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

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
- 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.entreparticuliers.com - www.pap.fr - www.paruvendu.fr/immobilier - www.seloger.com
- Shared rentals
- 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

as soon as possible! 1 month in advance 1 week in advance day 1 week 1 month 1
as soon as possible! 1 month in advance 1 week in advance day 1 week 1 month 1
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.

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.

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.

List of documents or evidence typically required to obtain a French 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 bank card 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monthly expenses</th>
<th>Paris</th>
<th>Rest of France</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rent, (not including housing assistance, such as APL and ALS; <a href="http://www.caf.fr">www.caf.fr</a>)</td>
<td>✓ in a Cité Universitaire: €200/mo. for a room.</td>
<td>✓ in a Cité Universitaire: €200/mo. for a room.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>✓ €450–750/mo., on average, for a studio</td>
<td>✓ €400/mo., on average, for a studio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renter’s insurance</td>
<td>€10/mo.</td>
<td>€10/mo.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>€60–80/mo.</td>
<td>€40–60/mo.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social security (medical insurance)</td>
<td>€15/mo.</td>
<td>€15/mo.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food</td>
<td>€150–200/mo.</td>
<td>€150–200/mo.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leisure</td>
<td>€30/mo.</td>
<td>€70/mo.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous (including utilities)</td>
<td>€80/mo.</td>
<td>€60/mo.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional expenses for the first month</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation to study site (train, plane)</td>
<td>Fares and schedules at <a href="http://www.sncf.com">www.sncf.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Security/damage deposit for your room or apartment (amount will vary with rent)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University tuition (unless waived)</td>
<td>University housing: €200</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Individual property: 1 month’s rent</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Licence, DUT: 181€, Master: 250€</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Doctorado: 380€, Diplôme d’ingénieur: 596€</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Temporary lodging</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Non-university tuition and fees</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Before departure**

Prepare for your stay

### 1 month in advance / EVERYDAY TRIPS

#### 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**

- **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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**Notes:______________________________________________________________________________
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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

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

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: ______________________@__________________

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: ______________________@__________________

contacts Notes: ________________________________________________________________
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ARRIVING IN PARIS

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

Reaching your lodgings in Paris

- 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 Etoile 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.

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.
    - 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 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. You’ll have to buy a metro ticket.