

HEC Paris vs EDHEC Business School

A quick guide for Indian students planning to study business in France

France is one of Europe's most popular destinations for business education, with several triple-accredited (AACSB, EQUIS, AMBA) schools. HEC Paris and EDHEC are two of the names Indian applicants shortlist most often. This guide gives a brief profile of each school and a side-by-side comparison to help you decide.

At a glance

Factor	HEC Paris	EDHEC Business School
Location	Jouy-en-Josas, near Paris	Lille, Nice, Paris (also London and Singapore)
Positioning	France's top-ranked business school; elite global brand	Top-tier French school; especially strong in finance
Selectivity	Highly selective	Selective, somewhat more accessible
Approx. fees (Master/MSc)	EUR 40k-50k+	EUR 30k-45k
Accreditations	AACSB, EQUIS, AMBA	AACSB, EQUIS, AMBA

Fee figures are indicative ranges and vary by programme and year.

HEC Paris

Jouy-en-Josas, France

Overview

HEC Paris is widely regarded as France's leading business school and features prominently in global rankings. It is known for a strong alumni network, close links with top employers and a large green campus outside Paris.

Popular programmes

- Master in Management (Grande Ecole)
- Specialised MSc programmes (e.g. finance, strategy, entrepreneurship)
- MBA and Executive programmes

Strengths

- Very strong brand recognition with consulting firms, investment banks and multinationals
- Well-regarded entrepreneurship ecosystem
- Extensive global alumni network

Points to consider

- Highly competitive admissions; strong academic profile and test scores expected
- Higher tuition and living costs compared with many peer schools
- Campus is outside central Paris

Best suited for

Candidates with strong profiles aiming for top-tier consulting, finance or leadership roles who want the strongest possible French business brand.

EDHEC Business School

Lille, Nice, Paris, London and Singapore

Overview

EDHEC is a leading French business school with a particularly strong reputation in finance, supported by the EDHEC Risk Institute. Its multi-city campuses give students an urban, international experience and access to different regional business ecosystems.

Popular programmes

- MSc in Finance and related finance specialisations
- MSc in Data Analytics and Artificial Intelligence
- Master in Management (Grande Ecole)
- Global MBA

Strengths

- Strong finance positioning and research reputation
- Multiple campuses in city locations across France and internationally
- Active outreach and scholarship opportunities for international students

Points to consider

- Brand prestige is generally seen as a step below HEC Paris
- Programme availability differs by campus; check the campus for your chosen course

Best suited for

Students seeking a respected, triple-accredited French brand with a finance or data focus, at a somewhat lower cost and with a more accessible admission profile.

Head-to-head comparison

Which one fits your goals?

Criteria	HEC Paris	EDHEC
Brand and prestige	Strongest in France; high global visibility	Strong and respected; slightly below HEC in overall brand
Admissions	Very competitive; higher expectations on GMAT/GRE and profile	Competitive but generally more attainable
Tuition (indicative)	EUR 40k-50k+	EUR 30k-45k
Core strengths	Consulting, finance, entrepreneurship	Finance, data and AI, entrepreneurship
Campus experience	Single large campus near Paris	City-based campuses (Lille, Nice, Paris)
Career access	Top consulting, banking and corporate recruiters	Strong finance and corporate recruiters, especially in finance
Value for money	Premium price for premium brand	Often better cost-to-value for finance and data roles

Key takeaways

- **Choose HEC Paris** if you have an outstanding profile and prestige is your top priority.
- **Choose EDHEC** if you want a top French brand with a finance or data focus and a more accessible route in.
- Apply to both if your profile allows; many students use one as an ambitious choice and the other as a strong alternative.
- Always check the latest fees, rankings, intakes and scholarships on each school's official website.

Need help shortlisting schools, preparing your application or planning finances? Speak to a Shiksha Study Abroad counsellor.