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

WELCOME TO BESANÇON
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.

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
  • 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 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 etudiant > besançon
      - https://www.adele.org > besançon

GETTING AROUND BESANÇON

If you arrive in Besançon by TGV high-speed train from Paris (2hr/20mins) 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 transportability in Besançon. https://www. ginko.voyage/ > le réseau ginko > lignes et services du réseau ginko
  - Ginko offers a pass for students under 26 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.tsr.ncf.com/bourgogne-franche-comte
  - Don’t forget the bus for low-cost travelling: https://fr.outibus.com/ or https://www.flixbus.fr/

For ride-sharing, refer to the collaborative websites:
  - regional: http://covoiturage.viamobigo.fr/ > le réseau ginko > lignes et services du réseau ginko
  - Ford mobility: https://fr.flicker.com/

For greater independence, rent a bike with Vélôcité, the bicycle rental service for the City of Besançon: http://www.velosite.besancon.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.

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ENROLLMENT IN YOUR INSTITUTION

- CVEC
Before you can enroll in your institution, you must download proof of payment of the Contribution Vie Étudiante 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

- 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
- 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 if 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 "mineure scolarisée" (“minor in education”) visa and you have since attained 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=I0Ha_yqN04

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 > 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
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://ecolesdeete.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 CRJ (youth information service), has a classified ad platform: http://www.jeunes-fc.com/emplois.php
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. 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/

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

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.
- 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

- 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
- 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 Boulie, 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

- 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**

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

**Greater Besançon:**
193,000 residents

**City of Besançon:**
116,000 residents

a quarter of which are under 20.

**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**
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