

P R E S S R E L E A S E

Paris, 07/05/2026

CISCO crosses a historic milestone

France's first private orthodontic school to be awarded European academic recognition

Forty years after its foundation, **CISCO (Centre International Sciences et Cliniques Orthodontiques)**, France's leading school for dental surgeons, has signed a strategic partnership with **PgO-UCAM (Postgrado en Odontología)**, the exclusive partner of the **Universidad Católica San Antonio de Murcia (UCAM)** for postgraduate degrees in the dental field. This agreement paves the way for the awarding of **ECTS credits** to CISCO-trained practitioners and for the programme's development into a **university continuing-education master's degree**. A first in the history of French private orthodontic training, driven by the **LearnyLib** group.

AT A GLANCE

- First private orthodontic school in France to be accredited with ECTS credits at European level.
- A partnership signed in Madrid with PgO-UCAM, the UCAM's exclusive provider of postgraduate dental degrees, present in more than 90 countries.
- A prospective evolution towards a university continuing-education master's degree awarded by UCAM.
- A strategic step in line with the LearnyLib group's strategy, supported by Philippe Veran (Biotech Dental / Upperside Capital Partners).
- An accreditation model potentially extendable to all entities within the group.

Forty years of excellence: recognition finally achieved at European level

Founded in 1985 by Professor Claude Duchateaux and Dr. Antonio Patti, CISCO is France's oldest private orthodontic school. Over four decades, it has trained more than **2,500 dental surgeons** in a medical and functional approach to orthodontics, based on early diagnosis, an understanding of functional imbalances, and mastery of contemporary treatments — orthopaedic appliances, multi-bracket systems, and clear aligners.

Since its integration into the LearnyLib group and the appointment of Julien De Ryck as Managing Director, CISCO has embarked on an ambitious modernisation programme: moving towards a high-level hybrid curriculum, structuring e-learning, and optimising face-to-face training. The partnership with PgO-UCAM is the natural culmination of this.

The agreement, signed in Madrid, provides for the **university accreditation of the CISCO programme** in the form of ECTS credits, in accordance with the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System. This recognition highlights forty years of educational expertise and opens up opportunities for trained practitioners to pursue further studies within the European higher education area.

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"Gaining European recognition for forty years of educational expertise provides our practitioners with a real advantage in their careers and reaffirms that French training continues to hold its own on the international stage."

Philippe Veran

Chairman of the Biotech Dental Group, reference shareholder of LearnyLib

PgO-UCAM: a partner of excellence for global recognition

PgO UCAM is the postgraduate programme offered by the Universidad Católica San Antonio de Murcia (UCAM), a leading European university in the field of health – not only in dentistry but also in medicine and sports – dedicated to the development, both in Spain and internationally, of its own postgraduate qualifications in the dental field. UCAM is a private Spanish university recognised within the European Bachelor's-Master's-Doctorate (BMD) system, and its degrees enjoy full institutional recognition. Present in more than 90 locations, with over 1,400 teaching staff and clinicians and more than 300 proprietary qualifications, PgO-UCAM supports several partner training centres across Europe, Africa, Asia and Latin America. CISCO thus becomes the first French partner in this ecosystem of excellence.

UCAM has strengthened its international reputation by entering the QS World University Rankings 2026 for the first time, in the 1021–1400 range, and by ranking above 1201st place in the Times Higher Education rankings. It stands out particularly in Sports Science, where it features in the global Top 51–100, as well as through the position of its Faculty of Medicine in the QS subject rankings, thereby consolidating its academic prestige in the field of health.

Its high level of internationalisation is also reflected in its position within the global Top 500 for diversity and international students, as well as in its achievement of a 5-star QS Stars rating. In Spain, UCAM has established itself among the top 10 private universities and stands out as the third-ranked university in terms of knowledge transfer and revenue from patents.

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"We are delighted to welcome CISCO among our partners. Its history, the calibre of its faculty, and the rigour of its programme are fully in line with the academic standards of PgO-UCAM. This partnership marks the beginning of a long-term collaboration, dedicated to training French-speaking practitioners."

Aldo Lucero Sanchez

Director of PgO-UCAM

A master's degree prospect: French private orthodontics enters the academic era

Beyond ECTS accreditation, the partnership opens an even more significant prospect: the evolution of the CISCO programme into a **university continuing-education master's degree**, awarded by UCAM. The precise terms and timeline for this development will be announced at a later stage.

This approach is unprecedented in the French private orthodontic training sector. It directly addresses one of the sector's structural challenges: the absence of formal academic recognition for practitioners who have completed high-quality private programmes. From now on, CISCO alumni will be able to have their training formally acknowledged within the European higher education area.

A group strategy: LearnLib lays the foundations for a European degree programme

CISCO is part of the **LearnLib** group, a French e-learning platform dedicated to healthcare professionals, Qualiopi-certified, and accredited by DPC, FIFPL, and OPCO, with more than 27,000 **trained professionals**. Founded in 2018 by Drs. Julien De Ryck and Pierre-Axel Domicile, the platform has developed more than 120 online programmes covering all dental specialties.

The partnership signed with PgO-UCAM is part of a broader strategic vision: to make **LearnLib the leading French provider of accredited continuing dental education at European level**. This university accreditation model is designed to be progressively extended to other programmes within the group, in a continuous drive to raise the level of recognition for the training provided to dental surgeons.

The group is supported by **Philippe Veran**, a serial entrepreneur, chairman and co-founder of **Biotech Dental Group**, France's leading implantology company and manufacturer of Smilers clear aligners, and of **Upperside Capital Partners**, since his acquisition of a stake in 2023.

ABOUT

CISCO



Founded in 1985 by Professor Claude Duchateaux and Dr. Antonio Patti, the Centre Interdisciplinaire de Sciences Orthodontiques (CISCO) is the oldest private orthodontic school in France. Designed for general dental practitioners, its two-year programme combines face-to-face sessions in Paris e-learning to provide a medical, functional and bioprogressive approach to orthodontics. Qualiopi-certified, CISCO has trained more than 2,500 practitioners over four decades and is now part of the LearnLib group.

PGO POSTGRADOS UNIVERSITARIOS



PgO Postgrados Universitarios is the exclusive partner organisation of the Universidad Católica San Antonio de Murcia (UCAM) for the development, in Spain and internationally, of its own postgraduate qualifications in the dental field. Operating in over 90 locations, PgO-UCAM supports several partner training centres across Europe and Latin America, and brings together more than 1,400 lecturers, clinicians, and researchers.

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