LILLE, CAPITAL OF THE NORD DEPARTMENT, capital of the Hauts-de-France region which is made up of 5 departments

**THINGS TO KNOW**

**LILLE, RANKED 15TH (OUT OF 44) BEST CITY IN FRANCE WHERE IT’S GOOD TO LIVE AND STUDY** (awarded by L’Étudiant magazine)

**HAUTS-DE-FRANCE REGION, RANKED 5th for the number of foreign students (more than 25,000 international students)**

**EUROPEAN METROPOLITAN AREA OF LILLE:**
1,2 million residents

**CITY OF LILLE:**
238,000 residents
more than half of whom are under 30

**Lille:**
115,000 students, one of the largest university cities in France

**Université de Lille:**
78,000 students including 9,900 foreign students of 150 nationalities

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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

WELCOME TO LILLE

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

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

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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.

**ACCOMMODATION**

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 options that all students will find useful:
- Uliligo is a mobile app for international students at Université de Lille. It is a genuine, comprehensive guide, in which students and doctoral students will find all the practical information they need.

**A FEW TIPS**

- **Short-term housing:**
  - The Stéphane Hessel youth hostel, with its futuristic architecture, near the center, Porte de Valenciennes metro station: [www.hifrance.org](http://www.hifrance.org)
  - The Gastama, a youth hostel in the old-town Vieux Lille: [www.gastama.com](http://www.gastama.com)
  - The Eko Hotel, an affordable and welcoming solution (with common rooms), Porte de Valenciennes metro station: [www.elhotels.com/hotels/lille/](http://www.elhotels.com/hotels/lille/)
  - Other solutions on the website of the Lille Tourist Office: [https://www.lilletourism.com](https://www.lilletourism.com) > dormir

- **Long-term housing**
  - CROUS student housing (Centre Régional des Oeuvres Universitaires et Scolaires), the regional center for university services for Lille Nord-Pas-de-Calais. Address: 74 rue de Cambrai, 59000 Lille. Hours: Monday to Friday, 9am to 12pm and 1pm to 5pm. Contact: 03 20 88 66 00 or crous@crous-lille.fr For housing for international students, you can also try the following contact numbers: 03 74 09 12 02 or 03 74 09 12 11 and service. [international@crous-lille.fr](mailto:international@crous-lille.fr)
  - Website: [www.crous-lille.fr](http://www.crous-lille.fr)
  - Website: [Trouver un logement: https://trouverunlogement.lecrous.fr](https://trouverunlogement.lecrous.fr)
  - **Private Housing Platforms**
    Most institutions in Lille are members of Studapart, a private housing platform: [https://univ-lille.studapart.com/fr/](https://univ-lille.studapart.com/fr/)
    - Université de Lille also has an agreement with Housing Anywhere which gives students privileged access to housing offers: [https://housinganywhere.com](https://housinganywhere.com)
    - You can consult other specialized sites, for example:
      - [https://www.adele.org/](https://www.adele.org/)
      - [https://www.immojeune.com/](https://www.immojeune.com/)
      - [https://www.location-etudiant.fr/](https://www.location-etudiant.fr/)
    - There is also a Lokaviz, site managed by CROUS, which includes a listing of student accommodations in private homes: [https://www.lokaviz.fr](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/](https://www.lacartedescolocs.fr/)
    - **Other solutions available on the Campus France site:** [www.campusfrance.org](http://www.campusfrance.org) > Getting organized > Accommodation
  - **If you need a guarantor to secure your lodging**
    Visale is a new and free guarantor system: [www.visale.fr](http://www.visale.fr)
  - **If you want to file an application for APL funds (Aide Personnalisée au Logement, or personalized housing aid),** CAF (Caisse des Allocations Familiales) can check your eligibility. 32 30 00 or [www.caf.fr](http://www.caf.fr)
  - **If you need housing adapted to your special needs,** the CROUS Service Social which will work with your host institution. Some of our institutions have specialized services for disabled students (housing assistance and also transport and tuition).

**Getting around Lille**

- **If you arrive in Lille by air or rail,** you can follow the advice offered by Université de Lille, whatever your exact destination of arrival: [https://international.univ-lille.fr > venir étudier à l'université > préparer son arrivée](https://international.univ-lille.fr/)
  - **For travel in and around the city,** there is a dense public transport network (bus, metro, tram, shuttle) that runs day or night: [https://www.ilevia.fr/fr/](https://www.ilevia.fr/fr/)
  - **There are regional trains for getting around the region:** [www.ter.sncf.com/hauts-de-france](http://www.ter.snfc.com/hauts-de-france) Coaches are also an option for low-cost travel: [https://fr.oibus.com/](https://fr.oibus.com/) or [https://www.flixbus.fr/](https://www.flixbus.fr/)
  - **For ride-sharing,** refer to the collaborative websites:
    - local: [www.covoiturage-libre.fr](http://www.covoiturage-libre.fr)
    - national: [www.blablacar.fr](http://www.blablacar.fr)
  - For more independence, use the V'Lille system, which offers self-service bicycles that are available in more than 260 stations: [https://www.ilevia.fr/fr/](https://www.ilevia.fr/fr/)

**Buddy System**

In Lille, you can receive the support of a welcome student who will welcome you and help you with any administrative procedures:
- please visit Université de Lille’s mobile app, ULiLExplore: [https://ulilexplore.univ-lille.fr](https://ulilexplore.univ-lille.fr)
- as well as the ESN Lille’s Facebook page: [https://www.facebook.com/ESNLillePage](https://www.facebook.com/ESNLillePage) or the Buddy System website: [www.buddy-system.eu](http://www.buddy-system.eu)

**National Services**
- students: [www.etudiant.gouv.fr](http://www.etudiant.gouv.fr)
- doctoral students, researchers: [http://www.eurasexx.fr/fr](http://www.eurasexx.fr/fr)

**In other institutions**

Regardless of your 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](https://www.campusfrance.org) > Students > Documentary resources > Practical information for students and researchers > Reception arrangements in institutions.

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

**Welcome and orientation for researchers and lecturers (international mobility)**

The Euraxess office of Lille Nord de France provides the support you need during your move. Contact: mobilitycentre@cue-inf.fr or by appointment at 03 20 79 87 25.

- **Buddy System**
  - Université de Lille offers a range of housing solutions, as well as a guide to accommodation options that all students will find useful: [https://international.univ-lille.fr](https://international.univ-lille.fr) > Procedures and practical information/

The Maison Internationale is Université de Lille’s single, multi-service reception desk for international students, doctoral students and academics. It offers two types of support:
- the HelpDesk, which provides individual support with all administrative procedures;
- the WelcomeDesk, which promotes the integration of international students and doctoral students by organising cultural visits and social activities.

To find out where to go, please visit: [https://international.univ-lille.fr](https://international.univ-lille.fr) > Maison Internationale/ Procedures and practical information/

To find out more: [https://international.univ-lille.fr/maison-internationale/](https://international.univ-lille.fr/maison-internationale/)

**The CROUS, at your service everywhere**

Do you need any help and/or advice, somewhere to eat or to live, a job - or do you just want to find out all there is to know about student life? Then the CROUS is what you need!

The CROUS (Centre Régional des Études Universitaires et Scolaires - Regional Centre of University and School Services) has branches in all major French universities towns.

It manages university halls of residence and canteens, allows you to meet social workers, and offers cultural activities and job opportunities.
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.

RESIDENCE PERMITS

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 end of validity of your current residence permit, on the following websites: 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=-iGha_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/N1101

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 bank agencies located in Lille.

In France, opening a bank account is a right: www.service-public.fr > Argent > Comptes bancaires > Droit au compte

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.

Please go to the https://etudiant-etranger.ameli.fr website to register, understand your rights and to carry out the requisite procedures.

Learn more: https://www.campusfrance.org > Getting Organized > Health

As a student enrolled at Université de Lille, you can benefit from the institution's on-site 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.

For students at Université de Lille, the Centre de Santé des Étudiants, the student health center offers:
- a unique phone number: 03 20 90 74 05.
- five reception centers in the different schools, open non-stop Monday to Friday, 8:30am to 5pm (excluding holidays).

Learn more: www.univ-lille.fr > Vie des campus > Santé, bien-être > Centre de santé des étudiants

For students enrolled in other institutions in Lille, contact your school's Service de la Vie Etudiante or Services des Relations Internationales to find out if you can use the health center services. Some institutions are in fact bound to this Center by an agreement.

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. 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.

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.

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://ecolesетеe.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

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.

To help you find a job or work experience placement, 2 addresses:
- CRIJ des Hauts-de-France (Centre Régional d’Information Jeunesse) - the regional youth information center has a platform for job and internship offers available for young people: http://www.crij-tdf.fr/
- the Jobaviz website, run by the CROUS, can help you find a student job compatible with your studies: http://www.jobaviz.fr

THINGS TO DO IN LILLE

TAKE UP A SPORT

In your institution, you can obtain special access to the sports activities by contacting the Service des Sports (or the Service de la Vie Étudiante).

At Université de Lille, you can choose any sport from those on offer: www.univ-lille.fr > Vie des campus > Sport

In Lille, choose from the 200 sports facilities set up by the city or the Métropole (metropolitan area):
- https://www.lille.fr > Que faire à Lille > Envis de sport
- https://www.lillemetropole.fr > Votre métropole > Compétences > Promotion du territoire > Sport
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 find out more, contact:
- your school (Service de la Vie Étudiante) for information. If you are enrolled at Université de Lille, check out the section on the website: https://www.univ-lille.fr/ > vie-des-campus/vie-associative-et-engagement-citoyen/vie-associative - consult the national sites: www.animafac.net or www.letudiant.fr

In Lille, the ESN association, which is an organization that welcomes international students, is very active in helping foreign students settle in: http://www.esnilille.fr/satellite/fr

CULTURE AND NIGHTLIFE

Lille offers many ways to cultivate yourself or party. Movie theaters, museums, operas, exhibitions, and festivals are on the program and most of the time, at reduced cost for students.

For more information:
- www.lille.fr > Que faire a Lille/Envie de culture
- https://www.lillemetropole.fr > services > culture

The Service Culture at Université de Lille created the Atout Culture (culture asset) program so that students can benefit from the region’s cultural organizations (discounts, free admissions, artistic gatherings, guided tours): https://culture.univ-lille.fr > atout culture

In most of the other institutions in Lille, you can also contact your school’s Service Culture or Vie étudiante for available activities.

For entertainment or to pick up some culture, in Lille, there are:
- more than 20 movie theaters with multiple screens (student rates, rewards card) including 3 art house theaters: Le Métropole, le Majestic and l’Univers, as well as le Kino-Ciné, part of Université de Lille.
- 10 top museums, reduced rates for students: www.lille.fr > Que faire a Lille/Envie de culture> musées et expositions
- 20 large venues for concerts, theater, dance and opera: www.lille.fr > Que faire a Lille/Envie de culture> théâtres et spectacles
- approximately 40 bookshops including a major institution: The Furet de Nord on the Grand-Place of Lille, one of the largest bookshops in France and Europe. It also buys your used books.
- 12 large libraries and media libraries: http://www.bm-lille.fr/

Lille has been listed as a City of Art and History since 2004.
- The Grand-Place, in the heart of the city, also known as the Place du General de Gaulle.
- Vieux Lille, or old-town a neighborhood that dates back to the 17th century.
- The Palais des Beaux Arts, the second largest French museum after the Musée du Louvre.
- The Hôtel de Ville (Town Hall) and its belfry, listed world heritage sites by UNESCO.
- The house where Charles de Gaulle was born.
- The cathedral of Notre-Dame de la Treille, built in the neo-Gothic style.
- The Piscine, museum of art and industry, in the Art Deco surroundings of a former swimming pool (in Roubaix).
- The LaM, museum of modern art of Lille Métropole (in Villeneuve d’Ascq), for its collections of modern and contemporary art.
- The Villa Cavrois, a masterpiece by the architect Mallet-Stevens (in Croix).
- The IMA, the Institut du Monde Arabe (in Tourcoing).
- the MUba, a dialogue between contemporary art and art from previous centuries (in Villeneuve d’Ascq).
- the Villa Cavrois, a masterpiece by the architect Mallet-Stevens (in Croix).
- The Christmas markets.
- The world-famous Braderie de Lille, the largest flea market in Europe.
- Journées du Patrimoine (heritage days), free visits of cultural venues.
- The Course des Terrils (slag heap run), 5,000 participants scrambling for two days!
- BAL - Bière à Lille, a festival of brewing culture.
- The Séries Mania Festival, the international festival of television series.
- The Festival of Art and Culture in Higher Education (JACES): https://journées-arts-culture-sup.fr > lille
- The Anim Festival, an international event dealing with every kind of animated production.
- The Festival International de la Soupe, a celebratory soup festival, with world music concerts.
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For going out and staying abreast of current events in Lille, read the leading regional daily paper, La Voix du Nord, available in news stands or online: http://www.lavoixdunord.fr/region/lille-et-ses-environs

You can also check out the cultural agenda on the Lille Tourist Office: https://www.lilletourism.com > sortir > tout l’agenda

TOP ATTRACTIONS /

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.