VALENCIENNES, 10th LARGEST CITY IN THE HAUTS-DE-FRANCE REGION AND 6th LARGEST CITY IN THE NORD DEPARTMENT.

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

WELCOME TO VALENCIENNES
YOUR ARRIVAL IN VALENCIENNES /

A Maison des Services aux Etudiants for Université Polytechnique Hauts-de-France students

In Valenciennes, the new Université Polytechnique Hauts-de-France was created through the merger of several schools. This new institution is expanding its outreach to attract international students. The Maison des Services aux Etudiants (MSE) is there to greet and assist you on your arrival.

Address: Service Commun pour les Etudes et la Vie Etudiante (SCEVE) at the entrance to the Mont-Houy campus in Aulnoy-lez-Valenciennes, 59300 Valenciennes.

See the map: http://www.uphf.fr > Université > Campus, sites et territoires > Nos campus

Hours: Monday to Friday, 8:30am to 11:30am and 1:30pm to 4:30pm.

Access: by tram, the main station Campus Mont-Houy.

Contact: 03 27 51 12 34 (switchboard).

Learn more:
- see the pages dedicated to international students on the university website: https://www.uphf.fr/inscription-administrative-vous-etes-etranger
- see the Student U-Guide: https://www.uphf.fr > retrouvez vos U-Guides

Welcome and orientation in other institutions

Depending on the institution, two information services are available: the Service des Relations Internationales (international relations) and the Service de la Scolarité (admissions).

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 > 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.

At Université Polytechnique Hauts-de-France, the university SCEVE (Service Commun pour les Etudes et la Vie Etudiante) and its Bureau de la Vie Etudiante – student services - will assist you with your first steps.

Address: Maison des Services à l’Etudiant, 1st floor, Campus Mont-Houy, Aulnoy-lez-Valenciennes.

Hours: Monday to Friday, 9am to 12pm and 2pm to 5pm

For more information: https://www.uphf.fr > campus > accueil des étudiants

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

HOUSING IN VALENCIENNES /

There are numerous solutions for housing in Valenciennes: Student-only accommodations managed by CROUS, student housing and private residences, and rooms in private homes. Most important is to take care of this as early as possible and before your arrival.

Learn more:
- check the Logement page of the Université Polytechnique Hauts-de-France website: https://www.uphf.fr/campus-logement
- download the Housing Guide published by the Centre Régional d’Information Jeunesse (CRIJ) des Hauts-de-France, the regional youth information center:
  http://www.crij-hdf.fr > nos publications > guide du logement

Welcome and orientation for researchers and doctoral students

Université Polytechnique Hauts-de-France welcomes international researchers and doctoral students every year:

Contact: recherche@uphf.fr

Site: https://www.uphf.fr/recherche

The Doc’Up association works with doctoral students when they arrive and over the course of their stay in Valenciennes. You’ll find them on social media: Doc’Up UPHF.

Buddy System

You can be assisted by a local student in Valenciennes!

The ESN (Erasmus Student Network) organizes the Buddy System with students from Valenciennes.

Learn more:
- https://buddysystem.eu/fr/
- https://www.facebook.com/esnvalenciennes/

In Valenciennes, the new Université Polytechnique Hauts-de-France was created through the merger of several schools. This new institution is expanding its outreach to attract international students. The Maison des Services aux Etudiants (MSE) is there to greet and assist you on your arrival.

Address: Service Commun pour les Etudes et la Vie Etudiante (SCEVE) at the entrance to the Mont-Houy campus in Aulnoy-lez-Valenciennes, 59300 Valenciennes.

See the map: http://www.uphf.fr > Université > Campus, sites et territoires > Nos campus

Hours: Monday to Friday, 8:30am to 11:30am and 1:30pm to 4:30pm.

Access: by tram, the main station Campus Mont-Houy.

Contact: 03 27 51 12 34 (switchboard).

Learn more:
- see the pages dedicated to international students on the university website: https://www.uphf.fr/inscription-administrative-vous-etes-etranger
- see the Student U-Guide: https://www.uphf.fr > retrouvez vos U-Guides

Welcome and orientation in other institutions

Depending on the institution, two information services are available: the Service des Relations Internationales (international relations) and the Service de la Scolarité (admissions).

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 > 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.

At Université Polytechnique Hauts-de-France, the university SCEVE (Service Commun pour les Etudes et la Vie Etudiante) and its Bureau de la Vie Etudiante – student services - will assist you with your first steps.

Address: Maison des Services à l’Etudiant, 1st floor, Campus Mont-Houy, Aulnoy-lez-Valenciennes.

Hours: Monday to Friday, 9am to 12pm and 2pm to 5pm

For more information: https://www.uphf.fr > campus > accueil des étudiants

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

HOUSING IN VALENCIENNES /

There are numerous solutions for housing in Valenciennes: Student-only accommodations managed by CROUS, student housing and private residences, and rooms in private homes. Most important is to take care of this as early as possible and before your arrival.

Learn more:
- check the Logement page of the Université Polytechnique Hauts-de-France website: https://www.uphf.fr/campus-logement
- download the Housing Guide published by the Centre Régional d’Information Jeunesse (CRIJ) des Hauts-de-France, the regional youth information center:
  http://www.crij-hdf.fr > nos publications > guide du logement

Welcome and orientation for researchers and doctoral students

Université Polytechnique Hauts-de-France welcomes international researchers and doctoral students every year:

Contact: recherche@uphf.fr

Site: https://www.uphf.fr/recherche

The Doc’Up association works with doctoral students when they arrive and over the course of their stay in Valenciennes. You’ll find them on social media: Doc’Up UPHF.

Buddy System

You can be assisted by a local student in Valenciennes!

The ESN (Erasmus Student Network) organizes the Buddy System with students from Valenciennes.

Learn more:
- https://buddysystem.eu/fr/
- https://www.facebook.com/esnvalenciennes/
- The Point Information Jeunesse (PIJ), the youth information desk in Valenciennes can advise and help you in your search.

Address: Espace jeunesse famille, 12 rue Louis-Cellier, 59300 Valenciennes
Contact: 03 27 22 43 50 or pij@ville-valenciennes.fr
Hours: Monday to Friday, 8:30am to 6pm.

A FEW TIPS

◆ Short-term housing:
There is no youth hostel in Valenciennes. Some hotels propose accommodations at a reasonable price for a few nights. See the Valenciennes Tourist Office website: https://www.tourismevalenciennes.fr > sejourner

◆ Long-term housing
- Student housing run by the CROUS (Centre Régional des Œuvres Universitaires) in Lille Nord - Pas-de-Calais, which includes Valenciennes. Contacts:
  - Phone: 02 30 06 02 49 from 9am to 5pm.
  - email: service.international@crous-lille.fr
You can also find the contact information for the four student CROUS residences in Valenciennes on the Université Polytechnique Hauts-de-France website: http://www.uphf.fr > campus > logement
CROUS Lille Nord – Pas-de-Calais website: https://www.crous-lille.fr
The website Trouver un logement: https://trouverunlogement.lescrous.fr/

On campus, the CROUS is also responsible for all low-cost food services (university restaurant, cafeterias, food-trucks, etc.).
- Private Housing Platforms
Université Polytechnique Hauts-de-France has put in place a housing service which uses the Studapart platform to help you find accommodation: https://uphf.studapart.com/fr/
Other offers for student lodging, managed by private organizations, are also available in Valenciennes: https://www.adele.org
https://www.immojeune.com
https://www.location-etudiant.fr
https://housinganywhere.com
- There is also Lokaviz, a site managed by CROUS, 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 > Getting Organized > Accommodation

◆ If you need a guarantor to secure your lodging
Visale provides a free service for students who need a co-signer (guarantor) to secure housing: 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: 08.10.29.29.29 or www.caf.fr

◆ For accommodations with disabled access,
Contact the CROUS Service Social which will take action with the University.
Université Polytechnique Hauts-de-France has a Relais Handicap service to assist students with special needs.
Learn more: https://www.uphf.fr > campus > mission handicap

GETTING AROUND VALENCIENNES

✈ Valenciennes is located:
- 2 hours from Paris - Charles de Gaulle airport by TGV high-speed train ;
- 30 minutes from Lille airport by car or 1 hour by train(https://www.oui.sncf/).

If you arrive by train, take a look at the following website for directions to get to the Université Polytechnique campus: https://www.uphf.fr > campus > transport

For travelling in town and the surrounding area, use the Transville public transportation network (bus and tramway): https://www.transvilles.com/

A new night bus is now available for your nocturnal outings.

There are regional trains for getting around the region: https://www.ter.sncf.com/hauts-de-france
Don’t forget the bus for low-cost travelling: https://fr.ouibus.com/ or https://www.flixbus.fr/

For ride-sharing, refer to the collaborative websites:
- regional website
  https://www.passpasscovoiturage.fr/
- national website: https://www.blablacar.fr
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 PERMIT (TITRE DE SÉJOUR)

- Information
  • at Université Polytechnique Hauts-de-France where the Bureau de la Vie Etudiante – student services - can give you information on the necessary procedures in conjunction with the Sous-Préfecture.
  Address: Maison des Services aux Etudiants (MSE), ground floor, Campus Mont-Houy, 59300 Valenciennes,
  Hours: 8:30am to 11:30am and 1:30pm to 4:30pm except Wednesdays and Friday afternoons.
  Contact: 03 27 51 12 34 (switchboard)
  Site to visit: https://www.uphf.fr > formation > scolarité et vie de l’étudiant > BVE > demande ou renouvellement de titre de séjour

  • In your institution, at the Service des Relations Internationales.

  • At the Valenciennes Sous-Préfecture.
  Address: Service Admission au séjour, 20 rue Capron, 59300 Valenciennes.
  Contact: 03 27 14 59 59 (switchboard) and to make an appointment: sp-sejour-valenciennes@nord.gouv.fr
  Consult the website before taking any steps: http://www.nord.gouv.fr > démarches administratives > étudiants étrangers

  • 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 or a student with a “concours” (tests) visa or a "mineur scolarisé" (enrolled minor) visa or a visa with the indication "carte à solliciter dans les deux mois" (residence permit to be requested within 2 months of entry): 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 expiration date.

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 40 bank agencies located in Valenciennes.

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

HEALTHCARE

In France, receiving medical treatment is practically free but you must be insured. Accordingly, signing up for medical insurance is mandatory.
Learn more:

Login to the https://etudiant-etranger.ameli.fr
Site to register, to understand your eligibility and benefits, and to take the necessary steps

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.
This is the case for Université Polytechnique Hauts-de-France which has a health and prevention service: Service Universitaire de Médecine Préventive et de Promotion de la Santé (SUMPPS).
Address: Maison des Services à l’Étudiant, Campus Mont-Houy.
Hours: Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm.
Contact (medical secretary): 03 27 51 10 45.
Emergencies: 03 27 51 10 51.
Site: https://www.uphf.fr > campus > santé-social

ADDITIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE
You can also sign up for top-up insurance which will cover all health expenses not covered by the free and compulsory health insurance. Take note: The plans and coverage levels differ from one company to another. To choose a top-up insurance policy which meets your needs and your budget, you can compare student health insurance plans on the Internet.

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://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
3 addresses:
- The Centre Régional d’Information Jeunesse (CRIJ) for Hauts-de-France, the youth information service, provides a job and internship platform: http://www.crij-hdf.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
- Students enrolled at Université Polytechnique Hauts-de-France can consult the Bureau d’Aide à l’Insertion Professionnelle (BAIP) for orientation and advice: stage-emploi@uphf.fr. Check out the UPH PRO’fil app too: https://profil.univ-valenciennes.fr/
THINGS TO DO IN VALENCIENNES /

TAKE UP A SPORT

• You also have access to free sports activities in your school or university. Ask the Service des sports of your school for more information or check the Université Polytechnique Hauts-de-France website which offers about 30 activities: https://www.uphf.fr > campus > culture-sport-loisirs > guide des activités sportives

• The city of Valenciennes also offers many sports activities: https://www.valenciennes.fr > découvrir la ville > ses loisirs sportifs

The city has a brand-new pool complex, the Nungesser Center with an Olympic basin, fitness room, wellness area and above all a diving pool with a depth of 20 meters!

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:
  - ask for information at in your institution’s Service de la vie étudiante or see the club and association section on the Université Polytechnique Hauts-de-France website: https://www.uphf.fr > vie associative et engagement de l’étudiant
  - consult the national sites: www.animafac.net or www.letudiant.fr

• Valenciennes has an ESN office (Erasmus Student Network) for international students: https://www.facebook.com/esnvalenciennes/

GAINING CULTURE AND PARTYING

• Valenciennes offers many ways to cultivate yourself or party: movie theaters, concerts, theaters, operas, museums, exhibitions, and festivals are on the program and most of the time, at reduced cost for students: https://www.valenciennes.fr > découvrir la ville > son patrimoine, sa culture

• You can also download the guide des activités culturelles, the cultural activity guide for information on the cultural, and often free, activities organized by Université Polytechnique Hauts-de-France: https://www.uphf.fr > campus > culture – sport-loisirs > guide des activités culturelles

• In Valenciennes, for entertainment or to pick up some culture, you can choose from:
  - 1 large multiplex theater (student discount).
  - 1 fine arts museum (student discount): https://valenciennesmusee.valenciennes.fr/
  - 4 performance centers including Le Phénix, an important national theater.
  - 5 large bookshops, including Le Furet du Nord, a renown chain of bookshops based in the Hauts-de-France region.
  - 1 large multimedia library, the Simone Veil library, in a listed historical building and the Université Polytechnique Hauts-de-France libraries.
  - For more information, see the city of Valenciennes website: https://www.valenciennes.fr/

• For information on going out or for staying abreast of events, check out La Voix du Nord, the major regional daily available in newstands or on line (free on the Université Polytechnique Hauts-de-France internet service): http://www.lavoixdunord.fr

• You can also check out the cultural agenda of the Valenciennes Tourist Office: https://www.tourismevalenciennes.fr > agenda

TOP ATTRACTIONS /

• The fine arts museum with collections by the sculptor Carpeaux and the painter Watteau, both native to Valenciennes (student discount).
• The Square Watteau with a fountain topped by a sculpture by Carpeaux representing Watteau!
• Place d’Armes and the town hall.
• The Anzin theater with its Art deco facade.
• The Basilique Notre-Dame du Saint-Cordon - an example of northern France Gothic Revival architecture.
• L’H du Siège - an original artistic venue (admission free).
• The Valigloo ice skating rink with futuristic architecture.
• The Etang du Vignoble - a lagoon with a water sports center close to the city center.
• The Parc de la Rhônelle - a large beautifully arranged English garden.
• Hainaut stadium for League 2 matches
• Former Hainaut hospital, a historic monument of the 18th century which was renovated as a hotel.

Learn (and see) more
See the Valenciennes Tourist Office website: https://www.tourismevalenciennes.fr/
MARCH
• Festival Nord de Rire - a comedy festival with local Hauts-de-France talent (student discount).
• Festival 2 Cinéma de Valenciennes, a movie festival with both fiction and documentaries.

APRIL
• Les Foulées Valenciennes - a race through the city which attracts 3,500 runners.

MARCH
• Festival2 Valenciennes - a fiction and documentary film festival.

MAY
• The Nuit Européenne des Musées (European Museum Night): The fine arts museum opens with entertainment and tours (admission free).
• Festival Embarquement Immédiat - Baroque music festival and entertainment around the Valenciennes area.

JUNE
• Fête de la Musique: Music everywhere in town (free concerts).

JULY - AUGUST
• Traditional and free concerts on July 14.
• Nos Quartiers d’Été - a summer festival with free concerts, activities and shows.

SEPTEMBER
• Journées du Patrimoine (heritage days), free visits of cultural sites.
• Valenciennes Vélotour, to discover the city in a novel way and enter exceptional sites by bike!

OCTOBER
• La J Day E - a major one-day event for students at Université Polytechnique Hauts-de-France.
• La Nuit des Etudiants du Monde (The International Student Night) organized by the university and ESN association.
• Fête de la science in the University laboratories.
• Festival Scènes Sonores with contemporary music concerts (student discount).
• Valenciennes Urban Trail, a 10-kilometer tour which takes you from the Place d’Armes to the city’s emblematic public venues.

NOVEMBER
• Salon de la Bande Dessinée - comic book festival with activities and exhibitions (student discount).

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. Take part in discussion groups on various subjects, take advantage of cultural outings, and consult job and internship offers.

& SHARE PARTICIPATE
Valenciennes Metropolitan area: 195,000 residents

City of Valenciennes:
43,000 residents
15,000 students

Université Polytechnique des Hauts-de-France:
11,000 students including
1,150 international students, 7 research laboratories

VALENCIENNES, 10th LARGEST CITY IN THE HAUTS-DE-FRANCE REGION AND 6th LARGEST CITY IN THE NORD DEPARTMENT.

HAUTS-DE-FRANCE REGION, 5th FRENCH REGION
in terms of hosting foreign students (21,500 international students)

VALENCIENNES, RANKED AMONG FRENCH UNIVERSITY TOWNS AS A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE AND STUDY (awarded by L’Étudiant magazine)

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