



**DISCOVER
YOUR CITY**



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

WELCOME **TO**
AVIGNON





YOUR ARRIVAL IN AVIGNON /

♦ Student Welcome services at the Université d'Avignon

Université d'Avignon has set up various forms of support to provide the best possible welcome for students:

- a Welcome Desk at the CROUS (help finding accommodation, applications for residence permits, useful information), organized in conjunction with the University and the Conseil régional de Provence Alpes Côte d'Azur (PACA);
- language classes and methodology training;
- student welcome and orientation program in September and in January-February, before classes start.

Address: Maison de l'International, Hannah Arendt Campus, Service des Relations Internationales, 74 rue Louis Pasteur, 84000 Avignon.

Hours: Monday to Thursday, from 9am to 12pm and 2pm to 4pm.

Contact: mdi@univ-avignon.fr
or 04 90 29 89 / 04 90 16 25 81.

Learn more:

- see the **dedicated pages for international students** (bilingual French/English University website): www.univ-avignon.fr > International.
- download **Guide Pratique**, the international students' guide: www.univ-avignon.fr > International.

♦ Welcome and orientation for doctoral students and researchers

At Université d'Avignon, the local Euraxess team provides personalized welcome services for foreign researchers and doctoral students.

Address and phone: Local Euraxess Point of Contact, Maison de la Recherche, Avignon University, 04 90 16 25 73.

Website: www.univ-avignon.fr > International > Chercheurs étrangers.

♦ Buddy System

You can be assisted by a local student in Avignon!

Several services are available to help you:

- free-mover foreign students, not on an exchange program, can take advantage of the **International Buddy program**.

Email: parrainage-international@univ-avignon.fr to be put in touch with a French student in the same field of study.

- international students on an exchange program can use the **Copilotes** program to get in touch with a student in Avignon before their arrival in France: copilote@univ-avignon.fr

- all students can contact the **Echanges** student association which is part of the **ESN network** (Erasmus Student Network): <https://www.esn.org/> and via Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/gloopix.esnavignon>

♦ 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> > 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.

♦ National Services

- students: www.etudiant.gouv.fr
- doctoral students, researchers: <http://www.euraxess.fr/fr>



Making you feel at home is a major concern for all French higher education institutions! The **Welcome to France label** is awarded to institutions that fulfil exacting criteria in the way they take care of their international students.



ACCOMMODATION

Finding somewhere to live is not always easy.

Rents are often high, and landlords require financial guarantees (such as a deposit).

Nevertheless, there is a wide range of accommodation on offer: halls of residence that are exclusively reserved for students and managed by the CROUS, student halls and private lodgings, rooms in private homes, flatshares...

The main thing is to start preparing for this as early as possible, before leaving your home country.

- The Université d'Avignon's "**Guide Pratique pour les Étudiants Internationaux**" provides information and advice for finding accommodation: <http://univ-avignon.fr> > International.

- The **CRIJ** (Centre Régional d'Information Jeunesse) for the Provence Alpes Côte d'Azur (PACA) region, the regional youth information center has created a very comprehensive housing

guide “**Trouver un logement**”, with lots of useful addresses in the Vaucluse département. Download it here:

<https://www.infojeunesse-paca.fr/>

> Information-orientation > Logement.

A FEW TIPS

◆ Short-term housing

• L'Auberge de jeunesse Bagatelle youth hostel

(rooms and dormitories).

Address: 25 allée Antoine Pinay, F-84000 Avignon.

Contact: 04 90 86 30 39.

Website:

<https://www.campingbagatelle.com/auberge-avignon/>

• La Résidence Le Clos du Jardin Neuf (emergency accommodation in a network of residences for young workers).

Address: 6 avenue de Bonaventure, 84000 Avignon.

Contact: 04 86 19 41 00.

Website: <https://apiprovence.org/>

• For other types of temporary accommodation, please see the Student Guide compiled by the Université d'Avignon or use the search engine on the Avignon Tourist Office website:

<https://avignon-tourisme.com> > Séjourner > Se loger.

◆ Long-term housing

• Aix-Marseille - Avignon CROUS student housing

(Centre Régional des Œuvres Universitaires - Regional Center for University Services).

Address: Avignon University, 74 rue Louis Pasteur, 84000 Avignon.

Hours: Monday to Friday, 9am to 12:30pm and 1:30pm to 4.00pm.

Contact: +33 (0)4 90 80 65 20.

Website: <http://www.crous-aix-marseille.fr/>

• Private Housing Platforms

Other offers for student lodging, managed by private organisms, are also available in Avignon.

Try these **sites**:

- <https://www.adele.org>

- <https://www.immojeune.com>

- <https://www.location-etudiant.fr>

- <https://housinganywhere.com>

• There is also a **site managed by the CROUS, Lokaviz, which includes a listing of student accommodation 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: 32 30 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 Université d'Avignon, a Relais Handicap was set up to work with and support students with disabilities:

<http://univ-avignon.fr> > Organisation > Services Centraux > Relais Handicap.

GETTING AROUND AVIGNON



From Paris proper or the Paris airports, the easiest way to get to Avignon is by train (3 hours by TGV): <https://www.oui.sncf>

To get to the University from the TGV station, take the shuttle service to the city center.



For getting around the city and surrounding area, use the public transportation network managed by **Bus Plus** for transportation in Greater Avignon: <http://www.tcra.fr/>



There are PACA regional trains for getting around the region:

<https://www.ter.sncf.com/sud-provence-alpes-cote-d-azur>

Buses are also an option for low-cost travel: <https://fr.ouibus.com/> or <https://www.flixbus.fr/>



For ride-sharing, refer to the collaborative websites

- national website: <https://www.blablacar.fr/>

- regional website:

<http://www.covoiturageavignonvaucluse.fr/>



For greater independence, rent a bike with **Vélopop**, the Greater Avignon bike-share system: <https://www.velopop.fr/>

The CROUS, at your service everywhere

Do you need any help and/or advice, somewhere to eat or to live, a job - or do you just want to find out all there is to know about student life? Then the CROUS is what you need!



The CROUS (Centre Régional des Œuvres Universitaires et Scolaires - Regional Centre of University and School Services) has branches in all major French university towns.

It manages university halls of residence and canteens, allows you to meet social workers, and offers cultural activities and job opportunities.

- If you have Algerian citizenship or you are a student holding a “concours” visa or a visa bearing the mention “carte à solliciter dans les deux mois” (“card to be requested within two months”): your request for a residence permit must be carried out at the Préfecture.

- If you hold a “mineur scolarisé” (“minor in education”) visa and you have since attained your majority, you must request a residence permit directly on the ANEF website or at the *préfecture* of your place of residence within the two months following your attaining the age of legal majority: <https://administration-etrangers-en-france.interieur.gouv.fr/particuliers/#/>

Please note: if you wish to renew your residence permit or VLS-TS, you must make your request during the third month preceding the date of end of validity of your current residence permit, on the following website: <https://administration-etrangers-en-france.interieur.gouv.fr/particuliers/#/>

Please refer to the following tutorial for help with this procedure: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-iGha_yqN04

- Your institution's student support services can assist you in case of any difficulties.

To find out more about your rights and obligations: <https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/N110>



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 bank agencies located in Avignon.**

In France, opening a bank account is a right: <https://www.service-public.fr> > Argent > Comptes bancaires (droit au compte).

ACCESSING HEALTHCARE

Accessing healthcare in France is almost free, but you must be insured. **You must therefore be registered with the national health insurance programme.**



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 PERMITS

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

- If you have just arrived in France on a long-term VLS-TS student visa: you must **validate it online as soon as you arrive in France**, on the ANEF (Administration numérique pour les Etrangers en France - Digital Administration for Foreigners in France) website. This validation must be carried out within the three months following your arrival: <https://administration-etrangers-en-france.interieur.gouv.fr/particuliers/#/>

Please go to the <https://etudiant-etranger.ameli.fr> website to register, understand your rights and to carry out the requisite procedures.

Learn more:

<https://www.campusfrance.org> > Getting Organized > Health.

As a student, you can also take advantage of the university medical services. In these health centers where consultations are free, you'll be greeted by a team of doctors and nurses who can give personalized advice in terms of health and prevention.

This is the case for Université d'Avignon which has a health and prevention service: Service Universitaire de Médecine Préventive et de Promotion de la Santé (SUMPPS):

<http://univ-avignon.fr> > Campus > Services de santé.

Address: Hannah Arendt Campus, Sainte Marthe site, Nord Building, ground-floor, offices 0E35 and 0E36, 84000 Avignon.

Hours: Monday to Friday, 8am to 4pm.

Contact: 04 90 16 25 72 or medecine-preventive@univ-avignon.fr

TAKING OUT COMPLEMENTARY HEALTH INSURANCE ("MUTUELLE")

We recommend you take out complementary health insurance in order to cover the totality of your healthcare costs, which are not all covered by the compulsory and free national health insurance programme.

Please note: options and levels of insurance vary from one insurer to another. In order to choose the complementary insurance that is best adapted to your situation and your budget, you can access more information on a student "mutuelles" price comparison website.

HOUSING INSURANCE

In France, housing insurance is mandatory.

The "garantie risques locatifs" - rental risk guarantee - is housing insurance to which you can subscribe with your bank or a private insurance company. Online subscription is also often possible.

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.

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

It is important that you have sufficient financial resources to come and study in France.

Working in France as a foreign student is possible within limits, namely for a maximum duration of 964 hours per year. This can therefore only be a way of earning **supplementary funds**.

Please note: to work in France, if you are not a citizen of the European Union, you must hold a valid **student residence permit**.

To help you find a job or work experience placement, useful websites:

• **The CRIJ (local youth information centre) in the Provence Alpes Côte d'Azur region publishes a job-hunting guide 'Trouver un job'**, as well as classified ads to help students find internships and jobs:

- <https://www.infojeunesse-paca.fr/nos-services/orientation-information/jobs-emploi/>

- <https://www.infojeunesse-paca.fr/> > Nos petites annonces.

• **The Jobaviz website, run by the CROUS**, can help you find a student job that's compatible with your studies: <https://www.jobaviz.fr/>



THINGS TO DO IN AVIGNON /

TAKE UP A SPORT

In your institution, contact the Service des Sports for free access to sports facilities.

The **Sport Campus Avignon** service at Université d'Avignon offers various sports and outdoor activities: <http://univ-avignon.fr> > Campus > Sport.

In **Avignon**, you can also choose a sport from the numerous options offered by the City of Avignon (which obtained a quality-label for the range of sports available locally): <http://www.avignon.fr> > Ma Ville > Sport.

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, Student Services) or visit the following sites: www.animafac.net or www.letudiant.fr

Student associations ensure that campus life is never dull at Université d'Avignon, including **ESN Avignon** which organizes evening events, excursions and language-exchange partnerships for the University's international students: <http://univ-avignon.fr> > Campus > Vie de Campus (associations étudiantes).

The **City of Avignon** offers a number of services to assist foreign students, via the **Espace Info-Jeunes** in particular.

Address and phone number: 102 rue Carreterie, 84 000 Avignon, 04 90 14 04 05.

CULTURE AND NIGHTLIFE

In addition to the **Avignon Festival**, one of the most important international summer events for contemporary performing arts, the city of Avignon offers a variety of cultural and entertainment options. Movie theaters, concerts, theaters, museums, exhibitions, and festivals are on the program and most of the time, at reduced cost for students:

<http://www.avignon.fr> > Ma Ville > Culture et tourisme.

The **Maison de la Culture et de la Vie de Campus** contributes to cultural life at Université d'Avignon by offering various artistic activities and events: <http://univ-avignon.fr> > Campus > Culture.

For entertainment or to pick up some culture, you can choose from:

- 4 multiplex theaters (student rates, rewards card) including an arthouse movie theater, the Utopia (with 2 screens).
- 5 major museums, including a science museum, the Musée Requien, one of the region's most important natural history museums: <http://www.museum-requien.org/>

Admission to Avignon's 5 municipal museums is free to all visitors: <http://www.avignon.fr> > Ma ville > Culture et tourisme.

- around one hundred theater and concert venues (many are only open during the Festival), including the famous Palais des Papes, listed a World Heritage site by UNESCO, which offers a cultural program throughout the year:

<http://www.palais-des-papes.com/fr>

- some twenty bookshops, including La Mémoire du Monde, a general-interest bookshop, established in Avignon in 1974.

- a municipal network of 6 libraries and 1 "bibliobus" (travelling library): <https://bibliotheques.avignon.fr>

In Avignon, for going out or keeping abreast of cultural events, La Provence one of the major regional daily papers for Vaucluse is a good source. Available from newsagents or online:

<https://www.laprovence.com>

You can also check out the agenda on the Tourist Office Center site:

<https://avignon-tourisme.com/lagenda/>



TOP ATTRACTIONS /

Many of Avignon's artistic and historical sites are listed as World Heritage sites by UNESCO.

- Palais des Papes, a fortress and palace, with Gothic constructions dating back to the Middle Ages that served as the papal residence in the 14th century.
- Pont St-Bénézet, the famous "Pont d'Avignon" from the well-known French nursery rhyme.
- The ramparts, a 4-kilometers (2.5 miles) wall around the old town.
- The Petit Palais, which now houses a gallery of Italian art from the thirteenth to sixteenth centuries.
- Musée Calvet, with its ancient and modern collections.
- The Collection Lambert, contemporary art displayed in former private mansion houses, dating back to the 18th century.
- Avignon's main square, Place de l'Horloge, with the Hôtel de Ville and Opéra.

- Rue de la République, a busy shopping street.
- Place Crillon, a Provençale square pleasantly shaded by plane trees.
- The Jardin du Rocher des Doms, a large public park with a good view of the city's monuments and the Rhône River.

For more information, consult the Tourist Office website: <https://avignon-tourisme.com>



IMPORTANT ANNUAL EVENTS /

JANUARY

- Cheval Passion, trade show devoted to horses and equestrian sports with plenty of activities for young people.

FEBRUARY

- Hivernales d'Avignon, contemporary dance festival.

MARCH

- Rencontres Cinématographiques du Sud, 6-day program of original films, a treat for movie-lovers.

APRIL

- **Journée des Arts et de la Culture, Arts and Culture Day (JACES)** at Université d'Avignon .

MAY

- **Gala de l'Orchidée**, contemporary music on campus at Université d'Avignon .
- **Pint of Science**, a European initiative for learning about research in atypical venues.
- **La Nuit Européenne des Musées**, European Museum Night offers an opportunity to discover museums and other cultural sites in a new light!

JUNE

- Fête de la Musique, Music everywhere in town (free concerts).
- Fête du Vélo, an alternative way of discovering the city's heritage sites.

JULY

- The Avignon Festival, international-scale performing arts event, held at the Palais des Papes and throughout the city (official festival and fringe events). As well as the summer festival, there are theater performances throughout the year in Avignon (Fest'hiver in February for example).

AUGUST

- Vibrations, a sound and light show in the courtyard of the Palais des Papes.

SEPTEMBER

- **Official opening of Université d'Avignon 's cultural season: Opus au Campus**, in partnership with the Avignon-Provence regional orchestra and the "Premières Loges" student association (free admission & open to the public).
- **Welcome Day for international students on 4 September 2023 at 10 am, in the Université d'Avignon cloisters (town centre site).**
- Les Journées Européennes du Patrimoine (European Heritage Days), free visits of cultural venues.

OCTOBER

- **World Students' Night**, festive evening of celebrations and entertainment.
- **Fête de la Science** in the University laboratories.
- **Campus Sonore**, creativity in all its different forms as the Opéra du Grand Avignon welcomes the public for an evening to celebrate talents from the university community.



**& SHARE
PARTICIPATE**

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.*



THINGS TO KNOW

AVIGNON,

SEAT OF THE
VAUCLUSE
DEPARTMENT, one of
6 departments in the
Provence-Alpes-Côte
d'Azur (PACA) Region)

GREATER AVIGNON

200,000 residents

AVIGNON

95,000 residents

PACA REGION,

6th FRENCH REGION

in terms
of hosting foreign
students
(over 23,000
international
students)

1303: Pope Boniface VIII founded a university in
Avignon, just after the university of Rome and a
century before that of Aix-en-Provence

1984: Université d'Avignon re-opened

Université d'Avignon:

7,500 students including 13%
international students of 96 different nationalities,
16 research laboratories, 2 doctoral schools,
35% of the doctoral students of foreign nationality



**AVIGNON, RANKED AMONG 44 FRENCH UNIVERSITY TOWNS AS A GREAT
PLACE TO LIVE AND STUDY** (awarded by L'Étudiant magazine)

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/provence-alpes-cote-d-azur-466>

CAMPUS FRANCE – PACA REGIONAL DELEGATION

6 allée Turcat Méry, 13008 Marseille (Metro line 2, Périer stop)

Monday to Friday, from 9am to 12pm and 2pm to 5pm - 04 91 29 97 00

CAMPUS FRANCE

28 rue de la Grange aux Belles 75010 PARIS - +33 (0)1 40 40 58 58 - www.campusfrance.org