



# THE TIMES

## Voilà ! students can pull their degree out of a hat !

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French bureaucracy may lack the charm of Hogwarts, but it seems to be almost as efficient when it comes to helping magicians with their careers.

A state-approved degree in magic has proved an unexpected success in France and is being opened up to students elsewhere.

The degree, the first in the world to have official recognition, according to the French, is being offered by Double Fond, a Parisian theatre specialising in magic. “It took us five years to convince the state to recognise the profession of magician as a proper profession,” Adeline Galland, the head of teaching, said. “We had to show that it was a true profession with very precise skills and we had to produce written documents showing what those skills were.”

The first 13 degrees were awarded last year. Next month, another 15 students will sit their examinations, which include performing before a jury along with written papers on subjects such as the history of magic, self-promotion and managing a magician’s business.

Galland said: “We had no idea how much interest there would be when we set this up but in fact we’ve had students coming from across France and some from other countries as well.

“These are people who are passionate about magic and who have at last found a degree that corresponds to their passion. We are of course open to the English too,” she said.

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The school charges €17,820 for the degree, which was approved by the government in 2018 and involves 550 hours of lessons and at least 2,800 hours of homework. It normally takes two years, although there is an “accelerated” one-year version for fast learners.