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

WELCOME TO BESANÇON
YOUR ARRIVAL IN BESANÇON /

Welcome and orientation at the Maisons des Étudiants for students enrolled at the University.

The Maison des Étudiants (MDE) is a support service for students on the Université de Franche-Comté campus in Besançon.

Professional staff provides assistance with formalities administrative procedures:
- the Préfecture is available by appointment at the beginning of the academic year.
- information about housing, student life and other subjects 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 1:30pm to 5:15pm, and Friday, 9am to 12:15pm.
Contact: 03 81 66 66 99.
Learn more: Consult the dedicated international pages on the Université de Franche-Comté site: http://www.univ-fcomte.fr/international

Welcome and orientation for international doctoral students and researchers
Consult the Université de Franche-Comté website, which is a member of the Euraxess network: www.univ-fcomte.fr > international > venir à l’université en tant que chercheur étranger

Buddy System
You can be greeted by a local student 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/

Welcome and orientation in the institutions
- At the Université de Franche-Comté, the Direction des Relations Internationales et de la Francophonie (DRIF) provides orientation information and guides foreign 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 dri@univ-fcomte.fr

- If you are enrolled in another institution, please consult the Campus France website. The site presents a series of Information Sheets covering orientation in 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

HOUSING IN BESANÇON /

There are numerous solutions for housing in Besançon: 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 city of Besançon website gives addresses and advice about finding accommodations:
http://www.besançon.fr > enfance/enseignement > logement

- The CRIJ - Bourgogne Franche-Comté (Centre Régional d’Information Jeunesse), the regional youth information service has published a practical housing guide for young people:
http://www.ijbourgogne.com > vivre au quotidien > actuel bourgogne – vie quotidienne > guide pratique du logement en Bourgogne Franche Comté

- The CRIJ posts ads for accommodations on the Information Jeunesse en Franche-Comté site:
http://www.jeunes-fc.com > se loger/se déplacer > chercher, s’informer
A FEW TIPS

◆ Short-term housing
  • Other types of short-term residences. See the Besançon Tourist Office website: http://www.besancon-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 4:30pm. Contact Service des relations internationales: 03 81 48 47 88 or relationsinternationales@crous-besancon.fr. Site: http://www.crous-besancon.fr/international/
  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.).
  The Bourgogne-Franche Comté CROUS also organizes different events in the residence halls: Outings, parties and shows throughout the academic year.
  • Private Housing Platforms:
    Numerous student lodgings, managed by private organisms, are also available in Besançon. Consult:
    - the Studapart website for student accommodations. One Besançon institution uses this platform: https://www.studapart.com > Burgundy school of business.
    - other sites for example:
      - https://www.immojeune.com > locataire > location etudiant > 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: 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

◆ You want to make an application for public housing funding (the APL “Aide Personnalisée au Logement”)
  CAF (Caisse des Allocations Familiales) can check your eligibility: www.caf.fr

GETTING AROUND BESANÇON

If you arrive in Besançon by TGV high-speed train from Paris (2hr30mins) get off at Besançon-Viotte station in the town center (many bus lines are available for a range of destinations): https://www.oui.sncf/
For getting around the city and surrounding area, 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.ter.sncf.com/bourgogne-franche-comte
Don’t forget the bus for low-cost travelling: https://fr.ouibus.com/ or https://www.flixbus.fr/
For ride-sharing, refer to the collaborative websites:
  - regional: http://covoiturage.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.besancon.fr/
If you need housing adapted to your special needs
Contact the CROUS Social Services which will take action with your institution: social.25@crous-bfc.fr. Some institutions have specialized services for special-needs students (housing assistance and also transportation and tuition).
For Université de Franche-Comté, see the pages for students with a disability: http://www.univ-fcomte.fr > vie étudiante > handicap

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.
- Connect to 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
- At Maisonn des Etudiants - Université de Franche-Comté or at the beginning of the academic year with the Préfecture personnel on site.
  Address and phone: MDE, campus de la Bouloie, 36 A avenue de l’Observatoire, 25000 Besançon, Contact: 03 81 66 66 99.

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 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
HEALTHCARE

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

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 will be greeted by a team of doctors and nurses who can give personalized advice about health and prevention.

This is the case for 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

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.

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

2 addresses:
• Portail de la Jeunesse en Franche-Comté, a branch of the Centre Régional d'Information Jeunesse CRIJ (youth information service), has a classified ad platform:
• the Jobaviz website, run by the CROUS, can help you find a student job compatible with your studies:
https://www.jobaviz.fr/
You can also contact the CROUS for student jobs. Email the Service Emploi Étudiant at: serviceemploietudiant@crous-bfc.fr

THINGS TO DO IN BESANÇON /

TAKE UP A SPORT

• In your institution, you may also have free access to sports facilities. Contact your Sports Department. At Université de Franche-Comté, the Service Campus-Sports offers a wide range of physical and sports activities for both recreation and competition:
http://www.univ-fcomte.fr > vie étudiante > sport
• In Besançon, you can also find a sports activity among the numerous sports facilities managed by the city, at the site: http://www.besancon.fr > sports, loisirs

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 Université de Franche-Comté, around one hundred student clubs and associations have activities in a wide range of areas such as the environment, arts, sports, science, or charity work: http://www.univ-fcomte.fr > culture et sciences > les associations
ESN (Erasmus Student Network), the association which greets foreign students is also present on campus: http://www.erasmus-besancon.com/

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 Université de Franche-Comté, the Sciences, Art et Culture department offers a wide range of activities: http://www.univ-fcomte.fr > culture et sciences

For entertainment or to pick up some culture, you can choose from:
- 3 multiplex movie theaters (student rates, rewards card) including an arthouse theater, The Victor Hugo.
- 7 major museums including the museum with animal exhibitions: http://www.grandbesancon.fr > culture, tourisme > musées
- a dozen performance halls including the Petit Théâtre de la Bouloie, located in the midst of Université de Franche-Comté campus: http://www.crous-besancon.fr >Culture > Agenda culturel
- a dozen bookshops including the large Intranquille with 100,000 titles on 5 levels.
- a network of 7 municipal multimedia libraries: http://www.besancon.fr > Culture,Tourisme > Bibliothèques

• For going out and keeping abreast of current events in Besançon, read the major regional newspaper L’Est Républicain (Besançon edition) available in newsstands and online: https://www.estrepublicain.fr > Besançon
You can also check out the cultural agenda of the Besançon Tourist Office: www.besancon-tourisme.com > sortir

TOP ATTRACTIONS /

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.
• Saint-Jean cathedral with its famous astronomical clock.
• Musée du Temps, a clockmaker history museum in one of the most beautiful palaces of the city.
• Micaud park, promenade and public park on the banks of the Doubs.

For more information, consult the Besançon Tourist Office website: www.besancon-tourisme.com > les immanquables
IMPORTANT ANNUAL EVENTS /

MARCH-APRIL
• The international world languages and cultures festival organized by the Université de Franche-Comté theater: https://www.theatre-universitaireFc.fr - Festival des langues et cultures du monde
• Besançon’s grand carnival with floats, street theater, 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
• Journées du Patrimoine (heritage days), free visits of cultural venues.
• Les Mots Doubs book fair in the Gare d’Eau park in the historical center of Besançon: 200 French and international authors and thousands of visitors.
• The Besançon International Music Festival, 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 Université de Franche-Comté.

NOVEMBER
• Invitez le monde à votre 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: Film, 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 program!
Learn more: http://www.besancon.fr > culture, tourisme

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.
Greater Besançon: 193,000 residents

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

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

Besançon: 23,000 students, 20,000 are enrolled at Université de Franche-Comté 24% international students with 112 nationalities

BESANÇON IS RANKED AMONG FRENCH CITIES WHERE IT’S GOOD 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/bourgogne-franche-comte-557

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