Campus France will guide you through your first steps in France and exploring Amiens, your new home.

WELCOME TO AMIENS
Different measures are in place to greet you and assist you in your procedures.

**Welcome and Orientation at Université de Picardie - Jules Verne (UPJV)**

At UPJV, a Welcome and Support Desk is set up during the entire month of September, first in a one-stop city center location and then at the Direction des Relations Internationales (DRI). This one-stop service (Guichet) aims to assist arriving students in their administrative procedures and residence permits and to provide them with information on housing, health insurance, CAF and more.

**Address:** DRI, 11 rue des Francs Mûriers, 80000 Amiens

**Contact:** 03 22 82 72 51 or dri@u-picardie.fr

For more information: [www.u-picardie.fr/international](http://www.u-picardie.fr/international)

**Buddy System**

You can be assisted by a local student in Amiens! With the ESN Amiens Association (Erasmus Student Network), a the Buddy System can meet you and help you in all your procedures: [http://amiens.ixesn.fr](http://amiens.ixesn.fr) and [http://buddysystem.eu/](http://buddysystem.eu/)

**Welcome and orientation for researchers and doctoral students**

Researchers arriving in Amiens are welcomed and supported by Amiens Métropole, the metropolitan authority, and the Amiens Picardie CCI: [http://www.accueil-mobilite.fr/](http://www.accueil-mobilite.fr/)

**Welcome and orientation in other institutions**

If you are enrolled in another institution, please consult the Campus France website for orientation. The site presents a series of Information Sheets covering the different higher learning institutions: [https://www.campusfrance.org](https://www.campusfrance.org) > Students > Documentary resources > Practical information for students and researchers > Reception arrangements in institutions

If you cannot find your school in this list, then go directly to their website.

- **Every year, the city and the institutions** organize an important day of welcoming festivities in September for arriving students and researchers.

More information on the Facebook page: [https://www.facebook.com/JAE.Amiens/](https://www.facebook.com/JAE.Amiens/)

**National Services**

- students: [www.etudiant.gouv.fr](http://www.etudiant.gouv.fr)
- doctoral students, researchers: [http://www.euraxess.fr/fr](http://www.euraxess.fr/fr)

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There are numerous solutions for housing in Amiens: Student-only accommodations managed by CROUS, student housing and private residences, and rooms in private homes. What’s most important is to take care of this as early as possible, before your arrival.

- **The Amiens Métropole site** inventories all student housing solutions (private residences): [https://www.amiens.fr](https://www.amiens.fr) > Vivre à Amiens > Jeunesse > Etudier > Se loger

- **The CRIJ des Hauts-de-France** (Centre Régional d’Information Jeunesse), the regional youth information center publishes a Housing Guide which will simplify your installation: [http://www.crij-hdf.fr](http://www.crij-hdf.fr) > Nos publications > Guide du logement

**A FEW TIPS**

- **Short-term housing**
  - **The Amiens Youth Hostel** located near the city center (on the Nemo bus red line).
    Address: 30 square Friant les 4 Chênes, 80000 Amiens.
    Contact: 03 22 33 27 30.
    Site: [https://www.hifrance.org](https://www.hifrance.org) > Auberge de jeunesse
  - **Other hotel-residences:** use the search engine on the Amiens Tourist Office site which inventories all types of housing: [http://www.amiens-tourisme.com](http://www.amiens-tourisme.com) > Tourinsoft > recherche > Hébergement
Long-term housing

- The CROUS (Centre Régional des Œuvres Universitaires - Regional Center for University Services) student housing for Amiens-Picardie. Address: 5 rue Saint-Leu, 80000 Amiens.
  Hours:
  - September 1 to October 31: Monday to Friday, 8:30am to 5:00pm.
  - November 2 to August 31: Monday to Friday, 9am to 12:30pm and 1:30pm to 5pm.
  Contact: 09 69 36 19 19
  Site: www.crous.amiens.fr
  The website Trouver un logement: https://trouverunlogement.lescrous.fr/

On campus, the CROUS also manages all low-cost food services (university restaurants, cafeterias, food-trucks, etc.).

- Private sites for housing search
  You can also check out these specialized sites:
  - https://www.adele.org > résidence > agglomération > Amiens
  - http://www.logement-etudiant.com/offre-de-logement/Amiens/liste.asp
  - https://www.location-etudiant.fr > résidences étudiantes > Amiens
  - https://housinganywhere.com/fr/s/Amiens--France
  - There is also a site managed by the CROUS, Lokaviz, which includes a listing of student accommodations in private homes: https://www.lokaviz.fr/

- Shared Leases: consult La Carte des Colocs, a national site for shared leases that's free and simple to use: https://www.lacartedescolocs.fr/

- Other solutions available on the Campus France site: www.campusfrance.org > Getting organized > Accommodation

If you need a guarantor to secure your lodging
Visale is a new and free guarantor system: www.visale.fr

If you want to file an application for APL funds (Aide Personnalisée au Logement, or personalized housing aid)
CAF (Caisse des Allocations Familiales) can check your eligibility: 08.10.29.29.29 or www.caf.fr

If you need housing adapted to your special needs
Contact the CROUS Social Services which will take action with your institution. Some establishments have specialized services for students with disabilities (assistance for housing, and also transportation and tuition).

At University of Picardie - Jules Verne, contact the Service for Special-Needs Students: https://www.u-picardie.fr > L'université > Handicap

GETTING AROUND AMIENS

There are many ways to get to Amiens: By train from the Paris Gare du Nord station (1 hour 15 minutes) or from Paris Charles de Gaulle airport by way of the Haute Picardie TGV train station. Travel to Amiens by bus or ride-sharing is also possible.

Trains: https://www.oui.sncf/
Bus: https://www.flixbus.fr/voyages-car
Ride-sharing: https://www.blablacar.fr

If you arrive at the Beauvais airport, take the Keolis Beauvais-Amiens bus (1 hour and 15 minutes).

In the city, use the Ametis network and its 17 bus lines (operates every day including holidays): https://www.ametis.fr/

For greater independence, use rental bikes:
- The Ametis bus network is completed with a bicycle service for both short- and long-term rentals, Buscyclette: https://www.ametis.fr/buscyclette/
- the local Velam network, bikes are available in 26 docking stations: http://www.velam.amiens.fr

For travel within the region, take the regional trains:
https://www.ter.sncf.com/hauts-de-france
Buses are also an option for low-cost travel: https://fr.ouibus.com/ or https://www.flixbus.fr/
FIRST THINGS FIRST /

ENROLLMENT IN YOUR INSTITUTION

- **CVEC**
  Before you can enroll in your institution, you must download proof of payment of the Contribution Vie Etudiante et de Campus (CVEC) – the student and campus life contribution fee.
  - Log in at: https://cvec.etudiant.gouv.fr/
  - For additional information and special cases: https://www.campusfrance.org > Getting Organized > CVEC

- **Confirm Registration**
  Take note! Even if you have a pre-registration letter, you are not officially enrolled. You must confirm your enrollment with the institution's Service de la Scolarité (Admissions) as soon as you arrive.

RESIDENCE PERMIT (TITRE DE SÉJOUR)

- **Information**
  - Students enrolled at UPJV can visit the Welcome Desk where an information service manned by the Préfecture agents is set up. Computers with connections are available for validating visas and an advisor is on site to assist students.
  - Students enrolled in other institutions, should check with their institution or the Préfecture site. You can also request an appointment directly with the Préfecture, at: etudiants-etrangers@somme.pref.gouv.fr
  General site: http://www.somme.gouv.fr/
  Address: Préfecture de la Somme, 51 rue de la République, 80000 Amiens.
  Hours and contact: http://www.somme.gouv.fr > Services de l’Etat > Préfecture et sous-préfectures > La préfecture de la Somme Coordonnées et horaires d’ouverture
  - Learn more about your rights and obligations: www.service-public.fr > Etranger > Titre de séjour et document de circulation (Foreigners > Resident Card and Travel Document)

GOOD TO KNOW

- If you arrive in France with a VLS-TS long-term student visa: You must validate it online within three months of arrival: https://administration-etrangers-en-france.interieur.gouv.fr
- If you are an Algerian national or a student with a “concours” (tests) visa or a “mineur scolarisé” (enrolled minor) visa or a visa with the indication “carte à solliciter dans les deux mois” (residence permit to be requested within 2 months of entry): Depending on your campus, your residence permit application is made at the Préfecture or with the Service des Relations Internationales at your campus.
  Take note: To renew your residence permit, you must apply within two months prior to its expiration date.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION /

OPENING A BANK ACCOUNT

If you stay in France for more than 3 months, it will be much easier day-to-day if you open a bank account, online or in one of the 75 bank agencies located in Amiens.

In France, opening a bank account is a right: www.service-public.fr > Argent > Comptes bancaires > Droit au compte

HEALTHCARE

In France, receiving medical treatment is practically free but you must be insured. Accordingly, signing up for medical insurance is mandatory.

Login to the https://etudiant-etranger.ameli.fr site to register, to understand your eligibility and benefits, and to take the necessary steps.

Learn more: https://www.campusfrance.org > Getting Organized > Health
As a student, you can also take advantage of the university medical services. That’s the case for University of Picardie which has a Service de Santé Universitaire (SSU), or university health services. In these health services where consultations are free, you’ll be greeted by a team of medical professionals who can give you a health check-up and personalized advice in terms of health and prevention.

Address: SSU, Chemin du Thil, 80000 Amiens.
Contact: 03 22 82 72 33 or ssu@u-picardie.fr
Hours: Monday to Thursday, 8:30am to 5pm, Friday 8:30am to 4pm.
Site: https://etudiants.u-picardie.fr > Santé

In Amiens, there is also a multidisciplinary health care center, Espace Santé Maurice Ravel, where students can drop in with no appointments. Address: 1 bis rue Maurice Ravel, 80000 Amiens. Hours: by appointment. Contact: 03 22 08 87 40
Site: http://www.chu-amiens.fr > Patients visiteurs > Services et contacts > Espace Santé Maurice Ravel Consultations de spécialités du CHUAP

ADDITIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE
You can also sign up for top-up insurance which will cover all health expenses not covered by the free and compulsory health insurance.
Take note: The plans and coverage levels differ from one company to another. To choose a top-up insurance policy which meets your needs and your budget, you can compare student health insurance plans on the Internet.

HOUSING INSURANCE
In France, housing insurance is mandatory. You can sign up for housing insurance called “garantie risques locatifs” - rental risk guarantee - at your bank or a private insurance company. Online subscription is often possible.

LEARNING FRENCH
Learning French is an opportunity that’s not to be missed! Find what works best for you:
- by consulting the Campus France site or the Français Langue Etrangère (FLE) - French as a foreign language - centers and universities which offer courses at all levels year-round: http://ecolesdete.campusfrance.org
- by asking in your institution, at city hall, or in your host city’s Maison des Associations - community centers.

FINDING A JOB OR AN INTERNSHIP
3 addresses:
- the CRIJ des Hauts-de-France (Centre Régional d'Information Jeunesse), the regional youth information center has a platform of job and internship offers: http://www.crij-hdf.fr
- the Amiens-Métropole site publishes want ads: https://www.amiens.fr > Vivre à Amiens > Emploi
- the Jobaviz website, run by the CROUS, can help you find a student job compatible with your studies: http://www.jobaviz.fr

GOING OUT IN AMIENS /

EMERGENCY NUMBERS
SAMU: Call 15 Emergency Medical Services
Police emergency: Call 17 in the event of violence, theft, robbery.
Fire Department: Call 18 in the event of fire, gas leak, water damage, natural catastrophe, or traffic accident.
Call 112: European emergency services number that’s accessible from anywhere in the European Union in addition to the French numbers above.
BE ACTIVE

Attend cultural and sporting events, or join a social or community group, through one of the numerous local or national student clubs and associations. To learn more, check with your school (Service de la vie étudiante or Campus Life services) or visit the following sites: www.animafac.net or www.letudiant.fr

In Amiens, ESN, an association which welcomes international students, greets foreign students and helps them settle in: http://www.amiens.ESN.fr/fr et www.facebook.com/ESNamiers/
You can also take a look at AGORA, the Amiens Métropole directory of associations https://www.maam.fr/annuaire > Répertoires thématiques

GAINING CULTURE AND PARTYING

• Amiens offers numerous opportunities for cultural events or partying. Theaters, museums, movie theaters, dance, and music are on the program and most of the time, at reduced cost for students: https://www.amiens.fr > Vivre à Amiens > Culture Patrimoine

• At Université de Picardie - Jules Verne, the Service Culture develops partnerships with the city’s other cultural structures to add to its programming and to offer students the best rates: https://etudiants.u-picardie.fr > Culture

• The university’s Maison des Langues (Languages Center) and the ESN association organize a languages café every Wednesday night: https://www.u-picardie.fr > services communs > mdl

For entertainment or to pick up some culture, you can choose from:
- around 15 movie theaters (student rates, rewards card) including 2 art film houses, the Orson Welles and the Ciné Saint-Leu.
- 2 major museums, reduced rates for students: The Musée de Picardie and the Maison Jules Verne.
- 6 large performance halls for concerts, theater, dance, and opera: https://www.amiens.fr > Vivre à Amiens > Les événements
- About ten bookshops including an institution, the Librairie Martelle, and two used-book stores which buy and sell, Chapeau Melon et Piles de Livres and the Librairie Aléatoire.
- The Amiens Métropole area offers a network of 28 libraries including the Louis Aragon library: https://www.amiens.fr >Vivre à Amiens > Culture Patrimoine > Lire
• In Amiens, for going out or staying abreast of events, read the major regional daily newspaper, Le Courrier Picard, available in newsstands or on the Internet: http://www.courrier-picard.fr/
You can also read JDA, the Amiens-Metropole weekly information paper: https://www.amiens.fr > JDA

TOP ATTRACTIONS /

Amiens Métropole was awarded the label Pays d’Art et d’Histoire (Art and History Region) in 2015.
• The Jules Verne house, home of an important French author of the 19th century, and a precursor in science fiction literature.
• Notre Dame cathedral, the largest gothic building in France.
• The Saint-Leu neighborhood and its canals which earned Amiens the name, “Little Venice of the North”.
• The Picardie Museum, with a large collection dating from prehistoric times to today.
• The Hortillonnages, for outings on small boats in the canals at the heart of flower and vegetable gardens.
• The Perret Tower, an example of modern 20th century architecture.
• The Amiens Zoo, near the city center.
To learn (and see) more, consult the Tourist Office website: http://www.amiens-tourisme.com > La culturelle > Les incontournables
In 2020, Amiens is the European youth capital, Amiens for Youth. Follow events and news:
- On Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/Amiensforyouth/
- On Twitter: https://twitter.com/amiensforyouth

MARCH
• Safran'umeriques, the digital arts and new technologies festival (live entertainment, virtual immersions, and concerts, most often free).

APRIL
• Réderie de Printemps, a huge flea market, the most important after Lille’s, also organized in October.

JUNE
• Fête de la Musique with Music everywhere in town (free concerts).
• La Rue est à Amiens, an international festival for street art.
• On a Marché sur la Bulle, the Amiens graphic novel rendezvous.
• market on the Hortillonnages waterways (traditional market).

JULY
• Festival Art, Ville et Paysages (Art, City, and Landscapes Festival), sculptures and graphic design in the Hortillonnages.

AUGUST
• French “ballon au poing” championships, a typical Amiens-region team sport.

SEPTEMBER
• Journée d’Accueil des Étudiants (JAE), a day of welcome and orientation for arriving students. Every year, the city and its institutions welcome students for a festive day of discovery: https://www.facebook.com/JAE.Amiens/
• Students of the World Night, a big welcome night for international students in the Amiens City Hall.
• Les Médiévales, a popular festival along the water.
• Journée Européenne du Patrimoine, European heritage days, with free visits to cultural sites.

OCTOBER
• Science Festival (in Amiens with over 1000 researchers in 33 research units).

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER
• Amiens International Film Festival.
• Spectacle Chroma (Chroma show) at Notre-Dame cathedral (light show on the façade, also takes place during the summer).
• Christmas Market, the largest event of the type in the north of France.
For more information: http://www.amiens-tourisme.com > La festive > Grands évènements

To stay informed and attuned to others and the world, to share and dialogue with students, follow social media where Campus France has an especially strong presence!
Don’t forget to join the France Alumni network. Take part in discussion groups on various subjects, take advantage of cultural outings, and consult job and internship offers.
Amiens Metropolitan area: 180,000 residents
Amiens city: 134,000 residents
2nd CITY IN THE REGION, European Youth Capital in 2020

AMIENS, the Administrative Capital of Somme, one of the 5 departments which make up the Hauts-de-France Region.

Université de Picardie - Jules Verne:
31,000 students
including 15% international students
35 research centers, 2 doctoral schools

HAUTS-DE-FRANCE REGION, 5th FRENCH REGION in terms of hosting foreign students (21,000 international students)

AMIENS RANKED AMONG FRENCH CITIES WHERE IT’S GOOD TO LIVE AND STUDY (awarded by L’Etudiant magazine) WITH A GOOD SCORE FOR THE QUALITY OF STUDENT LIFE

Most of the information presented in the Campus France City Information Sheets concerns all international students regardless of their institution.
In France, in each of the host cities, most foreign students study at universities. Accordingly, the City Information Sheets attach great importance to them without overlooking the other higher education institutions even if it is not possible to list them all here with their specific information.
For more information on the institutions’ welcomes and orientations:
https://www.campusfrance.org/fr/recherche/categorie/hauts-de-france-555