THINGS TO KNOW

Greater Besançon: 193,000 residents
City of Besançon: 116,000 residents a quarter of which are under 20.

BESANÇON, CAPITAL OF THE FRENCH DEPARTMENT OF DOUBS AND capital of the Bourgogne Franche-Comté region which has four departments

BOURGOGNE FRANCHE-COMTÉ REGION, 7th FRENCH REGION in terms of hosting foreign students (7,000 international students)

Besançon: 23,000 students, 19,000 are enrolled at the Université de Franche-Comté 22% international students with 128 nationalities

BESANÇON IS RANKED AS ONE OF THE GOOD FRENCH CITIES FOR LIFESTYLE AND STUDYING (L’Étudiant magazine ranking)

EXPLORING MY CITY

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

CAMPUS FRANCE
28 rue de la Grange aux Belles, 75010 PARIS - 01 40 40 58 58 - www.campusfrance.org
ARRIVING IN BESANÇON /

Greetings from the Maison des Étudiants.

The Maison des Étudiants (MDE) is a support service for students on the Université de Franche-Comté campus in Besançon. Professional staff provide assistance with formalities:
- the Préfecture is available by appointment at the beginning of the academic year.
- Information about housing, student life and other issues are also available.

Address:
Université de Franche-Comté, campus de la Bouloie, Maison des Étudiants, 36 A avenue de l’Observatoire, 25000 Besançon.
Hours: Monday to Thursday, 9am to 12:15pm and 2pm to 5pm.
Contact: 03 81 66 66 93.

Learn more: consult the dedicated international pages on the University of Franche-Comté site: http://www.univ-fcomte.fr/international

International researchers: see the site of the Université de Franche-Comté which is a member of the Euraxess network: www.univ-fcomte.fr > international > venir à l’université en tant que chercheur étranger

Sponsors
You can be greeted by a sponsor in Besançon! The ESN Besançon association, part of the Erasmus Student Network will greet you and help you get settled: https://www.erasmus-besancon.com/

Your Higher Learning Institution
Depending on the institution, school, or university, two information services are available:
- International Relations Department (welcome and orientation office)
- the Admissions Department (enrollment and administrative procedures office).

HOUSING IN BESANÇON /

At the Université de Franche-Comté, the Direction des Relations Internationales et de la Francophonie (DRIF) provides orientation information and guides overseas students.
Address: DRIF, 4 place Saint-Jacques, 25000 Besançon.
Hours: Monday to Friday, 9am to 12pm and 2pm to 5pm.
Contact: 03 81 66 66 66 (switchboard) or drif@univ-fcomte.fr

- National Services
  - Students: www.etudiant.gouv.fr
  - Doctoral students, researchers: http://www.euraxess.fr/fr

In Besançon, there are numerous solutions for finding lodging: the housing park reserved for students and managed by CROUS, student and private residences, and housing in private homes.
What’s most important is to take care of this as early as possible, before your arrival.
- The city of Besançon website gives addresses and advice about finding accommodations: http://www.besancon.fr
- The CRJU of Burgundy Franche-Comté (Centre Régional d’Information Jeunesse) has published a practical housing guide for young people: http://www.jbbourgogne.com

A FEW TIPS
- For short-term lodging
  - Youth hostel: Auberge de jeunesse Les Oiseaux. Address and phone number: 48 rue des Cras, 25000 Besançon. 03 81 40 32 00. Site: https://www.hifrance.org > auberges de jeunesse
  - Besançon hosting (DRIF) provides orientation information and guides overseas students: https://www.habitatjeuneslesoiseaux.fr > se loger
  - Other types of short-term residences.
  - See the Besançon visitor centre website: http://www.besancan-tourisme.com > séjourner

- Long-term housing
  - Besançon CROUS student housing (Centre Local des Œuvres Universitaires). Address: Division de la vie étudiante, 40 avenue de l’Observatoire, 25000 Besançon. Hours: Monday to Friday, 9am to 12:30pm.
  - Contact (International Relations Department): 03 81 48 47 88 or relationsinternationales@crous-besancon.fr
  - Site: http://www.crous-besancon.fr/international/
  - On campus, the CROUS is also responsible for all low-cost food services (university restaurant, cafeterias, food-trucks, etc.).
  - Private Housing Platforms: Numerous student lodgings, managed by private organisms, are also available in Besançon.
  - Consult:
    - the Studapart website for student accommodations includes a Besançon institution: https://www.studapart.com > Burgundy school of business
    - other sites for example:
      - https://www.immojeune.com > locataire > location étudiant > besançon
      - https://www.adele.org > besançon
      - http://www.logement-etudiant > besançon
      - https://housinganywhere.com/fr/
  - There is also a site managed by the CROUS, Lokaviz, which includes a listing of student accommodations in private homes: https://www.lokaviz.fr/
  - Other solutions available on the Campus France site: https://www.campusfrance.org > s’organiser > logement (> Getting organised > 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 apply for the APL (Aide Personnalisée au Logement -personalized housing aid) The CAF (Caisse des Allocations Familiales - family allowances fund) is available to assess your rights: 08.10.29.29.29 or www.caf.fr

GETTING AROUND BESANÇON

If you arrive in Besançon by TGV high-speed rail from Paris (2hr30mins) disembark at Besançon-Voiteur station in the town center (many bus lines are available for a range of destinations): https://www.oui.sncf.fr

For getting around the city and suburbs, use the public transportation (bus and tramway) network managed by Ginko for transportation in Besançon: https://www.ginko.voyage/ > le réseau ginko > lignes et services du réseau ginko
- Ginko offers a pass for students under 28 at a reasonable rate: https://www.ginko.voyage/ > tarifs > titres, cartes et tarifs > tous les titres

There are regional trains for getting around the Bourgogne Franche-Comté region: https://www.tgv.oui.sncf.com/bourgogne-franche-comte
- Don’t forget the bus for low-cost travelling: https://www.ouibus.com/ or https://www.flixbus.fr/

For car-pooling, refer to the collaborative websites:
- regional: http://coovolurage.viamobigo.fr/
- national: https://www.blablacar.fr/

For greater independence, rent a bike with Vélocité, the bicycle rental service for the City of Besançon: http://www.velocite.besancan.fr/
ENROLLMENT IN YOUR INSTITUTION

CVEC
It is mandatory that you download proof of payment of the Contribution Vie Etudiante et de Campus (CVEC) – the student and campus life contribution fee before you can enroll in your institution.
- Connect to https://cvec.etudiant.gouv.fr/
- For additional information and special cases: https://www.campusfrance.org > s’organiser > CVEC

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

RESIDENCE PERMIT

Information
- Maison des Etudiants at the Université de Franche-Comté or at the beginning of the academic year with the Préfecture personnel on site.
- Address and phone number: MDE, campus de la Bouloie, 25000 Besançon.
- Contact: 03 81 66 66 99.

At the Préfecture du Doubs (in Besançon)
Address: Préfecture, reception 3 avenue de la Gare d’Eau, 25000 Besançon.
Contact: 03 81 25 10 00.
Hours: Monday to Friday, 8:30am to 11:30am (the international and residence permit service is closed on Wednesdays).
Sites to visit: http://www.doubs.gouv.fr > Dutils > Horaires et coordonnées > Préfecture du Doubs - Accueil général
- Learn more about your rights and obligations: www.service-public.fr > Etranger > Titre de séjour and 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: depending on your campus, your residence application permit 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 expiry.

HEALTH CARE
In France, receiving medical treatment is practically free but you must be insured. As a result, signing up for medical insurance is mandatory.

Connect to the site connect to the https://etudiant-etranger.ameli.fr site to register, to understand your rights, and to take the necessary steps.

Learn more: https://www.campusfrance.org > S’organiser > Santé
As a student, you can also take advantage of the university medical services. In these health centers where consultations are free, you will be greeted by a team of doctors and nurses who can give personalized advice about health and prevention.

This is the case for the Université de Franche-Comté which has a health and prevention service: Service Universitaire de Médecine Préventive et de Promotion de la Santé (SUMPPS).
Address: 45 C avenue de l’Observatoire, campus de la Bouloie, 25000 Besançon.
Contact: 03 81 66 61 30 or sumpps@univ-fcomte.fr
Hours: Monday to Friday, 8am to 5:00pm.
Site: http://www.univ-fcomte.fr > vie étudiante > santé

INSURE YOUR HOME
In France, housing insurance is mandatory.
The “garantie risques locatifs” - rental risk guarantee - is housing insurance which you can subscribe with your bank or a private insurance company.
Online subscription is also often possible.
To learn more, consult notably: https://amerra.fr/4-assurances www.assurance-etudiants.com www.assurances-etudiants.com

LEARNING FRENCH
Learning French is an opportunity to be seized! 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://ecolesdeete.campusfrance.org
- by asking in your institution, at city hall, or in your host city’s Maisons des Associations - community centers.

FINDING A JOB OR AN INTERNSHIP
2 addresses:
- Jobs and internships: Portail de la Jeunesse en Franche-Comté, a branch of the youth information service, CRJ (Centre Régional d’Information Jeunesse), has a classified ad platform: http://www.jpunes.fc.com/emplois.php
- Student jobs: find a student job that’s compatible with your studies on the CROUS Jobaviz site: https://www.jobaviz.fr/

PLAYING A SPORT
- In your school, you may also have free access to sports facilities. Contact your Sports Department.
- At the Université de Franche-Comté, the Campus-Sports department proposes a wide range of physical activities with sports for both recreation and competition: http://www.univ-fcomte.fr > vie étudiante > sport
- In Besançon, you can also find a sports activity among the sports disciplines offered by the city, at the site: http://www.besancon.fr /sport /salle /de /sports /et /loisirs

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

EVERYDAY LIFE /
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 100 bank agencies located in Besançon.
In France, opening a bank account is a right: www.service-public.fr > Argent > Comptes bancaires > Droit au compte (> Finances > Bank Accounts > Right to Open an Account)

IN BESANÇON /
THINGS TO DO
• PLAYING A SPORT
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- In Besançon, you can also find a sports activity among the sports disciplines offered by the city, at the site: http://www.besancon.fr /sport /salle /de /sports /et /loisirs

In Besançon, opening a bank account is a right:
- www.service-public.fr > Argent > Comptes bancaires
- www.assurances-etudiants.com
- www.assistance-etudiants.com
- www.interieur.gouv.fr

FIRST STEPS /
• 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 special-needs students (housing assistance and also transportation and tuition).

For the Université de Franche-Comté, see the pages for students with a disability: http://www.univ-fcomte.fr > vie étudiante > handicap
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
• At the Université de Franche-Comté, around one hundred student associations have activities in a wide range of areas such as the environment, arts, sports, science, or charity work: http://www.univ-fcomte.fr

GAINING CULTURE AND PARTYING

• Besançon offers many ways to cultivate yourself or party. Movie theaters, concerts, theaters, museums, exhibitions, and festivals are on the program and most of the time, at reduced cost for students: http://www.besancon.fr > Culture, Tourisme > Vie culturelle
• At the Université de Franche-Comté, the Sciences, Art et Culture department proposes a wide range of activities: http://www.univ-fcomte.fr > culture et sciences

For entertainment or to pick up some culture, in Besançon, there are:
- 3 multiplex cinemas, with several theaters (student rates, rewards card) including an arthouse cinema, le cinéma Victor Hugo.
- 7 major museums including the museum with animal exhibitions: http://www.grandbesancon.fr > culture, tourisme > musées
- about 10 theaters including the Petit Théâtre de la Bouloie, on the Université de Franche-Comté campus: http://www.crous-besancon.fr > Culture > Agenda culturel
- about 10 bookshops including the large Intranquille with 100,000 titles on 5 levels.
- a network of 7 municipal libraries: http://www.besancon.fr > Culture, Tourisme > Bibliothèques

For the latest news and information about going out in Besançon, check the major regional newspaper L’Est Républicain (Besançon edition) available in stores and online: https://www.estrepublicain.fr > Besançon
You can also check out the cultural agenda of the Besançon Visitor Center: www.besancon-tourisme.com > sortir

MUST-SEE PLACES /

Besançon has been labelled a Ville d’Art et d’Histoire for its art and history since 1986.
• The Citadelle fortress with its three museums is one of Vauban’s masterpieces and listed as UNESCO world heritage (student discount).
• Musée des Beaux-Arts et d’Archéologie: the oldest public French collection, recently renovated (student discount).
• Quai Vauban lined with houses reflected in the Doubs.
• Maison Victor Hugo, birthplace of one of France’s major authors.
• The historical town with 17th century mansions, place de la Révolution and Grande-Rue.
• Some of the most beautiful palaces of the city: the Micaud park, promenade and public park on the banks of the Doubs.

For more information, consult the Besançon Visitor Center website: www.besancon-tourisme.com > les immanquables

IMPORTANT ANNUAL EVENTS /

MARCH-APRIL
• The international cultural and language festival organised by the Théâtre Universitaire de Franche-Comté: https://www.theatre-universitaire-fc.fr > Festival des langues et cultures du monde
• Besançon’s grand carnival with floats, street theatre, music and dance.

MAY
• The Nuit Européenne des Musées (European Museum Night), an occasion to visit museums differently (and for free).
• The Foire comtoise, a large traditional funfair.

JUNE
• Fête de la musique: music everywhere in town (free concerts).

JULY - AUGUST
• “Guinguette” market, producers market and regional artisans and an outdoor feast. NB: a “guinguette” is an open-air café!

SEPTEMBER
• Les journées du patrimoine (Heritage days), free visits of cultural venues.
• Les Mots Doubs book fair in the Gare d’Eau park in Besançon.
• The Besançon Festival International de Musique de Franche-Comté, created in 1948 (student discount).

OCTOBER
• Fête de la Science in the Université laboratories.
• World Students Night (Nuit des Etudiants du Monde - NEM), organized in Besançon by the ESN association, the CROUS and the Université de Franche-Comté.

NOVEMBER
• Invitez le monde at your table organized by Besançon CROUS: families invite international students to discover regional culture over a meal.
• Festival Latino Corazon, a celebration of all Latin American cultures: cinema, music, exhibitions (student discount).
• Lumières d’Afrique, African film festival (student discount).

DECEMBER
• Walk around and discover the city with the Christmas hike - part of the festive season programming!

Learn more: http://www.besancon.fr > culture, tourisme

EXCHANGE & SHARE

To stay informed, actively listen to others and the world, and share and dialogue with students, follow social media where Campus France has an especially strong presence!
Remember to sign up on the France alumni network to take part in discussion groups on various subjects, take advantage of cultural outings, and consult job and internship offers.