THING TO KNOW

CHAMBÉRY
IS THE CAPITAL (PRÉFECTURE) OF THE SAVOIE DÉPARTEMENT, département, one of 12 départements in the greater Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes region

GREATER CHAMBÉRY
137,000 residents
CITY OF CHAMBÉRY: 60,000 RESIDENTS, 2nd in a list of medium-sized cities where it's good to live and study for living and studying in (awarded by L'Etudiant magazine)

ANNECY IS THE CAPITAL (PRÉFECTURE) OF THE HAUTE SAVOIE département, one of 12 départements in the greater Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes region

GREATER ANNECY
207,000 residents
ANNECY: 130,000 RESIDENTS

Université Savoie Mont Blanc
15,000 students including 1,500 foreign students of 120 different nationalities, 19 research laboratories, 300 doctoral students

AUVERGNE-RHÔNE-ALPES REGION, 2nd FRENCH REGION in terms of hosting foreign students (over 48,000 international students)

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/auvergne-rhone-alpes-553

WELCOME TO CHAMBÉRY AND ANNECY

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CAMPUS FRANCE AUVERGNE RHÔNE-ALPES
35 rue Raulin (Bureau 304), F-69007 Lyon
By appointment only, Monday to Friday, 9am to 12pm and 2pm to 5pm
Contact: 04 81 88 00 40

CAMPUS FRANCE
28 rue de la Grange aux Belles 75010 PARIS - 01 40 40 58 58 - www.campusfrance.org
**GETTING AROUND CHAMBERY/ANNECY**

When travelling to Chambery/Annecy, you can arrive:
- by plane, at one of the following international airports: Lyon–St-Éxupéry or Geneva (Switzerland). You can then catch a regional bus service Blablabus to Chambery directly from the airport in Lyon or Geneva.
- by train, if you are coming from central Paris, catch the train at the Gare de Lyon (3 hours by TGV direct): https://www.oui.sncf/

Upon arriving in Chambery or Annecy, you can use the interactive maps available on the website to find the university:

The Synchro-Bus public transport network can be used for travelling in and around Chambery: https://www.synchro-bus.fr (travel-cards and reduced rates for the under 25s).

The SIBRA public transport network can be used for travelling in and around Annecy: https://www.sibra.fr/ (travel-cards and reduced rates for the under 25s).

There are Auvergne Rhône-Alpes regional trains for getting around the region:
https://www.ter.snCF.com/auvergne-rhone-alpes

Buses are also an option for low-cost travel: https://fr.oibus.com/ or https://www.flixbus.fr/

For ride-sharing, refer for example to:
- the national website https://www.blablacar.fr/
- regional website: https://movici.auvergnerhonealpes.fr/

For greater independence, you can rent a bike using the Synchro-Vélostation in Chambery: https://www.velostation-chambery.fr/

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**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.

**A FEW TIPS**

- **Check out the list of accommodation recommended by USMB’s Welcome Center for international students:**
  - https://www.univ-smb.fr > International > Coming to the Université Savoie Mont Blanc > Practical information: Preparing your arrival
  - Université Savoie Mont Blanc set up the KeStudi website in partnership with the city of Chambéry. It brings together accommodation listings relevant to young people. The site offers students free-of-charge access to ads for reasonably-priced furnished apartments, as well as public and private halls of residence, residences for young workers and intergenerational home-sharing.

- **Private Housing Platforms**
  - Other offers for student lodging, managed by private organisations, are also available in Chambéry/Annecy. Try these sites:
    - www.adele.org
    - www.mimojeune.com
    - www.location-etudiant.fr
    - https://housinganywhere.com

- **Shared Leases:** Contact La Carte des Colocs, a national site for shared leases that’s free and simple to use (https://www.lacartedescolocs.fr/) and the following Facebook account: Colocation Grand Annecy.

- **If you need a guarantor to secure your lodging**
  - Visale is a new and free guarantor system: www.visale.fr

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**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 fulfill exacting criteria in the way they take care of their international students.**

**National Services**
- students: www.etudiant.gouv.fr
- doctoral students, researchers: http://www.euraxess.fr/fr

**Local services**
- Welcome and orientation for doctoral students and researchers
- Information, advice, accommodation guarantees (such as a deposit).
- Student Welcome services at Université Savoie Mont Blanc

Université Savoie Mont Blanc has set up a Service Vie Étudiante et de Campus (SVEC), or student and campus life service at each of its 3 campuses (Chambéry, Annecy and Le Bourget-du-Lac) which welcome all students arriving at the University, whether French or foreign.

Contact: service.vie-etudiante@univ-smb.fr

Each site has a Service des Relations Internationales (international relations) and a Service de Scolarité (admissions) available for international students.

Your dedicated contact is the International Relations Department (International Welcome Center) which is located at the Jacob-Bellecombette Campus (Chambéry) and open Monday to Friday from 9 am to 12 pm and 2 pm to 5 pm.

**Address:** Direction des Relations Internationales / International Relations Office / ACCENTS - Bâtiment 14 - Campus de Jacob - 18 rue Jean-Baptiste Richard - BP 1104 - 73000 JACOB-BELLECOMBETTE - France

Contact: international@univ-smb.fr or 04 79 75 91 15.

Please check the contact list on the University website to contact your host institution’s Bureau des Relations Internationales: https://www.univ-smb.fr > International > Contacts.

Learn more:
- the “Venir à l’Université” web pages offer specific advice for international students: https://www.univ-smb.fr > International > International at the USMB > Organization and contacts

**Welcome and orientation for doctoral students and researchers**

Foreign researchers and doctoral students can contact the Direction du Développement, de la Recherche et de la Valorisation (DDRV) which manages hosting agreements for foreign researchers at Université Savoie Mont Blanc: https://www.univ-smb.fr/recherche/decouvrir/contacts/ - international@univ-smb.fr

**Welcome and orientation in other institutions**

If you are enrolled in another institution, please consult the Campus France website for orientation. The site presents a series of Information Sheets covering the different higher learning institutions
If you want to file an application for APL funds (Aide Personnalisée au Logement, or personalized housing aid), 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
• 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

Please note: if you wish to renew your residence permit or VLS-TS, you must make your request during the three months following the date of end of validity of your current residence permit, on the following website: https://administration-etrangers-en-france.interieur.gouv.fr

Please refer to the following tutorial for help with this procedure: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-iGha_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 Annecy.

HOUSING INSURANCE
In France, housing insurance is mandatory. The “garantie risques locatifs” - rental risk guarantee - is housing insurance which you can you subscribe with your bank or a private insurance company.

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-étranger.ameli.fr website to register, understand your rights and to carry out the requisite procedures.

Learning FRENCH
Learning French is an opportunity to be seized! Find the formula that works the best for you by consulting Campus France website where French as a Foreign Language (FLE) centers and universities offer courses for all levels throughout the year: http://ecolesdete.campusfrance.org

The French Language Center at Savoie Mont Blanc University, ACCENTS, offers language courses to anyone wishing to develop their French skills: https://www.univ-smb.fr/accents/

FINDING A JOB OR AN INTERNSHIP
It is important that you have sufficient financial resources to come and study in France.

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.

Useful websites:
• Kestudi, the Université Savoie Mont Blanc and city of Chambery website has a page for jobs: www.kestudi.chambery.fr
• The Anney Youth Information Office: https://infojeunes.annecy.fr/
• My job in Savoie: https://www.jobsavoie.com/
• The University’s Club des Entreprises https://www.club-entreprises.univ-smb.fr/
• The Bureau d’Aide à l’Insertion Professionnelle (BAIP), the office for assistance with professional insertion: 04 79 75 94 90.
**THINGS TO DO IN CHAMBERY/ANNECY**

**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’s Service des étudiants (Student Services) or visit the following sites: www.animafac.net or www.letudiant.fr

A variety of student associations ensure that campus life is never dull at Université Savoie Mont Blanc. Visit https://www.univ-smbl.fr > Vie étudiante > Vie associative.