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-etudiant-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
- 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 > sejouer

◆ 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 organisms, 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)

GOOD TO KNOW
• If you have arrived in France with a VLS-TS long-term student visa: you must validate it online upon your arrival and imperatively within the first three months of your stay (in France) on the ANEF (Administration numérique pour les étrangers en France) website: https://administration-etrangers-en-france.interieur.gouv.fr
• If you are an Algerian national or a student with a “Concours” (tests) visa» or a visa with the indication “Carte à solliciter dans les deux mois” (Residency permit is to be requested within 2 months of entry): your residency permit application has to be made at the Prefecture.
• If you hold a “mineur scolarisé” (enrolled minor) visa and you attained the age of majority, you have to request for a “Titre de séjour” online on the ANEF website or at the prefecture where you live within 2 months following your majority.

Take note : To renew your student residency permit “Titre de séjour” (VLS-TS), your request must be done during the 3rd month before the expiration date of your current “Titre de séjour” (permit) on the website: https://administration-etrangers-en-france.interieur.gouv.fr
This tutorial will help you:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j_suMJ3fliw&list=PLpm2evF1qaJe_oq0a-LMKujiAihwATVEy&index=16

• To find out more about rights and obligations: The reception services of your establishment can guide you in the event of difficulties.
www.service-public.fr > Etranger > Titre de séjour et document de circulation (Foreigners > Resident Card and Travel Document)

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:
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](https://www.uphf.fr) 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.

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**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.

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**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](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/](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](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/](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 Éuropéenne 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’Eté - 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!
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)

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

CAMPUS FRANCE
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