

Before departure

Prepare for your stay

➤ As soon as possible! / HOUSING

●●● TIP

- Contact your institution's international office, which can guide you in your search for a place to live.
- If you have not arranged permanent housing by the time you arrive in France, consider reserving a room in a youth hostel or hotel for your first few days in the country.
- Make sure you know the proximity of your school to both your lodgings and the center of the city or town.

➤ NOTE

Whether you are looking for a rented room or apartment on the private housing market or space in a student residence, the CROUS network can help. Its housing search site, www.lokaviz.fr, posts announcements of rooms in student residences and tells you how to apply. As for private rentals, the LOKAVIZ label provides assurance of three things: (i) the quality of the lodging, (ii) a rent consistent with the advertised rate, and (iii) a location suitable for students.

➤ Reserve temporary lodgings in advance so you will have a place to sleep once you arrive in France

- ✓ A youth hostel (€25–35 a night, depending on the city): www.fuaj.org
- ✓ A hotel (€50–90 a night, depending on the city): www.booking.com - www.hotels.com - www.kayak.com
- ✓ Short stays in private homes: www.atomeparis.com - www.airbnb.com - <http://fr.chambrealouer.com/location> - <http://fr.bedycasa.com>...

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SECURING HOUSING BEFORE ARRIVING IN FRANCE

➤ On-campus housing

With the significant exception of the universities, many schools provide housing for students. As soon as you accept an offer of admission, notify the housing office or the international office to reserve a room.

➤ Private housing (off-campus)

✓ Private student apartment buildings

Rooms and apartments are available in privately owned buildings all over France. Several networks of such buildings publicize openings on the Web: www.adele.org - www.studelites.com - www.estudines.com - www.fac-habitat.com - www.lamyresidences.com - www.icade-immobilier.com - www.suitetudes.com

✓ Renting from an individual

Before leaving home for France, you may want to make advance rental arrangements with an individual property owner or an agency so that your lodgings will be available to you as soon as you arrive. You will be asked to send electronic copies of various documents, the originals of which you should be prepared to show when you take possession of the property you have rented.

WARNING: Beware of requests to send several months rent in advance. You could become the victim of a scam.

Instead, spend some time at the following sites: www.entrepaticuliers.com - www.pap.fr - www.paruvendu.fr/immobilier - www.seloger.com

✓ Shared rentals

Growing numbers of students save money by sharing an apartment. It works like this: a small group of students enters into a rental agreement with a property owner. The names of all of the participating students must appear on the rental contract.

www.colocation.fr - www.colocation.vivastreet.fr - pap.fr/annonce/colocation - www.colocationfrance.fr - www.easycoloc.com - www.ma-colocation.com - www.okroommate.com - www.koloc.org

➤ Housing in a Cité Universitaire

Recipients of French government scholarships have priority for rooms in the "Cité U."

✓ Independently mobile students

Inquire about eligibility at the nearest CROUS branch. www.cnous.fr

✓ Students participating in an exchange program

Some exchange programs offer participants space in the Cité U or in the school's facilities. Ask the coordinator of your exchange program or the international office of your host institution.

For more information:

<http://www.campusfrance.org/en/Living in France/Housing>

Before departure

Prepare for your stay

1 month in advance / VISA

●●● TIP

➤ As soon as you receive your admission letter, begin the process of applying for your visa. The earlier you start, the better.

➤ Whatever else you do, do not fail to visit the Campus France office nearest you. Find that office at www.campusfrance.org/en>Campus France near you ●●

YOUR VISA FOR FRANCE

Several types of visas exist for students and scholars: the short-term visa (less than 90 days), the student examination visa, the extended-stay student visa and residency permit (VLS-TS), and the extended-stay visa for scientists and scholars.

All visas must be applied for at a French consulate or embassy.

Inquire to learn whether:

➤ You may be exempt from the visa requirement (you may not need a visa)

➤ You need a short-term visa (for stays of up to 90 days). Fee: €60

➤ You need an extended-stay visa (for stays longer than 90 days). Cost: €90

Holders of a short-term visa are not required to complete any further formalities once they arrive in France.

Directory of the embassies and consulates

<http://www.mfe.org/index.php/Annuaire/Ambassades-et-consulats-francais-a-l-etranger>

GETTING A VISA THROUGH THE CEF PROCESS

If you live in one of the 31 countries that use the CEF process, your academic admission application is being handled by a Campus France local office. Once your admission file is complete (certificate of preregistration, interview, etc.), you will get a message asking you to visit the French consulate in your area to apply for a visa.

Before departure

Prepare for your stay

1 month in advance / VISA

LIST OF DOCUMENTS OR EVIDENCE TYPICALLY REQUIRED TO OBTAIN A FRENCH VISA

(requirements vary by country and type of visa):

- Passport valid for at least 3 months after the expiration date of the visa (+ photocopies of key pages showing photo, validity date, visas, and so on)
- Visa application form (available from website of French consulate)
- Several recent passport-sized photos (35 mm x 45 mm)
- Proof of identity and of residency in your home country (+ photocopies front and back)
- Evidence of plane and train reservations
- Bank statements for past three months (+ photocopies)
- Original airline ticket and proof of payment (+ photocopies)
- Confirmation of hotel reservation and evidence of housing arrangements
- Self-addressed, stamped envelopes

Other documents or evidence that may be required include:

➤ Of students

- Confirmation of preregistration/admission from an institution of higher education or notification of registration for an entrance examination in France (+ photocopies)
- Tuition statement for the current year and most recent diploma received (+ photocopies)
- Proof of payment of tuition and fees (for institutions other than universities) (+ photocopies)

➤ Of unpaid interns

- Original internship agreement between employer, educational institution, and intern signed stamped by DIRECCTE (*Direction Régionale des Entreprises, de la Concurrence, de la Consommation, du Travail et de l'Emploi*) (+ photocopies)
- Original "attestation d'accueil" (acknowledgment that intern is expected) issued by the authorities of the town or city in which the internship will be completed (+ photocopies)

➤ Of scientists and scholars

- Original exchange or hosting agreement drawn up by an entity approved by the prefecture of police, or employment contract stamped by DIRECCTE.

For more information:

www.campusfrance.org/en>Prepare your stay

Before departure

Prepare for your stay

1 month in advance / BUDGET

TIP

- Make sure that your bankcard will allow you to obtain cash from ATMs in France.
- Consider renting the kits offered by CROUS for €8/month: the bedroom kit (sheets, bedcover, pillow, bedside lamp); kitchen kit (plates, pans, platters, flatware).

- The average budget for a student in France:
 - At least €800 outside Paris
 - At least €1,000 in Paris

BUDGET BREAKDOWN

The budget below takes into account many available student discounts (for leisure-time activities, for example). You'll need more in the first month to cover a variety of one-time expenses.

Monthly expenses	Paris	Rest of France
Rent, (not including housing assistance, such as APL and ALS; www.caf.fr)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> in a <i>Cité Universitaire</i>: €200/mo. for a room. €450–750/mo., on average, for a studio 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> in a <i>Cité Universitaire</i>: €200/mo. for a room. €400/mo., on average, for a studio
Renter's insurance	€10/mo.	€10/mo.
Transportation	€60–80/mo.	€40–60/mo.
Social security (medical insurance)	€15/mo.	€15/mo.
Food	€150–200/mo.	€150–200/mo.
Leisure	€90/mo.	€70/mo.
Miscellaneous (including utilities)	€80/mo.	€60/mo.
Additional expenses for the first month		
Transportation to study site (train, plane)	Fares and schedules at www.sncf.com	
Security/damage deposit for your room or apartment (amount will vary with rent)	University housing: €200 Individual property: 1 month's rent	
University tuition (unless waived)	Licence, DUT: 181€, Master: 250€ Doctorado: 380€, <i>Diplôme d'ingénieur</i> : 596€	
Non-university tuition and fees	-----€	
Temporary lodging	-----€	

NOTES

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➤ **1 month in advance** / EVERYDAY TRIPS

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●●● **TIP**

Write down key locations and routes in the town or city where you'll be studying.
Find them on a map. ●●

KEY PLACES DURING MY STAY IN FRANCE

➤ **Arrival train station**

Address: _____

Days and hours of operation: _____

To get there:

by bus, metro, train: _____ N°: _____

Frequency: _____

Notes: _____

KEY PLACES DURING MY STAY IN FRANCE

➤ **Where I'm staying (temporarily or for the duration of my stay)**

Address: _____

➤ **University or school**

Address: _____

Bus, metro, train: _____

N°: _____

Frequency: _____

Length of trip: _____

➤ **University library**

Address: _____

Bus, metro, train: _____

N°: _____

Frequency: _____

Length of trip: _____

➤ **Closest Internet access**

Address: _____

Bus, metro, train: _____

N°: _____

Frequency: _____

Length of trip: _____

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➔ **1 month in advance / CONTACTS**

➔ **1 month in advance / CONTACTS**

●●● **TIP**

Ask your local Campus France office if they offer sessions on preparing for departure. Many do!

To learn more: www.campusfrance.org/en>Campus France near you ●●

MY CONTACTS IN FRANCE

➔ **Where I'm staying (temporarily or for the duration of my stay):**

Address: _____

Name of contact at residence (first, last): _____

Tel.: +33 (0) _____ Email: _____ @ _____

➔ **My school or university**

✓ **International office**

Contact name (first, last): _____

Address: _____

Days and hours of operation: _____

Tel: +33 (0) _____ Email: _____ @ _____

✓ **Registrar**

Contact name (first, last): _____

Address: _____

Days and hours of operation: _____

Tel: +33 (0) _____ Email: _____ @ _____

✓ **Department/UFR**

Contact name (first, last): _____

Address: _____

Days and hours of operation: _____

Tel: +33 (0) _____ Email: _____ @ _____

MY CONTACTS IN FRANCE

➔ **French-language center (FLE)**

Contact name (first, last): _____

Address: _____

Days and hours of operation: _____

Tel.: +33 (0) _____ Email: _____ @ _____

➔ **Foreign students' association at my institution**

Contact name (first, last): _____

Address: _____

Days and hours of operation: _____

Tel.: +33 (0) _____ Email: _____ @ _____

contacts Notes: _____

Before departure

Prepare for your arrival at the airport

➤ 1 month in advance

➤ In case of a late-night arrival...

Two night bus lines (N143 and N140, both part of the regional night transport service known as "Noctilien") connect Charles de Gaulle Airport with Paris. Both depart from terminal 2F. Tickets (sold on board the bus) are €7.60. A taxi into Paris costs about €60.

ARRIVING IN PARIS

Paris has 2 major airports, Orly and Charles de Gaulle. www.aeroportsdeparis.fr

➤ Reaching your lodgings in Paris

✓ From Orly

• Orlybus: To Denfert-Rochereau station (Paris 14th), with connections to metro lines 4 and 6. The ride takes 20–30 minutes; tickets (the fare is €7.20) are purchased from the machine located next to bus stop. Make sure you have coins.

- once at Denfert-Rochereau, take the metro to your residence. Your bus ticket won't get you on the metro. You'll have to buy a metro ticket.

• Air France coach, line 1: Stops at the Gare Montparnasse, Invalides, and Etoile. The trip takes about 35 minutes and costs €12.

- when you get off the bus, take the metro to your residence. Your bus ticket won't get you on the metro. You'll have to buy a metro ticket.

• Taxis: About €40.

✓ From Charles de Gaulle (CDG)

• RER B: The RER regional rail line departs from terminals 1A and 2A. Allow about 50 minutes to reach Châtelet les Halles. Buy your ticket (€9.25) from the machines in the RER station.

- then take the metro to your residence. Your RER ticket is valid on the metro.

• Roissybus: Allow 45–60 minutes to reach the Opéra station. Tickets are €10.

- then take the metro to your residence. Your bus ticket won't get you on the metro. You'll have to buy a metro ticket.

• Air France coach: Line 2 stops at Étoile and Porte Maillot (€17); line 4 at the Gare de Lyon and the Gare Montparnasse (€17). From any of these stops, you can take the metro to your residence, but you'll have to buy a metro ticket.

• Taxi: About €60.

➤ Using the metro in Paris

<http://www.ratp.fr/itineraires/fr/ratp/recherche-avancee>

You can use a single metro ticket (€1.70) to transfer from line to line within central Paris. Buy your ticket upon entering the station, either from the attendant or at a ticket machine. You can use your bankcard at the ticket machines.

Before departure

Prepare for your arrival at the airport

➤ 1 month in advance

●●● TIP

➤ Try not to arrive on a weekend. Monday arrivals are best. That way you'll have all week to get settled before enjoying your first weekend in France!

➤ In case your plane is delayed, be sure you keep with you a list of contacts so you can notify anyone who might be expecting you (for example, your airport pickup, your hotel or residence, and the international student coordinator at your institution)

➤ Plot out the trip (taxi, train, bus) to your new residence, or to the Paris station from which you will catch your train to the city or town where you'll be studying, (Paris has 6 stations *Gare du Nord*, *Gare de l'Est*, *Gare Montparnasse*, *Gare de Lyon*, *Gare Saint Lazare*, *Gare d'Austerlitz*) ●●●

REACHING YOUR STUDY SITE FROM PARIS

➤ Reaching your study site by plane

✓ Getting to Orly from Charles de Gaulle (CDG)

Air France coach, line 3 (about 60 minutes; €20)

✓ Getting to Charles de Gaulle from Orly

Air France coach, line 3 (about 60 minutes; €20).

➤ Reaching your study site by train

✓ Getting to a station in Paris from the airport

Verify the station from which your train will leave and then plan your route accordingly
From Orly

• Air France coach, line 1: To the Gare Montparnasse

• Orlybus: To Denfert-Rochereau station (Paris 14th), with connections to metro lines 4 and 6. The ride takes 20–30 minutes; tickets (the fare is €7.20) are purchased from the machine located next to bus stop. Make sure you have coins.

From Charles de Gaulle

• Air France coach, line 4: To the Gare de Lyon and the Gare Montparnasse (€17)

• Gare RER B, The RER regional rail line departs from terminals 1A and 2A. Allow about 50 minutes to reach Châtelet les Halles. Buy your ticket (€9.25) from the machines in the RER station.

-then take the metro to your residence. Your RER ticket is valid on the metro.

• Roissybus: Allow 45–60 minutes to reach the Opéra station. Tickets are €10.

-then take the metro to your residence. Your bus ticket won't get you on the metro.

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