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.

CLERMONT-FERRAND, RANKED 18th BEST UNIVERSITY CITY (out of 44) IN FRANCE IN TERMS OF BOTH LIVING AND STUDYING, WITH A GOOD SCORE FOR THE QUALITY OF ITS EDUCATION (ranking published by L’Étudiant magazine).

290,000 residents

City of Clermont-Ferrand:

140,000 residents

Clermont Auvergne Metropolitan area:

40,000 students including 6,000 foreign students

Université Clermont Auvergne:

35,000 students including 4,600 foreign students

35 research laboratories

5 doctorate-awarding schools

850 doctoral candidates

AUVERGNE RHÔNE-ALPES REGION, 2nd FRENCH REGION IN TERMS of hosting foreign students (42,000 international students).

CLERMONT-FERRAND, member of the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities:

35,000 students

including 4,600 foreign students

CAMPUS FRANCE AUVERGNE RHÔNE-ALPES

35 rue Raulin (Bureau 304), 69007 Lyon

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

Contact: 04 81 88 00 40 and for appointments: grenoble@campusfrance.org

CAMPUS FRANCE

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

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

EXPLORING MY CITY

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ARRIVING IN CLERMONT-FERRAND /

◆ Espace d’Accueil Etudiants (Student Welcome Center)

Created by the CROUS of Clermont-Ferrand, the University of Clermont Auvergne and Auvergne’s Institutions of higher learning, in partnership with the City and Prefecture, the Student Welcome Center has the aim of improving the welcome reserved for 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 formalities.

Address: Espace d’Accueil Etudiants, 30 rue Etienne Dolet, 63000 Clermont-Ferrand.

Hours: - from end of August to end of December: Monday to Friday, 11:00am to 17:00pm.
- from January to July: Monday, Tuesday and Friday, 10:00am to 7:00pm.

Contact: 04 73 34 64 20.

◆ Sponsors
You can be assisted by a sponsor in Clermont-Ferrand!

Thanks to the Clermont-Ferrand ESN WorldStop which developed a buddy system and organizes numerous student events.


◆ Your Higher Learning Institution
Depending on the institution, school, or university, two information services are available:
- International Relations Department (welcome and orientation desk)
- The Admissions Department (enrollment and administrative procedures office)

For the University of Clermont Auvergne, download the Guidebook for Incoming Students: https://www.uca.fr > international > étudier en programme d’échange > Guidebook

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

HOUSING IN CLERMONT-FERRAND /

In Clermont-Ferrand, there are numerous solutions for finding lodging: the housing park reserved for students and managed by CROUS, student and private residences, and housing in private homes.

What’s most important is to take care of this as early as possible, before your arrival.

- Espace Info Jeune is a youth information portal for finding accommodations in the region, and it also offers classified ad postings: at its website: http://www.info-jeunes.net
- in person on its premises: 5 rue Saint-Genès, 63000 Clermont-Ferrand, Monday to Friday, from 10:00am to 6:00pm
- 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

◆ For short-term lodging
- Until the forthcoming opening of a new Youth Hostel, the Corum Saint-Jean association offers temporary accommodation solutions: https://www.corumsaintjean.fr/
- Other types of residences: use the search engine on the Clermont-Ferrand Tourist Information Office website, which includes all types of accommodations: https://www.clermontauvergnetourisme.com > accommodation

◆ Long-term housing
- The Clermont-Ferrand CROUS (Centre Régional des Eaux 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, 11:00am to 17:00pm.
- Contact: 04 73 34 64 20
- Site: http://usine.crous-clermont.fr/
- On campus, the CROUS is also responsible for all low-cost food services (university restaurant, cafeterias, food-trucks, etc.).

◆ Private Housing Platforms
- www.studapart.com, a platform for private housing which Clermont-Ferrand learning establishments subscribe to.

Find other private housing by visiting, for example, the following sites:
- https://www.adele.org
- https://www.immojeune.com/
- 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/
- Shared Leases: consult La Carte des Colocs, a national site for shared leases that’s free and simple to use: https://www.lacartedescolocs.fr/
- Other solutions available on the Campus France site: www.campusfrance.org > Etudiant > S’organiser (> Students > Getting organised) > 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)
The CAF (Caisse des Allocations Familiales - family allowances fund) is available to assess your rights: 08.10.29.29.29 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.

Some establishments have specialized services for special-needs students (housing assistance and also transportation and tuition).

The University of 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/

GETTING AROUND CLERMONT-FERRAND

The simplest way to get to Clermont-Ferrand is by train from Paris-Bercy station (travel time: 3:30): https://www.oui.sncf/

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

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

For car-pooling, refer to the collaborative websites:
- local website: http://www.coovoiturageauvergne.net/
- national website: https://www.blablacar.fr

For greater autonomy, you can rent a bike from C.Vélo, 52 stations and 660 bikes available: https://www.c-velo.fr/
FIRST STEPS /

ENROLLMENT IN YOUR INSTITUTION

• CVEC
  It is mandatory that you download proof of payment of the Contribution Vie Etudiante et de Campus (CVEC) – the student and campus life contribution fee before you can enroll in your institution.  
  - Log in at: https://cvec.etudiant.gouv.fr/
  - For additional information and special cases: https://www.campusfrance.org > s'organiser > 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 PERMIT

• Information
  - At the Espace d’Accueil des Etudiants, where Prefecture services are available.
    Address: Espace d’Accueil Etudiants, 30 rue Étienne Dolet.
    Hours:
      - from end of August to end of December: Monday to Friday, 10.00am to 7.00pm.
      - from January to July: Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 9.00am to 5.00pm.
    Contact: 04 73 34 95 71.
  - At Puy-de-Dôme Prefecture (Clermont-Ferrand).
    Address: Service de l’immigration et de l’intégration, 1 rue d’Assas, 63000 Clermont-Ferrand.
    Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 8.15am to 11.45am.
    Contact: 04 73 98 63 63.
    Sites to visit: http://63.accueil-etrangers.gouv.fr/
  - Learn more about your rights and obligations: www.service-public.fr > Etranger > Titre de séjour et document de circulation

GOOD TO KNOW

• If you arrive in France with a VLS-TS long-term student visa: you must validate it online within three months of arrival: https://administration-etrangers-en-france.interieur.gouv.fr
• If you are an Algerian national: depending on your campus, your residence permit application is made at the Préfecture or with the Service des Relations Internationales at your campus.
  Take note: to renew your residence permit, you must apply within two months prior to its expiry.

EVERYDAY LIFE /

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 100 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

HEALTH CARE

In France, receiving medical treatment is practically free but you must be insured. As a result, signing up for medical insurance is mandatory.

CONNECT TO THE SITE
https://etudiant-étranger.ameli.fr site to register, to understand your rights, and to take the necessary steps.

Learn more: https://www.campusfrance.org > S’organiser > Santé

As a student, you can also take advantage of the university medical services. In these health services 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 the University of Clermont Auvergne and its associated institutions, which have a Service de Santé Universitaire (SSU), or University Health Clinic, which students from all member institutions can visit during the academic year.

Address: SSU, 25 rue Étienne Dolet, 63000 Clermont-Ferrand.
Hours: by appointment.
Contact (to make an appointment): 04 73 94 20 20.
Portal for the University Health Service: https://sante.clermont-universite.fr/

INSURE YOUR HOME

In France, housing insurance is mandatory.

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

Online subscription is also often possible. Learn more:
https://smbra.fr/4-assurances
https://www.assurances-etudiants.com

GOOD TO KNOW

• If you are an Algerian national:
  - Depending on your campus, your residence permit application is made at the Préfecture or with the Service des Relations Internationales at your campus.
  - Take note: to renew your residence permit, you must apply within two months prior to its expiry.

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

SAMU: 15 Emergency Medical Services
Police emergency: 17 in the event of violence, theft, robbery.
Fire Department: 18, in the event of fire, gas leak, water damage, natural catastrophe, or traffic accident
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 to be seized! 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://ecolesde langue.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 AN INTERNSHIP

3 addresses:
  - Jobs: The Espace Info Jeunes website has classified ads: http://www.info-jeunes.net/ > Emplois/Job/Stage > Trouver un emploi > Consulter des offres d’emploi
  - Student jobs: find a student job that’s compatible with your studies on the CROUS Jobaviz site: http://www.jobaviz.fr/
  - For internship offers, contact your host school, which often has a list of existing offers related to your discipline.

PLAYING A SPORT

Your school or university provides special access to sporting activities. Contact your institution's Sports department.

- The SUAPS (University Sports and Physical Activities Center) proposes a number of activities for all students at member institutions of the University of 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
The City of Clermont-Ferrand has launched Carte Étudiant, 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
- contact your school (Campus Life Bureau) for information.
- go to the Maison de la Vie Étudiante (Student Life House) of the University of 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
- The University of 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

GAINING CULTURE AND Partying
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 the University of 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 rewards cinemas, including multiplexes (student rates, rewards cards) and three arthouse cinemas: the Rio, the Ciné Capitole and Ambiances.
- 3 major museums (free for students with Carte Cité Jeunes), including Musée 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/
- In Clermont-Ferrand, for going out or staying abreast of events, 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 Visitor Center website: https://www.clermontauvergetourisme.com/ > Agenda

- Consult the national sites: https://www.bibliotheques-clermontmetropole.eu/ > Programmations de la ville
- Go to the Maison de la Vie Étudiante (Student Life Center) of the University of Clermont Auvergne.
- Go and consult job and internship offers.
- Contact your school (Campus Life Bureau) for information.

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: Go and contact your school (Campus Life Bureau) for information.
- Go to the Maison de la Vie Étudiante (Student Life House) of the University of Clermont Auvergne or the Facebook page of UCA Bureau de la Vie Étudiante (Student Life Center): https://www.facebook.com/BureaudelaVieEtudianteUCA/
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MUST-SEE PLACES /
- 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 stone from Volvic.
- 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.
- Vulcana Park (15 km from Clermont-Ferrand, shuttles leave from the train station), an amusement park focused on volcanoes.
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- 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.

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 for this candidacy: https://www.effervescences.eu/

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

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 propose 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.

To stay informed, actively listen to others and the world, and 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.