High-level academic teaching and practical know-how

CIFE provides excellent academic teaching, offering students problem-focused learning at the crossroads of theory and practice. This is guaranteed by its own international faculty as well as guest lecturers coming from renowned academic institutions and research centres such as Sciences Po (Paris), the London School of Economics, the University of Cologne, Humboldt University (Berlin). Some of our programmes are carried out in partnership with universities worldwide such as the University of Kent, Istanbul Bilgi University, La Sapienza (Rome), Texas A&M and the Université internationale de Tunis. Next to its academic network, practitioners from international organisations, most prominently from the European Union, contribute to CIFE’s programmes.

Research projects

CIFE focusses on research projects in accordance with its intellectual heritage and academic competence: European integration, federalism, the role of Franco-German relations, EU-Western Balkan relations, energy transition, sustainable development. It participates currently in two Horizon 2020 consortia.
Proud to be European since 1954

Over 60 years, we have been unstinting advocates of European integration through our international and interdisciplinary study programmes.

The Centre international de formation européenne (CIFE) is a private institution of higher education and research, founded in 1954. The breadth of its geographic engagement and the variety of its academic programmes testify to CIFE’s major commitments: a confident, future-oriented vision of Europe, an innovative concept of teaching and an awareness of the challenges of a changing world. CIFE has a strong international orientation, with its head office in Nice and offices in Berlin, Brussels and Istanbul. It is one of the six institutions of excellence to receive an operating grant from the EU under the ‘Jean Monnet Activities’ of the Erasmus+ programme.

Strengthening European identity

CIFE offers intrinsically European education which goes beyond the teaching framework of national higher education. Its students form a small, itinerant international community during an intensive academic year, being accompanied by an international faculty, experiencing thus the challenges of diversity and unity. Through higher education, CIFE is enhancing European awareness among young citizens. By educating students from all EU member states and beyond, CIFE is training multipliers, who convey in their future professional and personal context an accurate and fair image of European diversity and unity. Through higher education, CIFE is enhancing European added value by fostering networks between academics, policy-makers and young people from different member states as well as neighbourhood countries (Caucasus and Central Asia, Turkey, Maghreb region).

Committed to lifelong learning

Offering a lifelong European education has always been one of CIFE’s major concerns. Its “Executive Master in EU Studies” for professionals, who continue their studies while pursuing their career, attest to this commitment.

On the move: Learning and living Europe

CIFE strongly supports the mobility of its students: The participants in five of its Master’s programmes rotate each trimester, moving their place of study from France (Nice) to Germany (Berlin), Italy (Rome), United Kingdom (Canterbury), Turkey (Istanbul) or Tunisia (Tunis). Study trips to Brussels, Strasbourg, Luxembourg, and Leipzig offer additional insights into specific regional aspects.

Interdisciplinary Master programmes

Next to shorter academic programmes and a doctoral programme, CIFE offers the following international and interdisciplinary Master programmes:

- Master in Global Energy Transition and Governance
- Master in Global Economic Governance and Public Affairs
- MAEIS Mediterranean Studies
- MAEIS Trilingual Studies
- Executive Master in EU Studies

Studying at CIFE

On the move: Learning and living Europe

CIFE strongly supports the mobility of its students. The participants in five of its Master’s programmes rotate each trimester, moving their place of study from France (Nice) to Germany (Berlin), Italy (Rome), United Kingdom (Canterbury), Turkey (Istanbul) or Tunisia (Tunis). Study trips to Brussels, Strasbourg, Luxembourg, and Leipzig offer additional insights into specific regional aspects.

Interdisciplinary Master programmes

Next to shorter academic programmes and a doctoral programme, CIFE offers the following international and interdisciplinary Master programmes:

- Master in Global Energy Transition and Governance
- Master in Global Economic Governance and Public Affairs
- MAEIS Mediterranean Studies
- MAEIS Trilingual Studies
- Executive Master in EU Studies

Innovative teaching methods

CIFE has been at the vanguard in developing digital higher education programmes, since it created in 2003 one of the first qualifying on-line study programmes in European integration. The teaching methods are regularly updated to include ever more interactive formats. Practical workshops provide the students with the skills and competences needed on the job market: negotiation, intercultural awareness, project cycle management, public speech. Together with practitioners, they follow up EU policy making in real time and thus experience how decisions are made among member states.

Policy Officer in European and international organisations

CIFE’s Alumni succeed in the professional world. The French state has recognised CIFE’s graduate programmes as a qualification at Master level (level 7 EQF). Thanks to this recognition, CIFE’s graduates receive the professional qualification as “Policy officer in European and international organisations”. This recognition demonstrates not only that CIFE’s graduates are employable, but also that they are in employment. The accrediting body (CNCP) verifies that at least three quarters of CIFE’s graduate work in the professional field covered by this qualification: as senior officials in European institutions, policy officers within the UN framework, administrators, diplomats, researchers, consultants, fund raisers, lobbyists, and academic experts.

The professional career of CIFE's graduates since 2008

- International and European organisations
- National governments and administrations
- Companies and banks
- Research and teaching
- Consultancy and advocacy
- International humanitarian sector/NGOs
- International media