

The CNOUS is the French National Student Service and the CROUS, the student welfare organization, its regional branch. An international student should refer to it as early as possible. This document presents these centres and housing services.



How to find a housing with the CNOUS CROUS

Centre National des Œuvres Universitaires et Scolaires
Centre Régional des Œuvres Universitaires et Scolaires



The national centre website presents all general services. The contacts (website, telephone number, address) of each regional centre or CROUS (French student welfare organisation) are available on the national website.

www.cnous.fr

The **CNOUS** is :

- The public authority for student welfare in France (scholarships and social assistance, housing, restaurant service, cultural events, etc.)
- The main information centre for assistance and housing opportunities. An international student should refer to the CNOUS well in advance to plan their time in France
- The centre supervises a network of 28 CROUS regional centres (Centre Régional des Œuvres Universitaires et Scolaires) dispatched throughout France. They are in charge of welcoming both French and international students who benefit from a scholarship and have an agreement with France, called **BGFs** ("étudiants boursiers du gouvernement français") and **BGEs** ("boursiers de gouvernements étrangers"). The CROUS is also in charge of managing public university residences.

The public university residences

The oldest university residences are furnished studios (with a washbasin) of around 10 m² with shared showers and toilets. These residences have been significantly refurbished since 2004. The most recent and refurbished residences come with an Internet connection, are more comfortable and range from single rooms equipped with a small bathroom with a washbasin, shower and a toilet to studios with a kitchenette. This is the most affordable housing:

monthly rents range from 120€ for a single room to 350€ for a studio. However, they are fairly limited in number. An application and registration in a French higher education institution may not be enough to get a room from the CROUS. French students benefitting from a scholarship and foreign students whose parents have been living in France for at least two years take priority (an application must be filed between January 15th and April 30th for the next academic year by completing a registration on the students region of studies CROUS website) BGFs and BGEs come second. Many universities have agreements with the CROUS allowing international students in exchange or cooperation programs to book rooms in residences. Some institutions are even able to book rooms for international students in the 2nd year of their Master's degree or Doctorate. If you are in this situation you should consult with your institution or the authority in charge of your scholarship. In all other cases, the chances of gaining a room in a university residence with the CROUS is very limited.

You can still file an application to the CROUS after your arrival in France, as withdrawals may occur throughout the year.





University residences welcome only 13% of students. Since 2000, the French government has launched an expansion plan of the offer and aims at doubling the number of student housing by 2020



The sector of public housing is unevenly dispatched

NUMBER OF ROOMS IN UNIVERSITY RESIDENCES FOR 100 STUDENTS WITH SCHOLARSHIP (per academy)

Paris	8,3	Aix-Marseille	32
La Réunion	10,6	Dijon	33,2
Créteil	13,6	Orléans-Tours	33,5
Antilles et Guyane	19,6	Nancy-Metz	33,8
Lille	19,8	Strasbourg	34,1
Lyon	21,4	Rouen	34,4
Nantes	25,4	Montpellier	35,2
Nice	27,8	Versailles	35,2
Reims	28,1	Bordeaux	35,9
Rennes	28,3	Besançon	37,1
Poitiers	28,6	Grenoble	37,4
Clermont-Ferrand	28,8	Caen	40,8
Toulouse	29	Limoges	44,5
Amiens	30	Corse	49,1

source : CNOUS

LokaviZ

This centre of student housing in Île-de-France (Paris region) lists more than 23,000 student housings.

www.lokaviz.fr

The private housing service (“Logement en Ville”)

One of the main services that the CROUS offer is private housing, called “Logement en Ville”. It works as an information office providing advice and publishing housing advertisements from the private sector. These advertisements can be found on the CROUS website.

Some of the CROUS have put in place a service to welcome new students, particularly foreign students, for the start of year period. This happens in cooperation with designated universities (provided as a one-stop service). This service is managed by international students who have lived in France, and in cooperation with different city services. These information centres provide a good insight for newly arrived international students looking for housing, particularly on interactions with private room owners.

The CNOUS also has a web portal called **LOCAVIZ** focused on housing offers in France, launched on August 23rd 2011 in Île-de-France (Paris region) and expanded in January 2012 for the rest of France.

The CROUS quality standards

The CROUS has created a quality standard in cooperation between professionals from the real estate sector, students and housing owners. This standard presents the mandatory conditions for a student housing of

quality. Inquirers come to evaluate the housing according to four criteria:

- The quality of the housing
- The distance to the education centres
- Good practices in the relationship between the lessor and the lessee

The rent price

Housings which meet the quality standard will be highlighted on the CROUS web portal from January. House owners under the quality standard are frequently verified and attention is drawn on the standards of living of students. This project continues to be expanded.

The student housing passport



This passport is managed by the CROUS according to its quality standards. Its purpose is to balance the difficulty for foreign students to provide a deposit or a collateral surety.

The system was launched in 2011 and was first tested by education authorities in Lille and Lyon. Its expansion throughout the rest of France is planned for the future, building on feedback from the first trial.

