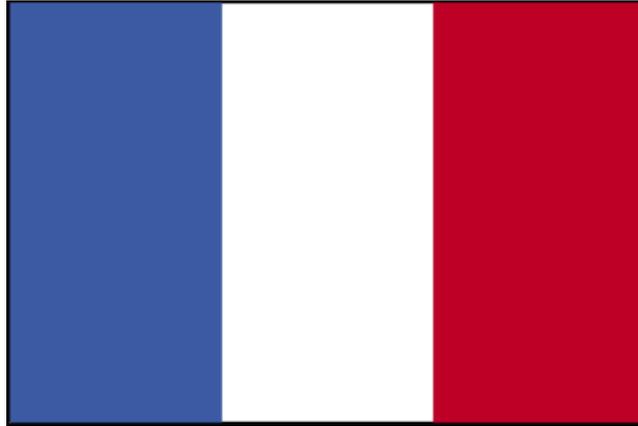


FRANCE



- **Capital** : Paris
- **Area** : 550 000 sq km
- 67 000 000 **inhabitants**
- **Currency** : Euro
- **In the European Union** since 1957
- **Head of state** : Nicolas Sarkozy

THE COLLEGE



The college Jean-Marie-Bouloux is a vocational agricultural college.

There are 270 students.

The courses are 3-year-courses in environment, horse breeding and riding, dog and cat breeding and farm management.

The horse breeding and riding class is a European Section with a four-week-training course abroad.

There is a college farm with cows, sheep, horses, dogs, dairy goats and arable.

THE BREED : The Anglo-Arabian horse

The Anglo-Arabian horse is a Thoroughbred (prefix Anglo) crossed with an Arabian horse. The cross can be made between a Thoroughbred stallion and Arabian mare, or vice-versa. It can also be a cross between a Thoroughbred and an Anglo-Arab, an Arabian and an Anglo-Arab, or between two Anglo-Arabians. No matter what the cross, the Anglo-Arabian must have at least 12.5% percent Arabian blood to be considered an Anglo-Arabian.

France is one of the greatest producers of Anglo-Arabians. The Pompadour National Anglo Arab Stud, part of the French National Stud, is at Château de Pompadour in Arnac-Pompadour, Corrèze. It also has influenced France's main sport horse breed: the Selle Français.

The Anglo-Arabian has been used by the military, as well as a general riding and sport horse. The breed is also excellent at eventing, with the stamina, jumping ability, and speed. In the United States, the Anglo-Arabian is considered a part bred Arabian horse and is registered in a separate section within the Arabian Horse Association.

The horses are usually 15.2-16.3 hands high (62 to 69 inches at the withers), and mainly chestnut, bay (sometimes called "brown") or gray. They have a long neck, prominent withers, a short and strong body (more sturdy than the Thoroughbred), and a deep chest. They have fine heads, although not overly dished in profile, and have strong bone

THE STUD : POMPADOUR

The 'city of horses' is a pretty chocolate-box town with a welcoming, gentle community and is named after Louis XV's favourite mistress, Madame de Pompadour. The splendid XV century fortified chateau, which he bought in 1745 to house his extravagant lover, dominates the centre of Pompadour, and overlooks the magnificent racecourse.



It was here in Pompadour in 1751 that Madame de Pompadour created the stud farm (Haras) with just 3 stallions and 10 mares. This is now internationally recognised as the main headquarters for the breeding of Anglo-Arabians (since 1872) and is responsible for the research into breeding and the registering of breeding details.

The racecourse was created in 1836 and was originally devoted to training, with the first races taking place in 1837. Steeple chasing began in 1919. In addition to steeplechase, Pompadour's annual race events also include flat and cross-country. This increasingly popular racecourse is rated as 1st class for steeple chasing, 2nd class A for the flat and is considered to be one of the most beautiful and most undulating in France. It is also one of the few courses in the southwest of France to see a rise in both public attendance and participants. There are also numerous show-jumping and dressage events held throughout the year.

The Pompadour Stud farm (Haras) is one of the most prestigious in the country. The 89-hectare-pasture national brood-mare farm Jumenterie La Rivière is believed to be the only one in France and is a spectacular sight in the spring. The site is world famous as the birthplace of the Anglo-Arabian breed. Since the 1950s, the primary driver of saddle horse breeding in France has been competitive show-jumping, the activity most commonly practised by over 400,000 registered members of the French Riding Federation (France has over 650,000 riders). There are guided tours of the Stud farm, brood-mare farm and chateau. There are four riding centres in and around Pompadour where you can go riding, and many bridleways through woodland and surrounding countryside. The entire Pompadour estate was listed as "natural beauty of general interest" by a ministerial decree in 1926.

THE PROGRAMME

Day 1

The French students did a presentation of their college, their region, the Anglo- Arabian horse. It took place in English, which is their foreign language.

Then, the delegations visited the college, the college farm, the riding centre and the town Montmorillon.

Day 2

The delegations left early to go to Pompadour, the national stud. They visited the stud, the breeding unit, saw a competition and a foal presentation.



Day 3

In the afternoon, the group visited a private breeder of Anglo-Arabian horses: Elevage Buissy.

