Campus France assists you when you arrive in France and will be your guide in Dunkerque, Calais, Boulogne-sur-Mer and Saint-Omer home to the Côte d’Opale university campuses and your new home.
ARRIVING IN DUNKERQUE, BOULOGNE, CALAIS, SAINT-OMER

Université du Littoral - Côte d’Opale (ULCO) has campuses in Dunkerque, Calais, Boulogne-sur-Mer and Saint-Omer. Wherever you are, an international student service helps you with all your procedures when you arrive in France. An international student desk will give you information on services provided by ULCO as well as the local transportation network and housing.

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.

SOME IDEAS

• See the Logement page for information about accommodation for international students who are not on an exchange program: https://www.univ-littoral.fr - International > International > Venir à l’ULCO > Pour étudier > En tant que candidat individuel

• Download the Logement Guide published by the CRJ des Hauts-de-France (regional youth information center): http://www.crj-hdf.fr > Nos publications

Address and phone: Bureau Information Jeunesse de Dunkerque, Entreprendre Ensemble, 66 rue des chantiers de France, 03 28 22 64 66.

A FEW TIPS

• Short-term housing in Dunkerque: Auberge de jeunesse L’Escale (youth hostel), place Rouget de Lisle, 62200 Boulogne-sur-Mer.

• Saint-Omer: Get the Information Desk of Saint-Omer for information about temporary accommodations: https://www.tourisme-saintomer.com > Où dormir

• In Calais: Visit the Saint-Omer Tourist Office website: https://www.calais-cotedopale.com > Où dormir / où manger > Hébergements

• In Boulogne-sur-Mer: Visit the Calais Tourist Office website: https://www.calais-cotedopale.com > Où dormir

• Cycleco

DK Vélo

Vel’in

Dunkerque,

DK’Bus

Calais,

Sitac network:

http://www.sitac-calais-opale-bus.fr/

http://www.dkbus.com

http://www.campusvert.com

For ride-sharing, refer to the collaborative websites, for example:

local: https://www.passpasscovoiturage.fr

national: https://www.bla bla car.fr

For greater independence, rent a bike:

Dunkerque, DK Vélo: https://www.dkbus.com > Déplacer > Me déplacer en vélo

Calais, Vel’in: https://www.vel-in.fr/

Boulogne, Cykleco:


Saint-Omer, Mouvélo: http://mouveau.ca-ps.fr/

Getting Around

Getting to Dunkerque, Calais, Boulogne-sur-Mer or Saint-Omer from the Lille Airport: take the shuttle to Lille-Europe or Lille-Flandres train stations where there are regular trains: https://www.oui.sncf.com/

Public transport (bus):

- Dunkerque, DK Bus: free transport service: https://www.dkbus.com
- Calais, Sitac network: http://www.sitac-calais-opale-bus.fr/
- Saint-Omer, Mouvélo network: http://mouveau.ca-ps.fr/

For travel within the region:

- regional trains: https://www.tsrncf.com/hauts-de-france
- low-cost buses: https://fr.ouibus.com/
- Flixbus: https://www.flixbus.fr/

For ride-sharing, refer to the collaborative websites, for example:

local: https://www.passpasscovoiturage.fr

national: https://www.bla bla car.fr

For greater independence, rent a bike:

Dunkerque, DK Vélo: https://www.dkbus.com > Déplacer > Me déplacer en vélo

Calais, Vel’in: https://www.vel-in.fr/

Boulogne, Cykleco:


Saint-Omer, Mouvélo: http://mouveau.ca-ps.fr/

If you cannot find your school in this list, then go directly to their website.

♦ National Services
- students: www.etudiant.gouv.fr
- doctoral students, researchers: http://www.euraxess.fr/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 fulfill exacting criteria in the way they take care of their international students.

♦ Orientation services at Université du Littoral - Côte d’Opale (ULCO)

♦ 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: https://www.campusfrance.org > Students > Documentary resources > Practical Information for students and researchers > Reception arrangements in institutions.
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 confirm your enrollment with the institution’s Service de la Scolarité (Admissions) as soon as you arrive.
On the other campuses contact the Service de la Scolarité (Admissions).

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/particuliers/#/
• 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 “minure 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/particuliers/#/
• 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 validity of your current residence permit, on the following website: https://administration-etrangers-en-france.interieur.gouv.fr/particuliers/#/
Please refer to the following tutorial for help with this procedure: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4iGha_yqN04
• 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 with your host institution.
The ULCO supports disabled students during their time at the university through Handicap’ULCO: https://www.univ-littoral.fr > Campus > Etudes et handicap
You will need to show the email which confirms your appointment when you enroll at ULCO.

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.

Further information: 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 will be greeted by a team of doctors and nurses who can give personalized advice about health and prevention.
This is the case at the Université Littoral - Côte d’Opale in Dunkerque which has a Service Universitaire de Médecine Préventive et de Promotion de la Santé (SUMPPS), a health and preventive health center. Your health is their priority: http://ecolesdete.campusfrance.org
- by asking in your institution, at city hall, or in your host city’s Maison des Associations - community centers.

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. 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.

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 Work Experience Placement
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.
Here is a list of resources to help you find a job or work experience placement:
- Jobs and internships - the ULCO Service Universitaire d’Accueil, Information, Orientation et Insertion Professionnelle has a Facebook page where you will find ads for
CULTURE AND NIGHTLIFE

- Dunkerque, Calais, Boulogne-sur-Mer and Saint-Omer propose many cultural experiences and places to go out. Movie theaters, concerts, theaters, opera, museums, exhibitions, and festivals are on the program and most of the time, at reduced cost for students.

You’ll find more information on the Côte d’Opale city or Tourist Office websites:
- Dunkerque: https://www.ville-dunkerque.fr > Menu > Découvrir, sortir, bouger > Culture et relations internationales
- Calais: https://www.calais.fr > En Vie de Bouger > Se divertir
- Boulogne: https://www.ville-boulogne-internationales > Découvrir, sortir, bouger > Culture et relations internationales
- Saint-Omer: https://www.tourisme-saintomer.com

- Also see the agenda of cultural events organized by the ULCO which offers a pass for 1 euro which gives access to all the cultural events organized by the university.

ULCO has also signed agreements with local cultural venues for reduced rates: https://www.univ-littoral.fr > Campus > Culture
- For going out or cultural outings on the Côte d’Opale: 2 major movie theaters in Dunkerque, 2 in Calais, 1 in Boulogne, 1 in Saint-Omer (student discounts, rewards cards), including an art house theater, Studio 43 in Dunkerque and Alhambra in Calais
- major museums (student discounts), including: LAC ( Lieu d’Art et d’Action Contemporaine), the contemporary art museum in Dunkerque, the fine arts museum and Cité de la Dentelle et de la Mode in Calais, the castle museum in Boulogne-sur-Mer, the Hôtel Sandelin museum in Saint-Omer.

- More information on the museums:
  - http://www.cote-dopale.com > performance centers including La Piscine, part of the Université Littoral - Côte d’Opale: https://atelierculture.univ-littoral.fr/
  - major bookshops including > Furet du Nord in Dunkerque, part of a chain of bookshops in the Hauts de France and many independent bookshops.
  - municipal multimedia libraries in all the cities (Les Balises in Dunkerque) and the BULCO, the Université Littoral - Côte d’Opale library, which is open to all: https://www.bulco.univ-littoral.fr/ and the Saint-Omer city library, which houses an exceptional range of written and graphic works: https://www.ca-psp.fr/services/culture-sport/hapso/
  - For going out or staying abreast of events on the Côte d’Opale, check out:
    - La Voix du Nord, the major regional daily, available in newstands, on-line and for free at ULCO: https://www.lavoixdunord.fr > Ma Commune > Dunkerque
    - You can also check the Côte d’Opale Tourist Office website which lists all events and entertainment by geographic area: http://www.cote-dopale.com > Agenda

In Dunkerque:
- Visit the historical sites of the World War I Dynamo operation with walking, bus and boat tours.
- Place Jean Bart, a large shopping square with the statue of the legendary Dunkerque native, Jean Bart, famous for defending France under Louis XIV.
- The beaches around Dunkerque (Malo-les-Bains and Dunes de Flandre).

In Calais:
- Rodin’s Burghers of Calais bronze statue represents six Calais residents who sacrificed themselves for the city’s residents in 1347.
- The town hall, built with Flemish architecture has an impressive belfry (listed as world heritage by UNESCO).
- The beach and pier with the promenade and traditional bathing boxes.

In Boulogne-sur-Mer, recognized for its art and history since 1986:
- The fortified city with ramparts and a lively atmosphere in summer.
- The belfry, a 13th century Gothic monument and former keep.
- Learn all about marine life at Nausicaa, Europe’s largest aquarium.

In Saint-Omer, recognized for its art and history since 1997:
- The Gothic Cathédrale Notre-Dame, the most beautiful religious monument in the region.
- Quai des Salines and Guim ois Commerce lined with lovely Flemish houses.
- The Coupole d’Hélias, one of the most impressive ruins from the Second World War in Europe.
- The marais audomarois, which was awarded the UNESCO Man and biosphere label.

For more information, consult the Côte d’Opale Tourist Office website:

TOP
ATTRACTIONS /

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For more information, consult the Côte d’Opale Tourist Office website:
UNIVERSITÉ DU LITTORAL CÔTE D’OPALE:
• 4 campuses (Dunkerque, Calais, Boulogne-sur-Mer and Saint-Omer)
• 14 research centers
• 2 doctoral schools

HAUTS-DE-FRANCE REGION:
• Dunkerque: 86,000 residents
• Calais: 72,000 residents
• Boulogne-sur-Mer: 40,000 residents
• Saint-Omer/Longuenesse: 30,000 residents

Université du Littoral Côte d’Opale (ULCO):
10,000 students
including more than 1,000 international students.

HAUTS-DE-FRANCE REGION: THE 3RD MOST DENSELY POPULATED REGION IN FRANCE AND THE REGION WITH THE YOUNGEST POPULATION.

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/hauts-de-france-555

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