WELCOME TO FORT-DE-FRANCE AND MARTINIQUE

Campus France will guide you through your first steps in France and exploring Fort de France and Martinique, your new home.
ARRIVING IN FORT-DE-FRANCE /

◆ Student Welcome at the University of the Antilles

The Martinique Campus (Pôle Martinique) of the University of the Antilles is a human-scale university. Your main point of contact is the International Relations Office (BRI).

The International Relations Office oversees administrative and mobility services for international students.

Educational support is provided by teaching representatives who oversee students’ international mobility within their faculty or department.

In September, a Village Campus Service, bringing together different organisations, is provided on campus to welcome new students.

Address: Antilles University, Pôle Martinique, Schoelcher Campus, Cité universitaire, 97233 Schoelcher (on the outskirts of Fort-de-France).

Hours: Monday to Friday 8.30am - midday and Mondays & Thursdays, 2.00pm - 4.00pm. A student facilitator is also present on site at certain times of day, depending on the week (see notice board at the BRI, International Relations Office).

General point of contact: bri@univ-antilles.fr

Personalized point of contact: Régine Rouvel, Regine.rouvel@univ-antilles.fr or +33 (0)5 96 55 46 31.

To learn more, consult notably:

- pages for international students, whether exchange students or free-movers (non-exchange students), on the University website: http://www.univ-ag.fr > International > Bienvenue à l’Université des Antilles.
- the Facebook page run by International Relations Office: https://www.facebook.com/driUAntilles/

◆ Accommodation in Martinique:

Solutions for finding accommodation in Fort-de-France and elsewhere in Martinique: the housing park reserved for students and managed by the 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.

- The CLLAJ (local committee for independent accommodation for young people) in Martinique provides a digital platform of services for young people aged between 16 and 30, D’CLIC jeunesse, which can help you find housing solutions through online classified ads:

A FEW TIPS

◆ For short-term lodging

- The Centre International de Séjour Martinique (CISM), offers hostel accommodation and fosters international exchange.
  Address: CISM, rue Ernest Hemingway, ZAC Etang Zabricot, 97200 Fort-de-France.
  Contact: +33 (0)5 96 39 09 09.
  Trilingual website: https://www.cis-martinique.com/

- The Foyer de Jeunes Travailleurs Les Cycas, a hostel for young workers, is also open to students.
  Address: Les Cycas, rue des Rameaux, ZAC de Chateauboeuf, 97200 Fort-de-France.
  Contact: +33 (0)5 96 75 56 30.
  Site: http://www.fjtcycas.com/

- For other types of temporary residences, use the Metz Visitor Center site’s search engine: https://www.martinique.org > Planifier votre séjour > Les hébergements.

◆ Your Higher Learning Institution

Depending on the institution, two information services are available:

- International Relations Department (welcome and orientation office).
- the Admissions Department (enrollment and administrative procedures office).

◆ National Services

- Students: www.etudiant.gouv.fr
- doctoral students, researchers: http://www.euraxess.fr/fr
Long-term housing

- The Antilles et Guyane CROUS (Centre Régional des Œuvres Universitaires - Regional Center for University Services) for student housing. Address: Cité universitaire de Schoelcher, 97275 Schoelcher. Hours: Monday to Friday, 8am to 12pm. Contact: +33 (0)5 96 61 36 73. Site: http://www.crous-antillesguyane.fr/

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

- Private Housing Platforms

Other offers for student lodging, managed by private organisms, are also available in Martinique. Try these sites:
- https://www.cap-logement-etudiant.com
- https://www.immojeune.com

Don’t forget to check websites that republish ads from local estate agents, for example: https://www.97immo.com

- 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 > 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

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 Relais Handicap at the University’s Martinique Campus, accompanies newly enrolled disabled students, upon their arrival at the university: http://www.univ-ag.fr > Formation > Choisir l’Université des Antilles > Les études en situation de handicap.

FIRST PROCEDURES /

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.

GETTING AROUND IN MARTINIQUE

When travelling to Martinique from North America, Europe or the Caribbean, you are likely to fly in directly to Aimé-Césaire international airport in Le Lamentin (near Fort-de-France): http://www.martinique.aeroport.fr/

To travel into the centre of Fort-de-France from the airport, you can take the TCSP bus (Mozaïk network). Timetable: http://www.mozaik.mq/

Although the public transport network is rather underdeveloped on the island, buses run by the Mozaïk network serve various locations in central Martinique (Fort-de-France, Lamentin, St-Joseph, Schoelcher): http://www.mozaik.mq/

The ETUD card allows students to travel at a reduced rate.

To travel longer distances around the island, you can use the Vedettes tropicales boat service which links up places around the Bay of Fort-de-France: http://www.vedettestropicales.com/

You can also use an app called Batché (‘On board’ in Creole) which gives various transport options (car-sharing, taxis, shared taxis, chauffeured vehicles, etc.) for travelling around Martinique: https://www.batchecaribbean.com/

For car pooling see the collaborative site http://www.covoiturage-martinique.com/
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

• The main point of contact for students attending the Martinique Campus at the University of the Antilles is the International Relations Office.
  Address: Université des Antilles, Pôle Martinique, Schoelcher Campus, Cité universitaire, 97233 Schoelcher (on the outskirts of Fort-de-France). Hours: Monday to Friday 8.30am - midday and Mondays & Thursdays, 2.00pm - 4.00pm. A student facilitator is also present on site at certain times of day, depending on the week (see notice board at the BRI, International Relations Office).
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• Students attending other establishments should contact Student Services or International Relations.

• At the Préfecture for Martinique (Fort-de-France), at the Foreign Nationals service (Étrangers).
  Address: rue Louis Blanc (angle de la rue Félix Éboué), 97000 Fort-de-France. Hours: Monday to Friday, 8am to 12pm.
  Take note! The service is only open to foreign students on Tuesdays.
  Contact (Service Étrangers): +33 (0)5 96 39 36 00, Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, 2.30pm - 4.00pm or etrangers@martinique.pref.gouv.fr
  Site: http://www.martinique.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 30 bank agencies located in Fort-de-France.

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-etranger.ameli.fr site to register, to understand your rights, and to take the necessary steps.

Learn more:

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 for the Martinique Campus at the University of the Antilles which has its own Preventive Medicine & Health Service (SUMPPS) on the Schoelcher site: http://www.univ-ag.fr > Vie des campus > Santé. Contact: +33 (0)5 96 72 73 15.

Students enrolled at other establishments in Martinique should contact their place of study.

TOP-UP INSURANCE

Because France's compulsory healthcare insurance (free) does not always cover all healthcare expenses top-up insurance can be taken out to cover all expenses. For more information see the websites of the student or general insurances, notably:
- the EMEVIA network: http://www.emevia.com/, including the SMERAG, which is very popular in the Caribbean: http://www.smerag.fr/
- the LMDE network: https://www.lmde.fr/
- specialised insurance: https://heyme.care/fr/
- https://www.mgel.fr/
- www.assistance-etudiants.com
- www.assurances-etudiants.com

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.

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

FINDING A JOB OR AN INTERNSHIP

Useful websites:
- The University of the Antilles has set up a careers and employment platform PARI. It can be used to find temporary work or placements: http://pari.univ-ag.fr/
- The Jobaviz website, run by the CROUS, can help you find a student job that's compatible with your studies: https://www.jobaviz.fr/

THINGS TO DO IN MARTINIQUE /

PLAYING A SPORT

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

The University Service for Physical and Sports Activities (SUAPS) at the University’s Martinique Campus offers around twenty different sporting activities for students, irrespective of ability: http://www.univ-ag.fr > Vie des campus >Sport.

At the start of each academic year, Fort-de-France town council and student associations organize an event to show students which sports and activities are available to them: https://www.fortdefrance.fr > Foyal actu > Agenda.

Martinique’s local authority (CTM) supports all different sports activities and organizes a number of events: http://www.collectivitedemartinique.mq > Politiques territoriales > Sport.

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.

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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. To learn more, check with your school (Service de la vie étudiante, Student Services) or visit the following sites: www.animafac.net or www.letudiant.fr

Student associations at the University of the Antilles in Martinique, ensure that campus life is never dull: http://www.univ-ag.fr > Vie des campus > Vie associative.

GAINING CULTURE AND PARTYING

Movie theaters, concerts, theatres, exhibitions, and festivals are on the program and most of the time, at reduced cost for students. For more information, see the City of Fort-de-France website: https://www.fortdefrance.fr > Foyal actu > Agenda.

The Cultural Service at the University in Martinique contributes to artistic education and promoting culture among the student population: http://www.univ-antilles.fr > Vie des campus > Culture.

Entertainment and cultural options in Fort-de-France and elsewhere in Martinique:
- one major, multi-screen cinema in Schoelcher, (student rates, loyalty-card), and an arthouse cinema, Tropiques Atrium.
- 10 museums, including several science museums, with reduced rates for students:
  - The Earth Sciences Discovery Centre (CDST) in St-Pierre: http://cdst.e-monsite.com/
  - Martinique’s Departmental Museum of Archaeology and Prehistory in Fort-de-France: http://www.collectivitedemartinique.mq > Politiques territoriales > Culture > Musées.
- 5 major theatre and concert venues, including the nationally recognised Tropiques Atrium: https://tropiques-atrium.fr/
- around ten bookshops, including Librairie Antillaise and Librairie Kazabul.
- a network of around twenty libraries and multimedia libraries on the island: http://mediatheques.collectivitedemartinique.mq/ and the University of the Antilles’ Libraries: http://bumartinique.univ-antilles.fr/

France-Antilles Martinique, the island’s daily newspaper, is a good source of inspiration for going out in Martinique and keeping up with the latest news. Available from newsagents or online: https://www.martinique.franceantilles.fr/

You can also check out the agenda on the Tourist Information Centre site: https://www.martinique.org > Planifier votre séjour > Agenda.

MUST-SEE PLACES /

The town of St-Pierre in Martinique, which was destroyed by the volcanic eruption of Mount Pelée in 1902, was recognized as a “Town of Art and History” in 1990.

- The historic town-centre of Fort-de-France, behind the port, with its colonial architecture, the Place de la Savane and Fort St-Louis.
- The Schoelcher library in Fort-de-France, a listed historic building, with Art Nouveau-inspired metallic architecture.
- Balata Botanical Gardens in Fort-de-France, beautiful tropical gardens.
- Habitation Clément in Le François, a museum, garden and rum distillery, part of the island’s cultural identity (to be enjoyed with moderation).
- Mount Pelée and the village of St-Pierre, with its highly moving ruins and the Franck-Perret Volcanological Museum retracing the catastrophic eruption in 1902.
- The Savane des Esclaves in Les Trois-Ilets, with traditional huts or “cases”.
- La Caravelle Nature Reserve, where walkers can enjoy unspoilt natural surroundings.
- Beaches and water-sports: Les Salines, Grande Anse Bay, the beaches on Ste-Anne peninsula, Anse-Figuier, Dufour Cove (Anse-Dufour), etc.

For more information, consult the Brest Visitor Centre website: https://www.martinique.org
IMPORTANT ANNUAL EVENTS /

JANUARY
• Carnival in Fort-de-France, until March, Martinique’s most eagerly awaited and vibrant event.

FEBRUARY
• Round Martinique Regatta, this 3-day sailing regatta is also open to amateurs.

MAY
• La Nuit européenne des Musées (European Night of Museums) offers an opportunity to discover museums and other cultural sites all over the island in a new light!

JUNE
• Fête de la musique: music everywhere in town (free concerts).

JULY - AUGUST
• Fort-de-France Cultural Festival, an important artistic event with theatre, dance, music, exhibitions and conferences.
• Biguine Jazz Festival, featuring local and international artists for 5 days in 5 different venues.
• The Foyal Color Run in Fort-de-France, an alternative and colourful sporting event!
• Tour de la Martinique des Yoles Rondes, Martinique’s most important sports event.

SEPTEMBER
• Les journées du patrimoine (Heritage days), free visits of cultural venues.

OCTOBER
• Martinique Surf Pro, international professional surfing competition.
• Musiciennes en Martinique Festival, classical music and Caribbean harmonies.

NOVEMBER
• Science festival, scientific tours and activities in a variety of venues to get people involved.
• Martinique Jazz Festival, with musical legends and rising stars of the jazz world.

DECEMBER
• Christmas market and celebrations in Fort-de-France, with the Chanté Nwel, concerts featuring traditional Caribbean Christmas songs.

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.
THE CARIBBEAN
ISLAND OF MARTINIQUE is a Territorial Collectivity of the French Republic, one of the French Departments in the Americas (DFAs) and one of the outermost regions (ORs) of the European Union.

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE ANTILLES is a multidisciplinary university with two distinct campuses or “pôles” in Martinique and Guadeloupe.

MARTINIQUE
375,000 residents
8,500 students

FO RT-DE-FRANCE
80,000 residents
The island’s most populated city, the capital of Martinique

Martinique Campus at the University of the Antilles:
5,300 students
including 3% international students

UNIVERSITY OF THE ANTILLES (MARTINIQUE AND GUADELOUPE):
25 research structures, 2 Doctoral schools, 300 PhD students, of which 10% are foreign students.