

**For the first time in the world  
a degree for magicians  
has been recognized by the government**



*Following steps undertaken by Le Double Fond,  
the Ministry of Labor in France has recognized the validity of a  
two years university level bachelors degree in magic,  
which will be entitled to public funding, in the same way  
as other artistic professions, such as dance, circus, music or cinema ...*

### **a) Objectives**

The creation of a degree in Magic is a response to an ambition and a willingness **to finally have this profession recognized by official institutions and, thereby, enhancing the image of the entertainment sector** and contributing to the professionalization and the recognition of these professions in all their diversity and complementarity.

### **b) A trade that requires a recognized certification**

No complete formal training or certification existed before the creation of the training system for Magicians by our organization. Access to the job was often achieved by simply transferring knowledge from peers, or by a self-taught approach, or through the many associations, federations, schools, and academies present in the magic community.

For the magic profession, the only benchmarks which existed were:

Degrees recognized only by the magicians themselves, within the framework of a private institution (for example, Jeff Mc Bride's "Magic Mystery School") or as part of a brotherhood (for example the FFFF degree) or in a university (for example the magic program at the "Real Centro Universitario Escorial-Maria Christina" in San Lorenzo del Escorial).

Competitions and championships, which have the drawback of representing magic more as a sport than as a member of the arts and culture in general.  
Modules in magic forming part of a more general academic program of psychology, philosophy, circus etc. (For example, Laurence Hass's classes at the universities of Pennsylvania and Texas, or those of Dr. Ricardo Rosencrantz at the University of Illinois, or the magic program of Johan Stahl and Tom Stone at the University of Uppsala in Sweden).

There are certainly a multitude of magic schools, associations and federations, but their courses do not give access to a professional degree recognized by the government.

**As the profession of magic was not officially recognized at the national level, employers lacked clarity about the qualifications held by the magicians they hired, and magicians had difficulty getting their skills recognized.**

But the magician's job is complex and requires many skills related to the following elements **(see details in our attached documentation)**:

Block 1: The practice of magic

Block 2: Preparation of an act or magic show

Block 3: Interpretation of an act or magic show

Block 4: Development and management of the business side of magic.

**The magicians trained by the Double Fond have expanded their expertise, their possibilities for networking and increased their chances of employability.**



### **c) Rapidly growing employability**

The artistic sector of magic has been expanding rapidly in recent years. We have observed a **growing demand for magicians on the job market and a growing demand for training.**

These requests are growing strongly because of the enthusiasm of the public for this art. Indeed, in recent years, magic has been everywhere: literature (Harry Potter), television series (The Mentalist), cinema (The Prestige, The Illusionist, Elusive), television (prime time programs dedicated to magic like Diversion or Eric Antoine's magic evening), shows (super productions like The Illusionists 2.0 or Magic Delirium), festivals (e.g. Magic WIP at La Villette) etc. It is significant that the winners of "France Has Talent" in 2016 and "America's Got Talent" in 2018 have been magicians ...

In response to this societal phenomenon, magic has often been featured in the press.



#### **d) A need for retraining and diversification**

On the one hand, we have observed a **strong demand for professional retraining** from people interested in our Magician certification course. Especially in the artistic field, for example, many types of performers (dancers, circus artists, street artists ...) face the disadvantage of a short career and must secure their professional future. The profession of magic allows them to stay in an artistic environment when their physical abilities no longer allow them to pursue their initial career.



On the other hand we have found that performers are increasingly looking for diversification to increase their chances of employability. Indeed, employers are often interested in **versatile performers who can optimize their position by undertaking multiple activities**. Leisure parks and cultural centers, for example, prefer to employ a clown / magician, a juggler / magician or a dancer / magician to set up multidisciplinary projects (a show or a global cultural project where several artistic disciplines will be represented). This phenomenon is echoing an evolution currently noticeable in the cultural world: the trend nowadays is towards the crossroads of many different disciplines. **The different artistic worlds are becoming less compartmentalized and creativity is freeing itself from the traditional boundaries which have existed between the different arts**

### e) The culmination of an historical step

The Double Fond, created in 1988, is well known internationally in the field of magic. It provides an in-depth and very pragmatic experience in the art of magic, because it is **the only place in France which has been exclusively dedicated to magic shows**, throughout the year, since its beginning. Over 30 years more than 80 magic shows have been created, featuring 150 magicians from all over the world.

It is a space for meetings and exchanges between professionals of the magic art: conferences and seminars are regularly organized with magicians from around the world. Even before the creation of our training organization, a school of magic has always existed within the establishment: hundreds of amateur and professional magicians have been trained by us.

The training organization at the Double Fond, created in 2012, offers several training courses to allow magicians to develop their skills, but also training courses for companies that use magic as a teaching medium to address communication and management concepts in an innovative way.

And in 2018, for the first time in France, Le Double Fond has obtained approval from the **Ministry of Labor to deliver a two years university level degree course in Magic (+ 120 ECTS points, in the points system developed by the European Union.)**



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