



**DISCOVER
YOUR CITY**



Campus France will guide
you through your first steps in
France and **exploring**
Clermont-Ferrand, your new
home.

WELCOME **TO**

CLERMONT-FERRAND





YOUR ARRIVAL IN CLERMONT-FERRAND /

◆ A Student Welcome Area for all

Created by the CROUS of Clermont-Ferrand, the Université Clermont Auvergne and Auvergne's institutions of higher learning, in partnership with the Region, the City and Prefecture, the Espace d'Accueil Etudiants (Student Welcome Center) has the aim of improving the welcome given to students, particularly foreign ones.

The Student Welcome Center opens at the start of the school year (late August). Student tutors are available at the center to help you learn more about life at your new university (accommodations, transport, health, jobs, culture) and to simplify all your administrative procedures.

The Université Clermont Auvergne also provides two other services for new students:

- the Digital Welcome Desk, an online platform for international students arriving in France for the first time, doctoral students and researchers, which supports them with the administrative procedures to be carried out before, during and after they arrive in France;
- the UCA International Welcome Desk, a physical Welcome Desk aimed at doctoral students, researchers and their families, and international students who have received excellence grants to attend the Université Clermont Auvergne.

Hours:

- Espace Accueil Etudiants: from 20 August to 20 December 2024, Monday to Friday from 10am to 7pm, with or without an appointment. From 6 January to 17 July 2025: Monday to Thursday from 10am to 4pm, with or without an appointment.
- Hotline: email and telephone service during the summer closure of the UCA International Welcome Desk and the Espace Accueil Etudiants.
- UCA International Welcome Desk: Monday to Thursday from 9am to 4pm and Friday from 9am to 3pm, by appointment.

Addresses:

- Espace Accueil Etudiants: 30 rue Etienne-Dolet 63000 Clermont-Ferrand.
- UCA International Welcome Desk: Maison Internationale Universitaire, 9 rue Kessler 63000 Clermont-Ferrand.

Contact:

- Espace Accueil Etudiants: 04 73 34 95 71 or espace.accueil.etudiant@crous-clermont.fr
- UCA International Welcome Desk: 04 73 17 76 72 or accueil-international@uca.fr

To find out more:

- the CROUS website: <https://www.crous-clermont.fr/etudes-internationales/>
- the Université Clermont Auvergne website (including a downloadable guide): <https://www.uca.fr/en/come-to-uca>

◆ Welcome and orientation for international doctoral students and researchers

The Euraxess Auvergne Centre aims to facilitate the stays of foreign researchers in Auvergne, at sites linked to the Université Clermont Auvergne and its associated institutions: <https://www.uca.fr/> > International > Venir à l'UCA > Je suis doctorant ou chercheur
Contact: 04 73 40 63 29 or euraxess-auvergne@uca.fr

◆ Your Higher Learning Institution

Depending on the institution, school, or university, two information services are available:

- (International Relations Department) - bureau d'accueil et d'orientation (welcome and orientation desk)
- the Service de la Sclolarité (Admissions Department)
- bureau des inscriptions et des démarches administratives (enrollment and administrative procedures office)

Regardless of your host institution, please consult the Campus France website for orientation. The site presents a series of **Information Sheets covering the different higher learning institutions**: <https://www.campusfrance.org/fr/recherche/categorie/auvergne-rhone-alpes-553>

If you cannot find your school in these sheets, then go directly to their website.

◆ Buddy System

You can be assisted by a local student in Clermont-Ferrand.

The WorldStop ESN Clermont-Ferrand has developed a Buddy System and it organizes numerous student events.

Contacts:

- Website: <https://www.worldtop.fr/>
- Social Media:
facebook.com/worldtop.esn/
<https://www.instagram.com/worldtopesn/?hl=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 Agence Régionale de l'Orientation - Auvergne Delegation, the portal for youth information in the Auvergne region** presents advice on finding housing in the region and has classified ads:

- at its website: <https://www.info-jeunes.fr/>

- in person on its premises: 6 place de Jaude, 63000 Clermont-Ferrand, 04 26 46 00 70.

• **The City of Clermont-Ferrand provides a few accommodation tips on its website:**

<https://clermont-ferrand.fr> > Vie quotidienne > Etudiants > Guides jeunes > Se loger

A FEW TIPS

♦ Short-term housing:

• **The HI France youth hostel, near the train station, offers accommodation in shared rooms.**

Contact: clermont-ferrand@hifrance.org

Website: <https://www.hifrance.org/auberges-de-jeunesse/clermont-ferrand/>

• **Le Corum Saint-Jean, a charity, offers temporary accommodation:** <https://www.corumsaintjean.fr/>

• **Other types of accommodation:** see the Clermont-Ferrand Tourist Office website for a list of all available accommodation:

<https://www.clermontauvergnenetourisme.com> > accommodation

♦ Long-term housing

• **The Clermont-Ferrand CROUS** (Centre Régional des Œuvres Universitaires - Regional Center for University Services) **for student housing.**

Address (same address as the Espace d'Accueil Etudiants): Pôle Vie Etudiante, 30 rue Etienne Dolet, 63000 Clermont-Ferrand.

Hours: Monday to Friday, 11am to 5pm.

Contact: 04 73 34 64 20.

Site: <http://usine.crous-clermont.fr/>

Trouver un logement site:

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

• Private Housing Platforms

- www.studapart.com, a platform for private housing which Clermont-Ferrand learning institutions subscribe to.

Find other **private housing** by visiting, for example, the following sites:

- <https://www.adele.org>

- <https://www.location-etudiant.fr>

- <https://www.immojeune.com/>

- <https://housinganywhere.com/fr/>

• There is also Lokaviz, a **site managed by CROUS, which includes a listing of student accommodations in private homes:** <https://www.lokaviz.fr/>

• **Shared Leases:** consult *La Carte des Colocs*, a national site for shared leases that's free and simple to use: <https://www.lacartedescolocs.fr/>



GETTING AROUND CLERMONT-FERRAND



The simplest way to get to Clermont-Ferrand is by train from Paris-Bercy station (travel time: 3 hours and 30 minutes): <https://www.sncf-connect.com/> If you then want to go to the Espace d'Accueil Etudiants (Student Welcome Center), take the no. 8 bus.



If you arrive at Clermont-Ferrand Auvergne airport, you can reach the city center:

- by train (10-minute trip), via line no. 6 Saint Etienne-Thiers-Clermont Ferrand (the train station is 5 minutes on foot from the airport).
- The no. 20 bus (35-minute trip), every day of the week.



In the city and its neighboring areas, you can use public transport of the T2C network (buses and trams), which offers passes for people under age 26: <https://www.t2c.fr/> For trips within the region, take Auvergne Rhône-Alpes regional trains (reduced fares available): <https://www.ter.sncf.com/auvergne-rhone-alpes>

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



Ride-sharing, refer to the collaborative websites, for example:

- local website:

<http://www.covoiturageauvergne.net/>

- national website: <https://www.blablacar.fr>



For greater independence, **you can rent a bike** from **C.Vélo**, 52 stations and 660 bikes available: <https://www.c-velo.fr/>

• Other solutions available on the Campus France site: www.campusfrance.org > Students > 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 apply for the APL (Aide Personnalisée au Logement -personalized housing aid)

CAF (Caisse des Allocations Familiales) can check your eligibility: 32 30 or www.caf.fr

♦ For accommodation adapted to your special needs

Contact the CROUS Social Services which will take action with your institution. Some institutions have specialized services for special-needs students (housing assistance and also transportation and tuition).

Université Clermont Auvergne and its associated institutions have created a **Service Université Handicap (SUH, or University Disability Center)**, which supports disabled students throughout their time at the university: <https://handicap.clermont-universite.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.



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 validate 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 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>

The following tutorial can help you with this procedure: <https://www.campusfrance.org/en/tutorials-to-help-international-students-in-their-application-process>

• 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>



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 bank agencies located in Clermont-Ferrand.**

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.**

Login to the <https://etudiant-etranger.ameli.fr> Site to register, to understand your eligibility and benefits, and to take the necessary steps.

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'll be greeted by a team of doctors, nurses, and social workers who can give personalized advice in terms of health and prevention.

This is the case at Université Clermont Auvergne and its associated institutions, which have a Service de Santé étudiante (SSE), or Student Health Service, which is freely accessible to students from all member institutions during the academic year.

Address: SSE, 25 rue Etienne Dolet,
63000 Clermont-Ferrand.

Hours: by appointment.

Contact (to make an appointment): 04 73 34 97 20.

Website: <https://sante.uca.fr/>

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:

<https://ecoledete.campusfrance.org/#/main>

- 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

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.**

To help you find a job or work experience placement, 3 addresses:

• **The Agence Régionale de l'Orientation - Auvergne Delegation**, publishes classified ads:

<http://www.info-jeunes.net/consulter-des-offres-emploi>

• **The Jobaviz site run by CROUS**, can help you find a student job compatible with your studies: <http://www.jobaviz.fr/rechercher-un-job-etudiant/recherche-par-crous/crous-clermont-ferrand/clermont-ferrand-63>

• For **internship offers**, contact your host institution, which often has a list of existing offers in your field of study.



THINGS TO DO IN CLERMONT-FERRAND /

TAKE UP A SPORT

Your school or university provides special access to sporting activities. Contact your institution.

• **The SUAPS (Service Universitaire des Activités Physiques et Sportives - University Sports and Physical Activities Center)** offers a number of activities for all students at member institutions of the Université Clermont Auvergne: <http://sport.clermont-universite.fr/>

• **The City of Clermont-Ferrand** provides a full range of sports facilities as well as a variety of activities: <https://clermont-ferrand.fr/> > A voir / A faire > Sports

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. Learn more:

- contact your school (Service de la vie étudiante) for information.

- go to the **Maison de la Vie Étudiante** (Student Life House) at Université Clermont Auvergne or the Facebook page of UCA Bureau de la Vie Étudiante (Student Life Center):

<https://www.facebook.com/BureaudelaVieEtudianteUCA/>

- consult the national sites:

www.animafac.net or www.letudiant.fr

• Université Clermont Auvergne also publishes a list of associations that address an international audience: <https://www.uca.fr/> > International > Venir à l'UCA > Informations pratiques > Associations à destination des étudiants étrangers

CULTURE AND NIGHTLIFE

Clermont-Ferrand offers many ways to cultivate yourself or party. Theaters, movie theaters, concerts, museums, exhibitions, and festivals are on the program and most of the time, at reduced cost for students: <https://clermont-ferrand.fr> > à voir à faire > culture

The City of Clermont-Ferrand has launched **Carte Cité Jeunes**, a free card that allows young people to discover cultural and leisure activities proposed by a hundred or so partners: <https://clermont-ferrand.fr> > Vie quotidienne > Étudiant > Cité jeune

At Université Clermont Auvergne, **the Service Université Culturel (SUC)** is a space for artistic activities intended for students: <http://culture.clermont-universite.fr/>

For entertainment or to pick up some culture, in Clermont-Ferrand, there are:

- 6 major movie theaters, including multiplexes (student rates, rewards cards) and three arthouse movie theaters: the Rio, the Ciné Capitole and Ambiances.

- 3 major museums (free for students), including Muséum Henri Lecoq, with its huge plant life collections, its geological collections and the famous Pascaline, a calculating machine invented by Blaise Pascal!

- a dozen auditoriums, including the Clermont-Ferrand Opera-Theater, built in the 19th century and recently renovated.

- about 15 bookshops, including local institution Les Volcans and Librairie Gibert, where you can buy and sell used books.

- a large network of 25 libraries and media centers (free sign-up for students) in the Clermont-Ferrand metropolitan area:

<https://www.bibliotheques-clermontmetropole.eu/>

For going out and staying abreast of current events in Clermont-Ferrand, read the **leading regional daily paper, La Montagne**, available in newsstands or on the Internet: www.lamontagne.fr

You can also check the very comprehensive agenda on the Clermont-Ferrand Tourist Office website:

<https://www.clermontauvergnetourisme.com/>

> Agenda



TOP ATTRACTIONS /

• The medieval city of Montferrand, the historic and medieval center of the city, with the old city walls and impressive town houses.

- Place de Jaude, in the city center, with its buildings from many periods.

- Statue of Vercingetorix on Place de Jaude. A bronze equestrian statue of the famous Gallic chieftain who defeated Julius Caesar. This statue is by Bartholdi, who also designed New York's Statue of Liberty.

- Basilica of Notre-Dame-du-Port, a masterpiece of Romanesque architecture, included in UNESCO's World Heritage List.

- Musée d'art Roger Quilliot (MARQ), an art museum with French and international collections in a great architectural setting.

- Notre-Dame de l'Assomption Cathedral, built from black Volvic stone.

- Jardin Lecoq, a botanical garden in the city center on 3 hectares of land. This 19th-century garden has rare varieties of tree and plants.

- Vulcania Park (15 km from Clermont-Ferrand, shuttles leave from the train station), an amusement park focused on volcanoes.

Learn (and see) more:

<https://www.clermontauvergneturisme.com/>

> Découvrir > Patrimoine et Culture

MARCH

- **Clermont Student Cup**, a multi-sport and multi-sector sports challenge that is part of the "Clermont fête ses étudiants" student festival.

MAY

- **Hippocampus**, a student festival that showcases the French-speaking rap and hip-hop scene:

<https://clermont-ferrand.fr> > à voir à faire >

Musiques

- **Pint of Science**: Science in the most unexpected places!

- Nuit Européenne des Musées (European Museum Night): Clermont's museums open their doors and offer cultural activities.

JUNE

- Fête de la Musique: Music everywhere in town (free concerts).

- Europavox, a festival of current European music.

JULY - AUGUST

- Contre-plongées, free activities in the city center with open-air screenings of films, concerts, live performances, circus arts, etc.



IMPORTANT ANNUAL EVENTS /

Clermont-Ferrand is a candidate to be European Capital of Culture in 2028. The City organizes Effervescences, artistic and festive events throughout the year, in order to prepare:

<https://www.effervescences.eu/>

FEBRUARY

- Clermont-Ferrand International Short Film Festival, the world's largest film event devoted to short films.



**& 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!

*Remember to sign up on the **France Alumni** network to take part in discussion groups on various subjects, take advantage of cultural outings, and consult job and internship offers.*



THINGS TO KNOW

CLERMONT-FERRAND,

SEAT OF THE
PUY-DE-DÔME
DEPARTMENT,
one of 12 departments
which make up the
Auvergne Rhône-Alpes
Region, and the 4th
largest city in the Region

AUVERGNE RHÔNE-ALPES REGION,

2nd FRENCH
REGION IN TERMS
of hosting foreign
students
(48,000 international
students)

Clermont Auvergne Metropolitan area:

296,000 residents

City of Clermont-Ferrand:

143,000 residents

**Clermont-Ferrand, member of the UNESCO
Global Network of Learning Cities:**

40,000 students
including 6,000 foreign students

Université Clermont Auvergne:

36,300 students
including 5,100 foreign students

40 research laboratories

5 doctoral schools **865** doctoral students



CLERMONT-FERRAND, RANKED 8th BEST CITY
(out of 46) IN FRANCE WHERE IT'S GOOD TO LIVE AND STUDY, WITH A GOOD
SCORE FOR THE QUALITY OF ITS EDUCATION (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/auvergne-rhone-alpes-553>

CAMPUS FRANCE AUVERGNE RHÔNE-ALPES

35 rue Raulin (Office 304), 69007 LYON

By appointment only, Monday to Friday, 9am to 12pm and 2pm to 5pm

Contact: 04 81 88 00 40 or grenoble@campusfrance.org to schedule an appointment.

CAMPUS FRANCE

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