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FRANÇAISE

*Liberté  
Égalité  
Fraternité*



CAMPUS  
FRANCE

Choose

FRANCE



# Bienvenue en France



**Choose**

**France**




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**STUDY**  
in France

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# International students, welcome to France!

## Welcome back to campus

### Visas and residency permits

The process of applying for and receiving visas and residency permits is now virtual.

For complete details, [review our FAQ on visas and residency permits.](#)

[campusfrance>Students>Getting organised>Visas](#)

To facilitate your arrival in France, Campus France makes available online information and tools relevant to your study program that allow you to prepare at your own pace and in full confidence.

### A checklist so you won't forget anything!

On the Campus France site you'll find everything you need to do, step by step, to prepare for your arrival in France.

[www.campusfrance.org/en/organise-arrival-France](#)

### Tutorials to guide you through the administrative maze

To facilitate your move to France and help you surmount administrative challenges, Campus France has prepared a new collection of tutorials in French, English, and Spanish.

Payment of the CVEC (contribution to student and campus life); Visale rental guarantee; registration with the national health-insurance

system... you'll find videos on these and other topics on the Campus France site.

[www.campusfrance.org/en/tutorials-to-help-international-students-in-their-application-process](#)

### Everything's easier with peer support!

Through one of the several peer-support mechanisms found in France, you can be paired with a fellow student to guide you upon arrival and help you adjust to your new life. Consistent with their availability, your peer supporter may be able to meet you at the airport or train station, show you the campus and the surrounding city, help you with administrative procedures, and more.

For more information:

[www.campusfrance.org/en/find-student-sponsor](#)



## Quick introductions to 50 of France's university cities

Because making you feel welcome is a priority throughout France, Campus France makes available up-to-date profiles on student services and student life in France's major university cities. The profiles give you useful leads to help you discover your host city and explore your new life in France.

The profiles are updated for each new academic year. They are available in French, English, and Spanish.

[www.campusfrance.org/en/discover-all-you-need-to-know-about-student-reception-in-50-university-cities-in-france](http://www.campusfrance.org/en/discover-all-you-need-to-know-about-student-reception-in-50-university-cities-in-france)



To learn about up-to-date welcome services, visit the Campus France site.

[www.campusfrance.org](http://www.campusfrance.org) > Resources center > Practical information for students and researchers > Student cities

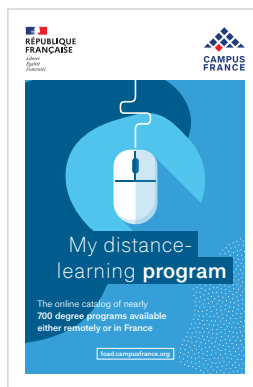
# You choose whether to study in France or from home

## Find a distance-learning program for academic year 2021

If you are unable to come to France because of the world health crisis, Campus France's catalogue of distance-learning programs can help you search for degree programs that are 100% virtual or a hybrid of distance and campus-based learning. Enrolling in a distance-learning program offered by a French institution of higher education allows you to immediately and safely begin a relationship with the campus that will welcome you in 2021/2022.

*My Distance-Learning Program* catalogues nearly 700 programs offered in French or English by French institutions of higher education. The offerings cover the fields of engineering, administration, management, law, finance, computer science, urban planning, design, and much more—and at all academic levels, primarily master's and post-master's.

[campusfrance.org](http://campusfrance.org)>What program are you looking for? I am looking for a distance <https://foad.campusfrance.org/#/main>





## So you're an international student interested in studying in France?

France has created the *Bienvenue en France* label to help you identify institutions that offer services to facilitate your arrival in France, your studies while here, and your career development after graduation.

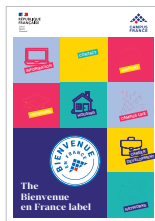
With the help of the label, which means "Welcome to France," you can find institutions that offer the services you want:

- websites in several languages and including pages that speak to your needs;
- airport or train station pickups and help in meeting administrative requirements;
- housing assistance, from rooms in university housing to single or shared rentals to a room in the home of a local family;
- orientation events and seminars, guided tours, tourist visits;
- pairing with a peer already in France who can help you get acclimated, even before you leave home;
- study aids, courses in French as a foreign language, courses taught in English;

- help finding a job or an internship, contacts in the world of work;
- alumni networks to boost your international career.

Complete information can be found on the Campus France site, including the list of labeled institutions:

[www.campusfrance.org/en/bienvenue-en-france-certification-institutions-certified](http://www.campusfrance.org/en/bienvenue-en-france-certification-institutions-certified)



# Join France Alumni

You chose France for your postsecondary studies. But even if you've just arrived in France or are about to arrive, you shouldn't wait to join France Alumni, the worldwide network of international students with degrees from French institutions of higher education.

Joining France Alumni is fast, easy, and free. By creating your profile on [Francealumni.fr](http://Francealumni.fr) you can:

- Make contact with other alumni in France and throughout the world on the basis of shared interests
- Keep abreast of economic, scientific, and cultural trends in France
- Stay informed of news from the France Alumni network and its partners
- Participate in some of the 500 events organized by France Alumni whether you're in France or anywhere else in the world
- Review offers of employment and internships from France Alumni's partner firms
- Take advantage of your academic experience in France to expand professional opportunities.

Accessible in France and 122 countries throughout the world, today's France Alumni platform counts 325,000 members who are current or former students of French higher education. It also has more than 3,500 partner organizations—academic institutions, businesses, nonprofits, and more.

Sign up today and take advantage of the many personal and professional opportunities offered by this worldwide network.

◆◆ **FRANCE ALUMNI**

[www.francealumni.fr/en](http://www.francealumni.fr/en)





# In the heart of Europe



## Some of the advantages of living in France

### A renowned quality of life

Students enjoy special rates and discounts in nearly all areas of daily life, ensuring a good quality of life: a modern healthcare system, an efficient public transportation network, housing assistance, university dining facilities, discounted access to cultural and athletic events, and more. Outside the cities you'll find an uncommon variety of landscapes, from seacoasts to mountain ranges, that offer every conceivable form of recreation.

### Unmatched cultural dynamism

Readings, movie houses, museums, theaters, operas, cafes, fine restaurants, fashion—all are right around the corner, evidence of France's major role in the cultural realm. Every season of the year features events and festivals that confirm that role and attest to France's receptivity and openness to the cultures of the world.

<http://francefestivals.com>

### A location at the crossroads of Europe

Sharing borders with nine countries, France is an ideal spot from which to explore Europe. The proximity of cities like Amsterdam, Berlin, Brussels, Barcelona, Munich, and Milan should be all the inducement you need. Many French institutions offer degree programs, courses, or internships with a broad European perspective.

### An international language

**French is spoken by more than 300 million people throughout the world.** In fact, it is the official language of 32 states on five continents. Along with English and German, it is a working language of the European Union. The Union's three capitals—Brussels, Luxembourg, and Strasbourg—are French-speaking cities. French is also the world's third most used business language and the second-most heard and read language of international news.





In 2019-2020, France welcomed 370,052 international students who made up 14% of the student body.

### High-level Research

France benefits from a long tradition of scientific and technological research that accounts for the nation's strong performance in fields as varied as space, transportation, electronics, telecommunications, chemistry, biotechnology, health, and mathematics. The results of international competitions bear this out:

- France is 2<sup>nd</sup> in the world in Fields medals (mathematics).
- It is 4<sup>th</sup> worldwide in Nobel prizes.
- France's national research center, CNRS, accounts for more high-level scientific publications than all but one other institution in the world.
- CEA, the nation's center for atomic and alternative energy, is Europe's second-leading source of patent applications.

### A wide variety of top-notch postsecondary institutions

France has some 60 comprehensive public universities, nearly 20 major clusters of institutions of higher education, research, and innovation (8 communities of universities and institutions; ±10 public experimental institutions; p. 27), 108 IUTs (university-based technical institutes), in addition to 270 schools of engineering, more

than 300 schools of business and management, more than 100 public institutions offering training in art, 22 schools of architecture, and 3,000 more schools and specialized institutes in sectors such as social work, allied health professions, tourism, sports, fashion, design, and the culinary arts. Programs taught in English are becoming increasingly common. Already, more than 1,600 such programs are offered in nearly every field throughout France.

### Affordable educational excellence

As a nation, France invests heavily in higher education. **The government pays a very large share of the real cost of every student's education** (up to €15,000 per year per student). This practice keeps tuition levels at French public institutions among the lowest in the world, while also assuring the equivalence of the degrees offered by public institutions across France and enhancing their recognition internationally.

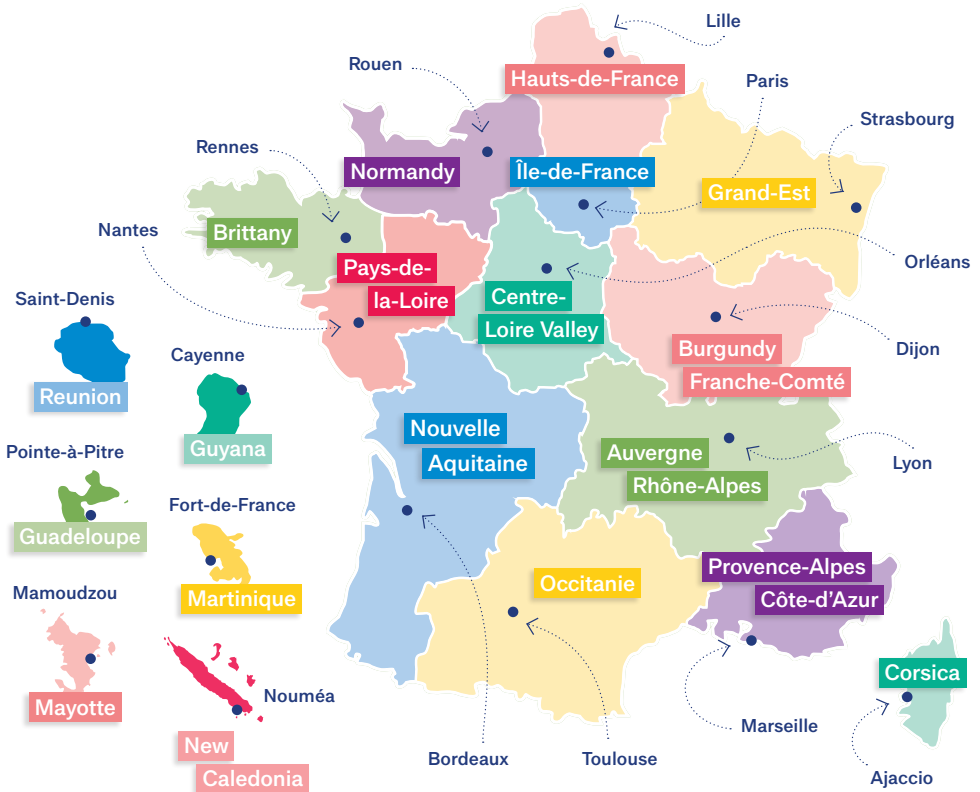
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Except for the fact that students from outside the European Union pay slightly higher tuition than French and EU students, no distinction is made between French and foreign students. Admission requirements are identical, and the degrees conferred are the same—regardless of the student's nationality.

# Exploring your options

## A strong system of higher education

The richness and diversity of French higher education ensure that any student can find a program closely suited to his or her needs, plans, and dreams. The sole prerequisite, whether at the bachelor, master, or doctoral level, is to clearly define the goals underlying your search for a program. Doing so will allow you to choose the right curriculum and the right type of school. A close fit between your stated goals (degree level and field of study) and your prior preparation will increase your chances of admission.



### Take advantage of Campus France's worldwide network of local offices:

**259 Campus France offices—called Espaces—in 127 countries offer personalized service.**

The staff of the *Espaces* are there to answer all your questions about postsecondary education in France, from your initial inquiries right up to the moment you decide to enroll. They offer reliable, personalized assistance: listening to your study plans, helping you choose an appropriate program, presenting information on grant programs, analyzing financing requirements, compiling your application for admission, tracking admission decisions, and helping you prepare for departure.

[www.campusfrance.org](http://www.campusfrance.org)

>Where to find Campus France close to your place?

### Get what you need on the Campus France website

On the Campus France website you'll find the information you need to choose an undergraduate or graduate program, apply, seek financial aid, prepare your stay, and even complete your enrollment.

### Search engines give you access to detailed information

► Consult the catalog of *licence* (bachelor) and master's programs

[www.campusfrance.org](http://www.campusfrance.org)

>What program are you looking for?



**The online catalog of French degree programs contains more than 30,000 bachelor- and master's-level programs at some 3,500 institutions.**

A powerful search engine allows you to search programs at either level by keyword, field of study, and French region. It then provides summaries of the institutions you select and connects you to their

sites. All this is complemented by profiles of the fields of study you've chosen and of the support services provided by institutions and regions.

### The research in France portal

[www.campusfrance.org](http://www.campusfrance.org) >Researchers

► A directory of doctoral schools

As your point of departure toward a doctorate, France's 265 doctoral schools organize and oversee doctoral training.

→ Search by keyword, discipline, and region.

→ Access complete information on every doctoral school: funded dissertation topics, research priorities, admission criteria and contacts, support services, funding opportunities, international links, and contacts in affiliated research facilities.

► A search engine of funded dissertation topics, laboratory positions, and postdocs

→ Academic research opportunities combined with a doctoral (employment) contract, opportunities to earn a doctorate while working in private labs (CIFRE), opportunities under programs funded by foreign governments

→ Laboratory research assistantships that introduce students to the world of research

→ Postdoctoral opportunities in French laboratories

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The Campus France website includes a section dedicated to researchers that offers easy access to the research portal as well as other information about research in France.

## GOOD CHOICES DEPEND ON GOOD INFORMATION

Campus France is with you from start to finish, providing information, facilitating online applications, and helping you prepare for departure. Visit [campusfrance.org](http://campusfrance.org) and the Campus France office closest to you. They're there to help you.

[www.campusfrance.org](http://www.campusfrance.org)

>Where to find Campus France close to your place?



## Programs Taught in English

### Programs Taught in English

[www.campusfrance.org](http://www.campusfrance.org)

>What type of program are you looking for?

>Taught in English

► **The catalog contains more than 1,600 programs taught entirely or partially in English**

Each entry describes the cost, course content, admission requirements, nature and accreditation of the diploma offered, and the share of courses conducted in English. It also specifies whether courses in French as a foreign language are available.

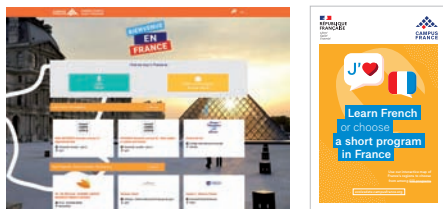
You can start your search by clicking on a map of France.

### ► A few salient figures

- More than 80% of the programs in the catalog are taught entirely in English; the remainder include some courses taught in French.
- 80% of the programs are at the master level.
- Offerings are especially numerous in the fields of business and management; engineering and technology; sciences, environment, and health; and law and economics.

The catalog is constantly updated, so be sure to check it often!





## French as a foreign language and other short programs: an online catalog...

<http://ecoledete.campusfrance.org>

### ► The catalog of short programs, both academic and cultural/linguistic

This trilingual catalog (French, English, Spanish) contains classes in French as a foreign language, as well as short academic programs offered by the member institutions of the Campus France Forum. Many of the programs carry ECTS credits.\* Others award a certificate. Still others prepare students to sit for a test of proficiency in French. Among the features of the catalog are:

- An interactive map of France's regions
- Searches by level of French proficiency or field of study
- More than 650 athletic, cultural, and culinary
- opportunities

## ...And an app



Immersion France is a mobile application developed by Campus France to help students choose a short program in France combining language-learning and tourism.

It puts all of the power of a mobile application to work for students looking for a way to learn French while exploring the country.

- Detailed program descriptions
- An introduction to regions of interest
- Links to sign-up sites

\* ECTS = European Credit Transfer System, Europe's system of cumulable academic credit, transferable throughout Europe. See pages 22–23 for more information.

## DO YOU HAVE TO BE FLUENT IN FRENCH TO STUDY IN FRANCE?

- Students from outside the European Union seeking to enroll in the first year of university study (L1) or in a school of architecture are required to follow a special procedure known as DAP (application for preliminary admission, p. 15). As part of the DAP procedure, they must demonstrate their proficiency in French, either by taking a test (TCF-DAP or TEF) or by earning a diploma (DELF/DALF).
- For enrollments in the second or third year of undergraduate study, in a master's or doctoral program, or in a Grande École, each institution is free to set its own requirements for proficiency in French.
- For certain programs taught in English, institutions may require a minimum level of proficiency.



 [www.campusfrance.org](http://www.campusfrance.org)  
Resources center

- >Panorama of Higher Education and Research in France
- >Degrees >Tests and degrees in French as a foreign language

## BEFORE COMING TO FRANCE

Practice your French at home with help from TV5 MONDE, which offers thousands of interactive online exercises in every field and at every level  
<http://parlons.francais.tv5monde.com>



# Entering a French institution of higher education

## A 3-STEP ENROLLMENT PROCESS

Applies to all students in the following categories:

- those from countries not covered by the “*Études en France*” process (see p. 15)
- those from outside the EU and seeking to enroll in year 2 or 3 of undergraduate study or in a master’s or doctoral program
- those from an EU country seeking to enroll in year 2 or 3 of undergraduate study or in a master’s or doctoral program

### 1. Receive letter of admission from institution of higher education

For non-EU students, this letter is required in order to obtain a visa.

### 2. Enroll to complete the admission process

Enrollment is done at your institution upon arriving in France. For enrollment to be effective, you must have paid your tuition and fees. A certificate of enrollment and student card constitute proof of enrollment.

### 3. Register for classes

The last step in the admission process is to select the times for your required courses, to choose your electives, and to finalize your exam schedule.

## Students from within the European Union

### ■ Enrolling in L1, the first year of undergraduate study: PARCOURSUP

Students from EU countries intending to enroll in the first year of undergraduate study (L1) must apply through the Parcoursup process. This mandatory online pre-admission process applies to foreign students (even those who hold a French secondary school diploma) seeking to enter the first year of French postsecondary education at certain selective institutions not covered by the DAP procedure (see p. 15). Those institutions include IUTs (university-based technical institutes), STSs (postsecondary vocational institutes), and CPGEs (courses to prepare for admission to a Grande École). Programs for which the Parcoursup process is required are listed here:

[www.parcoursup.fr](http://www.parcoursup.fr)

### ■ Enrolling in year 2 or 3 of undergraduate study, or in a master’s or doctoral program, is a 3-step process (see box opposite)

## Did you know?

**There is no official system of equivalence between foreign and French diplomas.** Foreign applicants must request recognition of their diploma at the time they apply for admission to a French institution. Determinations of equivalence may take into account the applicant’s experience in the proposed field of study. **Decisions on admission and equivalence are the exclusive purview of the admitting institution.**

**Evaluation of foreign diplomas:** Enic-Naric network: [www.enic-naric.net](http://www.enic-naric.net) > Enic-Naric France: [www.ciep.fr/enic-naric-france](http://www.ciep.fr/enic-naric-france)

### Students from outside the European Union

#### Countries covered by the “Études en France” online application process

Campus France's offices in 40 countries\* administer an online application process that must be followed by students from those countries seeking to study in France. This special process begins in November of each year and follows a strict timetable. Student applicants receive a personal online space in which they:

- prepare and present a single online application for submission to multiple institutions
- track progress from the initial application through granting of their visa
- dialogue with Campus France.

Campus France's assistance concludes with a personal interview in which the students can present their study plans and, if required, take a test of French proficiency.

The “Études en France” online process includes the DAP procedure (application for preliminary admission) required of students applying to enter the first undergraduate year at a university. It also includes the visa application.

[www.campusfrance.org](http://www.campusfrance.org)

>Students >Studying >Registration

#### countries not covered by the “Études en France” process

##### ■ Enrolling in the first year of undergraduate study (L1): application for preliminary admission (DAP)

Students who hold a foreign secondary-school diploma and wish to enroll in the first year of undergraduate study at a university must submit an application for preliminary admission (DAP) with the cultural section of the French embassy in their country of residence.

White forms are for enrollment in the first year at a university; yellow forms are for the first year at a school of architecture. In most countries, the DAP procedure opens in December and ends in February.

Inquire at the French embassy in your country.

**Exceptions:** Applications to institutions that practice selective admissions (IUTs, STSs, and CPGEs, as described on p. 14) are not subject to the DAP procedure. To apply to a selective institution, students must use the Parcoursup process (see p. 14)

[www.parcoursup.fr](http://www.parcoursup.fr)

##### ■ Enrolling in year 2 or 3 of undergraduate study, or in a master's or doctoral program is a 3-step process (see box on p. 14)

\* The complete list of these countries is available on the Campus France website: [www.campusfrance.org](http://www.campusfrance.org) >Students >Studying >Registration

### Tuition costs in French institutions of higher education

**Tuition charges in French universities and other public institutions are among the lowest in the world, because a large part of the cost of education (between €10,000 and €15,000 per student) is subsidized by the French government.**

#### Students from the European Union

If you are a national of France or another country in the EU, the European Economic Area, or Switzerland, the French government bears most of the cost of your education in a public postsecondary institution.

Annual tuition charges for 2020/2021 are:

- €170 at the licence (bachelor) level
- €243 at the master level
- €601 in engineering programs at institutions overseen by the Ministry of Higher Education, Research, and Innovation (MESRI)\*\*
- €380 at the doctoral level.

\*\* Except for programs begun on or after September 1, 2018, at the Ecole Centrale de Lille, the Ecole Centrale de Lyon, the Ecole Centrale de Marseille, the Ecole Centrale de Nantes, or the Ecole des Mines de Nancy, where the annual tuition is €2,500.

#### Students from outside the European Union

You are subject to differential tuition under the following conditions:

- you are enrolling for the first time in a licence, master's, or engineering program beginning in the 2020/2021 academic year
- you are enrolled in a university or other institution overseen by MESRI
- you are not a permanent resident of France

In this case, the government pays about two-thirds of the annual cost of your program. You are responsible for the balance, as follows:

- €2,770 at the licence (bachelor) level
- €3,770 at the master's level
- €380 at the doctoral level

Numerous grants, scholarships, and tuition exemptions are available. To learn more, consult the websites of institutions of interest to you or the Campus France website:

[www.campusfrance.org](http://www.campusfrance.org) **Students**

>Studying >Scholarship programs

**Tuition is higher in private institutions. In schools of business and management, for example, it ranges from €1,500 to €15,000 per year.**

# Grants, scholarships, et financial aids



**There are many ways** to finance a period of research or study in France—including scholarships, housing assistance, and travel grants.

## Scholarships from the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (MEAE)

The ministry offers several types of scholarships covering a variety of costs: health insurance, living expenses, educational costs, travel expenses, and more.

[www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en](http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en)

>Studying in France >Finance your studies  
>Scholarships

### ► Scholarships from France's diplomatic posts abroad

French government scholarships are awarded for academic study, internships, and language learning in France. All candidates, regardless of their country of residence or program of study, must apply to the cultural service of the French embassy in their home country.

### ► Specialized programs

→ **Eiffel Excellence grants** are available to fund master's programs or 10-month periods of mobility for candidates in dual-degree or jointly supervised doctoral programs. Candidates apply to their institution in France, which evaluates applications and makes recommendations to the MAEA.

[www.campusfrance.org/fr/le-programme-de-bourses-d-excellence-eiffel](http://www.campusfrance.org/fr/le-programme-de-bourses-d-excellence-eiffel)

→ **Quai d'Orsay-Entreprises grants** are designed to encourage students from the top institutions in their home country to come to France in partnership with leading French firms.

→ **Major Excellence grants** fund study up to the master's level for foreign graduates of French secondary schools abroad. Applicants must have earned grades of Bien or Très bien on their final exams.

[www.aefe.fr](http://www.aefe.fr)

>AEFE >Dispositif Excellence-Major



## The European Erasmus + program for 2021–2027

Erasmus + is the European Union's program for mobility and cooperation in the fields of education and training. It is open to all.

To go on the road with Erasmus + is to benefit from a mobility program organized under (and supported by) a cooperative framework among higher education institutions in Europe and elsewhere in the world. How does it work? You receive a grant from the European Union that covers part of the costs of your mobility experience. The grant builds in the cost of living in the destination country.

[www.erasmusplus.fr](http://www.erasmusplus.fr)

[www.generation-erasmus.fr](http://www.generation-erasmus.fr)

instagram : @gen.erasmus

Twitter : @gen\_erasmus @ErasmusplusFR

Facebook : Génération Erasmus

Youtube : Génération Erasmus

If you're seeking to do a French Master with a period of international mobility, consider one of the Erasmus Mundus master's-level programs. Organized by three or more institutions of higher education in different countries, programs are found in all disciplines and offer grants to the best students all over the world. An Erasmus Mundus master's program includes two semesters of study in at least two different institutions. Upon completion, students receive a double, multiple, or joint diploma.

## Grants from the Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie

The Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie (AUF) offers grants for academic mobility between the agency's 944 member institutions in 116 countries. Priority is given to South–South mobility.

[www.auf.org](http://www.auf.org)

## Keep in mind...

The French government subsidizes a large share of the real cost of every student's education (between €10,000 and €15,000 per student per year), keeping tuition charges in France among the lowest in the world. In other words, international students in France receive direct financial aid from the French government.

## CAMPUSBOURSES, A SEARCH ENGINE AVAILABLE IN FRENCH AND ENGLISH, SIMPLIFIES YOUR SEARCH FOR FINANCIAL AID

[www.campusfrance.org](http://www.campusfrance.org)

>Students >Studying >Scholarships



Accessible from

[www.campusfrance.org](http://www.campusfrance.org),

CampusBourses allows multicriteria searches in French and English of nearly all the grant and scholarship programs available to international students and young researchers.

Nearly 700 national and international programs offered by French government agencies, France's regions, corporations, foundations, educational institutions, France's embassies, foreign governments and institutions, and international organizations are included in the database.

The option of searching by keyword or search criteria (nationality, level and field of study, type of aid) enables you to pinpoint programs that fit your profile. Complete information is provided on each program, plus contact information and a link to the sponsor's website.

Apply early—and no later than 2 months before the start date of your program



## Applying for a visa

**Apply for your visa** at the French consulate or embassy in your country.

### Long-stay student visa (>3 months)

The long-stay student visa enables the holder to pursue studies in France for a period of 3 months or more.

### ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS CAN NOW BE COMPLETED LARGELY ONLINE

The visa process has been simplified:

- Your visa application receives priority treatment at the consulate.
- The France-Visa digital portal lets you upload your supporting documents.
- Once in France, you'll be able to validate your visa remotely, without having to appear in person at a government office.

There are several types of long-stay visa:

- The long-stay visa valid as a residency permit (VLS-TS) allows you to stay in France for up to a year without having to apply for a residency permit. However, you must validate your visa within 3 months of your arrival in France.

The validation is done online at:

<https://administration-etrangers-en-france.interieur.gouv.fr>.

- The long-stay visa marked “carte de séjour” (residency permit) must be applied for within 2 months of arrival in France. This visa is designed for Algerian nationals and for individuals who qualify for the “Talent/Researcher Passport,” among others.

For more information: <https://france-visas.gouv.fr/web/france-visas/visa-de-long-sejour>

Under some circumstances, a temporary long-stay visa (VLS-T) may be issued. It is not renewable and does not confer the same rights and privileges as the VLS-TS.

A special visa marked “Étudiant-mobilité” (student-mobility) is granted to students participating in EU programs, multilateral programs involving mobility in one or more EU member states, or programs governed by an agreement between two or more educational institutions in at least two EU member states.

**For more information:**

[www.campusfrance.org](http://www.campusfrance.org)

>Students >Getting organized >Visas

Upon expiration of your visa, you must apply for a residency permit if you wish to remain in France. (Within their first year, Algerian students must apply for their residency permit at police headquarters.)

<https://administration-etrangers-en-france.interieur.gouv.fr>

### Keep in mind...

The visa application process begins once you have an offer of admission from an educational institution. Nationals of EU member states, of the European Economic Area, and Switzerland do not need entry or residency visas. Upon expiration of your VLS-TS student visa, you can apply for a multi-year residency permit to allow you to continue your education. Students who are still minors must apply for a “visa pour mineur scolarisé en France” (visa for minor enrolled in France) and need not apply for a residency permit until they come of age.

### The short-stay student visa

(<3 months)

→ **The short-stay Schengen visa**

This visa for short stays within the Schengen area is defined in European regulations. It authorizes stays not to exceed 3 months. Holders of the visa are not required to obtain a French residency permit. It is ideal for students seeking language training or participating in other short-term educational programs.

→ **The short-stay “étudiant-concours” visa (student-examination)**

This visa entitles the holder to enter France for the purpose of attending an interview or sitting for an entrance examination at an institution of higher education. Students who pass the interview or examination may apply for a 1-year renewable

## MORE THAN 40 COUNTRIES USE THE MANDATORY “ÉTUDES EN FRANCE” PROCEDURE

In these countries, an online process has been set up for students to use in applying for admission to a French educational institution. Use of the process is required in order to obtain a visa.

Following the admission interview and upon receipt of an offer of admission, the prospective student submits a visa application. The application is tracked by the local Campus France office.

The list of the countries using the “Études en France” procedure is available on the Campus France website.

[www.campusfrance.org](http://www.campusfrance.org)

>Students >Studying >Registration

Visit the official French visa site to obtain full information on visa requirements:

<https://france-visas.gouv.fr/>

residency permit. They need not return to their country before doing so.

### Keep in mind...

Under no circumstances may a tourist visa be converted into a student visa anywhere in the European Union.



## ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS CAN NOW BE COMPLETED LARGELY ONLINE

Applications for, and renewals of, student residency permits can now be filed online on the ANEF platform (ANEF stands for "digital administration for foreigners in France"), using a computer, tablet, or smart phone.

The following groups are affected by this change:

- Students holding a VLS-TS (*étudiant*) or VLS-TS (*étudiant mobilité*)
- Algerian nationals holding a VLS (*étudiant*)
- Students holding a VLS (*étudiant mobilité*)
- Young people now of age holding a VLS-T (*mineur scolarisé*)
- Holders of a residency permit for other than student status
- Holders of a student residency permit other than a VLS-TS (*étudiant*)

<https://administration-etrangers-en-france.interieur.gouv.fr>

Watch the tutorial:

[www.campusfrance.org/en/tutorials-to-help-international-students-in-their-application-process](http://www.campusfrance.org/en/tutorials-to-help-international-students-in-their-application-process)

## Stay in France after graduating

A temporary residency permit is available to some graduates wishing to stay in France to seek employment or create a business. This permit is reserved for holders of a licence professionnelle, a master's degree (or equivalent), or another degree that prepares the student to start a business.

**Note**, however, that certain students from countries that have entered into bilateral agreements with France must apply for an APS (temporary stay permit).

**Learn more at:**

[www.campusfrance.org/en/carte-sejour-recherche-emploi-creation-entreprise](http://www.campusfrance.org/en/carte-sejour-recherche-emploi-creation-entreprise) (see page 44).

## The circulation visa

### (or Schengen visa)

**Students who earn a master-level degree from a French institution** may apply for a circulation visa after graduation. The visa enables the holder to return regularly to France from their country of residence.

## Student visas: Campus France

### answers your questions

Whatever your circumstances or nationality, the following articles on the Campus France website will answer your questions about student visas.

For example:

- How do I validate my visa upon arrival in France?
- How do I renew my residency permit?

Find everything on the Campus France site:

[www.campusfrance.org](http://www.campusfrance.org)

>Students >Getting organized >Visas



# The French system of higher education

One of the strengths of French higher education is the variety of programs and options in any given field. Across France you'll find excellent institutions in all disciplines. There are universities; schools of business, engineering, and art; and a multitude of specialized schools.



## Degrees and diplomas

The degrees awarded in French higher education reflect a common European architecture—*licence* (bachelor), master, and doctorate—based on the number of semesters completed after leaving secondary school and their equivalent in European credits under the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS)\*:

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

**Master** = 4 semesters = 120 ECTS  
(*licence* or equivalent + 2 years  
*Licence* + master = 10 semesters = 300 ECTS)

**Doctorat** = 6 semesters = 180 ECTS  
(Master or equivalent + 3 years  
*Licence* + master + doctorate = 16 semesters  
= 480 ECTS)

- The universities confer “national diplomas,” which have the same weight regardless of the institution that confers them
- The degree of *ingénieur*, equivalent to a master, is a national diploma. The schools that award it are accredited by the CTI, the French national commission on engineering degrees.
- A similar accreditation procedure exists for government-recognized schools of business and management. Their degrees are accredited by CEFDG, the commission on evaluation of management programs and degrees, or by international accrediting bodies.
- France’s schools of art and specialized schools also undergo national certification. Certified programs are listed in the RNCP, the national register of occupational certifications: France Compétences / RNCP [www.francecompetences.fr/recherche\\_certificationprofessionnelle](http://www.francecompetences.fr/recherche_certificationprofessionnelle)

French postsecondary degrees carry a government guarantee.

### Don't forget

From ENIC-NARIC centers, students who have already earned a degree in their home country can obtain a certificate of comparability that enables admissions officers in French institutions to evaluate the degree for equivalence in the French system. ENIC-NARIC network: [www.enic-naric.net](http://www.enic-naric.net)

You can earn a degree in just two years!

A nationally accredited master's degree or the equivalent opens the way to doctoral studies.

Beginning in the 2021/2022 academic year, the **BUT (Bachelor universitaire de technologie; technical bachelor)** is a new professional bachelor track offered exclusively in IUTs (university technical institutes). The track consists of **180 European credits** and leads to a licence degree. The **DUT (Diplôme universitaire de technologie, university technical diploma)** is an interim degree conferred on students who earn 120 European credits in the BUT track.

LEVELS DEGREES				
9 years	2 semesters (1 year, for a total of 9 years of postsecondary study)	UNIVERSITIES	• State diploma of Doctor of medicine	GRANDES ÉCOLES SCHOOLS OF BUSINESS SCHOOLS OF ENGINEERING
	8 DOCTORATE 6 semesters (3 years, for a total of 8 years of postsecondary study) 180 ECTS		• Doctorate Doctoral degrees are conferred by doctoral departments affiliated with France's universities to successful candidates who have previously earned a French master's degree or the equivalent.	
6 years	2 semesters (1 year, for a total of 6 years of postsecondary study) 60 ECTS	UNIVERSITIES	• State diploma of Doctor of dental surgery • State diploma of Doctor of pharmacy	• <i>Mastère spécialisé</i> - MS • Executive MBA
5 years	MASTER 4 semesters (2 years, for a total of 5 years of postsecondary study) 120 ECTS		• Master • Engineering degree ( <i>Titre d'ingénieur</i> )	• Master of Business Administration - MBA • Master of Public Administration - MPA • Engineering degree ( <i>Titre d'ingénieur</i> ) • Business schools diplomas • Degrees from <i>Grandes Écoles</i>
4 years				
3 years	LICENCE 6 semesters (3 years of postsecondary study) 180 ECTS	UNIVERSITIES	• <i>Licence</i> (bachelor) • <i>Licence professionnelle</i> (professional bachelor) • <i>Licence professionnelle</i> (professional bachelor), technical bachelor track ( <i>Parcours BUT</i> )	• Art school diploma - DNSEP • State architect's diploma - DEA • Diplomas of specialized schools (health, social work, tourism, etc.) • Applied arts diploma - DSAA
2 years	BTS, DUT, BTS A 4 semesters (2 years of postsecondary study) 120 ECTS		• University technical diploma (DUT); interim degree toward professional bachelor, technical bachelor track ( <i>Parcours BUT</i> ) • <i>Diplôme d'études universitaires scientifiques et techniques</i> , DEUST (university diploma of scientific and technical studies); interim degree toward professional bachelor	• Admission to the first year of a <i>Grande École</i> program • Preparation for admission to <i>Grandes Écoles</i> (CPGE)
1 year				• Art school diploma - DMA • Postsecondary technical certificate - BTS - BTS, Brevet de Technicien supérieur Agricole - BTS A

COMPLETION OF SECONDARY SCHOOL + BACCALAURÉAT OR EQUIVALENT

\*ECTS, the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System, is a system of cummable academic credits transferable throughout Europe. One year represents 60 ECTS credits.

[www.european-funding-guide.eu/articles/financing-tips/erasmus-having-your-credits-recognised](http://www.european-funding-guide.eu/articles/financing-tips/erasmus-having-your-credits-recognised)

# Short professional/vocational degrees accredited at the national level



**Starting a successful career** depends on the development of in-depth technical knowledge and operational know-how. To meet those requirements, France's system of higher education created bachelor-level degree programs that merge theory and practice to instill a high level of professional performance.

## Postsecondary technical certificates (BTS, *brevet de technicien supérieur*)

The BTS is a national vocational/professional qualification (120 ECTS) offered in 90 specializations in the plastic arts, industry, manufacturing, and services. The BTS requires 2 years of study. Most BTS programs are offered in the postsecondary technical sections of secondary schools, public or private. Upon graduation, students assume specialized technical functions.

List of BTS specializations:

<https://www.cidj.com/etudes-formations-alternance/les-diplomes/type/bts>

16 additional specializations in agriculture and food science lead to the award of a **BTSA**, a **post-secondary technical certificate in agriculture**.

[www.campusfrance.org/en/vidéo-BTSA-collection-domaines-d-etudes](http://www.campusfrance.org/en/vidéo-BTSA-collection-domaines-d-etudes)  
<https://chlorofil.fr/diplomes>

## Don't forget

**If you hold a BTS, BTSA, or DUT (see p. 25) and are thinking of going on for a 5-year degree at a school of engineering, agronomy, veterinary medicine, or management, consider a 1-year prep course for holders of a 2- or 3-year technical degree. The courses are known as prépas ATS.**

**THE LICENCE PROFESSIONNELLE** is a bachelor-level degree that combines theory and practice to ensure strong preparation for the work world.





## Professional bachelor's degrees (*licences professionnelles*)

After completing 2 years of higher education, students may elect to spend an additional year to obtain a *licence professionnelle*, which is a national diploma. The program is offered in universities and their affiliated IUTs (university institutes of technology) that offer the BUT track (technical bachelor) in 24 specializations. Practical internships and guest faculty from the professional world make *licence professionnelle* programs one of the best options for students wishing to begin work immediately after graduation. 173 different programs are offered in a wide range of specializations and sectors: agriculture, business, manufacturing, management, services.

For more information on programs leading to a *licence professionnelle*:

[www.enseignementsup-recherche.gouv.fr](http://www.enseignementsup-recherche.gouv.fr)  
>Enseignement supérieur >Formations  
et diplômes >Licence professionnelle

## THE NEW BUT TRACK

Starting in academic year 2021/2022, the BUT (for university-based technical bachelor) becomes a track in the *licence professionnelle* family of undergraduate degree programs. The new track is offered exclusively in France's IUTs (university-based technical institutes). The BUT requires 180 European credits and is equivalent to a *licence*.

The 24 BUT concentrations are carried over from the 24 specializations offered in DUT (university technical diploma) programs.

Each specialization requires completion of a uniform national curriculum that makes up two-thirds of the degree program's total hours.

The remaining third of the curriculum is tailored to local needs.

The BUT track involves 2,000 hours of instruction for specializations in production (or manufacturing) and 1,800 hours for specializations in services. These totals are complemented by 600 hours of supervised projects and 22–26 weeks of internship.

The DUT is now an interim degree in the BUT *licence professionnelle*. It is awarded to students who have earned 120 European credits toward a BUT.

France's 108 IUTs: [www.iut.fr](http://www.iut.fr)

## DEGREE DESCRIPTIONS



[www.campusfrance.org](http://www.campusfrance.org)



>Resources center  
>Panorama of Higher Education and  
Research in France >Degrees



## Universities

**Funded by the French government, some 60 public universities** are located throughout the country. They grant national diplomas that guarantee uniform academic quality, regardless of the conferring institution. Private postsecondary education plays a much smaller role in France than in the major English-speaking countries.

### The universities offer instruction in all disciplines

You can choose from the sciences (mathematics, chemistry, physics, biology, etc.), technical fields (information technology, engineering, electrotechnics, materials, etc.), literature, languages, the arts, the humanities, law, economics, management, health, and athletics. **Instruction is offered at all levels and capped by national diplomas: licence or bachelor** (3 years), **master** (licence + 2 years, for a total of 5 years), **and doctorate** (master + 3 years, for a total of 8 years). Consult the map of France's universities and other postsecondary institutions: [www.enseignementsup-recherche.gouv.fr/cid88022/acces-aux-universites-par-carte-dynamique-dataviz.html](http://www.enseignementsup-recherche.gouv.fr/cid88022/acces-aux-universites-par-carte-dynamique-dataviz.html)

The universities enroll the majority of students. Sixty percent of France's 2.5 million postsecondary students are enrolled in a university.

### A comprehensive range of programs

- **technical training** in university-based technical institutes, or IUTs
- **3-year *licence professionnelle* degrees in 173 different areas**
- **programs in management** at university-based institutes of administration, or IAEs
- **political science and economics** at 10 institutes of political studies, or IEPs, including Sciences Po Paris
- **university-based engineering programs**, which confer a fifth of the engineering degrees awarded in France
- **3,600 different master's programs and other national diplomas in 7,000 academic tracks**

More than 1,200 master-level programs taught in English  
<http://taughtie.campusfrance.org/>

## Research, an inseparable part of the universities' mission

As leading sites for research and the teaching of basic science, the universities ensure that educational programs incorporate advances in knowledge and technology.

266 university-based doctoral schools coordinate the work of more than 100,000 scholars and scientists, providing research training in liaison with some 1,200 research laboratories. The schools confer more than 14,500 doctorates each year.



## Keep in mind...

DUs, or *Diplômes d'Université*, are specific to the university that grants them, which distinguishes them from national diplomas like the *licence*, master, and doctorate. But they can allow students to acquire specialized knowledge or training in a rigorous academic setting.

## Academic and scientific clusters

Academic and scientific clusters coordinate educational programming and research agendas among neighboring universities, schools, and research organizations. Organized as 8 ComUEs and some 10 EPEs (see below), these clusters exploit and reinforce the synergies among their member institutions and increase their international visibility.

- The ComUEs (communities of universities and institutions) grant national diplomas, particularly at the graduate level.
- The EPEs are products of mergers or consolidations. They grant national diplomas at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

[www.campusfrance.org](http://www.campusfrance.org)

>Resources center

>Practical information for students and researchers



Map of higher education, research, and innovation in France





# Programs in medicine and health

## Medical studies

Integrated with the European degree system, medical education in France is organized into 3 stages of 3 or more years and offered at universities associated with one of the country's 32 regional university hospital centers, known as CHRU. The first year consists of a required "health access" curriculum completed in a health-related *licence* program (in which case the required curriculum is known as PASS) or in a *licence* program in another discipline, provided the program offers the "health access" content (which in this case is known as L.AS). In either case the first year is accessible to students holding a *baccalauréat* or the equivalent, preferably in science. (It is also possible to complete additional studies in another postsecondary school to qualify for the exam for admission into the second year of health studies.) The two basic alternatives are:

- **First year of a *licence* program in medicine, nurse-obstetrics, dentistry, or pharmacy offering the "health access" track (PASS), plus option in another discipline**

Successful completion of the common first-year curriculum in a university faculty or department (UFR) of medicine, nurse-obstetrics, dentistry, or pharmacy entitles the student to sit for one of four distinct examinations for admission to the second year. (Students may take no more than two exams.) Completion of the PASS year also entitles students to apply for admission to programs leading to degrees in other allied health specialties.

- **First year of *licence* program in another discipline, plus "health access" option (L.AS)**

Successful completion of the first year (or first two years) of a university *licence* program in any

discipline that offers the "access health" option enables students to apply for admission to the second or third year of the first (undergraduate) cycle of programs in medicine, nurse-obstetrics,



## INTERNATIONAL ACCESS TO MEDICAL EDUCATION IN FRANCE

Foreigners interested in medical education in France who have not yet obtained a medical degree in their home country must, regardless of their level of prior study, complete the PASS or L.AS year, and pass the final examination.

**For entry into the third and highest stage of medical education,** France's embassies organize a special foreign residency in medicine.

**Programs leading to two specialized medical diplomas**—the DFMS (diplôme de formation médicale spécialisée, 1–2 years), and the DFMSA (diplôme de formation médicale spécialisée approfondie, 6 months to 1 year)—are open to candidates with foreign medical credentials. Details are available from France's embassies.

**All of these programs require a level of French proficiency of at least B2 in the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages.**

dentistry, or pharmacy provided they have earned 60 or 120 European credits, of which 10 must be in the “access health” option.

Students are admitted to the second year of health studies on the basis of their test results, their academic performance in their PASS or L.AS studies, and, for some, additional oral examinations. Each university has specific testing requirements, which they publicize to enable students to prepare.

**Note:** Students may apply twice to the health programs covered here following one to three years of undergraduate study (L1, L2 ou L3), not counting repeated years.

- **Medicine** = PASS ou L.AS + 9 years (general medicine), or PASS ou L.AS + 10–12 years (specializations).
- **Pharmacy** = PASS ou L.AS + 6 years (retail or industrial), or PASS ou L.AS + 9 years (specializations).
- **Dentistry** = PASS ou L.AS + 6 years (dentist, dental surgeon), or PASS ou L.AS + 8–9 years (specializations or research).
- **Obstetrics** = PASS ou L.AS + 5 years.
- **Nursing** = The state nursing diploma is earned in 3 years in institutes for training in nursing (IFSIs). Specializations may require additional training.
- **Speech therapy** = Speech therapists are trained in 5-year university programs leading to a degree as a certified speech therapist.
- **Massage and physical therapy** = Certified masseurs and physical therapists spend 4 years in a specialized institute after the common first university year. Graduates receive a state diploma in massage and physical therapy.
- **Osteopathy** = Degrees in osteopathy are awarded after 5 years of study in special schools approved by the Ministry of Solidarity and Health.

### Paramedical specialties and social work

Like programs in medicine and health, those in paramedicine and social work are selective and culminate in the award of a state diploma that is a prerequisite for professional practice.

## Programs in law



The universities are the principal locus of legal education in France. Integrated with the European degree system, training is divided into 3, 5, and 8 year segments. A 1- or 2-year master's degree (level M1 or M2) is required to enter the professional schools that prepare students for careers in law. Apart from these long and very selective programs, 2-year programs leading to a DUT (university technical degree) prepare students for careers in the legal system. After earning a DUT, students may study for a third year to obtain a *licence professionnelle*.

### Dual-major licence programs

Selective and demanding, these undergraduate programs enable students to pursue two major subjects over the 6 semesters required to earn a licence degree. They combine studies of law and another field, such as biotechnology, political science, economics, social science, art history, or language (e.g., English, German, Italian).



**Anyone** holding a master or equivalent may apply for admission to a doctoral program. The typical training period is 3 years. Following successful defense of a dissertation, candidates are awarded a doctoral degree.

### Doctoral training

Doctoral training takes place within host teams (équipes d'accueil, EA) or combined research units (unités mixte de recherche, UMR) affiliated with a doctoral school (école doctorale, ED). Candidates are supervised in their research by a dissertation director. **Admission to a doctoral program is by application to a doctoral school.**

### Financing your doctorate

Securing financing for your dissertation research usually a prerequisite for admission.

#### ► Doctoral contracts

Lasting 3 years, doctoral contracts offer all of the benefits of a true employment contract, as well as a minimum monthly gross salary of €1,800.

[www.enseignementsup-recherche.gouv.fr](http://www.enseignementsup-recherche.gouv.fr)

>Enseignement supérieur >Formations et diplômes >Doctorat >Le financement doctoral

#### ► Industrial agreements for training through research (cifre)

The CIFRE mechanism enables doctoral candidates to perform their research in cooperation with a research team affiliated with a doctoral school. The candidate and a firm enter into an employment contract of a duration of 3 years. The firm pays the candidate a gross monthly salary of €1,957. [www.anrt.asso.fr](http://www.anrt.asso.fr)

#### ► Jointly awarded doctorate

Governed by an agreement between two educational institutions, 1 in France, 1 abroad, the jointly awarded doctorate enables candidates to prepare their dissertation in their own country and in France under carefully specified conditions. Financial aid is available to cover the costs of mobility. Successful candidates receive a doctoral degree awarded jointly by the two institutions.

### How much do you know about ERASMUS +

The European Union's 2021-2027 program for education, training, youth, and sports is endowed with a budget of €24.6 billion, an 80% increase over the 2014-2020 program. It is designed to be more responsive, more open, and more ambitious. Mobility of doctoral candidates will be a special focus.

**IN FRANCE, 42% of doctoral candidates are internationals**


## French International Institutions

France is signing a growing number of agreements with countries in Europe and abroad for the creation of joint universities. The oldest of these is the Franco-German University. Founded in 1997, the university awards dual bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees (graduates receive a French degree and a German degree) on the strength of exchanges among more than 140 postsecondary institutions in France and Germany. Currently, 180 integrated binational degree programs are offered. Institutions, such as the French University of Egypt (UFE) and Sorbonne University of Abu Dhabi, continue to grow, while other projects, like the Franco-Senegalese Campus (CFS) and the Franco-Tunisian University for Africa and the Mediterranean (UFTAM) have only recently emerged. Inquire at your nearest Campus France office to see if you might be able to take advantage of such an arrangement.

## International dual-degree programs

More and more French universities and other postsecondary institutions are entering into partnerships with educational institutions abroad in order to offer innovative international training programs. Some lead to a single diploma; others to two or more diplomas (as is the case with the Erasmus Mundus program and its multilateral consortium). As programs of excellence designed for students contemplating a career with an international dimension, most dual-degree programs are at the master level, facilitating the subsequent pursuit of doctoral study in France. Numerous interuniversity or interinstitutional agreements have already been signed, laying out terms of reference for training, supporting, and certifying participating students. Inquire at your home institution or via the websites of France's universities and other postsecondary institutions.

### Information on research in France

 Visit the **Campus France website** for the following helpful resources:

- **Profiles of French research efforts** in various disciplines, emphasizing areas of particular strength.
- **"Research in France: The Doctorate, Step by Step,"** the complete guide to earning a doctorate in France.



### SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IN FRANCE: A PRIORITY

- 4<sup>th</sup> place globally in impact of publications (H-Index)
- 5<sup>th</sup> in the OECD in domestic spending on research and development

### THE INTERNATIONAL HEART OF FRENCH RESEARCH

- Large French research organizations maintain more than 250 facilities around the world



## The “Grandes Écoles” and other postsecondary schools

**Unique to France**, the *Grandes Écoles* were set up in parallel with the university system in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century to provide advanced instruction in applied fields. The *Grandes Écoles* include schools of engineering, schools of management, the *Écoles Normales Supérieures* (ENS, originally designed to train teachers and professors for the public education system), national veterinary schools, the *École Polytechnique*, and the *École des Ponts ParisTech*. All are highly selective and provide rigorous training.

**The *Grandes Écoles* confer institutionspecific 5-year degrees, some of which are recognized by the French government as equivalent to the national master.**

They also award intermediate diplomas and offer specializations: bachelor (3 or 4 years of study), MBA, Mastère Spécialisé (MS, requiring 1 year after the master), and master of sciences (MSc). For more information:

[www.cge.asso.fr/presentation-de-la-formation-labellisee-ms](http://www.cge.asso.fr/presentation-de-la-formation-labellisee-ms)

[www.cge.asso.fr/presentation-des-msc](http://www.cge.asso.fr/presentation-des-msc)

The classic path of admission into the *Grandes Écoles* was through an entrance examination taken after 2 years of preparatory classes, leaving 3 years to be completed for the degree. Many schools now admit applicants directly from secondary school for degree programs lasting 3 or 5 years. A parallel system of admissions for international students is based on the school's recognition of the applicant's prior training. In this case, international students complete 2–5 years at the *Grande École*, depending on the degree of recognition they receive.

Conférence des *Grandes Écoles* (CGE) :

[www.cge.asso.fr](http://www.cge.asso.fr)

2 French schools are among the top 5 masters in management (*Financial Times* 2020)

[www.campusfrance.org](http://www.campusfrance.org)

More information on Degrees in France  
> Resources Center > Panorama of Higher Education and Research in France > Degrees



## Engineering programs

France has more than 200 public and private schools of engineering that span the range of the engineering disciplines. The diplôme d'ingénieur is a national diploma officially recognized as the equivalent of the master. Holders of the national engineering degree are eligible to enroll in a doctoral program. Some schools train generalists; others provide specialized training in agronomy, chemistry, biology, computer science, and many other fields. Annual tuition for a program leading to the diplôme d'ingénieur at a public institution starts at €610 (2019/2020 academic year).

CDEFI (the conference of directors of French schools of engineering): [www.cdefi.fr](http://www.cdefi.fr)

CTI (the commission on engineering degrees):

[www.cti-commission.fr](http://www.cti-commission.fr) (list of accredited programs)



The title of “engineer” in France

[www.campusfrance.org](http://www.campusfrance.org) Resources center

> Panorama of Higher Education and Research in France > Degrees

## Programs in business and management

Some 150 schools of business and management enjoy one or more forms of recognition or accreditation:

→ recognition by the Ministry of Higher Education, Research, and Innovation

→ listing by the Conférence des Grandes Écoles

→ recognition that the degree awarded by the school is equivalent to the national master

These schools of management propose an assortment of programs at various levels structured around international internships and exchanges. A large majority of the schools hold a common entrance examination. Some recruit secondary school graduates directly and do not participate in the entrance examination process.

**Most of the schools are private. Tuition ranges from €5,000 to €15,000 per year.**

CEFDG (commission on evaluation of management programs and degrees): [www.cefdg.fr](http://www.cefdg.fr)

## Management education in the universities: the network of institutes of business administration (IAEs)

University-based schools of management, organized into the IAE network, confer the licence, master, and doctorate as well as the MBA and institution-specific degrees in all fields of management and administration.

## Keep in mind

Accreditation of a school of management by EQUIS, AACSB, AMBA, or CGE signifies that the school or its degree meets international standards. Accreditation conveys international recognition.

## GRANDES ÉCOLES ALSO EXIST

in the areas of public administration (ENA), defense, archives, and other specialized fields.

## FRANCE'S 4 ÉCOLES NORMALES SUPÉRIEURES

The mission of the nation's 4 Écoles Normales Supérieures—in Lyon, Rennes, Paris, and Paris Saclay (formerly Cachan)—is to prepare superb teachers, scholars, and researchers in literary and scientific disciplines. Each school has its own procedures for admitting international students.

## THE NATIONAL SCHOOLS OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

France also has 4 national schools of veterinary medicine—in Paris (Maisons-Alfort), Lyon, Nantes, and Toulouse. They admit students at 4 different levels through common entrance examinations.

Graduates obtain the state diploma of doctor of veterinary medicine.

# Schools of art

**Fine arts, applied arts, crafts...** France's postsecondary schools of art offer 2- and 5-year programs. Public or private, they stand out for their reputation among art professionals. All practice selective admissions based on an examination and portfolio. In the arts, a distinction between "applied arts" and "art and design" applies both to schools and to the degrees they confer.

Close to 50 public postsecondary schools of art grant national diplomas recognized by the French government. Private schools and schools affiliated with local chambers of commerce and industry (known as *écoles consulaires*) award certificates or occupational titles, some of which are listed in the national registry of occupational certifications (RNCP):

[www.francecompetences.fr](http://www.francecompetences.fr)

All are selective, admitting students on the basis of an examination and portfolio.

## Public schools of art and design: national diplomas

45 postsecondary schools of art and design, all overseen by the Ministry of Culture and Communication, admit secondary school graduates by competitive examination and offer programs leading to two national diplomas: the DNA (3 years) and the DNSEP (5 years). Transfers are accepted into the second and third years. For a list of these public institutions:

[www.campusart.org](http://www.campusart.org)

## National schools of art: institution-specific diplomas

These very selective schools confer master-level diplomas in applied arts, plastic arts, visual arts, design/creation, textile design, industrial design, and photography:

- École Nationale Supérieure des Arts Décoratifs (ENSAD), [www.ensad.fr](http://www.ensad.fr)
- École Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-arts (ENSBA), [www.ensba.fr](http://www.ensba.fr)

- l'École Nationale Supérieure de la Création Industrielle (ENSCI - Les Ateliers), [www.ensci.com](http://www.ensci.com)
- l'École Nationale Supérieure de la Photographie (ENSP), [www.ensp-arles.fr](http://www.ensp-arles.fr)
- le Fresnoy - Studio National des arts contemporains, [www.lefresnoy.net](http://www.lefresnoy.net)

Two schools admit applicants who have completed 2 years of postsecondary education to 2- and 4-year programs in film and theater:

- l'École Nationale Supérieure des Arts et Techniques du Théâtre (ENSATT) - [www.ensatt.fr](http://www.ensatt.fr)
- la Fémis - École Nationale Supérieure des Métiers de l'Image et du Son (ENSMIS) - [www.femis.fr](http://www.femis.fr)

## Public schools of applied arts

France's public schools of applied arts (ESAAs) grant national diplomas to students who complete programs lasting 3 years (DNMADE) or 5 years (DSAA) in a range of professionally oriented design fields, including graphics (media and multimedia), space (interior architecture, living environments, set design), fashion, textiles and environment, products and services, and crafts (textiles, jewelry, books, glass, ceramics, and more):

<https://designnetmetiersdart.fr>

## Schools of national historic heritage

3 public schools offer advanced training in the preservation and promotion of historic and cultural heritage. Graduates are trained in occupations linked to knowledge of cultural heritage (art historians, museum guides) or to preservation and conservation (conservators, restorers, architects).

- École du Louvre (EDL), Paris  
[www.ecoledulouvre.fr](http://www.ecoledulouvre.fr)
- École Nationale des Chartes (ENC), Paris  
[www.chartes.psl.eu](http://www.chartes.psl.eu)
- Institut National du Patrimoine (INP), Paris  
[www.inp.fr](http://www.inp.fr)

France is an international lodestone in the realms of art and culture

## Private schools of art

Many private schools offer 3- and 5-year postsecondary programs, often costly. The diplomas they confer may be listed in the national registry of occupational certifications (RNCP), ensuring recognition. [www.francecompetences.fr](http://www.francecompetences.fr)



Degrees in art and culture  
[www.campusfrance.org](http://www.campusfrance.org)  
 > Panorama of Higher Education and Research in France >Degrees

## CONSERVATORIES

### Music, dance, dramatic arts...

France's conservatories work in partnership with the universities to offer degree programs based on the common European degree system.

### List of conservatories:

[www.culture.gouv.fr/Sites-thematiques/Musique/Enseignement-formation-et-metiers](http://www.culture.gouv.fr/Sites-thematiques/Musique/Enseignement-formation-et-metiers)

## CAMPUSART [www.campusart.org](http://www.campusart.org)

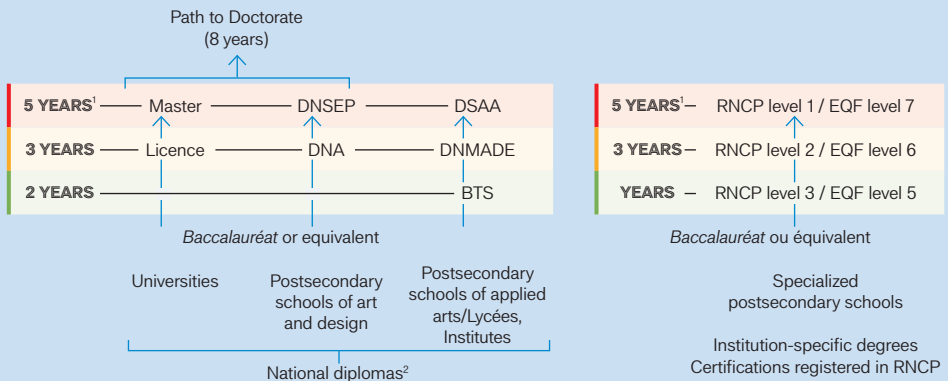


Apply online from a catalog of programs in art, fashion, design, music, 3D, architecture, and more.

The CampusArt network offers a choice of more than 650 programs at the licence, master, and post-master levels, as well as courses to prepare for admission to one of France's highly selective schools of art.

A single online application allows international students with prior training in art to apply to all institutions in the network and to track the application process all the way to the admission decision.

## DEGREES IN ART AND PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS



DNSEP : Diplôme National Supérieur d'Expression Plastique DSAA : Diplôme Supérieur des Arts Appliqués DNA : Diplôme National d'Art DNMADE : Diplôme National des Métiers d'Art et du Design BTS : Brevet de Technicien Supérieur EQF : European Qualifications Framework RNCP : répertoire national des certifications professionnelles (national registry of professional certifications) 1. Possibility of 1-, 2-, and 3-year specializations 2. National diplomas may be registered in RNCP



**Architectural training** in France falls within the harmonized European system, which is based on the bachelor–master–doctorate ladder.

- The first 3-year phase of architectural training leads to a bachelor-level degree, the DEEA ([diplôme d'études en architecture](#));
- The second phase (2 years) results in a master-level degree, the DEA ([diplôme d'état d'architecte](#)).
- The capacity to manage projects independently and to apply for a building permit requires a sixth year of study and an internship. This qualification is known as HMONP ([habilitation à la maîtrise d'oeuvre en nom propre](#)).
- The last major stage of education in architecture is capped by the DSA, a national diploma requiring 1 or 2 years of study depending on the field, or a DPEA specific to the school that confers it.

Some schools offer joint programs in [architecture and engineering](#) in partnership with schools of engineering. Graduates receive a DEA and/or the title of graduate engineer, depending on the program.

After earning a national master (or equivalent diploma), students may go on to prepare a [doctorate in architecture \(3 years\) within a university doctoral school](#). There are currently about 300 doctors of architecture in France.

**The 22 schools of architecture confer national diplomas or recognized equivalents.**

- The public Institut National des Sciences Appliquées (INSA) in Strasbourg: [www.insa-strasbourg.fr](http://www.insa-strasbourg.fr)
- The private École Spéciale d'Architecture (ESA): [www.esa-paris.fr](http://www.esa-paris.fr)

### Landscape architecture

Programs leading to the [master-level DPLG \(diplôme de paysagiste\)](#) are offered by 3 national schools of landscape architecture. Students who have completed 2 years of higher education are admitted through a common entrance examination. The DPLG is awarded after 4 years of study.

- École Nationale Supérieure d'Architecture et de Paysage de Bordeaux (ENSAPB) [www.bordeaux.archi.fr](http://www.bordeaux.archi.fr)
- École Nationale Supérieure d'Architecture et de Paysage de Lille (ENSAPL) [www.lille.archi.fr](http://www.lille.archi.fr)
- École Nationale Supérieure de Paysage Versailles - Marseille (ENSP) [www.ecole-paysage.fr](http://www.ecole-paysage.fr)

### Degrees in architecture

[www.campusfrance.org](http://www.campusfrance.org)

 >Panorama of Higher Education and Research in France >Degrees

## Specialized schools and institutes

**More than 3,000** specialized schools and institutes, public and private, round out the world of French higher education in specific sectors—among them paramedical studies, social work, tourism, culinary arts, and hotel management.

These institutions confer state diplomas and occupational titles appearing in the national registry of occupational certifications (RNCP), as well as institution-specific certificates.

Programs require 2–5 years of study. Admission is by examination or application.

[www.francecompetences.fr](http://www.francecompetences.fr)



History,  
culture, and  
the “art of living”



**France, the tourist destination *par excellence*, also offers:**

- the rule of law and civil liberties
- an excellent health system and health facilities
- a pleasant environment
- renowned—and varied—cuisine
- a dense and efficient network of public transportation.





**Studying in France** also means living in France and rediscovering every day why France is famous for its culture and “art of living”



## A SMOOTH ARRIVAL IN FRANCE

### Help with administrative requirements and practical tasks

Cities and various partners organize welcome centers at the outset of each academic year. The centers bring together numerous services, facilitating students' compliance with regulations and helping them find housing.

### Keep in mind...

Campus France maintains regional offices in Lille, Lyon, Marseille, Montpellier, Strasbourg, and Toulouse that help regional actors (educational institutions and governmental authorities) respond to international students' needs for assistance with regulatory compliance, financial aid, housing, medical insurance, social services, and oversight of academic progress.

### In France, international students, like their French counterparts, enjoy a wide range of discounts

University dining halls and residences, housing assistance, medical insurance, and discounts on public transportation and amusements (such as cinemas, athletic events, libraries, and student associations) make it possible to meet essential needs on a modest budget—while also enjoying daily life.

For €10 a year, the European Youth Card offers numerous advantages: [www.eyca.org](http://www.eyca.org)  
For more information: [info@cartejeunes.fr](mailto:info@cartejeunes.fr)





## Access to cultural and sporting events

Culture is a day-to-day affair in France's regions as well as in Paris. **All cultural sites offer student discounts and special pricing for multiple visits.** Student status makes it easy to participate in sports, through discounts at athletic facilities and affordable access to the athletic clubs (gyms) and associations that play such a large part in French student life.

Many educational institutions are located in city centers, not far from museums, bookstores, cinemas, theaters, and coffee houses.



## CAMPUS FRANCE HELPS YOU PREPARE FOR DEPARTURE AND IS AT YOUR SIDE UPON YOUR ARRIVAL IN FRANCE

Take advantage of Campus France tutorials to learn everything you need to know and do, laid out step by step, to prepare for your stay in France.

[www.campusfrance.org/en/organiser-arrivee-France-check-list](http://www.campusfrance.org/en/organiser-arrivee-France-check-list)

[www.campusfrance.org/en/tutorials-to-help-international-students-in-their-application-process](http://www.campusfrance.org/en/tutorials-to-help-international-students-in-their-application-process)



### CITY PROFILES

Practical information on major university towns: orientation and support services, transportation, housing, residency permits,

medical insurance, language training, social and cultural life.

### ENJOY FRENCH CULTURE SHOCK LIFE IN FRANCE FROM A TO Z



This pocket guide, organized like a dictionary, is available in French/English and French/Spanish editions. It explains common expressions, acronyms, and other facets of daily life as lived by students in France.



Learn all of the details at:

[www.campusfrance.org](http://www.campusfrance.org) >Resources center



**Because the cost of housing is high in France**, various solutions have been devised to accommodate students. These include student housing, shared rentals, financial assistance, and help in locating housing. All students, French and foreign, are eligible for housing assistance under the ALS and APL programs.

### University housing (Cité-U)

Located on campus or in town, university residences are managed by France's regional student service centers (CROUS). They offer furnished rooms of about 9–12 meters square, as well as studio apartments that are generally well equipped. Monthly rents are in the range of €250 to €650. The quantity of university housing is limited, however, especially in Paris, and you may not be able to obtain space, given that a portion of the available stock is reserved for students receiving scholarships from the French government or a foreign government, and for students taking part in an exchange program.  
<https://trouverunlogement.lescrous.fr>

### Keep in mind...

Many *Grandes Écoles* and private institutions offer on-campus student housing.

Links to housing information (laws, lists of vacancies, housing assistance) appear in the web section at the end of this guide

### Privately owned student buildings

Privately owned apartment buildings designed for students are found in major cities. They offer an alternative to the university housing operated by CROUS. The rent varies from €600 to €1,200 per month in Paris, and from €400 to €600 elsewhere in France. Again, these figures do not include any housing assistance for which the student may qualify.

Portal of ADELE, the student housing association:  
[www.adele.org](http://www.adele.org)

### Rentals on the private housing market

Costs remain high, especially in larger cities (Paris, in particular). The monthly income required to qualify for a rental is generally about three times the rent. To rent a unit, students must have a guarantor and post a security deposit.

#### ■ Group rentals

**Sharing an apartment with other students** is a popular choice. In a shared rental, several students enter into a lease with a property owner, with all students having the same rights and responsibilities. A number of websites advertise shared rentals.

### Living with a French family

Renting a furnished room in a local family's home is often a good solution, particularly for short stays. The weekly cost in Paris ranges from €200 (including breakfast) to €300 euros (breakfast and dinner); costs are somewhat lower in other French cities.

### Intergenerational housing

Some organizations pair students needing a place to live with older people who have a free room in the home they rent or own. The senior citizen must be able to provide a suitable space, furnished or unfurnished, and free access to common areas (kitchen, bathroom, living room). The student agrees to behave in a neighborly way, to watch over the property, to perform small tasks that make life easier for the resident, and to pay a share of common costs (utilities, maintenance).

[www.reseau-cosi.org](http://www.reseau-cosi.org)

### Housing assistance

**International students are eligible for housing assistance on the same terms as French students.**

There are 2 different assistance schemes, ALS and APL, depending on the type of housing chosen. The schemes cannot be combined. The amount of assistance provided varies with the rent and the student's circumstances. Students in group rentals may qualify for assistance as long as their name appears on the lease. Complete information and terms are available from the family assistance fund (CAF) serving the area in which the housing unit is located:

[www.caf.fr](http://www.caf.fr) >Accueil Allocataires >Actualités 2019 >Aide au logement étudiant

**Additional information on accommodation**

[www.campusfrance.org](http://www.campusfrance.org)  
>Students >Getting organised  
>Accommodation


\* These prices do not include any housing assistance for which the student may be eligible.



### THE BIENVENUE EN FRANCE LABEL: FRANCE'S COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENT STUDENT SERVICES

French institutions of higher education displaying the Bienvenue en France label assist students in finding housing. Learn about all of the services available to you:

[www.campusfrance.org](http://www.campusfrance.org)

 > Resources centre >Practical information for students and researchers

### ONLINE PORTAL OF THE CROUS NETWORK: WWW.LOKAVIZ.FR

Some 60,000 students have found housing using the online platform of the CROUS network. Units bearing the Lokaviz label offer the assurance of a rental suited to students' needs. Available in French and English, the platform lists available units, allowing users to filter results by rental amount, location, amenities, and other criteria

### VISALE: THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT'S ANSWER TO STUDENT SECURITY DEPOSITS

The Visale guarantee is available to certain young people under 30 (salaried and nonsalaried employees, unemployed persons, and students) renting in the private housing market. To obtain the guarantee, renters must apply at [www.visale.fr](http://www.visale.fr). Landlords may still require a security deposit in an amount not exceeding one month's rent.

# Working en France

## While enrolled

Students who are citizens of the countries of the European Economic Area or Switzerland may work without restriction during their period of study in France. French law authorizes other international students to work under certain conditions. A residency permit marked "student" (whether conferred as part of a VLS-TS visa or separately) allows the holder to work while in school for **up to 60%\* of the normal working year, or 964 hours, without prior authorization.**

## Keep in mind...

Remunerated internships (i.e., internships lasting longer than 2 months) performed by students as an integral part of their studies (as specified in the internship agreement) are not counted toward the yearly limit.

France's gross minimum hourly wage is €10.15 before mandatory withholdings of approximately 20%.

## Student employment within educational institutions

Students have the right to work under a VLS-TS, but for no more than **60% of full employment, or 964 hours per year.**

[www.campusfrance.org](http://www.campusfrance.org)

>Students >Getting organized >Working while studying in France **See also :** >Students >And after? >Finding work in France >Students >And after? >How to start a company in France

## After graduation

### ■ European students

International students from a member country of the European Union, the European Economic Area, or Switzerland may remain in France indefinitely to seek employment after graduation.

### ■ Non-European students

Non-European students wishing to remain in France after earning their degree must have an offer of employment or employment contract specifying remuneration that is at least 50% higher than the minimum wage.

Non-European graduates who do not have an offer of employment may apply for a temporary (12-month), non-renewable residency permit marked "*recherche d'emploi/création d'entreprise*" (job search/business start-up). The applicant must hold a *licence professionnelle* or master's degree, or have a plan to start a business.

Students from countries that have reached bilateral agreements with France receive special treatment with respect to grants of temporary resident status (APS). The countries in question are Senegal, Gabon, Benin, Tunisia, Mauritius, Cape Verde, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Macedonia, Monténégro, Serbia, Lebanon, and India. Information on your particular situation may be obtained from the website of the French Ministry of the Interior or from the Campus France office in your country.

[www.interieur.gouv.fr](http://www.interieur.gouv.fr)

[www.campusfrance.fr](http://www.campusfrance.fr) >Countries/sites

## The "Talent Passport" residency permit

The "Talent Passport" residency permit is available under certain circumstances, notably for the very highly qualified, those seeking to start a business or invest in France, and artists. It is valid for up to 4 years and is renewable.

[www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vos-droits/F16922](http://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vos-droits/F16922)

\* 50% for Algerian students.

French law authorizes international students to work

# Insurance in France

## **Social security and medical insurance**

France's Social Security system reimburses medical expenses. Participation in the system is free and obligatory for all students in France, French or foreign. International students should apply using the following dedicated website if this is their first stay in France and the first time they have registered in the French Social Security system: <https://etudiant-etranger.ameli.fr>

European students who possess a European medical insurance card valid for the duration of their study in France need not register on this website.

Students must choose a primary care physician who participates in the Social Security system. On average, the system reimburses 70% of illness-related expenses. House calls and appointments on weekends and holidays cost more. Supplemental health insurance policies or student group policies may increase the reimbursed share.

Students on very short stays in France or not enrolled in a French institution of higher education must take out an individual medical policy offered by a private insurance company. In France, the cost of such policies ranges from €150 to €550 per year.

**Learn more at:** [www.campusfrance.org](http://www.campusfrance.org)  
>Étudiants >S'organiser >Sécurité sociale

## **The student and campus life contribution**

A student and campus life contribution known as CVEC applies to French and foreign students entering a public or private institution of higher education. The contribution—amounting to €92 for academic year 2020/2021—funds student support services (social, health-related, cultural, and athletic) during their study period. The CVEC is entirely separate from Social Security requirements.

Find out whether CVEC applies to you and, if it does, how you should pay your contribution:

[www.campusfrance.org](http://www.campusfrance.org)  
>Students >Getting organized >Student and Campus Life Contribution (CVEC)

**ATTENTION:** Even if you are exempt from the CVEC contribution, you must register at [www.messervices.etudiant.gouv.fr](http://www.messervices.etudiant.gouv.fr) and then connect to the following dedicated site: <https://cvec.etudiant.gouv.fr>. From there, you will be able to download a statement of exemption, which you will present when you register for classes at your French educational institution.

## **Multirisk housing insurance**

**Under French law**, all dwellings must be insured against theft, water damage, fire, and other risks. This form of insurance is obtained from private companies on a lump-sum basis. Multirisk housing insurance **includes civil liability insurance**, which covers harm or damage suffered on the premises by third parties.

## **Keep in mind...**

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Additional forms of insurance are also available. Examples include automobile insurance, insurance for repatriation of remains, and insurance against athletic injuries.



## Cultural life

**Cultural vitality** makes its presence felt in countless places all across France, with every region playing a part in the creative effervescence.

By coming to France, you will have a front-row seat at the cultural pageant, wherever your study site may be.

There are the regular festivals of music (Vieilles Charrues in Carhaix, Folle Journée in Nantes, Eurockéennes in Belfort, Jazz in Marciac, Transmusicales in Rennes), of film (Cannes, Deauville, Avoriaz, Cognac), dance (Biennale de la Danse in Lyon, La Part des Anges in Bordeaux...), theater (Avignon, Aurillac), and graphic novels (Angoulême), as well as a multitude of national events (Journées du Patrimoine, Fête de la Musique le 21 juin, Nuits Européennes des Musées). Get details at [www.culture.fr](http://www.culture.fr)



### Museums and monuments

France's 8,000 museums are distributed all across the country. While the Eiffel Tower remains the most-visited monument, more than 40,000 other buildings are designated as historical monuments. Prominent examples are the chateaus of the Loire Valley, Mont Saint Michel, Château d'If, the arenas in Nîmes, and the port of La Rochelle. Guides to national museums and monuments: [www.rmn.fr](http://www.rmn.fr) [www.monuments-nationaux.fr](http://www.monuments-nationaux.fr) [www.images-art.fr](http://www.images-art.fr)

### Books

Livre de Poche's budget line puts books within everyone's reach, beginning at €5. Numerous book-related events throughout France—including long-running fairs and shows—attest to the French zest for reading.

## Press

The French press is notable for its diversity. A plethora of daily, weekly, and monthly periodicals, broadcasts, and podcasts cover general and specialized interests at the national and regional levels. Every city and region has at least one newspaper that carries local, regional, national, and international news—for example, *Sud-Ouest* in Nouvelle-Aquitaine, *Ouest-France* in Brittany, and *La Provence* in Marseille.

Almost all newspapers and magazines also appear online. Subscriptions are available, of course, but many publications allow free access to certain articles as soon as they appear.

## Libraries

France contains more than 3,000 libraries. By registering free at the library in your neighborhood, you gain access to all of the libraries in the city. An online digital library is accessible via Bibliovox: [www.bibliovox.com](http://www.bibliovox.com)

### ► University libraries

Every educational institution maintains at least 1 library. Hours vary, but most are open evenings and weekends. The 127 libraries of France's universities and other major educational institutions house more than 40 million volumes.

Public libraries:

[www.lexilogos.com/bibliotheque\\_municipale.htm](http://www.lexilogos.com/bibliotheque_municipale.htm)

National Library of France:

[www.bnf.fr](http://www.bnf.fr) – <http://gallica.bnf.fr/>

All cultural sites offer discounted admission for students and frequent visitors

## Sports and athletics

In addition to the athletic facilities of educational institutions, there are many public sports complexes throughout France. For a modest cost, thousands of gyms and clubs give you access to training facilities and help you stay fit. The entrance fees at municipal swimming pools are low.

[www.associations-sportives.fr](http://www.associations-sportives.fr)

The Campus France website offers detailed information on cultural life in the city where you'll be studying.

50 cities have prepared short guides for incoming international students.

[www.campusfrance.org](http://www.campusfrance.org)

>Resources center >Practical information for students and researchers >Student cities





## Campus life

**Student clubs and special-interest groups** are very active on French campuses. They enable students to come together for extracurricular activities like festivals, exhibitions, concerts, lectures, trips, hikes, weekend tourism, and evenings out.

Clubs involve students in a wide variety of humanitarian, athletic, economic, and cultural activities where they can play a variety of roles, such as chairing a festival, serving as treasurer of a student business, or coordinating communications for a cultural project—all of which can add depth to their CV. Alumni associations allow graduates to maintain ties with their institution and to build networks. Take a look at the directory France's student associations: [www.asso1901.com](http://www.asso1901.com)

### Keep in mind...

In French postsecondary institutions, the BDE (*bureau des étudiants*, or office of students) is an association elected by the student body. BDEs organize extracurricular activities.

### International mentoring and peer pairing

Across France, civic associations, educational institutions, and municipalities have organized services to help smooth the arrival, orientation, and integration of international students. Campus France supports the buddy system set up by IxESN.

For more information: <https://buddysystem.eu/fr>

More than 2 million associations are active in France

### Universities

On university campuses, you may find dozens of special-interest associations—cultural, political, athletic, and service-oriented. Some are dedicated to welcoming new students and fostering the integration of international students. Still others are student cooperatives that operate coffee houses or distribute academic resources (e.g., coursepacks) or used furniture and supplies.

- FSDIE (a fund for the development of student initiatives) was established to support student initiatives and group projects. In some cases it has helped students experiencing financial difficulties.
- Animafac is a network for exchanges of experience and a resource center for more than 1,200 student associations: [www.animafac.net](http://www.animafac.net)
- ESN is the international network of participants in the European Union's Erasmus exchange program: [www.esn.org](http://www.esn.org)
- FAGE is the federation of student associations in France: [www.fage.org](http://www.fage.org)
- UNEF is France's national union of students: [www.unef.fr](http://www.unef.fr)

### Keep in mind...

Campus France has prepared descriptions of the service packages offered by various educational institutions. These also present information on the clubs, associations, and special-interest groups active at the institution. [www.campusfrance.org](http://www.campusfrance.org) >Resources center



# France Alumni



Join the 335,000 members of France Alumni in 124 countries.

The France Alumni network is not only an invaluable career accelerator, it is also the best way to stay in contact with France and with the other international students you meet here.  
[www.francealumni.fr/en](http://www.francealumni.fr/en)

## A rapidly expanding social network with a professional twist

Launched in 2014, France Alumni now numbers 335,000 alumni and 3,000 partner organizations, 750 of them business enterprises. The **worldwide network** has an international website and local sites in 124 countries and 34 languages.

## A space for exchange

France Alumni is designed for international students who are attending or have graduated from a French postsecondary institution. It enables those students and alumni to meet and communicate with others through participation in thematic groups (4,700 participants in 240 groups). Representative groups are devoted to careers in France after graduation, environmental and climate issues, French culinary arts, making

connections with students who took the same academic path you did, and getting the most out of your training.

## Cultural events

Campus France and its regional offices organize events to which members of the France Alumni network are invited. Examples include lectures, open houses, online courses, happy hours, tours of educational institutions, and outings.

## Professional opportunities

Numerous partners (companies, educational institutions) post notices of job openings and internships in France and around the world.



Each year, more than 100,000 international students graduate with a degree from a French educational institution





## How much does it cost?

**Taking into account** the many discounts students receive, the average monthly student budget is around €800 in the regions and €1,000 in Paris.

### Food, meals

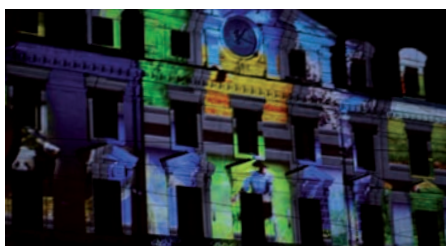
- 1 baguette: €0.90
- 1 coffee: €1-2
- 1 camembert: €2
- 1 croissant: €1
- 1 kg of pasta: €1
- 1 kg of potatoes: €1.45
- 1 kg of rice: €1.70
- 1 liter of milk: €1
- 6 eggs: €1.50
- 1 meal at a university dining facility: €3.30
- 1 fast-food meal: €8
- 1 dinner at a neighborhood restaurant: €10-20
- > 1 sandwich : €3-8

### Health

#### ■ Medical consultations

- **General practitioner:** starting at €25 (€16.50 reimbursed by the national insurance system).
- **Psychiatrist, neurologist:** starting at €39 (€26.30 reimbursed).
- **Gynecologist, ophthalmologist:** starting at €30 (€20 reimbursed).
- **Specialist:** starting at €25 (€16.50 reimbursed).
- **Dentist:** at least €30 (depending on treatment).

The cost of daily living may be up to twice as high in Paris as in other regions of France



### Culture, leisure

- **Mobile phone service, Internet:** options can be found to suit all budgets.
- **1 movie ticket at student rate:** around €9. Some theater chains offer unlimited admissions for about €20/month.
- **1 museum visit:** €5–10. Some museums and national monuments are free for students under 26 years of age.
- **1 swimming pool admission at student rate:** around €2.
- **1 newspaper:** around €2.
- **1 budget paperback:** around €6.
- **1 night in a mid-range hotel:** starting at €70.
- **1 theater ticket:** Prices vary widely depending on the show and the quality of the seat. Some theaters, particularly in Paris, charge people under 26 a flat rate of €10.

### Transportation

- **1 round trip airfare, Paris–Barcelona:** €100–150.
- **1 round-trip Thalys train ticket, Paris–Bruxelles–Amsterdam:** €150.
- **1 round-trip Eurostar train ticket, Paris–London:** €100–150.
- **1 round-trip TGV ticket, Paris–Nice:** €140 (if purchased far enough in advance, the fare may be as low as €50).
- **1 monthly transport pass for Paris:** €75.20.
- **1 liter of gasoline:** €1.50
- **1 city bike rental:** around €1/day. Bike rental services are found in several large cities; prices vary.

## On the web: useful links

Campus France: information and assistance when planning a period of study in France:

[www.campusfrance.org](http://www.campusfrance.org)

French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs: steps involved in coming to France; locations of consulates, embassies, and branches of the Alliance Française; scholarships available to international students:

[www.diplomatie.gouv.fr](http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr)

French Ministry of Higher Education, Research, and Innovation:

[www.enseignementsup-recherche.gouv.fr](http://www.enseignementsup-recherche.gouv.fr)

Regulations, procedures, and services related to student life (housing, financial assistance, health, and more):

[www.etudiant.gouv.fr](http://www.etudiant.gouv.fr)

ENIC-NARIC France - Center for information on academic and professional recognition of degrees:

[www.ciep.fr/enic-naric-france](http://www.ciep.fr/enic-naric-france)

ERASMUS+, France, education and training:

[www.agence-erasmus.fr](http://www.agence-erasmus.fr)

Europa, the portal of the European Union:

<http://europa.eu>

Enrollment in the first year of university study for holders of a French *baccalauréat*:

[www.parcoursup.fr](http://www.parcoursup.fr)

Institut Français : [www.institutfrancais.com](http://www.institutfrancais.com)

### Academic and professional programs

#### ► Engineering programs

→ CDEFI (conference of directors of French schools of engineering): [www.cdefi.fr](http://www.cdefi.fr)

→ CTI (commission on engineering qualifications): [www.cti-commission.fr](http://www.cti-commission.fr)

→ Concours Puissance Alpha (entrance examination for 16 schools of engineering): [www.puissance-alpha.fr](http://www.puissance-alpha.fr)

→ Concours Avenir (entrance examination for 8 schools of engineering):

[www.concoursavenir.fr](http://www.concoursavenir.fr)

→ FESIC (network of 26 schools of engineering and management): [www.fesic.org](http://www.fesic.org)

→ Figure network of 27 partner universities: [www.reseau-figure.fr](http://www.reseau-figure.fr)

→ GEIPI POLYTECH (entrance examination for 34 public schools of engineering):

[www.geipi-polytech.org](http://www.geipi-polytech.org)

→ EUR-ACE (accreditation system for engineering programs in Europe): [www.enaee.eu](http://www.enaee.eu)

→ n+i network of engineering schools:

[www.nplusi.com](http://www.nplusi.com)

→ ParisTech, a network of Grandes Écoles specializing in science and technology:

[www.paristech.org](http://www.paristech.org)

→ Polytech, a national network of 10 university-based polytechnical schools of engineering:

[www.polytech-reseau.org](http://www.polytech-reseau.org)

#### ► Schools of veterinary medicine

→ École Nationale Vétérinaire d'Alfort (national veterinary school of Alfort):

[www.vet-alfort.fr](http://www.vet-alfort.fr)

→ École Nationale Vétérinaire, Agro-alimentaire et de l'Alimentation Nantes Atlantique (national school of veterinary medicine, food science, and food production): [www.oniris-nantes.fr](http://www.oniris-nantes.fr)

→ École Nationale Vétérinaire de Toulouse (national veterinary school of Toulouse):

[www.envt.fr](http://www.envt.fr)

→ VetAgroSup Lyon: [www.vetagro-sup.fr](http://www.vetagro-sup.fr)

#### ► Écoles Normales Supérieures

→ ENS Lyon: [www.ens-lyon.eu](http://www.ens-lyon.eu)

→ ENS Paris: [www.ens.fr](http://www.ens.fr)

→ ENS Paris Saclay (ex Cachan):

[www.ens-paris-saclay.fr](http://www.ens-paris-saclay.fr)

→ ENS Rennes: [www.ens-rennes.fr](http://www.ens-rennes.fr)

#### ► Conférence des Grandes Écoles:

[www.cge.asso.fr](http://www.cge.asso.fr)

► **Labels**

- AACSB International (based in the United States): [www.aacsb.edu/accreditation](http://www.aacsb.edu/accreditation)
- AMBA (Association of MBAs, based in the United Kingdom): [www.mbaworld.com](http://www.mbaworld.com)
- *Bachelor professionnel* (professional bachelor), a label awarded by ACFCI (assembly of French chambers of commerce and industry): [www.cci.fr](http://www.cci.fr) >Formations
- EQUIS (European Foundation for Management Development): [www.efmdglobal.org](http://www.efmdglobal.org)

► **CCIP** (Paris chamber of commerce and industry): [www.cci-paris-idf.fr](http://www.cci-paris-idf.fr)

► **Art**

- CampusArt network: [www.campusart.org](http://www.campusart.org)
- Directory of postsecondary schools of art: [www.andea.fr](http://www.andea.fr)

► **Architecture**

- Public schools of architecture: [www.culture.gouv.fr](http://www.culture.gouv.fr) > Sites thématiques
- INSA de Strasbourg: [www.insa-strasbourg.fr](http://www.insa-strasbourg.fr)
- École Spéciale d'Architecture: [www.esa-paris.fr](http://www.esa-paris.fr)

► **Fashion** (site of the union of textile industries): [www.textile.fr](http://www.textile.fr)

► **Agriculture**

- Public institutions of agricultural education: [www.educagri.fr](http://www.educagri.fr)
- Agreenium (agronomic, veterinary, and forestry institute of France): [www.agreenium.org](http://www.agreenium.org)
- Community for French agricultural education: [www.chlorofil.fr](http://www.chlorofil.fr)

► **Health**

- French National Academy of Medicine: [www.academie-medecine.fr](http://www.academie-medecine.fr)
- Public assistance offered by Paris hospitals: [www.aphp.fr](http://www.aphp.fr)
- ANEFMF (national association of medical students in France): [www.anemf.org](http://www.anemf.org)
- CNCI (national center for residency examinations in medicine, pharmacy, and dentistry): [www.cnci.univ-paris5.fr](http://www.cnci.univ-paris5.fr)
- Independent community of students of medicine and the paramedical professions: [www.remede.org](http://www.remede.org)
- College of medicine of the hospitals of Paris: <http://cmhp.fr>

- DFMAS/DFMS <http://med.unistra.fr/fre/Formation/3eme-cycle/DFMS-DFMSA>
- Diploma course in French for the health professions: [www.centredelangue-francaise.paris/tests-diplomes/diplomes-francais-professionnel-dfp](http://www.centredelangue-francaise.paris/tests-diplomes/diplomes-francais-professionnel-dfp)
- École des Hautes Études en Santé Publique (school of advanced study in public health): [www.ehesp.fr](http://www.ehesp.fr)
- Hôpitaux de France (hospitals of Paris): [www.hopital.fr](http://www.hopital.fr)
- French Ministry of Social Affairs and Health: [www.sante.gouv.fr](http://www.sante.gouv.fr)
- National Order of Physicians: [www.conseil-national.medecin.fr](http://www.conseil-national.medecin.fr)
- Network of 32 university hospital centers: [www.reseau-chu.org](http://www.reseau-chu.org)
- French-language digital university of the health and sport sciences: [www.unf3s.org](http://www.unf3s.org)

► **Professional and occupational certification**

- France Compétence (national authority for financing and regulation of professional training and apprenticeships): [www.francecompetences.fr](http://www.francecompetences.fr)
- RNCP (national registry of occupational certifications): [www.francecompetences.fr](http://www.francecompetences.fr)

► **Ministry of Sports** (programs in sports and physical education): [www.sports.gouv.fr](http://www.sports.gouv.fr)

► **Distance education, online courses**

- CNED (national center for distance learning): [www.cned.fr](http://www.cned.fr)
- FUN-MOOC (online courses): [www.fun-mooc.fr](http://www.fun-mooc.fr)
- UNIT Foundation (the digital engineering and technology university): [www.unit.eu](http://www.unit.eu)
- FIED (interuniversity distance learning federation): [www.fied.fr](http://www.fied.fr)
- ISPED (institute for public health, epidemiology, and development): [www.isped.u-bordeaux.fr](http://www.isped.u-bordeaux.fr)
- Distance learning portal (10 specialized schools, 100 programs): [www.formationen-distance.com](http://www.formationen-distance.com)
- PLOTEUS (European portal on education and training opportunities in Europe): <https://ec.europa.eu/ploteus/fr>

# On the web: useful links

## Research

- ANR (French national research agency): [www.agence-nationale-recherche.fr](http://www.agence-nationale-recherche.fr)
- Campus France directory of doctoral schools and proposed dissertation topics: <http://ecolesdoctorales.campusfrance.org/phd/dschools/main>
- ABG L'intelli'agence (career development for recent doctoral recipients): [www.intelligence.fr](http://www.intelligence.fr)
- ANDès (national association of doctors of science): [www.andes.asso.fr](http://www.andes.asso.fr)
- ANRT (French national research and technology agency): [www.anrt.asso.fr](http://www.anrt.asso.fr)
- Bpifrance (France's public investment bank): [www.bpifrance.fr](http://www.bpifrance.fr)
- CNRS (national center for scientific research): [www.cnrs.fr](http://www.cnrs.fr)
- EURAXESS (research mobility in Europe): <http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess>
- Kastler Foundation (hosting of foreign researchers in France): [www.fnak.fr](http://www.fnak.fr)

## Tests and degrees in French as a foreign language

- Campus France brief on tests and degrees in French as a foreign language: [www.campusfrance.org](http://www.campusfrance.org) >Ressources center
- FRANCE ÉDUCATION INTERNATIONALE (TCF - DELF - DALF) : [www.ciepf.fr](http://www.ciepf.fr)
- CCIP (Paris chamber of commerce and industry), the TEF test and certificates in business and professional French: [www.centredelanguefrancaise.paris/tests-diplomes/test-evaluation-francais-tef](http://www.centredelanguefrancaise.paris/tests-diplomes/test-evaluation-francais-tef)
- Alliance Française: [www.fondation-alliancefr.org](http://www.fondation-alliancefr.org)
- List of centers accredited with the "Qualité français langue étrangère" label: [www.qualitefle.fr](http://www.qualitefle.fr)
- Online simulation of the complete TCF on TV5MONDE: [www.tv5monde.com/tcf](http://www.tv5monde.com/tcf)

## Discovering France

- Bibliothèque Nationale de France (search the catalogs): [www.bnf.fr](http://www.bnf.fr)
- Investir en France – Business France: [www.businessfrance.fr/investir](http://www.businessfrance.fr/investir)
- Regional and local offices of tourism and economic development: [www.tourisme.fr](http://www.tourisme.fr)
- IGN (maps of France): [www.geoportail.gouv.fr/accueil](http://www.geoportail.gouv.fr/accueil)
- France's official website: [www.france.fr](http://www.france.fr)
- Territoires d'Outre-Mer : [www.outre-mer.gouv.fr](http://www.outre-mer.gouv.fr)

## French as an international language

- France 24 (international news in French, English, and Arabic): [www.france24.com](http://www.france24.com)
- AUF (Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie): [www.auf.org](http://www.auf.org)
- Latitude France (news about French as used around the world): <http://latitudefrance.diplomatie.gouv.fr>
- OIF (Organisation internationale de la Francophonie): [www.francophonie.org](http://www.francophonie.org)
- Radio France Internationale: [www.rfi.fr](http://www.rfi.fr)
- Radio France (public service radio channels): [www.radiofrance.fr](http://www.radiofrance.fr)
- TV5MONDE (the international French-language channel in your country, to familiarize you with French language and culture): [www.tv5monde.com](http://www.tv5monde.com)

## Living in France

### ■ Housing

#### Information

- ANIL (information and contacts related to the right housing in France): [www.anil.org](http://www.anil.org)
- CAF (national family assistance fund): [www.caf.fr](http://www.caf.fr)
- Rooms for rent in private homes: [www.cidj.com](http://www.cidj.com)
- Lokaviz (the online housing platform of the CROUS network): [www.lokaviz.fr](http://www.lokaviz.fr)
- Housing page of the French government's student portal: <https://trouverunlogement.lescrous.fr>

## Student housing

### (networks and associations)

- Adele (association for the economic development of student housing): [www.adele.org](http://www.adele.org)
- CISP (Paris): [www.cisp.fr](http://www.cisp.fr)
- FIAP: [www.fiap.asso.fr](http://www.fiap.asso.fr)
- Résidence internationale de Paris: [www.ee-rip.com](http://www.ee-rip.com)
- UNME (national union of student residences): [www.unme-asso.com](http://www.unme-asso.com)

### Privately owned student buildings in Paris and the regions

- Cap'Études: [www.cap-etudes.com](http://www.cap-etudes.com)
- Cardinal Campus: <https://www.cardinalcampus.fr>
- Fac-Habitat : [www.fac-habitat.com](http://www.fac-habitat.com)
- Groupe Réside Études - Les Estudines: [www.estudines.com](http://www.estudines.com)
- Kley: <https://www.kley.fr>
- Mgel housing: [www.mgellogement.fr](http://www.mgellogement.fr)
- Néoresid: <https://www.neoresid.com>
- Nexity Studéa: [www.studea.fr](http://www.studea.fr)
- PARME: <https://www.residencesparme.fr>
- Résidences OSE : [www.leclubetudiant.com](http://www.leclubetudiant.com)
- Stud'City (Clermont-Ferrand only): [www.studcity-clermont.com](http://www.studcity-clermont.com)
- Studelites: [www.studelites.com](http://www.studelites.com)
- Student Factory: <https://www.student-factory.com/fr>
- Suitétudes: <http://www.suitetudes.com/fr>

### The private rental market

- Student housing in the Île-de-France region: [www.lokaviz.fr](http://www.lokaviz.fr)
- [www.pap.fr](http://www.pap.fr)
- [www.entrepaticuliers.com](http://www.entrepaticuliers.com)
- [www.paruvendu.fr](http://www.paruvendu.fr)
- [www.seloger.com](http://www.seloger.com)

### Group rentals

- [www.appartager.com](http://www.appartager.com)
- [www.leboncoin.fr](http://www.leboncoin.fr)
- [www.colocationfrance.fr](http://www.colocationfrance.fr)
- [www.macoloc.fr](http://www.macoloc.fr)
- [www.okroommate.com](http://www.okroommate.com) (in English)
- <https://fr-fr.roomlala.com/>
- <http://www.chez-l-habitant.com/>
- <https://fr-fr.roomlala.com>
- <http://www.chez-l-habitant.com>

## Sublets

[www.souslouer.com](http://www.souslouer.com)

### Housing with families or senior citizens

- Séjours France Familles: [www.sejoursfrancefamille.fr](http://www.sejoursfrancefamille.fr)
- COSI network: [www.reseau-cosi.com](http://www.reseau-cosi.com)
- <http://ensemble2generations.fr>
- <http://www.leparisolidaire.fr>

### ■ Culture

- Center for national monuments: [www.monuments-nationaux.fr/](http://www.monuments-nationaux.fr/)
- [Trouver-un-monument](http://Trouver-un-monument)
- Pompidou Center: [www.centrepompidou.fr](http://www.centrepompidou.fr)
- [www.centrepompidou-metz.fr](http://www.centrepompidou-metz.fr)
- Paris Philharmonic: <https://philharmoniedeparis.fr/en>
- French federation of international music festivals: [www.francefestivals.com](http://www.francefestivals.com)
- France's national museums: [www.rmn.fr](http://www.rmn.fr)
- French Ministry of Culture: [www.culture.gouv.fr](http://www.culture.gouv.fr)
- France's official website: [www.france.fr](http://www.france.fr)
- Works of art: [www.images-art.fr](http://www.images-art.fr)
- Univers Sciences (the science and technology portal of the Cité des Sciences et d'Industrie, Palais de la Découverte): [www.universcience.fr](http://www.universcience.fr)

### ■ Working

- Student job central: [www.jobaviz.fr](http://www.jobaviz.fr)
- CIDJ (center for youth information and documentation): [www.cidj.com](http://www.cidj.com)
- L'Étudiant: <http://jobs-stages.letudiant.fr>
- Portal of the French public service: [www.service-public.fr](http://www.service-public.fr)
- >Étranger >Étrangers en France

### ■ Health

- CPAM (France's national medical insurance fund): [www.ameli.fr](http://www.ameli.fr)
- La Mutuelle des Étudiants (student group insurance plans): [www.lmde.fr](http://www.lmde.fr)
- Smerep (student group insurance plans): [www.smerep.fr](http://www.smerep.fr)
- Emevia (a federation of regional student insurance plans): [www.emevia.com](http://www.emevia.com)



## Bienvenue en France

The “Bienvenue en France” label was created to highlight the services offered to international services by French institutions of higher education. The label helps you identify institutions that offer the services most useful to you.



## Choose France

- **CampusFrance.org**: everything you need to select the French educational institution that's right for you.
- **Campus France's country offices**: nearly 260 offices in more than 120 countries providing personalized support.
- The **France Alumni** network: so you can stay in touch with France after graduation.



Despite the coronavirus, France is prepared to welcome you for a long or short academic stay and to make it possible for you to be physically present at your institution. Full details can be found on the Campus France website.

[www.campusfrance.org/en](http://www.campusfrance.org/en)

