THINGS TO KNOW

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

LILLE HAS BEEN CLASSED 9th BEST CITY IN FRANCE FOR LIFESTYLE AND STUDYING (according to L’Étudiant magazine)

EUROPEAN METROPOLITAN AREA OF LILLE:
1.1 million residents

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

HAUTS-DE-FRANCE REGION, THE AREA OF FRANCE THAT IS RANKED 5th for the number of foreign students (more than 21,000 international students)

Lille: 110,000 students, one of the largest university cities in France

University of Lille
67,000 students including 8,000 international students representing 145 nationalities

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

In Lille, there are numerous solutions for finding lodging: the housing park reserved for students and managed by CROUS, student and private residences, and rooms in private homes. What’s most important is to take care of this as early as possible, before your arrival.

The University of Lille offers a directory of accommodation options, as well as a complete guide (to download) about the available places of residence that can be useful for all students:
- https://international.univ-lille.fr > résidence universitaire > guide
- https://international.univ-lille.fr > venir étudier à l’université > préparer son arrivée > logement à Lille

A FEW TIPS

- For short-term lodging
  - The Stéphane Hessel youth hostel, with its futuristic architecture, near the center, Porte de Valenciennes metro station: https://www.hifrance.org
  - The Gasturna, a youth hostel in the Old Lille: www.gasturna.com
  - The Eko Hotel, an affordable and welcoming solution (with common rooms), Porte de Valenciennes metro station: www.ekkohotels.com/hotels/lille/
- Other solutions on the website of the Lille Visitor Center: https://www.lilletourism.com > dormir

- Long-term housing
  - CROUS (Centre Régional des Œuvres Universitaires et Scolaires) student
    Address: 74 rue de Cambrai, 59 000 Lille. Hours: Monday to Friday, 9am to 12pm and from 1:00pm to 5:00pm. Contact: 03 20 88 66 00 or crous@crous-lille.fr
  - Other solutions from the website of the Lille Visitor Center: https://www.lilletourism.com > dormir
  - Campus France: https://www.campusfrance.org > s’organiser > CVEC
  - Private Housing Platforms
    Most establishments in Lille are members of Studapart, a private housing platform: https://univ-lille.studapart.com/fr

You can consult other specialized sites, for example:
- https://www.adele.org/
- https://www.immojeune.com/
- https://www.location-etudiant.fr/
- https://housinganywhere.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: https://www.campusfrance.org > s’organiser > logement > Getting organised > Accommodation

- 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: 08.10.29.29.29 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).
  At the Université de Lille, the BVDHE service greets special-needs students (housing assistance and also transportation and tuition).
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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.

GETTING AROUND LILLE

- If you arrive in Lille by air or rail, you can follow the advice of the University of Lille, whatever your exact destination of arrival: https://international.univ-lille.fr > venir étudier à l’université > préparer son arrivée
- For journeys in and around the city, there is a dense public transport network (bus, metro, tram, shuttle) that runs day or night: www.transpole.fr/fr/
- There are regional trains for getting around the region: www.ter.sncf.com/hauts-de-france
  Coaches are also an option for low-cost travel: https://fr.ouibus.com/ or https://www.flixbus.fr/
  - For carpooling, refer to the collaborative websites:
    - local: www.covoiturage-libre.fr
    - national: www.blablacar.fr
  - To travel more freely, use the system, which offers self-service bicycles that are available in more than 260 stations: https://www.ilievia.fr > Plan du site > réseau ilievia>V’lille

- National Services
  - Students: www.etudiant.gouv.fr
  - doctoral students, researchers: http://www.euaxess.fr/fr
- Sponsors
  - You can also receive assistance from a mentor who will greet you and assist you with all formalities: www.buddysystem.eu/ or www.esnlille.fr/satellite/fr
- International mobile doctoral students, researchers and teachers
  The Euraxess office of Lille Nord de France provides the support you need during your move: Contact: mobilitycentre@cue-lnf.fr or at +33 (0)3 20 79 87 25.
- Other Higher Learning Institutions
  Depending on the institution, two information services are available: - International Relations Department (welcome and orientation office).
  - the Admissions Department (enrollment and administrative procedures office).
- Internationally mobile doctoral students, researchers and teachers
  The Euraxess office of Lille Nord de France provides the support you need during your move: Contact: mobilitycentre@cue-lnf.fr or at +33 (0)3 20 79 87 25.
- Sponsors
  - You can also receive assistance from a mentor who will greet you and assist you with all formalities:

- National Services
  - Students: www.etudiant.gouv.fr
  - doctoral students, researchers: http://www.euaxess.fr/fr

However, other private and public institutions are not part of this grouping: please contact your institution before leaving your country to find out where you will be received.

- The reception sites
  - If you are coming to the University of Lille, check out the following website to find out where to go: https://international.univ-lille.fr > venir étudier à l’université > préparer son arrivée
  - Other solutions on the website of the Lille Visitor Center: https://www.lilletourism.com > dormir
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  - Students: www.etudiant.gouv.fr
  - doctoral students, researchers: http://www.euaxess.fr/fr
RESIDENCE PERMIT

• Information
  - For students enrolled at the University of Lille, go to the university departments by, firstly, consulting the 4 sites available, according to your course: https://international.univ-lille.fr > venir étudier à l'université > préparer son arrivée > formalités d'entrée et de séjour.

  On each of these sites, someone will be available who you can talk to during the academic year and who will be able to answer your questions and help you with the administrative procedures for obtaining and/or renewing your residence permit.

  - For students enrolled in another establishment in Lille:
    - check out the list of establishments that have an agreement with the Préfecture du Nord allowing students to have a dedicated correspondent in your school so that you don't have to make the trip to the Préfecture:
      - If your school is not registered by the government ("non-conventionné"), contact the International Relations department of your school and read the page devoted to this issue on the Préfecture du Nord website: http://www.nord.gouv.fr > Démarches administratives > Étrangers en France > Étudiants étrangers > Étudiants inscrits dans un établissement conventionné.
      - In the departments of the Préfecture du Nord (Lille) at the resident permit admissions office ("bureau de l'admission au séjour").
        - Address: 12 rue Jean-sans-Peur, 59000 Lille.
        - To make an appointment: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday from 1pm to 4pm and Friday from 1:00pm to 3:30pm.
        - Phone: 03 20 30 59 59.
        - Site: www.etudiant.gouv.fr.
      - Learn more about your rights and obligations: www.service-public.fr > Argent > Comptes bancaires > Droit au compte.

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 128 bank agencies located in Lille.

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: https://www.campusfrance.org > S'organiser > Santé.

As a student enrolled at the University of Lille, you can benefit from the on-site medical services of the establishment.

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 the students of the University of Lille, the Student Health Center offers:
  - a unique phone number: 03 20 90 74 05.
  - five reception centers in the different schools, open from Monday to Friday, from 8:30am to 5pm non-stop (excluding holidays).
  - Learn more: www.univ-lille.fr > Vie des campus > Santé, bien-être > Centre de santé des étudiants.

• For students enrolled in other establishments in Lille, make enquiries at the Student Life or International Relations department of your school to find out if you can benefit from the services of the Health Center: some establishments are in fact bound to this Center by an agreement.

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.

Learn more:
- www.smemo.com/assurances.html
- www.assistance-etudiants.com
- www.assurances-etudiants.com

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://ecolesdelete.campusfrance.org.
- by asking in your institution, at city hall, or in your host city’s Maisons des Associations - community centers.

FINDING A JOB OR AN INTERNSHIP

2 addresses:
- Jobs and internships: 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-hdf.fr/.
- Student jobs: find a student job that’s compatible with your studies on the CROUS: http://www.jobaviz.fr/

PLAYING A SPORT

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

At the University of Lille, you can play 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 > Envie de sport.

GOOD TO KNOW

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.

THINGS TO DO IN LILLE /
**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:
- [contact your school](http://www.animafac.net) (Campus Life Bureau) for information. If you are enrolled at the Université de Lille, check out the section on the website: [https://www.univ-lille.fr](http://www.univ-lille.fr) > vie-des-campus/vie-associative
- consult the national sites: [www.animafac.net](http://www.animafac.net) or [www.letudiant.fr](http://www.letudiant.fr)

In Lille, the ESN association, which is an organization that welcomes international students, is very active in integrating foreign students: [http://www.esnlille.fr/satellite/fr](http://www.esnlille.fr/satellite/fr)

**GAINING CULTURE AND PARTYING**

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

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

**The Culture Department of the University of Lille**

Atout Culture scheme so that students can benefit from the cultural organisations of the region (discounts, free admissions, artistic gatherings, guided tours):
- [https://culture.univ-lille.fr](https://culture.univ-lille.fr) > atout culture

In most of the other establishments of Lille, you can also contact the Culture or Student Life Service of your school to find out the 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 arthouse cinemas: Le Métropole, le Majestic and l’Univers, as well as le Kino-Ciné, part of the University of Lille.
- 12 top museums, reduced rates for students: [www.lille.fr](http://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](http://www.lille.fr) > Que faire a Lille/Envie de culture > théâtres et spectacles
- approx. 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.

For going out and 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-environ](http://www.lavoixdunord.fr/region/lille-et-ses-environ)

You can also check out the cultural agenda of the Lille Visitor Centre: [https://www.lilletourism.com](https://www.lilletourism.com) > sortir > tout l’agenda

**MUST-SEE PLACES /**

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.
- The Vieux Lille, a neighborhood that dates back to the 17th century.
- The Palais des Beaux Arts, one of the leading museums in France in terms of the size of its collection.
- The 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.

Learn (and see) more: [https://www.lilletourism.com](https://www.lilletourism.com) > découvrir

**IMPORTANT ANNUAL EVENTS /**

**FEBRUARY**

- Art Up, the leading fair of contemporary art fair of the region.

**MARCH**

- The Sérés Mania Festival, the international festival of television series.

**APRIL**

- The Festival of Art and Culture in Higher Education (JACES): [https://journées-arts-culture-sup.fr](https://journées-arts-culture-sup.fr) > lille
- The Anim Festival, an international event dealing with every kind of animated production.

**MAY**

- The Pint of Science Festival: [https://pintofscience.fr/](https://pintofscience.fr/)
- The Nuit Européenne des Musées (European night of the museums), an amusing way to visit the museum at night, for free.
- The International Soup Festival, a humoristic and festive event, with world music concerts.
- Fête de la musique: music everywhere in town (free concerts).
- Lille Piano(s) Festival, 50 artists, 30 concerts in 3 days (discounted rates).
- The Latitudes Contemporaines, a contemporary dance festival.

**JUNE**

- The French Student Week, for international and French students from the University of Lille, a way to meet up by joining in friendly festive events: [http://isw.univ-lille.fr](http://isw.univ-lille.fr)

Learn more: [https://www.lille.fr](http://www.lille.fr) > que faire à Lille > les grands événements

**AUGUST**

- The Festival des Nuits Secrètes (festival of secret nights), for discovering “alternative music” at Aulnoye-Aymeries, a town near to Lille (discounted rates).

**SEPTEMBER**

- Student Life Induction Days (JIVÉ) of Lille University.
- 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!

**OCTOBER**

- Nuit des Etudiants du Monde (world student night), a highlight of student life.
- Fête de la Science in the University laboratories.

**NOVEMBER**

- The International Student Week, for international and French students from the University of Lille, a way to meet up by joining in friendly festive events: [http://isw.univ-lille.fr](http://isw.univ-lille.fr)

Learn more: [https://www.lille.fr](http://www.lille.fr) > que faire à Lille > les grands événements

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](https://www.francealumni.com) to take part in discussion groups on various subjects, take advantage of cultural outings, and consult job and internship offers.