Campus France will guide you through your first steps in France and exploring Besançon, your new home.
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
- the Bureau de Vie Etudiante: 03 81 01 66 99 and 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 > 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
- 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

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

ACCOMMODATION
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 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
  - 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 accomodations 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 > 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 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

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

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.

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

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
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.

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.

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

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:
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/
- 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-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
- “Ginguette” 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#.YOgUx-c69PY
- Journées du Patrimoine (heritage days), free visits of cultural venues.

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).

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.

& SHARE PARTICIPATE
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
28 rue de la Grange aux Belles, 75010 PARIS - 01 40 40 58 58 - www.campusfrance.org