STUDY ENGINEERING IN FRANCE
BECOME A POLYTECH ENGINEER

A Graduate School of Engineering within a leading Science University in France

Member of the first national network of Graduate Engineering Schools: the Polytech Group
Polytech Lille is a well-known graduate university engineering school located in Lille 1 University, which is acknowledged as being one of the best universities in France.

The school is located on a vast 110-hectare campus at the center of a large scientific and technical pole. It counts 18,600 students, including 21% of international students from 70 countries and 1,000 PhD students, of which 30% are international students, along with 39 accredited research teams. Lille 1 University brings together 8 major scientific domains. At the heart of this high-level research environment, Polytech Lille offers state of the art courses that are at the cutting edge of new technologies.

As part of Lille 1 University, Polytech Lille is a member of the PRES «Université Lille Nord de France», which is a higher-education teaching and research cluster in the Nord-Pas de Calais region.

Polytech Lille is a founder member of the Polytech Lille is a founder member of the Polytech group made up of 13 graduate university engineering schools.

A Grande École and founder member of the Polytech group
With 350 graduates per year and more than 8,500 working engineers, Polytech Lille is the most important engineering school north of Paris. The school is accredited to award the «diplôme d’ingénieur» by the French accreditation board for engineering (CTI) and is a member of the «Conférence des Grandes Écoles» (CGE).

Polytech Lille is a founder member of the Polytech group made up of 13 graduate university engineering schools.

A green campus at the heart of the metropolis of Lille
The school is located at the center of an extremely green university campus in Villeneuve d’Ascq (University Lille 1).

It is only 15 mm from the centre of Lille thanks to a direct metro line between the campus and the city. Two metro lines cover the metropolitan area.

«Grande Écoles» are prestigious competitive-entrance higher education establishments

Key points:
- A modern building (constructed in 2000) of over 25,000 m² on the campus of Lille 1 University.
- 8,500 graduate engineers since its inception.
- 1,335 students.
- 350 engineering graduates each year.
- 150 students take part in our special parcours des écoles d’ingénieurs Polytech (PeiP), which corresponds to the first two years of a scientific degree along with complementary modules at Polytech Lille allowing direct access to the schools of the network after validation of the courses taken.
- 90 PhD students.
- 160 academic staff.
- 70 member administrative and technical staff.
- 17 associated research laboratories.

Advantages for students:
- Student accommodation
- 3 University on-campus restaurants
- University library.
- Student centre.
- University health center.
- University sports center including three sports halls, playing fields, a clubhouse...

French Higher Education System

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree Courses</th>
<th>DOCTORATE</th>
<th>MASTER</th>
<th>BACHELOR</th>
<th>BACCALAUREAT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Corporate world</td>
<td>National Master’s Degree</td>
<td>«Diplôme d’ingénieur» Master of engineering</td>
<td>Preparatory classes</td>
<td>High School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doctoral Studies</td>
<td>ECTS 300</td>
<td>ECTS 180</td>
<td>ECTS 120</td>
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<td>240</td>
<td>60</td>
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Civil Engineering,
Mechanical Engineering,
Software Engineering and Statistics,
Biological and Food Engineering,
Electrical and Computer Engineering,
Measurement Systems and Applied Business,
Materials Science
The skills of the researchers at Polytech Lille cover a wide range of engineering sciences and are based around 5 poles:

- Biological and Food Engineering
- Mechanics and Civil Engineering
- Mathematics and Modelling
- Physico-chemistry, Molecular and Science of Materials
- Information and Communication Sciences and Technologies

Multidisciplinary research is carried out leading to solutions being proposed for certain complex problems brought to light by industry.

**Key points:**

- 17 associated research laboratories.
- 113 academic staff, 10 technological platforms.
- The school is a partner of 3 competitiveness clusters: Trans (transport), Maud (materials and applications for sustainable use) and ProBioG e.
- 113 academic staff, 10 technological platforms.
- The school is a partner of 3 competitiveness clusters: Trans (transport), Maud (materials and applications for sustainable use) and ProBioG e.

**Biological and Food Engineering**

Associated research laboratories:
- Laboratoire de génétique et évolution des populations végétales (GEPV)
- Unité de génétique et évolution des populations végétales (UGEV)
- Laboratoire de génétique et évolution des populations végétales (UGEV)
- Laboratoire de génétique et évolution des populations végétales (UGEV)

**Mechanics and Civil Engineering**

Associated research laboratories:
- Laboratoire Génie Civil et Geo-Environnement (LGCGE)
- Laboratoire de Mécanique de Lille (LMML)

**Mathematics and Modelling**

Associated research laboratories:
- Laboratoire Paul Painlevé
- Laboratoire de Mathématiques de Lille
- Laboratoire de Mathématiques de Lille
- Laboratoire de Mathématiques de Lille

**Physico-chemistry, Molecular and Science of Materials**

Associated research laboratories:
- Laboratoire Génie Civil et Geo-Environnement (LGCGE)
- Laboratoire de Mécanique de Lille (LMML)

**Information and Communication Sciences and Technologies**

Associated laboratories:
- Laboratoire d’Automatique, Génie Informatique et Signal (LAGIS)
- Institut d’Electronique, de Microélectronique et de Nanotechnologie (IEMN)
- Laboratoire d’Informatique Fondamentale de Lille (LIFL)
- Laboratoire d’Electrotechnique et d’Electronique de Puissance de Lille (LE2P)

**Placements and Projects**

The student engineers at Polytech Lille undertake at least 26 weeks of placements during their studies. These placements are carried out mainly within companies.

- 3rd year: “Work experience” placement. Duration: 4 to 8 weeks
- 4th year: “Technical” placement / assistant engineer. Duration: 6 to 13 weeks
- 5th year: Engineer placement. This placement can take the form of a research project with a public or private laboratory. Duration: 4 to 6 months

**Project-based learning**

Being an engineer involves implementing projects that take into account various technical, organizational and financial aspects. This approach is initiated within the School via active project-based learning throughout the course. Projects allow the student engineers to apply knowledge, information, competences and social skills to concrete issues.

**Not-to-be-missed events:**

- Entrepreneurial culture week: This event is aimed at making student engineers aware of innovation. It involves the presentation of various professions, real-life experiences, advice from professionals from different fields, round-table discussions.
- The “Pause-je” (informal discussions)
- The annual forum at which companies and student engineers can meet.
- The Alumni Association: a network of more than 8,500 qualified engineers

**Promoting corporate involvement at Polytech**

At Polytech Lille, a network of 8,500 qualified engineers, working at executive or management level, is available to participate in the training of their future colleagues and accompany them in their professional careers.

- At least 20% of the courses are given by industrialists (presentations, conferences)
- Tutorials, case studies, technical projects and final year projects are provided by companies
- Our researchers excel in R&D through the implementation and monitoring of their research projects and collaborative contracts between businesses and laboratories.
- Various companies are present within the different levels of management at the school governing body, committees...
- The school has developed partnerships with more than 250 businesses.
International profiles
Training multicultural engineers through the promotion of experiences abroad

Polytech Lille actively promotes international mobility. It offers students the chance to develop their ability to adapt to new situations and cultures while broadening their scientific, technical and linguistic knowledge abroad.

The school has thus developed partnerships with institutions recognized for the quality of their engineering programs and their research. Currently, 68% of graduates have had at least one experience abroad during their three years of study at Polytech Lille.

The international relations department of the School ensures that students are personally accompanied during their period of mobility.

Welcoming and training international students

Every year, Polytech Lille welcomes international students either through exchange programs, or as part of a degree program. A specific double degree course has been set up with two Chinese universities: Hohai University and Nanjing University of Agriculture. Since 2006, engineers have successfully obtained the two degrees and are mainly employed by international companies in China.

The School actively participates in the “n + i” network. The aim of this network is to train internationally-focused engineers by proposing tailor-made programs.

More than 170 international students coming from 18 countries create a multicultural atmosphere within the School.

Experiences abroad

A study period
A semester or a year in one of the partner universities in Europe, such as RWTH Aachen University (Germany), Graz University of Technology (Austria), Universidad Politécnica de Madrid (Spain), Politecnico di Milano (Italy), Aalborg University (Denmark), Linköping University (Sweden), Warsaw University of Technology (Poland), Universitatea Politehnica Bucuresti (Romania),... in Quebec : École Polytechnique de Montréal, l’Université de Sherbrooke, Université Laval,...) or in the United States, the University of Oklahoma, Oklahoma State University,..., in Latin America, Universidade Federal de Rio de Janeiro (Brazil), Universidad de Santiago de Chile, Universidad Federico Santa María de Valparaíso (Chile), Universidad Nacional de Ingeniería, Lima (Peru), in India : Indian Institute of Technology, Madras ...

A placement in industry

The school maintains formal and informal relationships with several multinational companies facilitating students’ work internships. It also provides support to students applying for an internship abroad.

Thanks to the participation of Polytech Lille in the European Erasmus Placement program within the Polytech Group, a monthly grant is awarded to students from the School who carry out a work placement in a European company.

The VIE program (Volontariat International en Entreprise) allows students in their final year or new graduates of the School to carry out a technical mission abroad, which can last between 12 and 24 months, for a company based in France (ex: Ciment Lafarge, Bouygues TEP, Total, Bolloré, Nissan, Nestlé, Alstom, Thales, ...) or abroad.

A research project

This can be undertaken within a university laboratory or in a scientific research centre: destinations include Chalmers University (Sweden), the University of Bradford (UK), Durham University (UK), Wroclaw University of Technology (Poland), Florida Institute of Technology (USA), Université de Sherbrooke (Quebec), Hohai University, Agricultural University of Nanjing (China), IIT Madras, IIT Kharagpur (India)...

Contact : international@polytech-lille.fr

Exchange programs and bilateral cooperation agreements : ERASMUS, CREPUQ, BRAFITEC, ARSITEC...
Civil Engineering

The lecturers in this program mainly carry out their research in geom mechanics, within the “Laboratoire de Mécanique de Lille” (LML) and the “Laboratoire Génie Civil et Géo Environnement” (LG2CE). The areas studied are: the construction of tunnels on moveable ground, deep tunnels, foundations, soil reinforcement, petrol engineering, deep storage, THMC behaviour of rocks and concretes.

After training to be an engineer, the students can continue their studies via a PhD, often in collaboration with industry, or via a specialized advanced Masters in water engineering, in conjunction with an industrial partner.

OBJECTIVES

The department of civil engineering offers an extremely broad program in the areas of geotechnics and civil engineering. This double competence opens up a large range of employment prospects for graduates in all areas of civil engineering, from the design of works to their realisation. Engineers from this program are capable of successfully carrying through the different construction phases, specifically the design, analysis, calculation and realisation of different civil engineering works. The program is constantly being adapted to the needs of companies by taking into account the evolution of techniques and methods.

SECTORS OF ACTIVITY AND COMPANIES

- Construction and public works companies (BCOUDYJES, VINCI, EFFAGE, RAMERY, RABOT DUTHILEUL, SPE-BATIGNOLLES, …).
- Engineering, design offices (GTH, SOVEP, SOGEDAH, …).
- Soil mechanics and geophysics offices (SIMESG, MENARD, …).
- Control offices (SOCOTEC, APAVE, QUALICONSULT, VERITAS, …).
- Para-public sector (BRGM, EDF, SNCF, …).
- Local communities, administrations (LMCU, municipal technical departments, CETE, …).
- Research and Development (TOTAL, ANDRA, …).

MAIN PROFESSIONS OPEN TO NEW GRADUATES

The range of employment perspectives open to graduates is extremely wide. An engineer from this program can intervene in any stage of the construction process, from the study of the soil to the completion of the project:

- Soil study, calculation of foundations.
- Design of the site (calculations, methods, examination of the costs).
- Implementation of works (conception of the shell, finishings, interacting with trade associations, specialized works).
- Project management (managing the project, contracting).

PROJECTS LINKED TO COMPANIES OR LABORATORIES

- Multidisciplinary projects in the 3rd year (50h).
- Case studies in the 4th year, supervised by professionals, focusing on site organisation (75h) and the design and sizing of sites (75h).
- Final-year project of between 4 and 6 months in a company.

LINKS WITH RESEARCH

The course lecturers carry out their research, which is internationally recognized, in conjunction with the CNRS (a national research organisation).

Mechanical Engineering

- Design.
- Innovation.
- Sizing.
- Modelling.
- Optimisation.
- Sustainable development.

OBJECTIVES

The department trains multi-skilled mechanical engineers capable of leading or participating in projects based on the design, optimisation and realisation of innovative products, facilities and procedures. Training in this area combines mastery of scientific and technological knowledge with learning about state of the art digital simulation tools. The aim is to cultivate the future engineers’ creativity and encourage them to resolve concrete problems, while taking into account the individual and his/her environment, within a project team.

SECTORS OF ACTIVITY AND COMPANIES

- Aeronautical, sea and automobile transport: 34% (AIRBUS, EADS, SNECMA, ALSTOM, BOMBARDIER, PSA, RENAULT, BOSCH, VALEO, …).
- Energy: 20% (AREVA, MAIA, EDF, CARE, J-E, MONTO, …).
- Research: 9% (ONERA, EDF, …).
- Design offices: 7% (THALES, BUGATTI, …).
- Chemical and medical industries: 6% (AIR LIQUIDE, LE JONCTION FRANÇAIS, IMPLANTS INDUSTRIEL, …).

MAIN PROFESSIONS OPEN TO NEW GRADUATES

- Research and development engineer (57%) manages projects related to the creation of innovative products or develops sizing methods.
- Production engineer (17%): defines and manages production methods.
- Expert / Consultant engineer (9%): brings his/her skills to the client.
- Quality / Security engineer (5%): improves the quality and the reliability of the products and the production methods.

PROJECTS LINKED TO COMPANIES OR LABORATORIES

- 3rd year: Innovation (100h).
- 4th year: Mechanical design (200h).
- 5th year: Final-year project (300h).

LINKS WITH RESEARCH

The course combines scientific and technological teaching, with cross-disciplinary and soft skills modules (languages, economics, marketing, general management and project management) and practical experience acquired through projects and work placements (in industry, R&D departments, research laboratories…)

Concerning the scientific and technical aspects of the program, a strong emphasis is placed on understanding physical phenomena, as well as their modelling and digital simulation.

An area which is also dealt with is the interaction with related sciences, such as mechatronics, materials of the future, acoustics, etc.

Regarding project management, this area is integrated in the projects carried out in both 3rd and 4th years. These projects, which are based on innovation and design, can be carried out individually or within a group.

Students are offered a number of different modules and outlets in order to allow them to construct their own career plan. The final year is mainly devoted to modules within the chosen specialisation or more research-oriented taught modules for those who wish to continue their studies with a PhD. It is also possible to undertake the final year of studies abroad.

The department encourages the community and clubs within the school via initiatives such as the “4L Trophy” (humanitarian rally), the “trophée SIA” (development of innovative vehicles), the realisation of hybrid / electronic vehicles and the development of renewable energy systems.
Software Engineering and Statistics

OBJECTIVES
The department of software engineering and statistics trains multiskilled engineers in the processing of information, both in its statistical and computational forms, for use in various business professions. Given the cross-disciplinary nature of IT and statistics as disciplines, the areas of activity in which they appear are numerous, especially in the tertiary sector and the IT aspects of the secondary sector.

Apart from the teaching of scientific concepts and the mastery of the tools used, the courses taught place particular importance on the learning of methods (e.g., the qualities of rigor, curiosity and inventiveness in scientific approaches) and the development of the personality of the student (communication and listening skills, team work, autonomy...)

MAIN PROFESSIONS OPEN TO NEW GRADUATES
This is the only program that trains multiskilled engineers in the areas of IT, statistics, economics and social sciences. This particularity means that an engineer with this profile is particularly sought after in the workplace. Our student engineers use their competences in multiple sectors of activity:

> as general IT specialists, given their mastery of computer systems and networks, information systems and data bases, software engineering, development of network services, project implementation...
> as engineers, given their well-developed knowledge of economics, management, finance and international affairs.

LINKS WITH RESEARCH
The program offered at Polytech'Lille in the area of software engineering and statistics allows the student engineer to participate in activities linked with research within major research organisations, including:

> Le laboratoire d’Informatique Fondamentale de Lille (LIFL), associated with the CNRS (national research body).
> Le Centre de recherche INRIA Lille Nord Europe (Institut National de Recherche en Informatique et en Automatique).

In most cases, the lecturers in this specialty carry out their research activities within these laboratories. The student engineers can thus undertake projects or placements in areas related to the specialties of these research laboratories.

Program

During the 3rd year (semesters 5 and 6), courses focus mainly on the teaching of fundamental subjects, based on the three main areas of specialisation of the department: IT, statistics and humanities. The specific classes offered to student engineers depend on the particular areas of previous study.

During semesters 7 and 8, the student engineers deepen his/her knowledge of statistics (statistical modelling, exploratory statistics, IT object-oriented programming, architectural software, data bases, advanced systems...) and project management (information system projects, project management...). During this year, greater emphasis is placed on practical work experience (placements, projects) which allow the student engineer to assimilate the knowledge imparted and develop, in a team environment, his/her capacities in defining, organizing and realizing tasks.

The personalized path offered in the final year allows the student engineer to adapt the training offered to his/her career plan. Constant links with industry exist and manifest themselves through work placements, projects, visits to different companies, as well as the participation of industrialists in the program.

Biological and Food Engineering

OBJECTIVES
The program in Biological and Food Engineering trains multiskilled engineers who work in different sectors of activity: food processing, biotechnology, the environment, cosmetics, personal hygiene products and retail. Using a combination of scientific and technical knowledge, as well as managerial competences, engineers from this program can call upon human, material and financial resources in order to meet the complex and exciting challenges specific to businesses in these different sectors.

MAIN PROFESSIONS OPEN TO NEW GRADUATES
Product development engineer: improves the quality of current products or creates new products, from the molecule level to the finished product.

Production Engineer: organizes and supervises the different steps in the transformation of agrifood products.

HSE Engineer: defines and implements the HSE policy of the company.

Product manager: defines and implements the marketing plan. Participates in the elaboration of a growth strategy and the development of the company.

For all of these positions, taking into account issues related to sustainable development is a priority.

SECTORS OF ACTIVITY AND COMPANIES
Numerous laboratories at Lille 1 University, associated with the CNRS or the INRA (national research bodies), can accommodate GB I AAL student engineers for work placements:

- Laboratoire de Génétique et Évolution des Populations Végétales (GEPV).
- Laboratoire de Chimie Moléculaire et Formulation (CMF)
- Laboratoire d’Ingénierie Biochimique et Microbiologique (ProBioGen)
- Laboratoire de Génétique et Évolution des Populations Végétales (SADV).
- Laboratoire Unité de Glycéobiologie Structurale et Fonctionnelle (UGSF)

SECTORS OF ACTIVITY AND COMPANIES

- Food processing: 60 %
- Design offices: 17 %
- Chemical / healthcare industry: 12 %
- Retail: 6 %
- Other sectors: 5 %

Initial area of employment. Biological and food engineering

- Research and Development: 19 %
- Production / Exploitation: 27 %
- Quality / Security / Environment: 30 %
- Sales / Brand director: 10 %
- Other professions: 14 %

Companies in which graduates work:

- AUCHAN, BONDELLE, COCA COLA, DANOINE, GLAXOSMITHKLINE BIOLOGICALS, HEINEKEN, LABORATOIRE JUVA SANTÉ, LECLERC, MASTERFOODS, MAC CAIN, NESTLÉ, QUICK FRANCE, TETRA PAK...
- and many small and medium enterprises.
OBJECTIVES
This specialization is based on multidisciplinary teaching in the areas of general IT, industrial IT, microelectronics, automatics and electrotechnic. Engineers from this program are thus multi-skilled engineers and able to change activity during the evolution of their careers to adjust to the imperatives of the market. The autonomy acquired by engineers from this program through project work (self-training) is a quality appreciated in industry.

Along with the scientific and technological knowledge and skills offered by the program, student engineers are also given the opportunity to acquire business-oriented knowledge in the areas of labor law, economics, and management and communications. They also study and use two foreign languages.

PROGRAM
The program is split into two parts:
> The first three semesters (S5, S6, S7) involve a common core for all students of the program where the main theme is embedded systems: planes, satellites, mobile phones, mobile robots, metros...
> The last 3 semesters (S8, S9, S10) are devoted to the student's specialization and involve two courses:
  - Smart communicating systems: this course focuses on mobile phones and wireless networks,
  - Autonomous embedded systems: this course focuses on mobile robots and their energy management.

SECTORS OF ACTIVITY AND COMPANIES
Given the broad nature of this program, graduates join professions in all sectors of the economy. Engineers from the Electrical and Computer Engineering department can be found in:
> major companies in the transport sector (TOYOTA, PEUGEOT, RENAULT, ALSTOM, THALES, RAIL SIGNALING, AVIONICS, VALED...),
> major companies in the area of research, design and installation (SIEMENS, EDF, ALCATEL, SCHNEIDER ELECTRIC, SPE, GEGELEC, STMICROELECTRONIQUE),
> IT services companies (CAP GEMINI, LOGICA, ATOS ORIGIN, SOPRA...).

PROJECTS WITH LINKS TO COMPANIES OR LABORATORIES
4th year: Group work on three activities: a technical study, a project that involves monitoring technical and economic developments, and a marketing project.
5th year: Technical project (final year project) in the areas of high value-added measurements.
Length: 2 months (January-February). The technical project can be carried out in the same company as the student's work placement (in this case, the work placement is more akin to a technical / commercial assignment which follows on from the project).

MAIN PROFESSIONS OPEN TO NEW GRADUATES
Employment prospects are extremely varied and concern all sectors.
Some examples:
> Project manager: manages a project and ensures it is carried out properly.
> Design engineer: coordinates studies linked to the development of new products, where the formal specifications of these products are drawn up in a document that lays out their characteristics. He/she is responsible for realising the project, creating prototypes, as well as testing and controlling the different components.
> Research and development engineer: within the context of an innovation project, participates in the design and development of new products, services or procedures.

LINKS WITH RESEARCH
Student engineers from this program are trained through research, allowing them to benefit from state-of-the-art knowledge. The lecturers of the Electrical and Computer Engineering department carry out their research projects within the laboratories of Lille 1 University, which are associated with the school in the following areas:
- Fundamental computing (LIFL)
- Microelectromechanics and nanotechnologies (EMIN)
- Control engineering, computing and signals (LAGIS)
- Electrotechnics and power electronics (LEEEP)
- Analog and digital electronics
- Signal processing
- Robotics
- Renewable energy
- Embedded systems
- Communications

SECTORS OF ACTIVITY AND COMPANIES
- Automotive
- Aerospace
- Electronics
- Renewable energy
- Robotics
- Control engineering
- Electrical engineering

OBJECTIVES
The program is split into two parts:
> The last 3 semesters (S8, S9, S10) are devoted to the student's work placement (in this case, the work placement is more akin to a technical / commercial assignment which follows on from the project).
OBJECTIVES
The aim is to train executives and engineers who are capable of working in a business environment where there is a need for widely-used materials (polymers, metal alloys) or high added-value materials (composite materials, ceramics, biomaterials, micro-electronic materials).

An engineer trained in this program is capable of using scientific, technical and managerial resources in order to meet the specific needs of companies in the areas of quality, ageing, sustainability, recyclability and innovation, irrespective of the materials used.

SECTORS OF ACTIVITY AND COMPANIES
The range of sectors of activity and companies is extremely wide, both in the private and the public/para-public sectors: metallurgy, plastic and composite materials, semiconductors and components, automobiles, aeronautics, ceramics, glass, electricity, nuclear energy, the biomedical sector...

Our partner companies: EDF, DASSAULT, DECATHLON, ALTEN, VALEO, RENAULT, TOYOTA, MICHELIN, HUTCHINSON, AREVA, L’ORÉAL.

PROGRAM
The classes taught enable the student to acquire the fundamentals of the chemistry and physics of materials. These fundamentals are necessary in the understanding of phenomena at the microscopic level which have an influence on the usage properties of materials.

Solid managerial and linguistic competences are transmitted in class during the program in order to allow engineers from this program to find their place in the business world rapidly and efficiently.

The department trains students in numerous professions in the area of materials and offers students the opportunity to perfect their competences in their final year.

During the program, student engineers get to grips with the world of business through visits of industrial sites and interaction with the many professionals who intervene in the program.

MAIN PROFESSIONS OPEN TO NEW GRADUATES
Engineers from this program use their competences in the following areas:
- Quality / Security (15 %)
- Production (15 %)
- Research / Technical studies (85 %)
- Other (5 %).

LINKS WITH RESEARCH
The partner laboratories of the program are the Institut d’Electronique, de Microélectronique et de Nanotechnologies (IEMN) as well as the Unité Matériaux Et Transformations, two laboratories which are associated with the CNRS (a French national research body) and have a rich network of international collaborations.

Graduates from Polytech Lille can also continue their studies at PhD level in the following areas: Condensed matter, Microelectronics, Organic and macromolecular chemistry.

More information about Polytech Lille’s degree courses:
www.polytech-lille.fr
Lille, a city at the heart of Europe

The region “Nord - Pas-de-Calais” is known for the quality of its hospitality and its dynamic young population. Given its location, Lille, which is the 4th largest agglomeration in France, puts Europe within reach. It is also located one hour from the seaside towns of the North Sea.

A young metropolis

With 28% of its inhabitants under the age of 20, Lille is the town in France with the largest percentage of young people. With more than 100,000 students, it is also the metropolis in France with the largest student population.

A dynamic economy

The metropolis has always had a strong trading tradition. The agglomeration of Lille occupies a key strategic role in the following areas:

- Mass retail, with companies such as Auchan, Décathlon, Castorama, Leroy-Merlin...
- Mail order (Trois Suisses International, Redcats)
- Personal credit (Cofidis, Finaref)
- The automotive industry (Peugeot-PSA, Renault, Toyota)
- The food-processing industry (Bonduelle, Lesaffre, Leroux)

A tourist destination

Thanks to its dynamism and cultural diversity, Lille was chosen, in 2004, as Cultural Capital of Europe. Today, it is one of the most visited towns in France for a short break. After the success of Lille 2004, a new cultural event, Lille 3000, will take place every 2 years, based around the themes of modernity and the cultures of the world.