Campus France will guide you through your first steps in France and exploring Marseille, your new home.
ARRIVING IN MARSEILLE /

◆ A Welcome Desk for international students

Aix-Marseille Université (AMU) opened an International Student Welcome Desk for foreign students enrolled in the following institutions: Ecole Centrale - Marseille, Kedge Business School, Ecole Nationale Supérieure d’Architecture – Marseille, IEP Aix-en-Provence, Ecole Supérieure d’Art d’Aix-en-Provence and Mines Saint Etienne in Gardanne. The Welcome Desk is open from 30 August to 29 September 2023. Two key moments for the Desk: in-person welcome with partners from 30 August to 13 September, then two weeks of individual appointments at the students’ initiative from 15 to 29 September.

On site, you’ll find the services of the CROUS, the Prefecture, the City of Marseille, and other organizations which will simplify your administrative procedures as concerns:

• visa validation
• residence permits
• housing and transportation
• banking and insurance
• health and welfare
• campus life (culture, leisure, sports, and recreation)

Address: Guichet accueil AMU, Campus Marseille Centre, Espace Pouillon, 3 place Victor Hugo, 13003 Marseille.

Access:
Saint-Charles metro stations (lines 1 and 2).

Hours: Monday to Friday, 9am to 4pm.

Contact: dri-accueil-marseille@univ-amu.fr

Learn more:

• the Student Guide (bilingual French-English), a general guide published by the Aix-Marseille Université: https://www.univ-amu.fr (pages International > venir à AMU)
• Être Étudiant à Marseille, a guide published by the city can be downloaded on the étudiant.Marseille.fr website: http://etudiant.marseille.fr/ (home pages).

◆ Welcome and orientation for researchers and doctoral students

Researchers and doctoral students can visit the Aix-Marseille Université DRI home page: https://dri.univ-amu.fr/ > Enseignants-chercheurs, Doctorants

Aix-Marseille is a member of the Euraxess Network.

Contact: 04 86 09 08 43 or drv-euraxess@univ-amu.fr

◆ Buddy System

You can be assisted by a local student in Marseille!

With the ESN student association (Erasmus Student Network), and the Buddy System where a foreign student is mentored by a French student, you have the advantage of personalized support: https://buddysystem.eu/fr/ or https://marseille.esnfrance.org/ or https://www.facebook.com/ESNMarseille/

◆ Welcome and orientation in other institutions

If you are registered 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 in France:

https://www.campusfrance.org/fr/recherche/categorie/provence-alpes-cote-d-azur-466

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 fulfil exacting criteria in the way they take care of their international students.

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
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, flatsheares...

The main thing is to start preparing for this as early as possible, before leaving your home country.

• Aix-Marseille Université has set up an accommodation service, through its partner platforms Studapart and Amastas, which can help you find accommodation more easily. Many offers are collected and regularly updated: https://www.univ-amu.fr/fr/public/nos-plateformes-partenaires-logements

To find out more, please visit the accommodation section of the AMU website: https://www.univ-amu.fr/fr/public/logement

• Les Journées du Logement Étudiant (student housing days): The Sortie d’Amphi association will help you find student housing in Marseille and will provide you with all the information you need so your school year starts out right: http://www.sortiedamphi.fr > Nos services > Logement > Journées du logement étudiant

• The CRIJ (Centre Régional d’Information Jeunesse), the regional youth information center, for Provence - Alpes - Côte d’Azur publishes free classified ads on its site: https://annonces.infojeunesse-paca.fr/

• The special site created by the city of Marseille, étudiant.marseille.fr lists all the student accommodation options: http://etudiant.marseille.fr/ > Bien vivre ses études > Se loger

A FEW TIPS

◆ Short-term housing:
  • The Marseille Bonneveine youth hostel outside the city center and close to the beach. Address: impasse Docteur Bonfils, 13008 Marseille. Contact: 04 91 17 63 30 Site: http://www.ajmarseille.org/
  • for other types of temporary residences, use the Marseille Tourist Office site’s search engine: http://www.marseille-tourisme.com/ > Préparer votre séjour > Où dormir

◆ Long-term housing
  • Aix-Marseille-Avignon CROUS (Centre Régional des Œuvres Universitaires - Regional Center for University Services) for student housing. Important: it is only possible to obtain a room in a CROUS student hall from the masters level. Bachelor students are not eligible. Address: Marseille, Campus local office Saint-Charles, 3 place Victor Hugo, 13003 Marseille.

GETTING AROUND MARSEILLE

✈️ There are two options for getting to Marseille from Paris:
  - by plane (flight time: 1 hour and 15 minutes). From the Marseille Provence airport take the bus to the Saint-Charles train station (town center).
  - by train (high-speed TGV train: 3 hours and 10 minutes) from Roissy-Charles de Gaulle airport (Terminal 2) or from the Gare de Lyon in the center of Paris: https://www.oui.sncf/

See the special page for information about how to get to the help desk from wherever you arrive in Marseille: https://www.univ-amu.fr/fr/public/mobilite-internationale

The RTM public transportation (metro, tramway, bus) is available for getting around the town and surrounding area: http://www.rtm.fr/

For travelling within the region, take the:
  - Provence - Alpes - Côte d’Azur regional trains: https://www.ter.sncf.com/paca
  - Buses in the Bouches-du-Rhône region: http://www.rtm.fr/cartreize

To travel greater distances, don’t forget the bus for low-cost travel: https://fr.ouibus.com/ or https://www.flixbus.fr/

For ride-sharing, refer to the collaborative websites
  - national website: https://www.blablacar.fr
  - regional website: http://se-deplacer.marseille.fr/ > Alternatives à la voiture en ville > autopartage et Covoiturage

For greater independence, you can rent a bike from Levélo, the Marseille bike-share system (130 stations, 1,000 bikes): http://www.levelo-mpm.fr/
fr/public/nos-plateformes-partenaires-logements), other offers for student housing managed by private companies, are also available.
Try these sites:
- https://www.adèle.org
- https://www.immojeune.com
- 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 Colocos, a national site for shared leases that's free and simple to use: https://www.lacartedescolocos.fr/
- **Other solutions available on the Campus France site:** 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

For more information please visit the accommodation FAQ section of the AMU, in particular for detailed information regarding the supporting documents required and advice on how to find a guarantor: https://www.univ-amu.fr/fr/public/faqlogement

- **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 or www.caf.fr

- **If you need housing adapted to your special needs**
Contact the CROUS Service Social which will take action with your host institution or take a look at the site: http://www.handitoit.org/
Aix-Marseille Université has set up a Handicap Mission which welcomes and supports all students with special needs: https://mission-handicap.univ-amu.fr/

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**FIRST THINGS FIRST /**

**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.
For AMU students, please visit: https://www.univ-amu.fr/fr/public/inscription-ou-reinscription-administrative-inscription-pedagogique

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**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 “mineur 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/#/

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**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 Œuvres Universitaires et Scolaires - Regional Centre of University and School Services) has branches in all major French university towns.
It manages university halls of residence and canteens, allows you to meet social workers, and offers cultural activities and job opportunities.
RESIDENCE PERMITS

• 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 or in one of the bank agencies located in Marseille.
In France, opening a bank account is a right: www.service-public.fr > Argent > Comptes bancaires
Droit au compte (> Finances > Bank Accounts > Right to Open an Account)

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, 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.

In Aix-Marseille Université which has a Service Inter Universitaire de Médecine Préventive et de Promotion de la Santé (SIUMPPS), or inter-university service for preventive medicine and health promotion on 3 sites.

For more information: https://www.univ-amu.fr/ > Vie des Campus > Vie pratique > Service médecine préventive

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.

INSURE YOUR HOME

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.

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

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 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=-iGha_yqN04
FINDING A JOB OR AN INTERNSHIP

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.

• the Centre Régional d’Information Jeunesse Provence - Alpes - Côte d’Azur publishes free classified ads online: https://annonces.infojeunesse-paca.fr/
• the city website, etudiant.marseille.fr also provides information about finding a job: http://etudiant.marseille.fr > bien-vivre-ses-etudes > trouver-un-job
• 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 MARSEILLE /

TAKE UP A SPORT

In your institution, contact the Service des Sports for free access to sports facilities.

At Aix-Marseille Université, the SUAPS organizes activities for students: https://www.univ-amu.fr/ > Vie des Campus > Vie sportive > Le Sport à l’Université

In Marseille, you can choose from among the 1000 sports and recreational facilities made available by the city: http://sports-loisirs.marseille.fr/

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.

Learn more:
For more information, ask at the student life department (Service de la vie étudiante) or at Aix-Marseille Université which publishes:
- a list of associations: https://vie-etudiante.univ-amu.fr/ > Vie associative > Consultez la liste des associations étudiantes AMU - a list of recommended addresses: http://etudiant.marseille.fr/ > Bien vivre ses études > Les adresses indispensables
- consult the national sites: www.animafac.net or www.letudiant.fr

The City of Marseille student portal lists a range of associations which can also be found at the Maison de l’Étudiant:
More information: http://etudiant.marseille.fr > Bien vivre ses études > Maison de l’étudiant
- https://www.facebook.com/LaMDEmarseille/

The Citadingue guide, is a free guide which presents the best addresses in Marseille. It’s published by a Kedge Business School student association, and they also list some of their best recommendations on Facebook.

In Marseille, an association for students Escale Marseille Etudiants (EME) provides assistance if you have any problems: https://www.emetudiants.org/

CULTURE AND NIGHTLIFE

Marseille offers many ways to cultivate yourself or party: http://culture.marseille.fr/

At Aix-Marseille Université, the Service Culture works with numerous partners and develops an artistic offer. With the AMU student card, you can take advantage of Pact’Amu, which offers reduced rates for shows, and free admission for museums: https://www.univ-amu.fr/ > Vie des Campus > Vie culturelle > Pacte’AMU

For entertainment or to pick up some culture, you can choose from:
- 10 multiplex movie theaters (student discounts, rewards cards), including several arthouse theaters such as the Gyptis, Pathé Madeleine and Variétés.
- 20 major museums, including two scientific museums: The Marseille observatory for astronomy fans and the natural history museum with one of the largest collections in France: http://culture.marseille.fr/ > Musées et patrimoine > Les Musées
- around fifty venues including La Criée theatre, the Centre Dramatique National, the Opéra de Marseille, inaugurated in 1787, and the Dôme, one of the largest venues in the south of France: http://culture.marseille.fr/ > Arts vivants > Arts vivants: présentation
- around fifty bookshops, including the famous Maupetit, Marseille’s oldest, created in 1929 and Gibert for buying and selling second-hand books.
- a local network of 8 large public libraries including the large Alcazar library: https://www.bmvr.marseille.fr/

In Marseille, for going out you can read:
- La Provence, the regional daily: https://www.laprovence.com/
- the Sortir à Marseille municipal site:
For students in Marseille, the site Sortie d’amphi lists all the necessary information and good deals: https://www.sortieramarseille.fr/

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TOP ATTRACTIONS /

• The Vieux-Port, a legendary site in the heart of Marseille
• The MUCEM (Musée des Civilisations de l’Europe et de la Méditerranée), on the Old Port, a blend of architecture and Mediterranean collections.
• The Notre-Dame de la Garde basilica, also known as "Bonne mère", which means good mother, by the local Marseille population.
• The Canebière, the city’s famous large shopping avenue.
• The Vieille-Charité, former hospice built in the 17th century, now a museum of the arts of Africa, Oceania and the Americas.
• The radiant Cité, a monument designed by architect Le Corbusier in 1950.

The Vélodrome stadium, one of France’s largest stadiums for fans of the Marseille football team L’Olympique!
• The Borély park for lovely shaded walks, a lake and botanical garden.
• The Calanques range a national park stretching along the Mediterranean Sea.

For more information, consult the Marseille Tourist Office website: http://www.marseille-tourisme.com/

IMPORTANT ANNUAL EVENTS /

MARCH:
• Journée de l’étudiant, a special student event with free activities and entertainment offered by the City of Marseille: http://etudiant.marseille.fr/ > Marseille ville étudiante

APRIL:
• Des Calanques et des Bulles - a free comic and manga festival open to all.

MAY:
• Pint of Science, a European initiative for learning about research in atypical venues: https://pintofscience.fr/events/marseille
• The Nuit Européenne des Musées (European Museum Night), an occasion to visit museums differently (and for free).

JUNE:
• Fête de la Musique: Music everywhere in town (free concerts).
• Marsatac, a contemporary music festival and major electronic music event for France and Europe (student discounts).
• Sosh Freestyle Cup - a sports and music festival: international board-sports competition with electro and house music (free).

JULY:
• The Delta festival - a student event on the Marseille beaches with entertainment and activities and a contemporary music programme: https://www.delta-festival.com/
• The Festival de Marseille - a blend of genres and cultures: dance, theater, concerts, installations, performances, film, conferences and parties (student discounts).

SEPTEMBER:
• The City of Marseille greets over 10,000 students for a one-week, free event: http://etudiant.marseille.fr/ > Marseille ville étudiante
• Les Journées du Patrimoine (heritage days), free visits of cultural venues.

OCTOBER:
• Nuit des Etudiants du Monde - Students of the World Night, a festive evening with the Marseille student associations.
• Festiv’Amu, two days of sports and cultural activities for the entire Aix-Marseille Université community: http://www.festiv-amu.fr/
• Fête de la science in the University laboratories.

NOVEMBER:
• Les Festives - an eclectic women’s live performance festival.

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!

Don’t forget to join 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

Aix-Marseille-Provence Metropolitan area: 1,900,000 residents
2nd largest city in France

City of Marseille: 865,000 residents
37,000 students

MARSEILLE, 2nd LARGEST CITY IN FRANCE, capital of the Provence-Alpes-Côte d’Azur region (PACA)

MARSEILLE, THE CAPITAL OF THE BOUCHES-DU-RHÔNE DEPARTMENT, one of the 6 departments in the PACA region

PACA REGION, 6th French region in terms of hosting foreign students (23,000 international students)

MARSEILLE RANKED 19th (out of 46) AMONG FRENCH UNIVERSITY TOWNS AS A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE AND STUDY (awarded by L’Étudiant magazine)

Aix-Marseille Université : 1st francophone university in the world
80,000 students including 11,000 international students
3,400 doctoral students

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/provence-alpes-cote-d-azur-466