

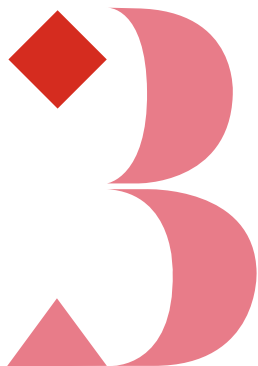


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CAMPUS
FRANCE



Living and Studying in France

CHOOSE FRANCE
2024-2025 GUIDE



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Administration

ALLOCATION (allowance)

Several forms of financial assistance are available to international students in France, particularly for housing. You can benefit from the *Allocation de logement social* (ALS) – the most common allowance given to students with private sector housing – by contacting the *Caisse d'allocations familiales* (CAF), France's family assistance fund. Students are eligible for this allowance if: they are a French or EU citizen, or possess a valid residence permit; their rented accommodation is deemed adequate; they are not related to the landlord. Maximum monthly amount: +/- €200. You can use the simulator available on the CAF's website.

www.caf.fr > Aides et démarches > Droits et prestations > Logement > Les aides personnelles au logement

AMENDE (fine)

Amount to be paid for an offence (**transport**, **smoking**, etc). It may increase if not paid on time.

ANEF

L'Administration Numérique pour les Etrangers en France (**ANEF**) is an online platform where foreigners can carry out their administrative procedures relative to their immigration status in France, their request for citizenship and more. Applicants can log in to their accounts and track the progress of their file on the platform:

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

BAIL (lease agreement)

This is the lease agreement between a tenant and a landlord or agency that sets out the rental conditions (duration, rent, utilities, **notice period**, the **deposit** amount, conditions for renewal, etc). The cost of drafting the lease will be passed on to the tenant. The lease is signed by both parties and a copy is given to the tenant. The signed lease acts as proof of residence and proof of the cost of the accommodation.

CAF

Caisse d'allocation familiales.

The CAF manages requests for the payment of allowances for housing, families, single parents, etc. The physical address for your local CAF office can be found by contacting the **town hall** in your city or *arrondissement*.

www.caf.fr

CAUTION (deposit)

The deposit paid to a landlord, which is subsequently returned to the tenant following an **inventory** at the end of the rental period. *Visale* is a mechanism that acts as a guarantor for tenants.

<https://www.visale.fr/visale-pour-les-locataires/avantages/>

CARTE OU TITRE DE SÉJOUR (residence permit)

This is the official residence permit issued by **préfectures** in France attesting to a foreigner's right to reside in the country (temporarily in general, but at times renewable). The document may also act as a work permit.

www.service-public.fr > Fiches pratiques > Papiers - Citoyenneté – Élections > Titres, carte de séjour et documents de circulation pour étranger en France > Étudiant / Stagiaire étranger

CONTRAT(S) DE TRAVAIL (employment contracts)

- **CDI** (*contrat à durée indéterminée* – permanent contracts)
- **CDD** (*contrat à durée déterminée*) – fixed-term contracts)

These contracts are signed with employers and set out various working conditions such as type of employment, gross monthly or hourly salary, employment period, location, working days and hours, and time off in accordance with French labour laws and/or company agreements.

www.travail-emploi.gouv.fr > Droit du travail > Les contrats de travail

- Seasonal employment
Type of **job** (or '*petit boulot*') that takes place during a set period. These include produce harvesting in September-October, working at ski resorts in winter or beach resorts in summer, working for fast food establishments, etc.

CONTRÔLE D'IDENTITÉ (identity check)

A police officer can check anyone's identity in public spaces. You should therefore have documentation proving your identity and your legal status in France (passport, **residence permit**, **student card**). If you do not present any documentation, you may be detained for further checks.

CRS

Compagnie républicaine de sécurité. The CRS is a police force that is sent to the scene of protests, strikes and other highly crowded areas.

DÉCOUVERT (overdraft limit)

When opening a **bank** account, the bank will determine the overdraft (*déouvert*) limit. Going beyond this negative amount may result in the payment of fees, the cancellation of your chequebook and even the deactivation of your **bank card**.

DÉPÔT DE GARANTIE (security deposit)

Amount returned to the tenant following an inventory at the end of the rental period (of a flat, car, etc.). Loca-Pass is a mechanism that covers the payment of the security deposit required by landlords at the beginning of the rental period.

www.service-public.fr > Logement > Aide pour le dépôt de garantie ou la caution d'un logement en location > Avance Loca-Pass : aide au locataire pour le dépôt de garantie

ÉTAT DES LIEUX D'ENTRÉE/ DE SORTIE (check-in/out inventory)

This is the inventory document that details the state of the rental upon signing the **lease**. It is used as a reference to compare the state of the accommodation at the end of the rental period.

FACTURE (bill)

These are bills detailing the conditions of purchase and sale for goods and services. Properly store your mobile, electricity and gas bills as they act as **proof of residence**.

FRANCE TRAVAIL

Organisation in charge of employment in France. It pays unemployment

benefits, and provides guidance and training to jobseekers.

www.francetravail.fr

HÔTEL DE VILLE/MAIRIE (town hall)

The *hôtels de ville* were created in the Middle Ages with the aim of granting certain privileges to municipalities. Known as the *mairie* since the French Revolution in 1789, some of these town halls still use the former name, particularly in Paris and other large cities.

IMPÔT SUR LE REVENU (income tax)

Any work done while in France is subject to income tax. Income tax is applied once per year on the taxable income of the previous calendar year. This income must be declared. Income tax is paid in the year it is calculated.

<https://www.impots.gouv.fr>

JUSTIFICATIF DE DOMICILE (proof of residence)

Certain documents can be considered proof of residence. In most cases, accepted documents include the following: electricity, water or gas bill, a mobile or landline **phone bill**.

<https://www.lokaviz.fr/>

MAIN COURANTE (filing a report)

In instances which do not require **pressing charges**, a record of an incident can still be made by **filing a report** (*main courante*) at a police station.

PACS

Pacte civil de solidarité (**PACS**).

A PACS is a contract between two people who wish to enter into a civil union.

PERTE OU VOL DE PAPIERS (loss or theft of identity)

File a report of the theft or loss at the nearest police station. Keep a copy of the report as it can be used during identity checks and to regularise your situation with the **préfecture**. If you lose your passport, contact your country's embassy to report the matter and obtain a new one. Once you receive the new passport, you can present it along with the original police report to the *préfecture*. In all cases, keep photocopies of all your official documents so that you can prove your identity in the event your documents are lost.

PERTE DE CARTE BANCAIRE (credit card loss)

Inform your **bank** so they can block your card (*faire opposition*). If your bank is closed, you can call the department for lost or stolen cheques of the national bank (Banque de France) at 34 14, or the bank card department at 0 892 705 705. Blocking a bank card comes at a fee, although most banks offer insurance policies against the loss or theft of documents. These policies cover or reimburse the cost of remaking stolen documents.

PORTER PLAINTÉ (pressing charges)

People who are victims of a crime, violence, theft, etc, can press charges

at a police station. Charges can be laid against an identified person or 'against X' if the person is unknown.

In instances which do not require pressing charges, a record of the incident can still be made by filing a **report** (*main courante*) at a police station.

www.service-public.fr > Fiches pratiques par thème > Voir tous les thèmes > Justice > Affaire pénale > Lancement des poursuites

LA POSTE (post office)

La Poste is the national post office. It transports mail at rates which are set based on destination, weight and format. Post offices can be found throughout France. With La Poste, you can: send letters and parcels, buy stamps, browse the **internet** and send or receive money orders. La Poste also has its own banking arm, la Banque Postale, allowing people to open **bank accounts**.

www.laposte.fr

PRÉAVIS (notice period)

The *préavis* is the minimum notice period required before a tenant can end their lease. This period is three months, but often it can be reduced to one month following negotiations with the landlord (if you have your own replacement, for example). Tenants who vacate their accommodation outside of the notice period will have to pay the rent owed for the period.

PRÉFECTURE

The term '*préfecture*' is also used to describe the capital of a *département*. They are often the largest cities in France.

www.interieur.gouv.fr > Le Ministère > Les Préfectures

PV (fine)

Procès verbal.

This is equivalent to a fine.

QUITTANCE DE LOYER (monthly rent receipt)

This is a monthly receipt for paying your rent. It can be used as proof of residence.

RÉCÉPISSÉ (acknowledgement of receipt)

A *récépissé* is a document handed to applicants upon requesting a residence permit (first-time application or renewal). It temporarily acts as a residence permit. The *récépissé* is valid for at least one month and in general between three and four months to allow the Préfecture time to handle applications.

www.service-public.fr > Accueil > Étranger-Europe > Titres, cartes de séjour et documents de circulation pour étranger en France > Qu'est-ce qu'un récépissé de demande de titre de séjour ?

RIB

The RIB (*relevé d'identité bancaire*) is a document that contains the identity of a bank account holder and their bank details. A RIB is required to send or receive money (salaries, wire transfers, etc.).

RSA (minimum monthly revenue)

The RSA provides a minimum monthly revenue to people without an income. The amount varies based on the composition of one's household.

It is open under specific circumstances to people no younger than 25 years, as well as to workers between 18 and 24 if they are single parents or if they can justify having worked a certain number of hours.

www.service-public.fr > Accueil > Social - Santé > Revenu de solidarité active (RSA)

RTT (RÉDUCTION DU TEMPS DE TRAVAIL)

An RTT day is a rest day that companies give their employees to compensate for work done beyond the standard 35 hours per week.

SÉCURITÉ SOCIALE (French Social Security)

Also known as the 'Sécu'. This is the name given to France's social security system.

www.securite-sociale.fr

SERVICE PUBLIC (public service)

Public services are general interest activities that fall into a variety of categories: public order and regulation (defence, justice, diplomacy, etc); social protection and healthcare (**Social Security**, hospitals); education and culture (schools, universities, research bodies, museums, libraries, etc); and economics (**transport**, energy, water, **La Poste**).

In France, a wide range of services are made available to the public.

They play a major role in the country's economy, constituting what is more popularly referred to as '*l'exception française*'. Some 5 million people work in the public sector and are known as *fonctionnaires*.

SMIC (minimum wage)

Salaire minimum interprofessionnel de croissance.

The SMIC is France's minimum wage. It is currently €11.65 gross per hour (i.e. before compulsory social contributions, representing around 20% per hour worked). In France, a normal working week is set at 35 hours.

SYNDICAT ÉTUDIANT (student unions)

Student unions are associations of students wishing to defend the material and moral interests of their peers.

The main student unions in France are:

- **Unef** (Union nationale des étudiants de France)
- **Fage** (Fédération des associations générales étudiantes)
- **Met** (Mouvement des étudiants)
- **PDE** (Promotion et défense des étudiants)
- **Solidaires étudiant-e-s**

TIMBRE FISCAL / TIMBRE ÉLECTRONIQUE (fiscal/électronique stamp)

Fiscal stamps can be used to pay for fines or administrative procedures (passports, identity cards, residence permits, etc). Special stamps are required for **OFII** procedures and their cost varies based on the type of visa (€75 for student visas, €225 for a *passport talent*). These stamps can be purchased from a *bureau de*

tabac (tobacco shop), the Treasury, the **Préfecture** or online.

<https://timbres.impots.gouv.fr>

TRAVAIL (work)

When non-EU citizens study in France, their residence permit (a long-stay VLS-TS student visa) allows them to work under certain circumstances. Specific rules may apply for certain nationalities.

www.campusfrance.org/fr/travail-etudiant > Etudiant > S'organiser > Travailler pendant ses études

TAXES

Contribution levied by the government for state revenue.

- VAT (value added tax). General consumption **tax**. The most common rate is 19.6%.
- TTC (*toutes taxes comprises* – all taxes included). Prices in France are always shown inclusive of taxes.
- HT (*hors taxes* – excluding taxes). Sales prices without compulsory taxes.

www.service-public.fr > Accueil > Étranger - Europe > Travail d'un étranger en France > Un étudiant non européen peut-il travailler en France ?

VISA

Citizens of the European Union and the European Economic Area can enter and live in France as they please and do not require visas.

However, citizens of other countries must have a visa to enter France. There is a wide range of visa categories covering all types of international student needs. French consular services are responsible for handling visa applications according to

regulations in effect. There are short-stay and long-stay visas (VLS-TS). For more information, consult the network of French embassies and consulates abroad.

www.campusfrance.org > S'organiser > Visas et cartes de séjour

Healthcare

ASSURANCE MALADIE (AMELI)

Government agency that reimburses healthcare-related expenses for beneficiaries of France's social security scheme (**Sécurité sociale**, '**Sécu**'). Ameli branches are accessible throughout the country. Your specific Ameli branch will be indicated when you join the healthcare system. All requests for reimbursement (*feuille de soins form*s) are to be sent to the branch indicated. The addresses are also available through the **town hall** in your city or *arrondissement*.

www.ameli.fr

CARTE VITALE

The *Carte Vitale* is a health insurance card that is delivered by post following registration with the French social security ('**Sécu**'). The card allows **doctors** and pharmacists to electronically request reimbursement for healthcare-related expenses for you. Using the card replaces the need for a *feuille de soins form*, and reimbursements from social security are processed more quickly.

www.ameli.fr > La carte vitale

CHU CHRU (university hospital centres)

CHUs (*centre hospitalier universitaire*) and CHRUs (*centre hospitalier régional universitaire*) are public university hospital centres that focus on providing healthcare, teaching students and conducting research.

www.chu-media.info

CMU (French universal healthcare system)

The CMU (*couverture maladie universelle*) is France's universal healthcare system allowing everyone to access healthcare for free thanks to a medical expense reimbursement fund. A number of mechanisms, varying depending on income, are open to international students living in France for more than three months:

- the '*CMU de base*', which replaces the student social security scheme and is accessible to non-EU students over 28,
- the '*CMU complémentaire*', which is the equivalent of a private insurance plan and is accessible to students under 28 who are beneficiaries of the student social security scheme,
- ACS, a scheme that provides financial assistance to cover the costs of a private insurance plan (a '*mutuelle*').

Contact your local **CPAM** branch (*Caisse primaire d'assurance maladie*) for additional information.

<https://etudiant-etranger.ameli.fr>

DÉPISTAGE (screening centres)

There are free testing centres (*centres de dépistage*) throughout France that provide anonymous screening for HIV/AIDS, hepatitis B and C, and other sexually transmitted diseases. Consultations are held with a doctor and do not require an appointment.

www.sida-info-service.org > VIH/Sida > Dépistage

FEUILLE DE SOINS (form)

A reimbursement form sent to the **Sécurité Sociale** so as to claim back

medical expenses. This process can be avoided by using the **carte vitale**.

IVG (voluntary abortion procedure)

IVG (*interruption volontaire de grossesse*) is the term used to describe a voluntary abortion. The depenalisation of abortion and the legal framework of voluntary abortions can be traced back to 1975. In France, a voluntary abortion can be performed before the end of the 14th week of pregnancy, ie before the end of the 16th week after the start of one's most recent period.

The right to abortion was enshrined in the French Constitution on 4th March 2024 and the French Parliament in Versailles, an unprecedented decision throughout the world.

www.ivg.gouv.fr

MÉDECIN (doctor)

In France, everyone can choose their own doctor. However, it is recommended that you choose a *médecin conventionné*, i.e. a doctor that applies the fees set by the social security ('**Sécu**'), or that you designate a doctor as your *médecin traitant* (you will be better reimbursed for your appointments). Additional fees apply for home visits, as well as appointments on **weekends** and **public holidays**.

MJC

Maison des jeunes et de la culture.

NUMÉRO DE SÉCURITÉ SOCIALE (social security number)

Your social security number is written on your **carte vitale**.

ORDONNANCE (prescription)

List of medications or tests prescribed by a doctor. Prescriptions must be shown at pharmacists or testing centres. If a *carte vitale* is not available, the prescription must be sent, accompanied by the *feuille de soins* form, to *Assurance maladie* to reimburse the related costs.

PHARMACIE (pharmacy)

In France, only pharmacies can sell and issue **prescription** medication. They operate from 9am to 7pm, with some opening until 11pm. They are closed on Sundays, Monday mornings and on **public holidays**. However, a system of late-night pharmacies is in place (*pharmacies de garde*). Pharmacists hold nationally recognised PhDs in pharmacy and are members of the National Order of Pharmacists. As such, they are qualified to give medical advice.

SAMU

This is the emergency medical assistance service (*service d'aide médicale urgente*). Dial 15 to contact SAMU call centres when in a medical emergency.

TICKET MODÉRATEUR

This term refers to any healthcare-related expenses not reimbursed by **social security**.

Culture

BD (comics)

Comics or *bandes dessinées* (BD) are a respected art. In France, they are often referred to as the 'ninth art'. Each January, an international comics festival takes place in Angoulême.

www.bdangouleme.com

BISTROT

Small, community restaurant typically offering French dishes. They are open for lunch and dinner at set times: from 12pm to 2.30pm and from 7.30pm to 11pm.

CAFÉ

Cafés play an important role in French social life, some of which are known around the world (Le Flore, Le Dôme, Le Café de la Paix, etc.). Cafés are an ideal place to take a break at any time of day, whether with friends or on your own. Cafés open very early to serve the morning coffee rush, and close at 8pm in general (sometimes at midnight or even at 2am).

COUPE-FILE (skip-the-line ticket)

A ticket category sold in certain large **museums** allowing people to bypass the **queue** for an exhibition or event.

FESTIVAL

Festivals, regardless of size or theme, love France! Some have become internationally acclaimed events such as the Cannes Film Festival (Palme d'Or) and the Festival d'Avignon theatre festival. Winners of these festivals gain international publicity.

Festivals allow attendees to learn and

discover something new, and some put on dazzling shows like the Nice Carnival. In France, festivals take place throughout the year and often last several days.

Festivals focus on one or more themes. Examples include art, film, music, dance, theatre, sports, nature, photography, circus acts, street art, storytelling and literature. The wide range of festivals on offer means that everyone can find their pleasure in their town, city or region.

www.francefestivals.com

FÊTE DE LA MUSIQUE

The *Fête de la musique* was created on 21 June 1982 in France as a day for everyone to play and enjoy music on the road, in parks, at cafés and throughout their city. This is now practised across the world.

www.fetedelamusique.culture.fr

INTERMITTENT DU SPECTACLE (intermittent worker in the performing arts)

Artist or technician that alternates between periods of employment and unemployment in the theatre, film and audiovisual sectors (and who benefits from a specific pension scheme). This is a specific employment category that exists in some countries. Today, there are some 100,000 casual workers in France's entertainment industry.

JOURNAL (newspaper)

In France, many daily newspapers were created in the 20th century and played crucial roles in French

political and intellectual life. These newspapers, whether national (*Le Monde*, *Libération*, *L'Humanité*, *Le Figaro*, etc) or regional (*Ouest-France*, *Le Parisien*, *Le Progrès*, *La Voix du Nord*, *Dernières Nouvelles d'Alsace*, *La Marseillaise*, *l'Est Républicain*, etc), were recognised for their political leanings, their writers and editorialists. Many writers and intellectuals use the press as their platform.

JT: *journal télévisé* – televised news

KIOSQUE (shop)

Small shop located on pavements selling newspapers, flowers, show tickets, etc.

MUSÉE (museum)

France has 1,216 museums welcoming tens of millions of visitors each year. Most rural towns also have one or more museums. More than 38,000 buildings are protected by the French Ministry of Culture and Communication and are recognised as historical monuments (the Châteaux de la Loire, the Mont-Saint-Michel, Château d'If, Arènes de Nîmes, Port de la Rochelle, etc.). These buildings remain open to the public. National museums are often closed on Tuesdays.

www.culture.gouv.fr > Thématiques > Musées > Les musées en France

RÉGION (region)

France is made up of a multitude of regions and territories (at times referred to as '*pays*').

Each one has its own traditions, cultures and rural and urban specificities. Regions are known for their gastronomy (**wine**, bread, cheese,

etc.), customs, traditions, accents, expressions and languages, all of which contribute to France's rich and generous immaterial heritage. At times, some regions and territories express the desire for greater autonomy, such as Corsica, Brittany, Pays Basque, etc.

VERSIONS (FILMS)

At the cinema, films are shown in their original language or dubbed in French.

- **VF:** *version française*, **French dubbed version**
- **VO/VOST:** *version originale/version originale sous-titrée*, *original version/original language version with subtitles in French*

VIN (wine)

There is a seemingly endless list of French wine coming from places such as Alsace, Beaujolais, Bordeaux, Bourgogne, Champagne, Corsica, Jura, Languedoc-Roussillon, Provence, Savoie, Loire, Rhône, and more!

France has more than 3,000 different wines that are grouped into 1,500 classifications, each belonging to 450 appellations and 800 existing domaines.

Each French wine-producing region has tens of controlled designations of origin (*appellations d'origine contrôlée*, **AOC**) which correspond to a defined geographical area (*terroir*).

The 33 '*grand cru*' appellations, used to describe wines of superior quality, correspond to a '*climat*', an area comprising one or more agricultural plots. With champagne, '*grand cru*' is only used to describe wine produced from grapes growing in 17 towns.

Living in France

AUBERGE DE JEUNESSE (youth hostel)

Hi! France. *Fédération unie des auberges de jeunesse.* (FUAJ)
www.hifrance.org

APÉRO

This is a contraction of the word *apéritif*, and used to describe a drink and by extension a light snack that is had before a meal.

It holds an important place in French society as it allows people to meet up with their friends and have a drink, either at home, at a café, etc.

BAGUETTE

A baguette is a type of bread that is recognisable by its long shape. A standard baguette weighs around 250g and is around 65cm long. Baguettes have a crunchy, golden exterior crust, while its interior (the crumb) is soft and white. Around the world, baguettes are a symbol of France, particularly of Paris.

BIO (organic)

This term is used to describe a number of labels that can be found on French food products: organic farming (*agriculture biologique*, AB); Red Label (*Label Rouge*, LR); controlled or protected designation of origin (*appellation d'origine contrôlée*, [AOC] *ou protégée*, [AOP]); traditional speciality guaranteed (*spécialités traditionnelles garanties*, STG); and responsible farming (*agriculture raisonnée*, AR).

www.bureauveritas.fr/bureau-veritas-certification

BISE (« SE FAIRE LA BISE »)

In France, it is customary to give each other a kiss on the cheek ('*se faire la bise*') when saying hello or goodbye, regardless of gender. In general, the *bise* is done twice (one on each cheek), although in some parts of France, it can be up to four times!

<http://combiendebises.free.fr/>

BON PLAN (good deal)

Expression used to describe a good deal or a tip for everyday life.

BOUI-BOUI

Type of **café**, bar or a small, simple, local restaurant. In some towns, the term is used to describe small shops.

BUREAU DE TABAC

The *bureau de tabac* (tobacco shop) is often integrated into some neighbourhood **café**s. It is also known for selling postal **stamps**, **fiscal stamps**, metro cards and tickets, phone cards/SIMs, batteries, lighters, games of chance from the *Française des Jeux* (lotto, spots lotto, etc), bets for horseracing (PMU - *Pari mutuel urbain*) and more. The *bureau de tabac* can be recognised by its red, carrot-shaped sign outside. They are run by a '*buraliste*'.

CAPOTE

1. French slang for condom.
2. convertible hood (of a car).
3. greatcoat (military).
4. cape made of pink silk and yellow percale used in bullfighting.

CARTE BLEUE/CB (bank card)

Synonym of bank card. Payment card connected to a bank account that has specific rules on authorised weekly payments. These rules vary for use in France or abroad.

CASSE-CROÛTE / CASSER LA CROÛTE

A meal eaten very quickly (like a sandwich) and/or on the go.

CHAMBRE DE BONNE

Small room located on the last floor of a building, generally beneath the roof. They are commonly mentioned in French literature. Originally used by housekeeping staff (*les 'bonnes'*) in buildings owned by the bourgeoisie in the 19th century, these rooms were subsequently used by artists and intellectuals. They are now often rented to students.

CHAMBRE D'HÔTE (B&B)

During the holidays, some people (who have received prior authorisation) turn extra rooms into a bed and breakfast. This is often the case in large, country houses.

www.gites-de-france.com/en

CLOPE

Slang for cigarette.

COUP DE FIL

Expression meaning a phone call.

COVOITURAGE (carpooling)

Carpooling entails sharing a car to reach a shared destination. It is a means of saving on fuel, building one's network, etc.

One of the most popular carpooling platforms in France is Blablacar.

www.blablacar.fr

**EDF-ENGIE
(ÉLECTRICITÉ DE FRANCE-GAZ
DE FRANCE)**

Subscriptions to EDF-ENGIE's electricity and gas services are individual and must be made in the name of the tenant. Once you begin renting your accommodation, contact your local branch. Processing time takes less than a week.

www.edf.fr

www.particuliers.engie.fr

**FOURNISSEUR D'ACCÈS
INTERNET (FAI)**

A provider offering an internet connection.

« FAIRE LA QUEUE » (to queue)

In France, we stand in queues in shops and government buildings. For some foreigners, these queues may at times seem chaotic.

FÉRIÉ (bank holiday)

A *jour férié* is a public or religious holiday that may commemorate a certain event. Some public holidays are not worked (*'jours chômés'*): 1 January, 1 May, 8 May, 14 July, 15 August, 1 November, 11 November, 25 December, Easter Monday, Ascension, Pentecost.

FLIC (cop)

Slang for 'police officer'.

FORFAIT IMAGINE'R

The Imagine R **transport** card is accessible to students in the Île-de-France region who are between 12 and 25 years old. It is valid for one year, and allows holders to use the various public transport options in the region (**metro**, bus, tramway, RER) and benefit from a number of discounts. There is a 'student' subscription that is suited to various class start dates. Based on the choice of zones, the price of the subscription will be between €30 to €60. Similar subscriptions exist in the other regions of France.

www.iledefrance-mobilites.fr/imagine-r

GRÈVE (strike)

Cessation of activity as a means of economic or political pressure.

The right to strike is enshrined in the French constitution.

The French word for strike, *grève*, comes from the former name of the Place de l'Hôtel de Ville in Paris.

HLM (social housing)

HLMs (*habitation à loyer modéré*) are social housing given by town halls based on income levels.

JOB ('PETIT BOULOT')

Students who wish to earn money to supplement their income (*'arrondir leur fin de mois'*) have access to many types of part-time employment (known in French as *'jobs'* or *'petits boulots'*). Examples include **babysitting** or tutoring (language classes, etc). Seasonal work is also available to students in the areas of agriculture, tourism, food service, etc.

Rules vary based on **visa** type. In general, international students can work up to 60% of the duration of full-time employment, ie 964 hours maximum per year.

www.campusfrance.org > Students > Getting organised > Working while studying in France

LAVERIE (laundrette)

A public space where washing and drying machines are made available at a cost. Laundrettes can be found in town centres and near to universities. You must bring your own detergent and pay in cash (coins).

MARCHÉ (market)

Food markets in France are some of the liveliest and most pleasant places of everyday life. Local farmers sell a wide variety of items such as fruits, vegetables, seafood, poultry, etc.

MÉTRO (metro)

A metro system exists in the following French cities: Paris, Lille, Lyon, Marseille, Toulouse and Rennes.

NUMÉROS D'URGENCE (emergency numbers)

- **Firefighters** (fires, accidents and medical emergencies): 18
- **SAMU** - emergency medical assistance service (medical emergencies in towns and cities): 15
SAMU social (assistance for homeless people): 115
- **SOS Médecin**: 36 24
- **Police**: 17

When using a mobile phone, a single number can be used for all emergencies: 112

A list of late-night **doctors** and pharmacies is made available by pharmacies and in regional daily newspapers.

PERMIS DE CONDUIRE (driving licence)

International students are allowed to use their driving licence throughout their studies if their licence was issued before the start of their visa.

In the first year after their studies when they change visa statuses (from student to worker, for example), they may exchange their foreign driving licence for a French licence. Following the one-year period, the foreign driving licence will no longer be valid in France and a French licence will be required.

www.service-public.fr > Fiches pratiques par thème > Transports – Mobilité > Conduire en France avec un permis étranger

PHOTOMATON (photo booth)

You will need to provide standard identity photos to register at your university or request your **residence permit**. You can obtain such photos from photo booths known as *photomatons*, which can be found inside **town halls**, **metro** stations, train stations and certain supermarkets.

PILULE (pill)

A contraceptive pill can be used to avoid unwanted pregnancies. Since January 2023, emergency contraceptive pills or 'morning after pills' can be obtained free of cost and over the counter at pharmacies.

'PONT' / 'FAIRE LE PONT'

'*Faire le pont*' entails not working on the days between a public holiday and the weekend. In this way, a 'bridge' is made connecting the two days off work.

POURBOIRE (tip)

In France, service charge is included in the sales price. Therefore, it is not mandatory to leave a tip in bars, bistrotts or brasseries. Each person can decide if they want to leave a tip if the service was satisfactory, from a few cents to a few euros.

REPAS (meal)

In France, people tend to eat three times per day. Although eating habits are becoming more and more similar around the world, France has kept its eating structure and tradition. A French meal is still composed of a starter, a main, a cheese dish and a dessert.

- In the morning: a traditional breakfast (coffee, pastries, bread with butter or jam), which has been increasingly replaced by a more cosmopolitan variation (cereal, yogurt, orange juice, etc).
- At midday: lunch is still very important, with restaurants having set menus and a daily special. Nevertheless, the practice of having a sandwich or fast food is widespread, particularly in big cities.
- *'Le goûter'*: an afternoon snack for children (which takes place at 4pm in schools).
- In the evening: dinner starting at 8pm, which is a full meal that is still served with soup.

RDC/GF

'Rez-de-chaussée', 'rez-de-cour' and at times *'rez-de-jardin'* are terms used to mean 'ground floor'.

RER (RÉSEAU EXPRESS RÉGIONAL)

Regional train system serving the Paris region.

RESTAURANT UNIVERSITAIRE (RESTO'U OU RU) (university restaurant)

University restaurants, along with university cafeterias (*la cafèt*), are a typical feature of French student life and are managed by the CROUS. There are some 450 such restaurants,

as well as certified equivalents that can be found away from university centres. They offer balanced, nutritional meals for €3.30, or for €1 for scholarship holders and students with financial difficulties. Payment tickets are available for purchase in CROUS offices and at the university restaurants (one ticket = one meal).

All students can use their **student card** to access all university restaurants in France. Some are open in the evenings, on weekends and during the holidays.

SNCF

The SNCF (*Société nationale des chemins de fer*) is a public company that manages the entirety of rail transport in France (people, merchandise, etc). The train network is very extensive, with high-speed trains (**TGVs**, *trains à grande vitesse*) competing favourably with air travel.

Preferential rates exist based on the duration of the trip, one's age and the date tickets are purchased.

www.sncf-connect.com

SOLDES (sales)

In France, sales periods (*les soldes*) are set by law in each region by the **Préfecture**. There are two per year: winter sales (in January) and summer sales (in June). Each sales period runs for five weeks and always starts on a Wednesday.

SOUS (« AVOIR DES SOUS »)

Word/expression generally meaning money/to have money.

SVP

S'il vous plaît.

TABAC (smoking)

It is forbidden to smoke in public spaces, particularly inside **cafés**, restaurants, at work, etc.

TÉLÉPHONE (telephone)

Telephone numbers in France are made up of 10 figures. The first two figures relate to the geographic area being called.

France's area code is +33.

TER

Transport express régional.

TERs are **SNCF** trains that connect regions and towns to one another, as opposed to **TGVs** which only connect large cities.

TEXTO/SMS (text message)

A text message sent by **mobile phone**.

TIMBRE (stamp)

To send a letter or parcel, you must use one or more stamps. Prices vary based on the weight of what is being sent.

- Minimum weight: 20g (€1.29; €2.10 for international destinations)
- Maximum weight: 2kg (€9.19).

Several stamps can be used on a single letter or a single stamp can be purchased directly from a machine at the **post office**.

www.laposte.fr > Nos tarifs

VACANCES (holidays)

The academic year generally begins in September and is divided into two semesters:

- semester 1: from September to January. Christmas holidays (the last two weeks of December); classes resume, following which exams take place (second half of January). There may be an inter-semester week of holidays depending on the institution.

- semester 2: from February to June. Two weeks of holidays in April (Easter holidays), then a second exam session in June, which may be followed by an exam resit session (*rattrapage*).

Holidays vary based on the region.

VÉLO (bike)

Many cities in France offer municipal bicycle services for hire (Vélib', Vélov', etc). Bicycles can be hired for an hour, a week, a month or a year. The cost is around €1 per day. Rates vary depending on the city.

**VIANDE/CUISSON
(meat doneness)**

In **brasseries**, restaurants and **bistrot**s, the waiter will often ask for the level of doneness for your meat. The terms used generally apply to beef, and at times to duck, lamb and veal.

From rare to well done:

Very rare (*bleu*), rare (*saignant*), medium rare for duck, lamb and veal only (*rosé*), medium rare (*à point*), well done (*bien cuit*).

**ZONES TARIFAIRES
(transport zones)**

With public transport, most major cities are divided into zones that will determine the cost of your ticket. Ensure that you select the correct zone for your destination.

Studying in France

ALUMNI

The term 'alumni' comes from the Latin 'alumnus' and refers to former students of higher education institutions who have formed an association. All students who have earned their degree from a French higher education institution are, by definition, members of the alumni network.

www.francealumni.fr

ASSOCIATION

France has a remarkable network of nearly 1.5 million associations across the country, including student associations. These associations allow students to interact, organise activities outside of classes (festivals, exhibits, concerts, conferences, trips, hikes, weekend tours, parties, etc), and participate in wide variety of interests covering humanitarian assistance, sports, economics, and culture. They may also gain experience in leadership roles including being the president of a festival, treasurer of a junior company, communication manager for a cultural undertaking, and more. These can all be used to enhance their CVs.

www.associations.gouv.fr

www.service-public.fr > Fiches pratiques par thèmes > Associations

BABY-SITTING (babysitting)

Babysitting is an easy-to-access student job (*petit boulot*) that entails picking up children after school (at around 4.30pm), bringing them to their home, helping them with homework and watching them in the evening. Job offers are available on student job sites, at universities and schools, at the *bureau de tabac*, at bakeries, in *laundrettes*, etc.

www.jobetudiant.net

BIZUTAGE (hazing)

Series of imposed tests, dares or practices meant to initiate and integrate a new student cohort. In France, hazing is forbidden and punished by law. However, it is still present in some engineering schools, business schools, at universities, and in medicine and pharmacy programmes. All students have the right not to participate.

www.service-public.fr > Fiches pratiques par thèmes > Famille – Scolarité > Etudes supérieures > Inscription > Que faire face à un bizutage?

BIBLIOTHÈQUE UNIVERSITAIRE 'BU' (university library)

Library cards are given for free upon presenting a **student card**. Some university departments (UFR) have their own specialised libraries. There are some generalist and specialised libraries outside of universities that are reserved for students and researchers. In all cases, a student card will be required. The catalogue shared among French university libraries is called **Sudoc**, the collective university documentation system.

www.sudoc.abes.fr

CARTE AVANTAGE JEUNE SNCF

This train card offers discounts on all train tickets in France to everyone up to age 27 (inclusive). A discount of 25% is applied to all tickets. Some discounts can go up to 60%. The card costs €50 and is valid for one year.

www.sncf-connect.com/app/catalogue/description/carte-avantage-jeune

If you are a student under 26 years or an apprentice under 29 years, and you

make at least one return trip per week from your place of residence to your place of study or work, you can access special offers.

www.sncf-voyageurs.com/fr/voyagez-avec-nous/en-france/tarifs-grandes-lignes/eleves-etudiants-et-apprentis

CARTE D'ÉTUDIANT (student card)

Student cards are issued for programmes at higher education institutions of at least six months in duration after completion of the administration registration process and the payment of tuition.

They act as proof that students are registered and give them access to exams, on-campus medical services, the university library (**BU**) and other services (photocopying, IT rooms, sporting facilities, etc). Student cards also grant access to certificates of enrolment, which may be required for specific administrative processes (opening a bank account, requesting housing allowances, etc). They can only be used to gain student discounts in France (transport, leisure activities, etc).

The international student identity card (ISIC) grants access to student discounts in more than 130 countries and is accessible to all students. The digital version of the ISIC costs €13, while the physical and digital versions together cost €16. It can be ordered online or purchased in shops (only in Paris).

www.isic.fr

COLOCATION (flat-sharing)

Renting an accommodation with other people. Tenants in shared accommodations sign a lease together with the landlord and they all have the

same rights. There are no specific rules for flat sharing. In order for each tenant to obtain housing allowances, all their names must be on the lease agreement.

CROUS/CNOUS

The CROUS (*Centres régionaux des œuvres universitaires et scolaires*) manages university accommodations (*Cité'U*), university restaurants (**Resto'U** or RU), social assistance offices at universities, cultural activities on campuses (by offering discounts on cultural events), temporary employment assistance and tourism.

The CNOUS (*Centre national des œuvres universitaires et scolaires*) is in charge of running the 27 CROUS agencies located across France. All students of a higher education institution have access to the services of the CROUS.

www.cnous.fr

HS

'Hors service': out of order.

'Hors sujet' 'off-topic': distressing comment made on a corrected exam.

SUAPS (university sports and physical activity service)

SUAPS organises and manages the various sporting activities offered by a university. Registration comes at a low cost and is done during the administrative registration process. A medical certificate from within the last two months is required. This can be obtained from the on-campus medical facility (*médecine préventive*). It is recommended that you have personal insurance covering sports-related risks (civil liability and bodily harm). Similar departments exist within *Grandes Écoles*.