



**DISCOVER  
YOUR CITY**



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:**

**- A multiservice reception desk is organized from September to the All Saints holidays by Université de Franche-Comté and the Bourgogne Franche-Comté CROUS.**

**- MDE members can provide you with all the information you may require: accommodation, student life etc.**

#### Address:

Multiservice Desk - Université de Franche-Comté, campus de la Bouloie, Maison des Étudiants, 36 A avenue de l'Observatoire, 25000 Besançon. Hours: from September to May, Monday to Thursday, 9am to 12pm and 1pm to 5pm, and Friday, 9am to 12pm. 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>

There are also welcome desks **in Belfort and in Montbéliard**, which are also Université de Franche-Comté sites. Contact: 03 84 21 06 01 (Belfort) and 03 81 94 45 92 (Montbéliard).

International students at Université de Franche-Comté can also ask for support from:  
- the Direction des Relations internationales, européennes et de la Francophonie: 03 81 66 55 96 or [dreif@univ-fcomte.fr](mailto:dreif@univ-fcomte.fr)  
- the Bureau de Vie Etudiante: 03 81 01 66 99 and [bve@univ-fcomte.fr](mailto:bve@univ-fcomte.fr)

### ◆ 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](http://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://besancon.esnfrance.org/>

### ◆ 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 55 96 or [dri@univ-fcomte.fr](mailto: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](http://www.etudiant.gouv.fr)

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



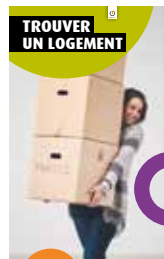
Making you feel at home is a major concern for all French higher education institutions! The **Welcome to France label** is awarded to institutions that fulfil exacting criteria in the way they take care of their international students.



## 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 city of Besançon website gives addresses and advice about finding accommodations: <http://www.besancon.fr> > enfance/enseignement > l'étudiant pratique > 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

• **Youth hostel: Auberge de jeunesse Les Oiseaux.**

Address and phone: 48 rue des Cras,  
25000 Besançon, 03 81 40 32 00.

Site: <https://www.hifrance.org> > auberges de jeunesse > en France > Besançon

**The Habitat Jeunes Les Oiseaux association** also provides other accommodation solutions subject to certain conditions:

<https://www.habitatjeuneslesoiseaux.fr> > se loger

• **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](mailto:relationsinternationales@crous-besancon.fr)

Site: <http://www.crous-besancon.fr/international/>

The website *Trouver un logement*:

<https://trouverunlogement.lescrous.fr/>

**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 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/>



## 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/>

• Other solutions available on the Campus France site: [www.campusfrance.org](http://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](http://www.visale.fr)

#### ◆ If you want to make an application for public housing funding (the APL "Aide Personnalisée au Logement"),

the CAF (Caisse des Allocations Familiales) can check your eligibility: 32 30 or [www.caf.fr](http://www.caf.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](mailto: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

#### ◆ 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/#/>

• 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](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>

#### 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.



## 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:

<http://www.campusfrance.org> > Getting Organized > CVEC



### 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 Besançon.**

In France, opening a bank account is a right:  
[www.service-public.fr](http://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.**

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 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](mailto:sumpss@univ-fcomte.fr)  
Hours: Monday to Friday, 8am to 5:00pm.  
Site: <http://www.univ-fcomte.fr> > vie étudiante > santé

### 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.**

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 WORK EXPERIENCE PLACEMENT

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, 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:  
<http://www.jeunes-fc.com/emplois.php>

• 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](mailto: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](http://www.animafac.net) or [www.letudiant.fr](http://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/>

### CULTURE AND NIGHTLIFE

• 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](http://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 17<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.besancon-tourisme.com) > les incontournables





## IMPORTANT ANNUAL EVENTS /

### MARCH-APRIL

- The international world languages and cultures festival organized by the **Université de Franche-Comté theater**: <https://www.theatre-universitaire-fc.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

- **Bienvenue aux étudiants welcome event for all new students registered at Université de Franche-Comté, from Monday 11 to Thursday 14 September (Besançon Campus), in Thursday 28 September (Belfort Campus) and on Thursday 21 September (Montbéliard Campus).** There are also specific welcome days for international students: <https://www.univ-fcomte.fr/venir-etudier-luniversite-de-franche-comte#.YQgUx-c69PY>
- 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



**& 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

**Greater Besançon:**

**193,000** residents

**City of Besançon:**

**116,000** residents

a quarter of which are **under 20.**

**BESANÇON,**

PRÉFECTURE OF THE  
DOUBS DÉPARTEMENT  
AND head office of the  
Bourgogne-Franche-Comté  
region

**BOURGOGNE  
FRANCHE-  
COMTÉ  
REGION,**

A major HOST  
REGION for foreign  
students in France  
(8,000 international  
students)

**Besançon:**

**24,000** students,

**21,000** 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>

CAMPUS FRANCE

28 rue de la Grange aux Belles, 75010 PARIS - 01 40 40 58 58 - [www.campusfrance.org](http://www.campusfrance.org)