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

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

Hours:
- end of August to end of December: Monday to Friday, 10am to 7pm.
- January to July: Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 9am to 5pm.
Contact: 04 73 34 95 71 or espace.accueil.etudiant@crous-clermont.fr

Learn more:
- dedicated page on the CROUS website: http://usine.crous-clermont.fr > le Crous > espace accueil étudiants
- Infos Crous pocket student guide: http://usine.crous-clermont.fr > le Crous > publications
- the international portal of the website for Université Clermont Auvergne and its associated institutions: https://www.clermont-universite.fr > relations internationales et européennes
- the Guidebook for Incoming Students published by l’UCA. Download from this page: https://www.uca.fr > international > Venir à l’UCA > Je suis étudiant

◆ Welcome and orientation for international doctoral students and researchers

The Centre de Services Euraxess Auvergne (CSEA), Euraxess Service Center, aims to facilitate the stays of foreign researchers in Auvergne, at sites linked to the Université Clermont Auvergne and its associated institutions: https://www.clermont-universite.fr > International > Venir à l’UCA > Je suis doctorant ou chercheur
Contact: 04 73 40 63 21 / 63 29 ou 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 Scolarité (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:
http://clermont.ixesn.fr/
https://www.facebook.com/worldtop.esn/

◆ National Services

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

HOUSING IN CLERMONT-FERRAND /

There are numerous solutions for housing in Clermont-Ferrand: Student-only accommodations managed by CROUS, student housing and private residences, and rooms in private homes.

Most important is to take care of this as early as possible and before your arrival.

- 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: http://www.info-jeunes.net
  - in person on its premises: 5 rue Saint-Genès, 63000 Clermont-Ferrand, Monday to Friday, 10am to 6pm
- 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:
  • Until the upcoming opening of a new Youth Hostel, the Corum Saint-Jean association offers temporary accommodation solutions: https://www.corumsaintjean.fr/
  • Other types of accommodation: see the Clermont-Ferrand Tourist Office website for a list of all available accommodation: https://www.clermontauvergnetourisme.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/

On campus, the CROUS also manages all low-cost food services (university restaurants, cafeterias, food-trucks, etc.).

◆ 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.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/
  • Other solutions available on the Campus France site: www.campusfrance.org > Students > Getting organized > Accommodation

◆ 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/

◆ 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.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
  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/
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 PERMIT (TITRE DE SÉJOUR)

♥ Information
- At the Student Welcome Area (Espace d’Accueil Etudiants) which works with the Préfecture services. Address: Espace d’Accueil Etudiants, 30 rue Étienne Dolet. Hours: - end of August to end of December: Monday to Friday, 10am to 7pm. - January to July: Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 9am to 5pm. 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, 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 or a student with a “concours” (tests) visa or a “mineur scolarisé” (enrolled minor) visa or a visa with the indication “carte à solliciter dans les deux mois” (residence permit to be requested within 2 months of entry”): 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 expiration date.

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 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

HEALTHCARE
In France, receiving medical treatment is **practically free** but you must be insured. **Accordingly, signing up for medical insurance is mandatory.**

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 Universitaire (SSU), or University Health Clinic, which students from all member institutions can visit during the academic year. Address: SSU, 25 rue Etienne Dolet, 63000 Clermont-Ferrand. Hours: by appointment. Contact (to make an appointment): 04 73 34 97 20. Portal for the University Health Service: https://sante.clermont-universite.fr/

ADDITIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE
You can also sign up for top-up insurance which will cover all health expenses not covered by the free and compulsory health insurance. Take note: The plans and coverage levels differ from one company to another. To choose a top-up insurance policy which meets your needs and your budget, you can compare student health insurance plans.

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.

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 AN INTERNSHIP
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.

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.

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 Etudiante (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

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 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.clermontauvergnetourisme.com/ > Découvrir > Patrimoine et Culture
Clément-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.

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.

SEPTEMBER
• Journées du Patrimoine (heritage days), free visits of cultural venues.

OCTOBER:
• Clermont celebrates its students! At the start of each school year, the City prepares a program of activities to welcome students and facilitate their stay in Clermont: https://clermont-ferrand.fr > Vie quotidienne > Étudiant > Clermont fête ses étudiants
• Nuit des Étudiants du Monde (World Students’ Night): Welcome party and official reception for international students at City Hall.
• Fête de la science et Village des sciences (Science Festival and Science Village), at Université de Clermont Auvergne.
• Nicéphore +, a biennial international photography festival (next edition in 2020).

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER
• Christmas Parade, activities in the city center
Learn more:
- https://clermont-ferrand.fr > Vie quotidienne > Étudiant
- https://clermont-ferrand.fr > à voir à faire > Culture > Programmations de la ville

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.
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 (42,000 international students)

CLERMONT-FERRAND, RANKED 16th BEST CITY (out of 44) 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)

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

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