medical expertise
- 40- Psychiatry
- 41- Geriatrics
- 42- Occupational medicine and health
- 43- Public health
- 44- Medical biology

# Example : Rank to get for Neurology

28 CHU	119 postes 2024 i	Rang dernier 2024 i	0 CESP 2024 i
AMIENS	4	3 967	
ANGERS	3	3 443	
AP-HM Marseille	5	2 627	
AP-HP Paris	17	2 416	
BESANCON	4	4 011	
BORDEAUX	6	1 633	
BREST	3	3 853	
CAEN	4	3 456	
CLERMONT-FERRAND	3	3 519	
DIJON	4	3 042	
GRENOBLE	3	1 122	
HCL Lyon	6	1 184	
LA REUNION	2	3 118	
LILLE	6	1 651	
LIMOGES	2	3 805	
MARTINIQUE/POINTE A PITRE	2	4 083	
MONTPELLIER	4	1 468	
NANCY	5	3 604	
NANTES	3	3 290	
NICE	3	3 465	

# Pros & cons of the French residency system

## Pros :

- Specialty matching immediately available after exam, no waiting for a spot
- Once you get your spot, cruise through residency
- Diverse experience for all residents : 6-month staž rotations
- Paid (starts from 1400€/m base salary);CESP give +1200€/m under conditions.

## Cons :

- Very competitive depending on the spot.
- Score can close off desired specialty forever.
- Hard to get the more sought out specialties (competing vs. French students)
- Work conditions very specialty dependent.

## A typical residency for a GP (mine) :

- 1<sup>st</sup> semester : Emergency medicine at the ER.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> semester : Gradual autonomization at a family practice.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> semester : Gynecology & Pediatrics at a child and maternal center.
- 4<sup>th</sup> semester : Polyvalent adult medicine at a hospital.
- 5<sup>th</sup> semester : Autonomous management of a family practice.
- 6<sup>th</sup> semester : Home care & palliative medicine in a home care practice.

# Post-Residency Opportunities

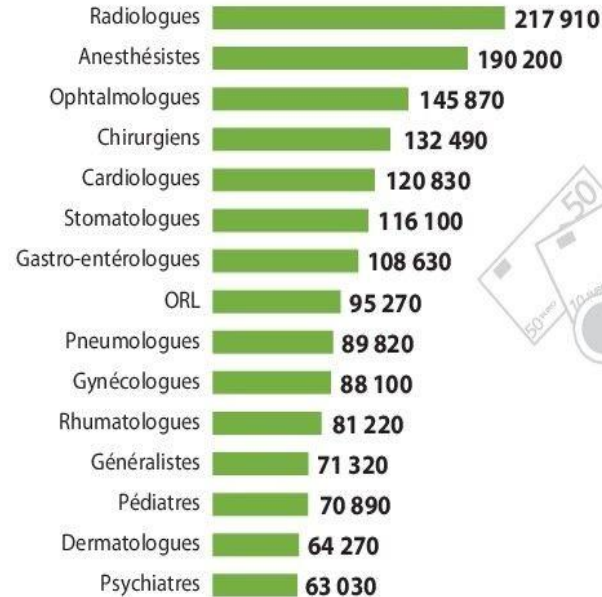
- Demand is massive and increasing
- Subspecialize (GPs too)
- A wide variety of different practices :
- Public hospital / Private hospital
- Independent / Locum

## Les revenus des médecins

En euros

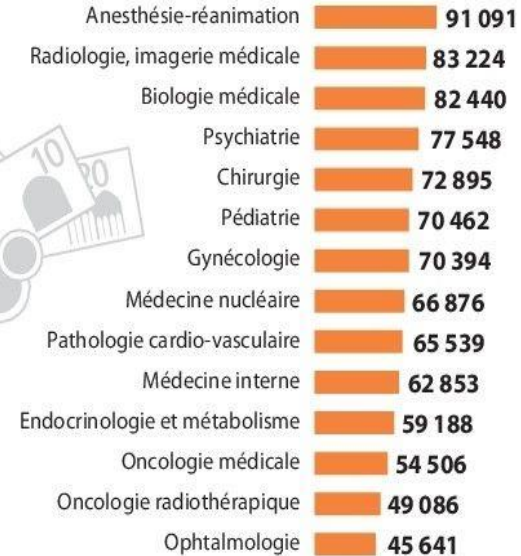
### Libéraux

Revenu libéral moyen net annuel des médecins en 2010 (Drees, 2011)



### Praticiens hospitaliers

Rémunération annuelle moyenne par spécialité sur un échantillon de 57 centres hospitaliers en 2007 (IGAS, 2009)



# Challenges and Tips

- Common challenges international graduates may face :
  - Hard to compete again French that spend their last 2 years of studies preparing the exam.
  - Peri-scholar activities count little. Concentrate on the exam.
  - A good level of French is needed.
- Interesting if your desired specialty is not very sought after.

# Personal Insights and Reflections

- The process has been complexified, but still doable.
- I really enjoyed my residency in General Medicine. You get to be a Swiss army knife and can then see what domains you want to explore after.
- The French residency prepares you well for post-residency. Very practice based.

# Flowchart for working in France :

Exercer la médecine,  
l'odontologie,  
la chirurgie dentaire  
en France

Ressortissant  
d'un pays  
non membre de l'UE

Ressortissant  
d'un pays  
membre de l'UE

Diplômes hors UE

Diplômes UE conformes

Diplômes hors UE  
reconnus par UEE

Diplômes UE conformes

Diplômes hors UE

Diplômes hors UE  
reconnus par UEE

Diplômes UE  
non conformes

Epreuves de  
vérification des  
connaissances

Commission  
d'autorisation  
d'exercice

Epreuves de  
vérification des  
connaissances

Inscription  
à l'ordre

Epreuves de  
vérification des  
connaissances

Exercice  
pendant 3 ans  
dans le pays  
de reconnaissance

Commission  
d'autorisation  
d'exercice

Exercice  
de 1 ou 3 ans

Exercice  
de 1 ou 3 ans

Exercice  
de 1 ou 3 ans

Commission  
d'autorisation  
d'exercice

Commission  
d'autorisation  
d'exercice

Commission  
d'autorisation  
d'exercice

Commission  
d'autorisation  
d'exercice

## Useful links :

- <https://www.conseil-national.medecin.fr/medecin/carriere/exercer-medecine-france>
- <https://www.cng.sante.fr/procedures-dautorisation-dexercice/venir-exercer-se-former-en-france>
- <https://www.cng.sante.fr/procedure-nationale-dappariement>
- <https://www.formalitee.ai/post/postgraduate-medical-residency-in-france-for-international-students>
- <https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F16922?lang=en>
- <https://loic.website/ECN/liste-specialite.php>
- <https://www.isnar-img.com/pendant-linternat/stages/remuneration/>

## CNG contact information :

- General department email: [cng-secretariat-da2c@sante.gouv.fr](mailto:cng-secretariat-da2c@sante.gouv.fr)
- My email contact in 2017 : [Sandrine.DELOUVEE@sante.gouv.fr](mailto:Sandrine.DELOUVEE@sante.gouv.fr)
- Department phone number: 01.77.35.62.70
- Address: Immeuble « Le Ponant B » - 21 rue Leblanc – 75737 PARIS Cedex 15

Hvala vam!

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