The French Training Program, key points:

- Co-direction:
  - Pr Nicole PHILIP, Medical Genetics and Prenatal Diagnosis
  - Pr Hagay SOBOL, Cancer Genetics

- Frequency: yearly
- Duration: 2 years, full time
- Number of students accepted: about 15 yearly (12-20)

- Entry criteria (about 60 applicants/y):
  - Licence, Master, PhD in biological/equivalent sciences (majority)
  - Nurses, Midwives, medical students
  - Students in Psychology or equivalent

- Selection (about 30 interviews/y):
  - Based on application files
  - Interviews (Program’s directors, genetic counsellors, psychologists)

The French Training Program, key points:

- Course description:
  - Taught modules, mandatory + optional (19 weeks, 72 credits)
    - Human and Clinical Genetics, Prenatal Genetics, Cancer Genetics, Neurogenetics, Endocrinology, Pediatrics, Cardiogenetics
    - Laboratory main techniques
    - Counseling skills/psychology (theory and role plays)
    - Medical ethics (based on articles)

  - Clinical placements (28 weeks, 48 credits), in France or abroad
    - Medical genetics/Prenatal Diagnosis
    - Cancer Genetics
    - Laboratory (non scientific students)

  - Research project/dissertation
    - Subject chosen during placement

Current development:

What’s new in September 2016?

- Creation of a new module (1 week, full time):
  - Principles and applications of Next-Generation-Sequencing (NGS) in Medical Genetics
  - NGS technologies (exome, all genome, gene panels)
  - Application into clinics
  - Medical ethics (based on published articles)

Objective: to give future genetic counsellors a specific training in genomics
**Evaluation of the training program:**

**At a national level:**
- Master assessed every 4 years by the Evaluation of Research and higher Education Agency (AERES)
  
  ———> Higher distinction A+ in 2012

**At a European level:**
- Assessment by the European Board of Medical Genetics (EBMG), 2012
  
  ———> The program fulfills the European Core Curriculum for Master’s programs in genetic counselling

French genetic counsellors eligible for European Registration after two years of clinical practice

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**What students do after the course:**

**Employement:** majority of graduates go on to work in French Public Health Genetics Services:
- Prenatal Diagnosis/Medical Genetics
- Cancer Genetics
- Reference Centres for Rare Diseases: cardiology, neurology, metabolic diseases, Marfan disease,...

**Countries:**
- France and French oversea territories (Martinique, Guadeloupe, La Réunion)
- Belgium, Switzerland, Canada, NYC (NY MSc), Singapore

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**A Genetic Counsellor**

is like air conditioning, when you do not have it, you are on track, but when you have it, you cannot live without!

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**What students do after the course:**

**Workforce:** 165 GC obtained the French certificate (12% of men)

- 25% already had a professionnal background
  - 10 nurses
  - 10 midwives
  - 13 PhD
  - 2 pharmacists
  - 5 Clinical Research Associates
  - 2 laboratory operators

- 75% had an initial training (licence, master)

**Thesis:** 5 GCs passed a PhD in Genetic Counselling, while working

**European Certification:** 5 in 2014, 3 in 2015