POITIERS, CAPITAL OF THE VIENNE DEPARTMENT and one of the 12 departments in the Nouvelle Aquitaine region

1431: The Université de Poitiers was created. The university belongs to the Groupe de Coïmbra, a network of 40 of the oldest universities in Europe.

Greater Poitiers: 191,000 residents
City of Poitiers: 90,000 residents
cheapest CITY FOR STUDENTS in France according to a student association.

Université de Poitiers: 27,000 students
including 4,200 international students from 122 different countries
1,000 PhD students
400 international PhD students.
It is one of the highest international student populations in France!

POITIERS HAS BEEN RANKED 12th BEST CITY IN FRANCE (out of 44)
FOR LIFESTYLE AND STUDYING (according to L’Étudiant magazine)

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ARRIVING IN POITIERS / The One-Stop Desk for international students

On arrival, go to the international students desk at the Université de Poitiers.

The Communauté Urbaine de Grand Poitiers, Université de Poitiers, CROUS and other associations and cultural services are available to welcome you and assist you with:

• residence permits,
• the application for public housing funding to the Caisse d'Allocations Familiales (CAF)
• sport, culture, health,
• special activities for international students.

Researchers and PhD students can go to the help desk at the Euraxess office at the Université de Poitiers.

Address: Université de Poitiers, Direction des relations Internationales, Guichet accueil des étudiants internationaux.
Hôtel Pinet (bâtiment ES-E7), 15 rue de l'Hôtel Dieu, 86000 Poitiers.
Access: bus line no. 1, 3, 4, 7, 8 and 9: Voie Malraux stop.
Hours: Monday to Friday, 9am to 12:30pm and from 2:00pm to 5:00pm.
Contact for international students up to masters level: +33 (0)5 49 45 30 87 or accueil.international@univ-poitiers.fr
Contact for international researchers and PhD students: 05 49 45 42 64 or ri@univ-poitiers.fr

For more information:
- download the Welcome Guide for international students (French/English): https://www.univ-poitiers.fr > s‘ouvrir à l'international > venir à l'université de Poitiers > guide
- see the site: https://www.univ-poitiers.fr > s‘ouvrir à l'international > venir à l'université de Poitiers

Housing in Poitiers /

In Poitiers, there are numerous solutions for finding lodging: the housing park reserved for students and managed by 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 CRIJ (Centre Régional d’Information Jeunesse) Poitou-Charentes has a local site, Jeune à Poitiers:
- a very comprehensive housing guide: https://www.jeunepoitiers.fr > me loger
  - classified ads: http://logements.pourlesjeunes.com/ > se loger à Poitiers

A FEW TIPS
- For short-term lodging
  - The Auberge de Jeunesse de Poitiers, a youth hostel in a park.
  - Address: 1 allée Roger Tagaut, 86000 Poitiers. Contact: 05 49 30 09 70 or poitiers@fuaj.org
  - Site: http://www.fuaj.org
  - For inexpensive hotels: close to the station and city center, see:
  - the Université de Poitiers site: https://www.univ-poitiers.fr
  - the multilingual site of the Poitiers Visitor Center lists all the possible housing solutions: http://www.ot-poitiers.fr/

- Long-term housing
  - The Lorraine CROUS (Centre Régional des Œuvres Universitaires - Regional Center for University Services) for student housing.
  - Address: 13 rue Théodore Lefèvre (bâtiment A7), 86000 Poitiers.
  - Hours: Monday to Thursday, 10am to 12:30pm and 1:30pm to 4:30pm, and Fridays, 10am to 12:30pm.
  - Contact: 05 35 37 17 05
  - Site: http://www.crous-poitiers.fr/
  - On campus, the CROUS is also responsible for all low-cost food services (university restaurant, cafeterias, food-trucks, etc.).

- Private Housing Platforms:
  - Other offers for student lodging, managed by private organisms, are also available in Poitiers:
  - For example, visit:
    - https://www.adele.org
    - https://www.immojeune.com/
    - https://housinganywhere.com/FR/
    - https://www.studapart.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: 08.10.29.29.29 or www.caf.fr

Getting around Poitiers

Getting to Poitiers from:
- Roissy-Charles-de-Gaulle airport, take a direct TGV Atlantique high-speed train to Poitiers (2hr30mins).
- Orly airport, take the shuttle to Montparnasse station in Paris then a direct TGV high-speed train to Poitiers city center (1hr30mins).
- Bordeaux airport, take the shuttle to the Saint-Jean station in Bordeaux then a direct TGV high-speed train to Poitiers.
- Paris take a TGV high-speed train at Montparnasse station: https://www.cui.sncf

- The Vitalis public bus service is available for getting around the town and surrounding area: https://www.vitalis-poitiers.fr/
  - There are regional trains for getting around the Nouvelle-Aquitaine region: https://www.ter.sncf.com/nouvelle-aquitaine
  - Don't forget the bus for low-cost travelling: https://fr.ouibus.com/
  - https://www.flixbus.fr/

- For car-pooling, refer to the collaborative websites, for example: https://www.blablacar.fr

- For greater independence, rent a bike with Cap sur le vélo, the bicycle rental service for Grand Poitiers: https://www.grandpoitiers.fr > déplacements > vélos
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 Poitiers, a welcoming and advice service is provided for students with a disability: http://www.univ-poitiers.fr > Trouver une formation> Se faire conseiller> Etudier en situation de handicap
Contact: sdsd.handicap@univ-poitiers.fr

ENROLLMENT IN YOUR INSTITUTION

• CVEC
It is mandatory that you download proof of payment of the Contribution Vie Étudiante et de Campus (CVEC) – the student and campus life contribution fee before you can enrol in your institution.
- Connect to 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.

RESIDENCE PERMIT

• Information
At the welcome desk at Université de Poitiers. The Direction des Relations Internationales can help you with Préfecture procedures.
Address: Guichet accueil des étudiants internationaux, Hôtel Pinet (bâtiment E5-E7), 15 rue de l'Hôtel Dieu, 86000 Poitiers.
Take note: appointments for renewing student residence permits at the Maison des Étudiants, Université de Poitiers, 1 rue Neuve Fechine Borges, 86000 Poitiers between September and December.
Outside this period, appointments at the préfecture.

At the Préfecture de la Vienne (Poitiers).
Address: place Aristide Briand, 86021 Poitiers. Contact: 05 49 55 70 00.
Important page to read: http://www.vienne.gouv.fr/Outils/Horaires-et-coordonnees
• 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.

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.
To learn more, consult notably:
http://jobs.pourlesjeunes.com
http://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://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 AN INTERNSHIP
2 addresses:
• Jobs and internships: the CRIJ de Nouvelle Aquitaine (Centre Régional d'Information Jeunesse) has a platform for finding jobs and internships: http://jobs.pourlesjeunes.com/
• Student jobs: find a student job that’s compatible with your studies on the CROUS Jobaviz site: http://www.jobaviz.fr/

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 80 bank agencies located in Poitiers.
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)

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

LEARNING FRENCH

PLAYING A SPORT
• Your school or university provides special access to sporting activities. Contact your institution’s Sports department.
At Université de Poitiers, the Service universitaire des activités physiques et sportives proposes many free sports and fitness activities:
http://suaps.univ-poitiers.fr/
• At Poitiers, the municipal services of the Communauté Urbaine provides a range of facilities: https://www.grandpoitiers.fr/ > sports > le guide pratique du sport

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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.

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.
To learn more, consult notably:
http://www.assurances-etudiants.com
www.service-public.fr > Etranger > Titre de séjour et document de circulation

• 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.
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GAINING CULTURE AND PARTYING

Poitiers offers many ways to cultivate yourself or party. Theaters, museums, movie theaters, exhibitions, and festivals are on the program and most of the time, at reduced cost for students:

http://www.ot-poitiers.fr/

At Poitiers, the free Carte Culture pass provides special discounts for students aged 16 to 26 ans:
http://www.carteculture.org/

Also see the guide of free activities provided by the cultural service of Université de Poitiers:
www.letudiant.fr

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Poitiers, Roman capital has been labelled for its art and history, Ville d'art et d'histoire, since 1985.

• The panorma des Dunes, accessible by bus or on foot for the amazing view over the historical city center.
• The Salle des Pas-Perdus in the former palace of the Counts of Poitiers and Dukes of Aquitaine, one of the most remarkable architectural works.
• Notre-Dame-la-Grande church: a beautiful example of Roman art.
• Saint-Hilaire-le-Grand church: listed by UNESCO world heritage on the Way of Saint James.
• The Grand'Rue, a historical street lined with half-timbered houses and mansions.
• Musée Sainte-Croix, a vast concrete and glass building with one of the largest collections of sculptures by Camille Claudel.
• Bloisac park: a green lung for the city and one of France's most beautiful parks.
• The Futuroscope, a fun technological and scientific theme park just 10 km from Poitiers. Take the no.1 Vitalis bus line.

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