FACULTÉ DES métiers

des formations

CHAMBRE DE COMMERCE ET D'INDUSTRIE

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The Faculté des Métiers celebrates Erasmus Days



INTERNATIONAL MOBILITY: IT'S ALSO POSSIBLE WITH AN APPRENTICESHIP

Spending several weeks or months abroad without putting your apprenticeship on hold is possible. At the Faculté des Métiers, this commitment goes back more than 20 years. Since 2001, the apprenticeship training centre (CFA) has been developing international mobility so that apprentices, from CAP (equivalent to the NVQ Level 2 National Vocational Qualification in the UK) to master's level, can learn their trade in a different professional environment, discover new practices and become more independent.

The Faculté des Métiers is now **France's leading CFA in terms of international mobility departures**. In 2025-2026, **254 learners** took part in a short or long-term mobility programme suited to their training course and personal project.

"The international mobility programme is a life-changing learning experience.. It allows young people to experience other working methods, to become more independent and to develop skills that set them apart on the job market for the long term."

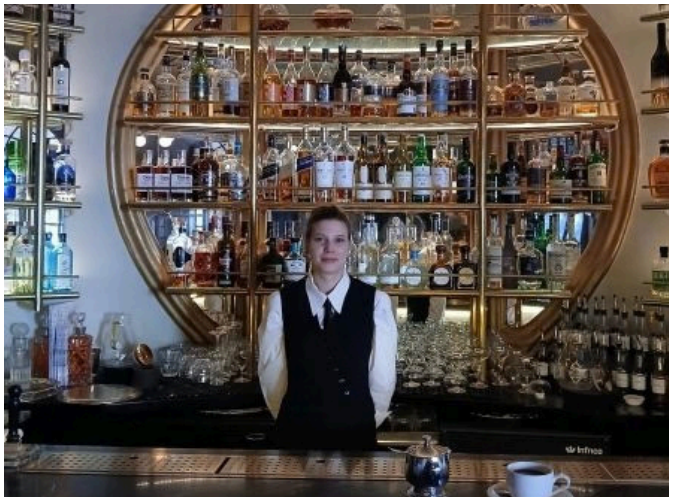
Laurence Piquerel, Director of Training, CCI Ille-et-Vilaine

This ambition is also reflected in the Faculté des Métiers' participation in **MONA (Mon Apprentissage en Europe – My Apprenticeship in Europe**), a national pilot scheme that enables apprentices to gain at least two months of work experience abroad while continuing their training.

At the Faculté des Métiers, international mobility is a fully-fledged part of training, serving apprentices' professional skills and independence.



Apprentice florists on mobility in the Netherlands



Apprentice bartender on mobility in Barcelona



Bac Pro retail apprentice on mobility in Barcelona

Learning your trade beyond borders

When people think of international mobility, they often picture university students spending a semester or a year abroad. Yet **apprentices can also gain experience abroad, directly linked to their trade**.

Working in another country means discovering other ways of practicing your trade: a different organisation, different methods, sometimes a different approach to customer relations, or a greater role given to foreign languages.

For Céline Le Her, International Mobility Coordinator, **these experiences leave a lasting mark**. Apprentices often come back more independent, proud of having taken up the challenge and open to other cultures.

Going abroad does not mean setting your apprenticeship aside. **International mobility is built around the training course**, so that apprentices can discover other professional practices while continuing their apprenticeship.



Bac Pro retail apprentices in a company in Terrassa, Spain



A floristry apprentice during her short-term mobility in the Netherlands.

How to go abroad without interrupting your training ?



International Mobility: the importance of being well-prepared

Preparing for mobility starts long before departure.

A **dedicated team helps the participants** with administrative procedures, finding a placement, accommodation and funding. Language preparation is built into the programme for the groups concerned.

Several obstacles remain to be overcome; fear of leaving, having to advance costs, and a lack of confidence in one's language level. Some companies' reluctance to release an apprentice during training can also complicate the project. **Mobilities are funded through Erasmus+ grants and OPCO (sector-based training and apprenticeship funding body) support**, depending on the situation.

Apprentices also benefit from several meetings with the mobility team, an Erasmus kit and, depending on the situation, meetings with parents and apprenticeship supervisors.

During the mobility, **regular follow-up** is provided. On their return, the skills acquired can be recognised, notably through the **Europass certificate**. For some Bac Pro programmes, the mobility can also be included in the diploma assessment.

Professional competitions: another way to discover Europe



Paul Renard, 2nd place at AEHT 2025, Wine Service category



The European podium of Inspiration d'un classique 2026



The Faculté des Métiers team at the Show me the Concept competition, Rotterdam

European mobility also happens through **professional competitions**. For apprentices, these events are an opportunity to **test their skills, meet young people in training in other countries and compare their professional practices**.

The Faculté des Métiers takes part in several European and international competitions, particularly in the hospitality and catering sector. Among them, the **AEHT** (European Association of Hotel and Tourism Schools) European competition, held from 2 to 7 November 2026 in Ferrara, Italy, brings together participants from the hotel and restaurant trades. Other events are planned for 2027, such as ***Show me the Concept*** in the Netherlands, and I***nspiration d'un classique***, hosted on our Rennes-Bruz campus in 2026.

These competitions are part of the links the Faculté des Métiers maintains with its European partners. They complement company placements by offering learners another setting in which to engage with different professional practices.

As a result, **around ten learners take part in these European or international competitions every year**.

They took the leap: how going abroad shapes young people's pathways

Real-life accounts take us beyond the theory. They show that **mobility is about much more than changing countries**. It places apprentices in new professional and personal situations.

Etienne: learning to adapt to another way of working

Etienne had already had a first Erasmus experience in Salamanca in 2021. This time he wanted to **discover the Spanish professional world** in the restaurant sector. His stay led him to work front-of-house and then in the kitchen. What struck him most were the differences in work organisation and time management.



Etienne during his mobility in Salamanca

"This experience also helped me strengthen my independence, my organisational skills and my ability to work within an intercultural team."

Etienne B — BTS MHR (Hospitality Management) – Saint-Malo campus – Spain, January 2025

The placement also changed his view of the **career possibilities** in his sector. Working in a Spanish restaurant led him to **consider international career opportunities**.

Nicolas: practising the language with real customers

Nicolas had already discovered European mobility during his Bac Pro in Restaurant Sales and Services (CSR), with a two-week placement in Barcelona.

For this new experience, he particularly wanted to **improve his Spanish**. On site, he dealt with a mostly Spanish-speaking clientele. In the first few days, this proved a **real challenge**.

He also had to adapt to **a different work organisation**, with full working days rather than the split shifts he was used to.

This experience allowed him to **discover another way of working and to improve his language skills in real professional situations**.

Ludivine: going alone to learn differently

Ludivine went to Ireland wanting to **improve her English, discover another professional environment and become more independent**.

Her stay also led her to handle unfamiliar everyday situations.

A difficulty with her host family pushed **her out of her comfort zone**, and she had to communicate directly to find a solution.



Ludivine during her mobility in Ireland.

"I want to travel and learn from every country. I want to diversify my experience, and thanks to this placement, I now know it's possible."

BTS MHR (Hospitality Management)
Rennes-Bruz campus – Ireland, February 2026

MONA: when long-term mobility becomes possible in apprenticeship

2 years of experimentation

43 participating CFAs

7 learners already gone abroad

Being able to spend two months abroad as an apprentice means solving one key question: how do you reconcile mobility, the employer and training? That is precisely what the **MONA – My Apprenticeship in Europe pilot scheme sets out to address**.

The project brings together **43 volunteer CFAs** across France and aims to promote long-term European mobility for apprentices.

The principle is simple: enable a work-study learner to gain **two months of professional experience in a company abroad** while continuing their training.

MONA also makes it possible to consider long-term mobility earlier in the training pathway. The option of suspending the apprenticeship contract during the mobility can make it easier to obtain the employer's agreement. Funding can combine an Erasmus+ grant with OPCO support.

At the Faculté des Métiers, MONA was launched two years ago and currently focuses on BTS (Higher National Diploma (HND)-level vocational qualification) programmes. **Seven departures** have been completed under the scheme so far.

Removing the obstacles to mobility

A two-month stay requires more organisation than a short-term mobility. The MONA project aims to **remove obstacles related to organisation and support**. It therefore funds a full-time mobility officer position in each partner CFA.

At the Faculté des Métiers, a **mobility officer is dedicated to MONA projects**, and the CFA **ensures continuity of learning** during the stay.

A pilot still in development

The goal now is to **increase the number of departures** and **gradually build long-term mobility into training pathways**. The Faculté des Métiers intends to work on how skills developed abroad are assessed and how they are integrated into certain BTS programmes.

The initial feedback gathered by Céline Le Her, International Mobility Coordinator, is encouraging. Apprentices often come back **more independent, more mature and proud of having overcome their apprehensions**. Some also say they want to go again.



Léna, BTS MHR (Hotel & Catering), MONA placement at the Naturally Nourished restaurant, Ireland



Yanis, BTS MCO (Customer Relationship Management), MONA placement at University College Cork

Towards a European Apprenticeship Area: two MONA learners at the Sorbonne

On **14 and 15 October 2026**, two Faculté des Métiers apprentices who took part in MONA will attend **Towards the European Apprenticeship Area (TEAA)**, an event organised by Euro App Mobility in Paris under the high patronage of the President of the French Republic, as part of Erasmus Days and European Skills & VET Week 2026.

The event will bring together a**pprentices, employers, experts and decision-makers** to explore ways of **developing apprenticeship mobility at European level, with the aim of agreeing a joint declaration**.

The presence of these two learners, who themselves completed a two-month mobility while continuing their training thanks to MONA, gives these discussions a **practical dimension**. Their experience illustrates what the scheme makes possible and what is at stake in its development across Europe.

See the programme

Mobility as a team effort

Behind every departure abroad lies preparation work that often goes unseen. Teaching teams, the mobility department, the French employer and the host organisation must **coordinate to organise the stay and ensure continuity of training**. The goal: to let the apprentice make the most of the experience without falling behind in their programme.

French companies

The employer must also be involved in the project. The French company plays a key role too. Depending on the arrangements chosen, the apprentice may be seconded to the host organisation abroad, or their contract may be suspended during the mobility. But going abroad first requires talking with your employer and reassuring them about how the stay will be organised.

For Céline Le Her, European Mobility Coordinator, some companies' reluctance remains one of the main obstacles to departures. Faculté des Métiers teams can then support the dialogue to help the project succeed. **Dialogue with the employer is therefore a key step in making the project possible.**

European partners

The Faculté des Métiers works with different types of partners: **training institutions, intermediary organisations and local companies.** Partnerships exist notably in Spain, Ireland, the Netherlands, Finland, Denmark and Italy.

Mobility also works the other way: the Faculté des Métiers welcomes on average **around twenty foreign learners** every year.

European mobility at the Faculté des Métiers: a few facts



Find out more

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