

## DESCRIPTION OF THE GRADING SYSTEM

### Grading practices:

The French grading system is an absolute grading system. Grades in France and at ICES are awarded on a scale of 0 to 20. 20 being the highest and 0 being the lowest. Grades from 10 to 20 are considered as « pass ». The passing grade that allows students to obtain credits for each subject is 10/20. Grades higher than 16 are rarely awarded.

A student is considered to have passed the year when the combined weighted average of all his or her grades for that year comes to at least 10.

*This document helps to understand the French grading system, but institutions may develop their own conversion factors based on local practices.*

### The French 0-20 scale :

French grade	French appreciation term	English translation
16 - 20	Très bien	very good
14 - 15.9	bien	good
12 - 13.9	assez bien	amply sufficient
10 - 11.9	passable	almost sufficient
0 - 9.9	ajourné	insufficient

French institutions of higher education use the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS). Each credit equals 25 to 30 hours of work (lectures and homeworks).

### ECTS grading description :

The ECTS grading scale is based on a statistical distribution curve. For a given course, letter grades are distributed among students as follows:

ECTS grade	frequencies of repartition	appreciation
A	best 10%	outstanding
B	next 25%	very good
C	next 30%	good
D	next 25%	satisfactory
E	next 10%	sufficient

### ICES reference :

To facilitate the comparison between ICES grading system and others systems, the frequencies of grades at ICES on previous academic year 2013/14 are :

frequencies of repartition	french grade (ICES reference)	ECTS grade
best 10%	17-20	A
next 25%	15-16,9	B
next 30%	12-14,9	C
next 25%	8-11,9	D
next 10%	0-7,9	E

### ECTS credits :

1 full academic year = 60 ECTS credits

1 semester= 30 ECTS credits