Campus France will guide you through your first steps in France and exploring Corte and Corse, your new home.
**ARVING IN CORTE/CORSICA/**

◆ **Student Welcome services at the University of Corse (Università di Corsica Pasquale Paoli)**

The first point of contact at the University of Corse is the Mobility Office (Bureau de la mobilité) run by the International Relations Service (SRI) for free-mover international students (non-exchange students).

The International Relations Service has set up a “rotating” Welcome Desk where several different services (CPAM, CROUS, CAF, Préfecture) work in turn to simplify administrative procedures for international students.

Address: University of Corse, Edmond Simeoni Building (level 1), International Relations Service, Mobility Office, Mariani Campus, Avenue Jean Nicoli, 20250 Corte.

Hours: on Monday, from 9.00am to midday; on Tuesday, from 9.00am to midday and 2.00pm - 5.00pm; on Thursday, from 9.00am to midday and 2.00pm - 5.00pm.

Contact: +33 (0) 4 95 45 06 46 or bureau-mobilite@univ-corse.fr

Learn more:
- check out the **Study in Corsica** pages for international students on the University of Corse’s website: https://www.universita.corsica/fr > International > Study in Corsica.

◆ **Accompanying international students**

The ESN Association (Erasmus Student Network) Corse can help you find your feet in Corte. This association of students from the University of Corse helps welcome international students by organizing a variety of activities in Corte:

https://www.facebook.com/ESN.Corsica/

◆ **Doctoral candidates and researchers**

International researchers and PhD students can also contact the Mobility Office run by the International Relations Service (SRI) (see address and contact details shown above).

◆ **National Services**

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

**ACCOMODATION IN CORTE/CORSICA/**

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

What's most important is to take care of this as early as possible, before your arrival: Corte is a small town with limited accommodation options, it is therefore essential to organize accommodation before arriving in Corse.

**A FEW TIPS**

◆ **For short-term lodging**

- The search engine on the Corte Tourist Office website may help you find short-term accommodation: http://www.corte-tourisme.com/

- If accommodation is not being sought at the start of the academic year, the “Bed & CROUS” site may also be useful: https://www.bedandcrous.com

◆ **Long-term housing**

- The Corse CROUS student housing (Centre Régional des Œuvres Universitaires - Regional Center for University Services). Address: 22 avenue Jean Nicoli, F-20250 Corte.

  Hours: Monday to Friday, from 9.00am to midday and 2pm to 6pm.

  Contact: +33 (0)4 95 45 30 00.

  Website: http://www.crous-corse.fr/logements/accueil-etudiants-internationaux/

  Applications for accommodation can be completed online: http://www.crous-corse.fr/ > Logement > Accueil des étudiants internationaux.

  On campus, the CROUS is also responsible for all low-cost food services (university restaurants and cafeterias).

- **Private Housing Platforms**

  Other offers for student lodging, managed by private organisms, are also available in Corte.

  Using an internet search engine to search the terms “Logement étudiant Corte” should come up with all the private rental options.

- **Other solutions available on the Campus France site:** www.campusfrance.org > S’organiser > Logement.
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:
+33 (0)8 10 29 29 29 or www.caf.fr

If you need housing adapted to your special needs
Please contact the Pôle Solidarités Handicap (PSH) which accompanies students with special needs and works in conjunction with the CROUS:
seddok@univ-corse.fr or +33 (0)4 20 22 22 57.
For further information:
https://studia.universita.corsica/

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.

Important information: the University of Corse’s placement test in French as a Foreign Language (FLE).
To enrol at the University of Corse, students from countries where the official language is not French, need to provide a French as a Foreign Language certificate at level B1 CEFR minimum.
However, you will still need to sit a FLE placement test after enrolling at the University of Corse Pasquale Paoli. Depending on your level, you may be required to take free FLE lessons in parallel to your studies.

GETTING AROUND CORTE/CORSE

When travelling to Corse you can arrive:
- by plane (from Paris, Marseille or Nice, or flying directly from certain countries);
- by boat from mainland France (Marseille, Nice, Toulon) or Italy (Livorno, Naples, Genoa, Savona, Piombino).
For practical reasons and irrespective of the method of transport, it is easier to arrive at the airport or port of either Ajaccio or Bastia for onward travel to Corte.

To get to Corte, from the airport or port, you can take:
- the bus: https://www.corsicabus.org/ (bilingual information in French & English)
- by train: https://cf-corse.corsica/

For travelling around Corse, you can use:
- regional trains, run by Chemins de fer de la Corse (special student rates):
  https://cf-corse.corsica/
- Cortenais coach service:
  https://transport-touristique-corse.fr/
- Corsicabus bus service:
  https://www.corsicabus.org/

Main journey times (by car) in Corse:
- Corte - Bastia: 1 hour and 15 minutes,
- Corte - Aléria: 40 minutes,
- Corte - Ajaccio: 1 hour 40,
- Corte - Porto-Vecchio: 2 hours,
- Corte - Calvi: 1 hour 30,
- Corte - Bonifacio: 2 hours 35.

For car-sharing, please check:
- the University of Corse website, where a car-sharing service has been set up:
  https://studia.universita.corsica > Vie étudiante > Train et covoiturage.
- the national website
  https://www.blablacar.fr/

For a bit more independence, you can hire a bike using a private hire company (there is no municipal service), such as Altipiani (http://www.altipiani-corse.com) or V’loc Corte (+33 (0)6 84 67 92 63, Facebook V’loc Corte).
RESIDENCE PERMIT

- Information
  - The International Relations Service at the University of Corte can help with administrative procedures, for appointments at the Préfecture in Bastia, for example.
  Address: University of Corse, Edmond Simeoni Building (level 1), International Relations Service, Mobility Office, Mariani Campus, Avenue Jean Nicoli, 20250 Corte.
  Contact: +33 (0)4 95 45 06 46 or bureau-mobilite@univ-corse.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 7 bank agencies located in Corte.
In France, opening a bank account is a right: https://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.

Learn more:

Non-EU students must attend the University of Corse’s Service for Preventive Medicine and Health Promotion (SUMPPS) for a health check upon arrival.
This health service accompanies all students free of charge throughout the year.
Learn more: https://studia.universita.corsica > Vie étudiante > Santé.
Address: Desanti Building (level 0), Grimaldi Campus, 20250 Corte.
Hours: Monday to Friday, from 9.00am to 5:30pm.
Contact: +33 (0)4 20 20 22 57 or medecine@univ-corse.fr

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.
TOP-UP HEALTH INSURANCE

Top-up health insurance can be taken out to cover all healthcare costs since French health insurance (compulsory and free of charge) does not always cover all health expenses. Further information can be found on websites offering student health insurance or general health insurance:
- the LMDE network: https://www.lmde.fr/

INSURE YOUR HOME

In France, housing insurance is mandatory. The "garantie risques locatifs" - rental risk guarantee - is housing insurance to which you can subscribe with your bank or a private insurance company. Online subscription is also often possible.

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://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

Take note: student jobs are rare in Corte, a small town, with an extremely limited labour market outside the tourist season (April-October). The University of Corse and the CROUS offer a number of student contracts (job vacancies and work placements are posted online): https://www.universita.corsica/fr/jobs/

Other addresses:
- The youth information office (BIJ-CPIE Centre Corse) can provide information on job opportunities on site. Address: Bureau Information Jeunesse - CPIE, 7 rue Colonel Feracci, F-20250 Corte. Hours: Monday to Friday, from 9.00am to midday and 2pm to 6pm. Contact: +33 (0)9 70 71 85 78.
- The Jobaviz website, run by the CROUS, can help you find a student job that's compatible with your studies: https://www.jobaviz.fr/

PLAYING A SPORT

In your school, you may also have access to sports facilities. Contact your Sports Department.

At the University of Corse, the University Service for Physical and Sports Activities (SUAPS) offers students the opportunity to choose between a range of sports and physical activities: https://studia.universita.corsica > Vie étudiante > Sport.

At the start of the academic year, the university organizes an Introductory Day for international students, to help them get to know their new home town through a sports activity (sign up via the SUAPS).

The town council in Corte also offers around thirty different sports activities: https://www.mairie-corte.fr > 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. Please contact your place of study for further information (Student Services at the University of Corse: vieetudiante@univ-corse.fr and +33 (0)4 20 20 22 92) or refer to the websites: www.animafac.net or www.letudiant.fr
A variety of student associations ensure that campus life is never dull at the University of Corse, including ESN Corsica (Erasmus + Student Association) and the International Students’ Union in Corse (UEIC), whose role is to welcome new international students and help them deal with administrative issues, finding accommodation and work placements.

The University’s International Relations Service also organizes numerous events for international students: cultural excursions, a welcome evening, opportunities to meet and network...

More information:
- about student associations in general: https://studia.universita.corsica > Vie étudiante > Vie associative.
- about ESN Corsica: https://www.facebook.com/ESN.Corsica/
- about the UEIC: find the association on Facebook, https://www.facebook.com/ > UEIC Corte (public group).

GAINING CULTURE AND PARTYING

Cinemas, concerts, theaters, operas, museums, exhibitions, and festivals are on the program and most of the time, at reduced cost for students: https://www.mairie-corte.fr > Culture et patrimoine.

Responsible for cultural policy at the University of Corse, the University Cultural Centre (CCU), offers various activities for students (25 art workshops): https://studia.universita.corsica > Vie étudiante > Culture.

The University Cultural Centre (CCU) also has its own theatre and concert venue, the Spaziu universitariu Natale Luciani. It offers an original programme of music, theatre, exhibitions and conferences, etc. for students and locals. Admission to all events is free for students: https://studia.universita.corsica > Vie étudiante > Culture > Programmation annuelle et expositions.

Don’t forget to request your Pass-Cultura, a free voucher-book worth €75 (provided by the local authorities in Corse) which entitles you to 12 passes for 3 free tickets (cinema and film festivals) and 9 discount vouchers to buy tickets for concerts, shows and dance events: https://www.passcultura.corsica/

For entertainment or to pick up some culture in Corte and Corse, there are:

At the University of Corse:
- the university library (extended opening hours);
- the University Cultural Centre, concert and theatre venue (see above);
- the FabLab at the University of Corse (Palazzu Naziunale, upper town): https://fablab.universita.corsica/

In Corte:
- 1 cinema, with 2 screens (student rates, loyalty card), the Alba.
- 1 major museum, the Musée de la Corse, a regional anthropology museum: http://www.musee-corse.com > Découvrir le Musée de la Corse.
- Corse’s Regional Contemporary Arts Foundation (FRAC) in the upper part of Corte: https://www.frac.corsica/
- 1 large multimedia library, the Médiathèque du Centre Corse. Open to the public, it has become a meeting place for culture, information, events and exchange: http://www.haute-corse.fr > Culture > Médiathèques.

Try the following for further information:
- the Cultura website, published by the Collectivité de Corse: https://www.isula.corsica/culture/
- the daily regional newspaper Corse-Matin, or RCFM, France 3 Corse Via Stella, Tele Paese, Corse Net Info (CNI), etc.

MUST-SEE PLACES /

In Corte:
• Corte Citadel, with its panoramic views over the Restonica valley. It houses the Musée de la Corse and Corse’s Regional Contemporary Arts Foundation (FRAC).
• Corte’s old town.
• The Palais National, former headquarters of the Corsican Government, established by Pasquale Paoli, and the first university in Corse, established in 1765. It now houses a Centre for Innovation and Development (PID), including the FabLab, as well as the University of Corse Foundation.
• Maison Arrighi de Casanova (Duke of Padua), originally a 16th century tower-house and one-time residence of the Bonaparte family.
• The Restonica gorges and upper valley, to discover Lake Melo and Lake Capitello.
In Corse:
- Ajaccio, the capital of Corse, with the Musée Fesch and the house where Napoléon Bonaparte was born.
- Calvi and its citadel.
- Morosaglia, birthplace of Pasquale Paoli and its Musée Pascal Paoli.
- Bonifacio and its white cliffs.
- Bastia and its Vieux-Port.
- The beaches of Porto-Vecchio.
- The Golfe de Porto.
- Piana and its rocky coves.
- 3 ski resorts: Ghisoni, Val d’Ese, Ascu.

Learn (and see) more:
- the Corte Tourist Information Centre website: http://www.corte-tourisme.com/
- the Corsican Tourist Office website: https://www.visit-corsica.com/

IMPORTANT ANNUAL EVENTS /

APRIL
- Arts and Culture in Higher Education Days (JACES) at the University of Corse.
  - Easter celebrations in Corte and the Granitula ceremony.

MAY
- European Night of Museums offers an opportunity to discover museums and other cultural sites in a new light!
- Fiera di Corti - San Teofalu, Corte’s traditional fair lasts two days.
- A Fiera di u Casgiu (Cheese fair), in Venacu.

JUNE
- Fête de la Musique (free concerts).
- Cavall’in Festa, a major horse festival in Corte, equestrian games, entertainment, food-tasting, etc.

JULY
- Restonica trail run, various races and hikes in the Corsican mountains around Corte.

SEPTEMBER
- Allegria, celebration to mark the start of the academic year at the University of Corse, two-days of celebrations and entertainment to welcome students to Corte.
  - Les journées européennes du patrimoine (European Heritage Days), free visits of cultural venues.
  - The Périple de l’Arche race, starting in Corte, to discover the mountains of Corse.
  - A Santa di u Niolu (Niolu fair) in Casamaccioli.

OCTOBER
- Evening party in Corte to welcome Erasmus and international students with the participation of the ESN Corsica association.
- Science festival at the University of Corse in Corte.

NOVEMBER/ DECEMBER
- Cultural day for international and Erasmus+ students organized by the International Relations Service at the University of Corse in Corte.
  - A Fiera di a Castagna (Cheastnut fair), in Bucugnà.
  - A Festa di a Nazione (National Festival), throughout Corse on 8 December.

For more information: please check the Corsican Tourist Office website: https://www.visit-corsica.com/

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.
THINGS TO KNOW

1765: foundation of the University of Corsica by Pasquale Paoli

1981: reopening as a multidisciplinary university

CORTE, SOUS-PREFECTURE OF THE HAUTE-CORSE DÉPARTEMENT, home to the local government (Collectivité de Corse)

COMMUNAUTÉ DE COMMUNES OF CENTRAL CORSE

10,000 residents

CORTE, THE HISTORIC AND CULTURAL CAPITAL OF CORSE

7,500 residents

University of Corse

4,700 students, including 350 foreign students of 70 different nationalities, 150 PhD students per year, including 20% international students