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- La Réunion



**Choose
France**

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Choose France

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Choose France



Famous for its art and culture, France welcomes more tourists than any other country in the world. France is also one of Europe's top destinations for international students. Numbering 265,000 in 2006, international students made up 14 percent of France's student population.

France is a first-class centre for scientific and technological innovation.

It owes this standing to its research capacity and its many achievements in such fields as aerospace, transportation, electronics, telecommunications, chemistry, biotechnology, health and mathematics, successes confirmed by the number of French winners of the Fields Medal.

More than 20% of France's national budget goes to education.

The French government supports public institutions of higher education, including the universities, thereby lowering the cost of education to each student by approximately 10,000 euros per year. Public support keeps tuition levels in France among the lowest in the world, while assuring the quality and integrity of degree programs.

What's more, **no distinction is made in France between French and foreign students:** the entrance requirements and admission fees are the same, and the degrees are identical.

France hosts the third highest number of international students in the world.

A highly diversified system of recognized excellence

French degrees are granted by a dense network of higher education institutions and world-famous research centers. By the numbers, that network comprises 87 universities, more than 220 engineering schools and programs, more than 100 schools of business and management, and 120 public schools of art, as well as many specialized schools for specific sectors such as social work, paramedical specialties, tourism, and sports.

Proficiency in French opens doors to **200 million people** in 47 countries on all five continents.



Ensuring that international students enjoy a successful and productive stay in France

CampusFrance is a new public entity created to integrate and extend the missions of Agence EduFrance and two other organizations vital to academic and scientific mobility. CNOUS and EGIDE, now operating under the CampusFrance umbrella, manage the French government's scholarship programs as

well as the inter-university cooperation programs of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The critical mission of the new organization is to ensure the best possible reception for international students through actions spanning the entire study experience: outreach—information,

advising, online application, preparation for departure, orientation once in France, and support until the student returns home.

campusfrance.org and CampusFrance's Espaces (local offices) are the engines behind the organization's mission of world-class student services.

Degrees



The degrees awarded in the French higher education system are based on the European ladder of Licence, Master, and Doctorat. Degrees are awarded based on the successful completion of a specified number of semesters or years of study, expressed in credits as defined by the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS):

Licence = 6 semesters = 180 ECTS
(baccalauréat* + 3 years)

Master = 10 semesters = 300 ECTS
(baccalauréat + 5 years)

Doctorat (PhD) = 16 semesters
(baccalauréat + 8 years)

* baccalauréat : completion of secondary education.

French degree programs are based on the harmonized European system of Licence, Master, Doctorat.

At the core of the French degree system are a set of **“national diplomas” that have the same value** regardless of the institution that grants them, thanks to the supervision and support provided by the French government.

	+ 9 years	• State diploma of doctor of medicine	DOCTORAT
D	+ 8 years 16 semesters	• Doctorat (PhD)	
	+ 6 years	• State diploma of doctor of dental surgery • State diploma of doctor of pharmacy	
M2	+ 5 years 10 semesters	• Research Master • Professional Master	MASTER
M1	300 ECTS	• Graduate engineer • Graduate of school of business and management	
L3	+ 3 years 6 semesters 180 ECTS	• Licence (Bachelor) • Licence professionnelle (Professional Bachelor)	LICENCE
L2	+ 2 years 4 semesters	• University diploma in technology (DUT) • Higher technical certificate (BTS)	
L1			
Completion of secondary education + <i>baccalauréat</i> or equivalent = access to higher education			

Please note

• Any foreign student enrolled in a course of higher education at home is eligible to apply for admission to a French institution and may be admitted if he or she meets the established criteria.

• ECTS (European Credit Transfer System): a European system for transferring academic credits within Europe.

Credits, corresponding to an evaluation of the amount of work a course represents within the overall volume of work required for a successful academic year, are assigned to each course. 60 ECTS credits are awarded for a year, 180 for the licence level, and 300 for the master level.

Further information:

europa.eu.int/comm/education/programmes/socrates/ects_en.html

Universities



France's 87 public universities are spread throughout the country, from the Sorbonne in Paris (founded in 1179) to the new high-tech campus of Nice-Sophia-Antipolis, and cover the entire range of academic disciplines:

from the Sciences, including Mathematics, Chemistry, Physics, and Biology to Technology, covering Computer Science, Engineering, Materials Science, and Electrical Engineering through Literature, Languages, the Arts, the Social Sciences, Law, Economics, Management, Health, Sports, and more.

The university curriculum system
Licence: 3 years,
Master's degree: 5 years,
Doctorat (PhD): 8 years.

One out of every 3 PhD theses is prepared by a student abroad.

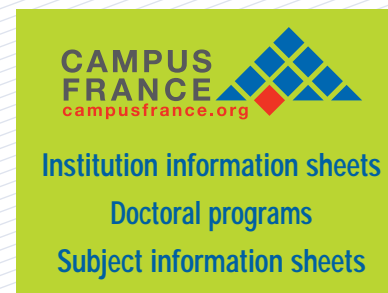
Research is an integral function of France's universities.

More than 300 doctoral programs, in collaboration with some 1,200 research centers and laboratories, prepare students for scholarly careers. France's doctoral programs have always been open to international participation. Between 1999 and 2004 the number of foreign doctoral candidates rose by 7.5 percent.

The university system also stays in step with today's world, offering technological specializations and professional degrees, including:

- **University engineering diplomas**, which account for 60% of all engineering degrees in France.
- **Technical qualification training** via the *Instituts Universitaires de Technologie (IUT)*, offering more than 25 specialities and the professional *Licences* – more than 700.
- **A professional curriculum**, through the *Instituts Universitaires Professionnalisés (IUP)*, which offer 21 programs.

- **Management training**, through the *Instituts d'Administration des Entreprises (IAE)*
- **Political science and economics** degrees through the *Instituts d'Études Politiques (IEP)*.
- **Journalism and communications**, with the Institut Français de Presse (IFP) and the École des Hautes Études en Sciences de l'Information et de la Communication (CELSA), the Centre de Formation des Journalistes (CCFJ), the École Supérieure de Journalisme de Lille or the Centre universitaire d'enseignement du journalisme de Strasbourg.



Physicians, dentists, and pharmacists are trained in the universities. In close partnership with large teaching hospitals known as university hospital centers, the universities deliver a common core curriculum in these fields.

Admission to medical studies for foreign students

It is not possible to enter a medical school partway through. Foreign students who have not yet obtained a full degree in medicine in

their country of origin must start with year one of the first cycle, regardless of the level they had attained at home. If they pass the competitive examination at the end of the first year, they will then be allowed to enter the year corresponding to the level attained in their country of origin (once the appropriate level has been determined).

In addition to the *DES* (Diploma in Specialized Medicine) examination for foreign doctors already practicing, there are specialized training programs available for foreign doctors and medical students: the *Attestation de Formation Spécialisée (AFS)* for young doctors who have already started the process of specialization (duration: two to four semesters) and the *Attestation de Formation Spécialisée Approfondie (AFSA)* for foreign students who have already specialized (duration: one or two semesters). Certain highly specialized university degrees are also available. All of these studies require a good level of French.



The *Grandes Écoles*



The *Grandes Écoles* are uniquely French institutions. Created in the early 19th century in parallel to the university system, they are extremely selective and offer education of a very high standard.

Engineering and business are the specialties of most of France's unique and renowned *Grandes Écoles*, freestanding institutions of higher education that may be public or private. But others, including some of the most famous, are devoted to public administration (the *École Nationale d'Administration*), military sciences, postsecondary teaching and research (the *Écoles Normales Supérieures*), agronomy, and veterinary medicine.

Nearly two-thirds of France's science and technology degrees are granted by schools of engineering.

The *Grandes Écoles* grant accredited five-year degrees at the master level.

They also have intermediate programs with specializations: Bachelors (3 or 4 years post-secondary), Masters of Science (4 or 5 years post-secondary), MBA, Specialized Masters (6 years post-secondary).

The classic method of admission to one of the *Grandes Écoles*

(competitive examination after two years of preparatory courses, followed by a three-year course of study) has changed to meet modern professional needs.

A **parallel admission** process exists that is specially designed **for foreign students**. It is based on degrees and exams, with courses of study between two and five years, depending on the entry level granted by the institution.

Engineering programs

France has some 240 schools of engineering, all of which share certain common characteristics related to the recognized quality of the closely regulated, master-level *diplôme d'ingénieur* that signifies advanced achievement in engineering. The *diplôme d'ingénieur* is a **national diploma** that enables its holder to apply for admission to a doctoral program.

Programs in Business and Management

France's many schools of business and management are diverse enough that anyone can find programs that suit his or her academic background, experience, and interests. All bring the latest management practices to bear on the changing economic environment. Many are structured around internships and international exchanges. France's business schools offer institution-specific degrees (not national diplomas); 71 of the schools are recognized by the government. According to the *Financial Times*, seven French business schools are among the top ten in Europe.

Please note

CGE, EQUIS, AACSB, and AMBA accreditation for business schools:

These accreditations, bestowed on schools and/or the diplomas they offer, guarantee that their recipients meet international standards and certify international label.



Institution information sheets
Subject information sheets



Schools of art



France's schools of art can be divided into two major categories:

Écoles supérieures d'art and *Écoles supérieures d'arts appliqués* are presti-

gious public institutions that offer three- and five-year programs leading to national diplomas at the bachelor and master level, respectively.

Private schools and schools administered by France's chambers of commerce (the latter schools are called *écoles consulaires*) confer institution-specific degrees that are registered with the National Commission on Professional Certification and classified according to the level of employment for which graduates are prepared.

They have selective admission policies.

Further information :

<http://www.culture.gouv.fr/culture/infos-pratiques/formations/frame.htm>

Specialized schools

Institutions known as specialized schools round out the landscape of French higher education. They provide training in very specific areas such as tourism, paramedicine, and social work.

Schools of architecture



Architectural studies in France now fall within the harmonized European degree system (based on bachelor, master, and doctorate). The first degree is granted after three years of study. The second degree, at the master level, is a state diploma that entitles the holder to practice as an architect; it requires an additional two years of study after the first degree. The third degree is a doctorate in architecture, earned after three more years.

20 schools of architecture regulated by the Ministry of Culture confer advanced degrees in architecture that entitle the holder to practice the profession independently and without supervision.

www.archi.fr/ECOLE

Two other schools deliver degrees that are recognized as equivalent to those of the 20 schools referred to above. They are:

- The *Institut National des Sciences Appliquées (INSA) de Strasbourg* (formerly ENSAIS), a public institution supervised by the minister of education and research www.insa-strasbourg.fr
- The *École Spéciale d'Architecture (ESA)*, a private institution. www.esa-paris.fr

CAMPUS FRANCE
campusfrance.org

Institution information sheets
Subject information sheets

Studying in France



At all levels, from the first postsecondary degree to the most advanced study, it is essential that prospective students clearly define their educational plans before choosing a degree program and institution.

Students whose prior academic work provides thorough preparation for their chosen program in France have a much greater chance of being admitted.

Choosing a program

Strong points of the French higher education system are the diversity of degree programs in any given field of study and the geographic distribution of excellence throughout the country. Across France one finds top-quality institutions in all fields—universities, business schools, and schools of engineering.

Both these points—flexibility and breadth—enable international students to easily to locate programs suited to their background and goals.

CampusFrance provides international students with comprehensive support to fulfill their educational goals in France.



To make the right choice, get all the facts

Visited 100,000 times each month, the CampusFrance website provides easy access to all the information students need to prepare for a period of study in France. The information is customized to the requirements—and the language—of students in 20 different countries.

www.campusfrance.org
> CampusFrance local offices

CampusFrance's huge online catalog contains data on 33,000 different programs offered by some 6,000 French institutions of higher education.

With three clicks the site's powerful search engine allows prospective students to find programs by level and discipline, plus summary information on the sponsoring institutions and links to their websites. Other areas of the site invite students to learn about French

language programs in France, MBA programs, programs taught in English, and doctoral training. The site also offers profiles of the fields of study that make up the French academic system.

www.campusfrance.org
> search for all courses in France

Discipline-specific networks of institutions CampusFrance supports the coalescence of networks of institutions that wish to facilitate access to their master-level programs. Dedicated websites for several such networks provide information and advice about network programs; they even allow students to complete a common online application.

Six discipline-specific networks, each made up of a few dozen institutions, invite students to apply to master programs using a web-based

application procedure that is quick and interactive. Students complete a single, common application with one deadline, noting their institutional preferences; that file is accessed by all of the network's institutions as they make admission decisions in communal sessions.

Each network's site features an up-to-date presentation of the education and training system used in the discipline, as well as the degrees offered.

Networks are active in the following disciplines:

Engineering:
www.campusingenierie.org

Law:
www.campusdroit.org

Art: www.campusart.org

Economics and Management
www.campusgestion.org

Humanities:
www.campushumanites.org

Mathematics:
www.campusmaths.org

CampusFrance has more than 90 offices in more than 60 countries around the globe to provide personalized services to prospective students

CampusFrance offices around the world visitors can speak directly with an education specialist to gather information

about study in France or to get advice about their options. Students receive concrete, personalized help in matching their

goals to available programs, assembling application materials, and tracking applications through the admission process.

Enrolling in a French institution of higher

education



There are three steps involved in enrolling in a French institution of higher education:

Proof of admission of the chosen institution: this is mandatory for applying for an entry visa for France.

Administrative enrolment that validates the admission:

this is completed at your institution **when you arrive in France**, upon payment of registration fees. A *certificat de scolarité* [study certificate] and a French student ID card, which are proof of this payment, must be produced when you request a residence permit.

Educational enrolment (free of charge): this completes your admission by structuring the training you will receive (schedule for required courses, choice of optional courses, and types of examination). Once you have completed administrative enrolment, you will be notified by mail as to when this step should be completed.

There is no standard regulatory procedure in France for recognizing foreign qualifications. The request for a determination of equivalency – which evaluates the number of years of French higher education that corresponds to the studies undertaken in the applicant's home country – is considered when an institution receives an application for admission. Professional experience in the chosen area may also be taken into account. **Both the admission and the student's starting level are determined by the educational institution alone.**



French higher education admission fees

A unique feature of the French educational system: **institutions of higher education are most often subsidized by the State.** As a result, there is no relationship between tuition fees and the quality of the instruction – the real cost is not borne by the student.

Registration fees vary depending on the institution (public or private) and the curriculum.

In the public universities, tuition fees for 2006 were:

- Licence: 162 euros,
- Masters: 211 euros,
- Doctorate: 320 euros,
- engineering schools: 500 euros.

Additional fees may be required for services or some programs. Tuition charges in the Grandes Écoles, and particularly in business programs, are higher—ranging from 3,800 to 14,000 euros per year.

Applying online



Apply for admission Applications for preliminary admission must be made through CampusFrance, whose specialists help students compile their **personal online application file**.

The online preliminary application procedure dramatically shortens the time students must wait for a response from educational institutions and from the French visa authorities, thus enabling students to plan their departure with more confidence.

The online process offers other advantages as well:

- Students may **apply to several institutions using a single application**.
- CampusFrance will confirm submission of the student's application for preliminary admission and help students track its progress with connected institutions.

The online procedure just described raises the confidence of educational institutions in the integrity of the applications they receive. Educational institutions retain full discretion over admission decisions.

Personal interview

The program of support from CampusFrance culminates in a **personal interview in which the student presents his or her study plans**. The student may also undergo a test of French proficiency, if requested by the institutions to which he or she has applied.

The online procedure also includes the first steps in the visa process. In cooperation with their CampusFrance office, students apply for a visa covering the period of their stay in France.



In more than 20 countries, CampusFrance's new online application procedure operates in tandem with educational institutions

Already in place in 20 countries, the new online application process enables students to submit their applications in cooperation with a

CampusFrance office and participating French institutions.

In countries outside the European Union where this procedure is available, students must use it to file their applications.



Although the online procedure, if it exists, is not obligatory for students from European Union, it is strongly recommended as the best way of ensuring an effective and complete application and planning process, one that will smooth the student's transition to life in France.

Note:

Complementing the procedure described above, discipline-specific sites provide access to selected master-level programs offered by networks of institutions in the following fields:

Engineering:

www.campusingenierie.org

Law: www.campusdroit.org

Art: www.campusart.org

Economics and Management:

www.campusgestion.org

www.campuseconomie.org

Humanities :

www.campushumanites.org

Mathematics:

www.campusmaths.org

www.campusfrance.org
Apply for admission
Apply online

Long-stay visas for students



Prospective students apply for their visa at the French consulate in their country of residence. The time required for visa processing varies. Applicants are advised to begin the process as early as possible, and in no case later than 2 months before their program begins.

All non-European students (i.e. those not from the countries of the European economic area, Andorra, Monaco, Switzerland, San Marino, or the Vatican) planning to stay for more than six months must obtain a student long-stay visa in order to study in France. **This visa must be presented within two months of the student's arrival in France in order to obtain a student residence permit.**

Required documents

- Proof of admission to an educational institution.
- Proof of financial support. Under French law international students must demonstrate that they possess sufficient means to live in France for one year without working. The required monthly minimum is 430 euros (5,160 euros per year).
- Proof of the existence of a bank account from which funds will be transferred.
- A valid passport whose period of validity encompasses the entire length of the visa period requested.

- Proof of health insurance coverage is required for students over 28 years of age enrolled in an institution not covered by the French social security system. No proof is required for those under 28 who are enrolled in a recognized institution. Depending upon the country, other documents may be required

Please note

Once they arrive in France, holders of long-term student visas must apply for a temporary residency permit (*carte de séjour*) that confirms their student status. The residency permit and a valid passport constitute evidence of the student's legal presence in France.



Students in the following countries must apply online:

Algeria, Brazil, Canada, Gabon, Guinea, India, Syria, Taiwan, Tunisia, Cameroon, Chile, China, Lebanon, Madagascar, Turkey, Vietnam, Colombia, Congo, Republic of Korea, United States, Mali, Morocco, Mauritius, Mexico, Russia, Senegal.

Visa application

Following the personal interview and upon receipt of the preliminary admission decision from the institution, students submit the visa application with a participating institution automatically receive their residency permit upon arrival in France. Students who apply through CampusFrance to

Scholarships and financial aid



All students at France's public institutions, French and foreign alike, are the beneficiaries of a generous amount of "invisible financial aid." International students enjoy the same low tuition rates as French students at universities and other public institutions (160 to 500 euros per year). The true cost of the education they receive is much higher (6 000 to 15 000 euros per year), but the difference is paid by the French government.

France is one of the least expensive countries in Europe for students and students enjoy other special benefits as well, such as low-cost dining facilities, student housing, housing subsidies, and discounts on transportation and cultural events.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs Scholarships

Regardless of their country of residence or the kind of scholarship sought, candidates should contact the **Cultural, Scientific and Technical Co-operation Service at the French embassy or consulate where they live** well in advance of their departure.

- **French embassy scholarships**

- **Study scholarship**

The "study scholarship" is granted to students registered in the regular curriculum of a French higher education institution in

order to obtain a diploma granted by that institution.

- **Training grants**

The "training grant", for 3 to 12 months, is awarded in view of a training program, further training, retraining or specialized studies related to a professional activity. It may also consist of a short-term language study grant or teacher-training grant for training programs recognized by the Ministry of Education.

financial aid

- **Visiting scholar fellowship**

The "visiting scholar fellowship", generally for three months, is awarded in the framework of high-level cultural, scientific, technical or industrial research and exchange programs.

- **Specific programs**

- **Eiffel Merit Scholarships**

This program is addressed at top-ranking foreign students seeking to continue their higher education in France, at upper undergraduate or graduate level. They are available in three major fields: engineering, economics and management, law and political science. Candidates must be proposed by the French institutions which have already accepted them.

www.egide.asso.fr

- **Eiffel Doctorate Merit Fellowships**

This program concerns doctoral candidates preparing dissertations jointly supervised by their home institution and a French higher education institution. It allows foreign doctoral candidates to spend one year in France (preferably the second or third year of their dissertations). www.egide.asso.fr

- **Joint doctoral programs, a new scheme**

These programs involving French and foreign take the form of student exchanges at doctoral level for the preparation of jointly supervised dissertations. In addition to their basic funding participants may receive an allowance from the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs. www.egide.asso.fr

- **Major Merit Scholarships**

The Major program complements the merit scholarships which the Agency for French Education Abroad (AEFE) offers foreign alumni of *Lycées Français* abroad. www.cnous.fr

- **Charcot program fellowships**

It offers annual one-year training fellowships for clinical research in 5 hospital units (Strasbourg, Lyon, Paris, Marseille, Bordeaux). Candidates must be under 40 years old and French or English speaking; they should have research professor (or future research professor) status in their country of residence abroad. www.cnous.fr

Scholarships and financial aid



Grants from the Ministry of Education, Higher Education and Research

In function of their nationality or status certain foreign students may also be eligible for financial assistance from the French Ministry of Education: travel grants, means-based scholarships, financial aid for doctoral studies (research grant).

www.education.gouv.fr

- **Business–education agreements for training through research (CIFRE)**

The CIFRE program of business–education partnerships enables young scholars to do their dissertation research in cooperation with a firm. The scholar performs research and development within the firm with support from a research team operating outside the firm. Scholars must be doctoral candidates who already hold a master or a *diplôme d'ingénieur*. <http://www.anrt.asso.fr>

European programs

- **Socrates/Erasmus and Leonardo programs** permit mobility grants for students pursuing studies or training courses in another country of the European Union. http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/programmes/socrates/erasmus/erasmus_fr.html

- **Erasmus Mundus program**

This program consists of top-quality integrated courses at Masters level which are offered by at least three higher-education institutions in three different European countries to third-country students (outside the EU). The courses involve a period of study in at least two of the three universities and lead to a recognized double, multiple or joint diploma. Third-country students with an initial higher-education diploma are eligible for financial assistance.

http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/programmes/mundus/index_fr.html

- **Program AlBan scholarships for students from Latin America**

In 2002, the European Commission adopted the Program AlBan which provides Masters and Doctoral fellowships to Latin American students. It is anticipated that through the year 2010 some 3,900 Latin-American students and professionals will benefit from these fellowships in the European Union.

This program is scheduled to be integrated into the Erasmus Mundus program (Latin American section).

<http://www.programalban.org>

http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/projects/alban/information/ies_fr.htm

Grants from the Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie

The University Agency of the French-Speaking World (AUF) has action programs for students, professors and researchers.

<http://www.auf.org/rubrique15.html>

Grants from international institutions, non-governmental organisations and foundations

- “Study Abroad” trilingual guide (English-French-Spanish) published by UNESCO.

<http://www.unesco.org/education/studyin-gabroad> : :

- For dissertation or post-doc fellowships in the sciences: the guide of the French Association of French Doctorate-Holders in the Sciences (Andès)

<http://financements.andes.asso.fr/>

- Fellowships for Foreign Resident Doctors of the Paris Hospitals Medical College

In partnership with the Paris Hospitals Public Assistance (AP-HP), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs offers annual one-year fellowships for foreign medical doctors under 35 years of age. Candidates should have a qualification level in their own country at least equivalent to that of a fourth-year internship in the Paris Hospitals.

<http://www.cmhp.asso.fr/>



Living in France

Studying in France also means living in France and discovering the French way of life.

Each year France welcomes more tourists than it has inhabitants: 75 million tourists each year to discover or rediscover France.



A rich, varied landscape

The geography of France is one of the most diversified in Europe. With Northern plains, ancient hills, and lofty mountain ranges, and with four bodies of water at its doorstep (the North Sea, the English Channel, the Atlantic Ocean, and the Mediterranean), France boasts 5,500 kilometres of shoreline. The variety of its countryside and climates means that visitors can enjoy leisure activities all year round.

At the heart of Europe, France is adjacent to nine countries

– Belgium, Luxembourg, Germany, Switzerland, Italy, Spain, England, Monaco, and Andorra – and offers many wonderful vacation destinations.

Closer to home, France boasts 4,600 movie theatres, 50,000 theatre shows per year, and 7,000 museums in Paris and throughout the country. All offer student discounts and subscription rates.

Sit in a café – the heart of French social life – and read one of the country's seven national or 160 regional newspapers. As for France's famous literary life, books are readily available everywhere from large specialty stores to small corner bookshops.

Please note

Throughout the year, and especially in summer, numerous cultural events and festivals reflect the country's cultural dynamism and its openness to other cultures of the world. Be sure to take in the Angoulême International Comic Books Festival (January), Les Folles Journées de Nantes, when the Breton city of Nantes lets go (January - February), Internet Festival (March), Printemps des Musées (April), Printemps de Bourges (April), Fête de la Musique (21 June), Fête du Cinéma (June), Feria de Nîmes (June), Festival d'Aix (June - July), Francofolies de la Rochelle (July), Festival d'Avignon (July), Jazz à Marciac (July), Eurockéennes de Belfort (July), Paris Quartiers d'été (July-August), Festival Interceltique de Lorient (August), Journées du Patrimoine (September), Braderie de Lille (September), and Transmusicales de Rennes (December), to name but a few.



Preparing for departure

Even after students have their visa in hand, CampusFrance continues to help them prepare for their departure and their arrival in France.

Housing



Apartment, hotel, extended-stay hotel, a room in a private home, or university housing? Before looking for a place to live in France, students must decide, in light of their financial resources and the length of their program, what sort of arrangement would be best for them. Housing is relatively expensive in France, but international students, like French students, enjoy the benefit of housing assistance.

University residences

Located on campus or in town, these residences, run by the CROUS (Centres Régionaux des Œuvres Universitaires et Sociales), offer 10- to 12-sq.m furnished rooms equipped with a sink (showers and toilets are shared). The monthly rent is between 140 and 400 euros. Space in university residence halls remains in very short supply. It is very difficult to obtain university housing, especially in Paris, as French government Foreign Scholarship holders are given priority.

Private student residences

Private student residences can be found in France's major cities. Their numbers have greatly increased in recent years in an attempt to make up for the lack of spaces in university residences. The rent ranges from 600 to 700 euros per month in Paris and from 400 to 700 euros elsewhere.

Association pour le développement économique du logement étudiant (ADELE):

www.adele.org

Résidences Estudines : www.estudines.fr

Lauréades : www.laureades.com

Private housing

As a student, you must often pay an initial deposit, even for a one-room or studio apartment. Costs are high, especially in large cities, and above all in Paris. In general, you must show proof that your monthly income is at least three times the amount of the rent.

Rooms in private houses

It is possible to rent a room in a private home, although this solution is more suitable for short stays. In Paris, the monthly rent varies from 800 to 1050 euros per month – elsewhere, expect to pay half that rate.



WARNING

Housing aid

There are two types of housing aid (these cannot be combined):

Allocation de Logement à Caractère Social (ALS):

provided that they meet certain conditions, all foreign students can qualify for this type of aid.

Aide Personnalisée au Logement (APL):

If the housing is subject to an APL agreement, the student may qualify for a rent reduction.

More information can be found on the *Caisse d'Allocations Familiales (CAF)* website: www.caf.fr



Finding housing
Finding housing in Paris
www.cnous.fr

Insurance



Mandatory insurance

Health insurance

- All students under 28 years of age who are studying for more than four months in an institution recognized by the French social security system are **automatically covered by French student social security**. Enrolment for this insurance is completed at the same time as administrative enrolment.

The yearly fee is approximately 190 euros.

- All other students (those studying less than four months, those in an institution not recognized by the French social security system, and those over the age of 28) must buy a health insurance policy from a private insurance company. In France, fees range from 150 to 550 euros per year.

Third-party liability insurance

This type of insurance, which covers compensation to a third party in case of an accident, is available from private insurance companies.

House insurance

You are legally required to insure rented accommodation against theft, water damage, fire, etc. Available from private insurance companies, the average yearly fee for this type of insurance starts at about 60 euros.

Additional insurance

Repatriation insurance

is available from private insurance companies. While not mandatory, **it is strongly recommended for foreign students** and may be required by the local Prefecture as a prerequisite for a residence permit.

Additional health insurance

The French social security system reimburses about 70% of your medical bills. Additional coverage is available from *mutuelles* (mutual insurance organizations), which, for an annual fee, offer various types of contract to supplement Social Security payments or to insure against specific types of risk (travel, sports, etc.). La Mutuelle des Étudiants (www.lmde.fr) offers plans for students, as does USEM, a federation of 10 regional student insurers (www.usem.fr).

Vehicle insurance

Every vehicle in France – whether bicycle, moped, or car — must be insured. Available from private insurance companies, the annual fee for such insurance depends on the vehicle.



Working in France

New provisions



Working while studying

French law permits international students to work under the following conditions:

The temporary student residency permit entitles the holder, while enrolled, to engage in paid employment for a period not to exceed **60% of full-time annual employment without prior administrative authorization.**

Employers wishing to hire an international student must notify the authorities of their intention to do so.

The minimum hourly wage is 8.27 euros.

Special note on "au pair" employment. Many students find rooms in family homes in exchange for several hours of work each week caring for children or performing other household tasks. Accueil Familial des Jeunes Étrangers (homestays for young internationals) at <http://www.afje-paris.org>.

After graduation

International students already in France may, after receiving a master-level degree, apply for a six-month residency permit to enable them to obtain and complete a professional internship or other initial professional experience.

Special note on the new "compétences et talents" residency permit

The new permit, known as the "compétences et talents" (skills and talents) permit, is designed to facilitate the admission to France of foreigners whose skills and talents enable them to contribute in a significant and sustained way to the economic development or to the intellectual, scientific, cultural, humanitarian, or athletic life of France and of their home country.

The new permit is granted upon favorable assessment of the participant's plans as stated in his or her permit application. The permit, valid for three years and renewable, entitles the holder to engage in professional activity consistent with his or her stated plans.

International students who received a 6-month residency permit after obtaining a

master-level degree may apply for the new permit if their plans meet the criteria.

For more information: <http://vosdroits.service-public.fr> > Etrangers en France > séjour des Etrangers > Etudiants étrangers

The cost of living

France is one of the least expensive countries in Europe, and students enjoy many benefits.

From university dining halls and residences to transportation and leisure activities (cinemas, sporting events, bookstores, student associations, etc.), various discounts and offers allow students with a relatively modest budget to cover not only living expenses but a cultural life as well.

Given the number of discounts available to students, **the average monthly student budget is around 1,000 euros in Paris and 800 euros elsewhere.**

How much is...?

- a meal at a university dining hall: 2.70 euros
- at a fast-food restaurant: 6 euros
- at a local restaurant: from 10 to 20 euros
- a cinema ticket: student rate: 10 euros
- entrance to a museum: 7 euros
- a monthly public transport pass in Paris: 54 to 140 euros (depending upon zones)
- a sandwich: 4 euros
- coffee: 2 euros
- a baguette: 0.80 euro
- a croissant: 1 euro
- a wheel of camembert: 1.90 euro
- six eggs: 1.20 euro
- a litre of milk: 0.90 euro
- A kilo of potatoes: 1.20 euro
- a kilo of rice: 1.90 euro
- a newspaper: 1.10 euro
- a postage stamp: 0.60 euro
- identity photos from a booth: four photos for 4 euros
- a round-trip train ticket between Paris and Nice: 135 euros
- a litre of unleaded petrol: 1,10 euro
- one night in a three-star hotel: 60 euros
- A microwave oven: 100 euros and up
- DVD player: 50 –150 euros
- MP3 player: 30–150 euros

CampusFrance

CampusFrance provides comprehensive support : weighing study options, applying for admission to appropriate programs, requesting a visa, and preparing for a smooth arrival in France.

Carrying out a plan to study abroad involves several distinct steps. The first is to gather information, casting the widest possible net. The second is to sift through that information with guidance from a specialist to identify the most promising institutions and programs. After determining how they will finance their education, students must apply for preliminary admission, request a visa, prepare for departure, and make detailed arrangements for life in France. At each step of the way, CampusFrance is there to help. Our mission, backed by a comprehensive commitment to quality, is to help international students fulfill their educational goals in France.

Personalized support, online and through CampusFrance offices

www.campusfrance.org:

One site is all students need to conceive and carry out their plans to study in France. By setting up a personal space on the CampusFrance site, students can start a dialogue about their goals and the best way to achieve them. CampusFrance's specialists help students choose a program, apply for admission, obtain a visa, seek financial aid, and make living arrangements in France.

More than 90 CampusFrance offices in more than 60 countries

Specialists in CampusFrance's offices provide concrete assistance and support as students realize their plans to study in France from helping students weigh their options and locate programs that suit their background and goals, to guiding them in the compilation of effective applications for admission and tracking those applications through to the institutions' decisions.

An online application system, available for use in more than 20 countries, enables CampusFrance offices to be even more useful to students. In these countries, prospective students are required to act through the CampusFrance office in their dealings with

educational institutions related to admission and visa matters.

In addition to their essential liaison functions, CampusFrance offices also help students plan their departure and coordinate their arrival in France with CampusFrance's growing team of representatives in Paris and throughout France.

Contact campusfrance.org

> CampusFrance local offices



Some useful websites



Ministry of Foreign Affairs:

requirements for entering France, addresses of France's embassies and consulates, location of branches of the Alliance Française, scholarships for international students:
www.diplomatie.gouv.fr

Ministry of National Education:

the educational system in France, institutions of higher education, fields of study, education in Europe around the world:
www.education.gouv.fr

Ministry of Higher Education and Research:

www.enseignementsup-recherche.gouv.fr

European Union:

<http://europa.eu.int>

CampusFrance :

www.campusfrance.org

- Engineering: www.campusingenierie.org
- Law: www.campusdroit.org
- Art network: www.campusart.org
- Economics and Management: www.campusgestion.org
www.campuseconomie.org
- Humanities: www.campushumanites.org
- Mathematics: www.campusmaths.org

• CNOUS (Centre National des Œuvres Universitaires et Scolaires, the French national student service agency):

Information on financial aid, university residence halls, student restaurants:
www.cnous.fr

• Egide:

international mobility, scholarships:
www.egide.asso.fr

• Diplomas recognition:

www.ciep.fr/enic-naricfr

Research

- Scientific research networks: UREC, the unit responsible for the networks of institutions supported by CNRS, the French national center for scientific research, publishes a directory of web-based services related to higher education and research in France:
www.urec.cnrs.fr/annuaire

Programs of study

• Engineering:

www.cefi.org - www.cdefi.fr

• Conférence des *Grandes Écoles* (the association of France's *Grandes Écoles*):

<http://www.cge.asso.fr>

EQUIS: indicates accreditation by the European Foundation for Management Development

AACSB: indicates accreditation by the U.S.-based Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business

AMBA: indicates recognition by the London-based Association of MBAs

• Chambre de Commerce et d'Industrie de Paris (CCIP, the chamber of commerce and industry of Paris): www.ccip.fr

• Arts, culture, and architecture:

www.culture.gouv.fr/culture/infospratiques/formations

• Fashion: site de l'Union des industries textiles www.textile.fr

• Architecture

The 20 schools of architecture supervised by the French Ministry of Culture:

www.archi.fr/ECOLLES

INSA de Strasbourg :

http://www.insa-strasbourg.fr/formation_initiale

Ecole Spéciale d'architecture :

www.esa-paris.fr

• Directory of regional schools of art :

www.andea.fr

• Agriculture: www.educagri.fr

• Health

Ministry of Health:

<http://www.sante.gouv.fr>

France's 28 university hospital centers (CHU): www.reseau-chu.org

College of Medicine of the Hospitals of Paris: www.cmhp.asso.fr

National School of Public Health:

www.ensp.fr

• Sports and athletics: Ministry of Sports:

www.jeunesse-sports.gouv.fr

• French language proficiency: degrees and examinations

Alliance Française:

www.alliancefrancaise.fr

Centre International d'Études

Pédagogiques TCF - DALF - DELF (CIEP, international center for research in teaching): www.ciep.fr

CCIP - TEF and diploma programs in

French for business and the professions:

www.ccip.fr

• Directory of centers for the teaching of French as a foreign language in France:

<http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr> > Actions de la France > Francophonie / Langue française > Langue française > Apprendre le français > Etudier en France

• Bibliothèque Nationale de France (national library of France): catalog search:

www.bnf.fr

• Destinations in France:

www.tourisme.fr

• Study in Paris: www.eduparis.net

Notes :