

CAMPUS FRANCE KENYA

PRE-DEPARTURE – SUMMER 2025



CONGRATULATIONS, YOU'RE GOING TO STUDY IN FRANCE !



SUMMARY

- PLANE, VISA PROCEDURE AND RESIDENCE PERMIT
- ACCOMMODATION
- CVEC AND REGISTRATION AT THE UNIVERSITY
- HEALTH
- WELCOMING FACILITIES
- BUDGET
- DAILY LIFE IN FRANCE
- AFTER YOUR STUDIES
- Q&A

[Checklist - prepare your arrival in France](#)

PLANE, VISA PROCEDURE AND RESIDENCE PERMIT



Fotolia @Unclesam

TAKING THE PLANE TO FRANCE

Taking a plane for the first time might be challenging, as there are many things to know and to do. This guide should help you to prepare yourself in advance and to understand what is waiting for you.

To help you arrive to your accommodation safely, **we created a guide** on how to take a plane to France for the first time. It also gives informations on how to take a train in France.

**YOU CAN FIND AND DOWNLOAD THIS GUIDE ON OUR
WEBSITE, AT THE PAGE READY TO GO → PREPARING
YOUR DEPARTURE**



TAKING THE PLANE TO FRANCE

Special offer from Air France : 15% off for students going to EU



Special Student & Pupil Airfares From Kenya.

Discounts Across Europe & North America.

STUDENT PROGRAM

Terms & Conditions Apply.

Who Can Travel?

- **Students (18–29 yrs)** - Valid student ID or enrollment letter.
- Teachers with valid institutional ID also eligible.
- **Pupils (5–17 yrs)** - School ID or proof of enrollment.

Fare Discounts From Kenya.

Season	Discount on Standard & Flex Fares
Low Season	• 15% off to selected EU cities Paris / Lyon / Marseille / Nice / Amsterdam / London / Barcelona / Manchester / Birmingham / Frankfurt • 10% off to rest of <i>Europe & North America</i>
High/Shoulder	• 5% off across <i>Europe & North America</i> destinations

Flexibility That Travels With You

- **Standard Fares:** Changes - \$200 fee
Refunds: Not permitted.
- **Flex Fares:** Changes & Refunds: Allowed.
- **Plus:** 2 checked bags included, 1 FREE stopover in AMS/CDG + Unlimited for \$50 each.

Travel Conditions

- Book at least 7 days in advance.
- Stay min 3 days, max 12 months.
- Economy Class only (Selected booking classes).

Season Dates (from Kenya):

High Season

From Kenya: 29 Jul – 08 Sep
30 Dec – 13 Jan.
To Kenya: 24 Jun – 04 Aug.

Shoulder Season

From Kenya: 17 Jun – 28 Jul
17 Feb – 02 Mar.
To Kenya: 05 Aug – 01 Sep.

Low Season

From Kenya: 09 Sep – 29 Dec
14 Jan – 16 Feb | 03 Mar – 28 Jul.
To Kenya: 02 Sep – 23 Jun.

How to Book

Visit Air France – KLM offices or our Travel Agents, make sure you bring your ID and proof of enrollment.



VISA PROCEDURE

- You should consult the website France Visas and follow the steps described in the welcome page : <https://www.france-visas.gouv.fr/en/web/france-visas/>
- Fill out the required informations. **!! Please make sure that the ID informations you will write (first name, middle name, last name, date of birth, etc.) are exactly the same as in your passport.**
- you can check the list of required documents here : <https://france-visas.gouv.fr/en/web/france-visas/visa-wizard>
- Since Fall of 2024, the visa section of the French embassy outsourced its services to the company TLS Contact. To book your visa appointment and get more information about the procedure : <https://visas-fr.tlscontact.com/country/ke/vac/keNBO2fr/application-process?lang=en-us>

Here is a video tutorial to help you to fill the visa application form :
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VmJ7pxgONy8>



VISA PROCEDURE

Long stay visa (or VLS-TS)	Short stay visa
> 3 months	< 3 months
■ Will give you a residence permit ■ Must be validated online in the first months of arrival in France. Fees: 50€. https://administration-etrangers-en-france.interieur.gouv.fr/	■ Not renewable

[Campus France - How to validate your long stay visa ?](#)



RESIDENCE PERMIT

The residence permit will be given for one year. If you need to stay in France, you will need to **apply for a renewal of your residence permit**.

- **How to renew the residence permit ?**

By requesting it online : <https://administration-etrangers-en-france.interieur.gouv.fr>

- **When to renew the residence permit ?**

Between **2 and 4 months before the expiry of your residence permit**.

Example: if the residence permit expires on 1st September 2025, the application must be submitted between 1st May and 1st July 2025.



TO SUM UP

**BEFORE
DEPARTURE:
Visa application**



UPON ARRIVAL
Validation of
visa and
reception of
residence
permit



**AFTER YOUR
FIRST YEAR:
Renewal of
residence
permit**



TO SUM UP...



[Watch the video](#) (English subtitles available)



ACCOMMODATION

ACCOMMODATION

Several accommodation options for students:

Public residences (CROUS)

Monthly rent between 200 € and
400 €

<https://trouverunlogement.lescrous.fr/>

**Private student
residences**

**Private or
shared flat**

- Some universities and schools have agreements with CROUS. You can contact the international relations department of your university for more information.
- **Students may qualify for a rent subsidy**
- **Having a guarantor is required**



USEFUL RESOURCES

Private student residences

- www.etudiant.gouv.fr
- www.lokaviz.fr
- www.adele.org
- www.residenceetudiante.fr

Private or shared flat

- www.immojeune.com
- www.uniplaces.com (only in Paris)
- www.location-etudiant.fr
- www.locservice.fr

Intergenerational housing

- www.ensemble2generations.fr
- www.lisfrance.org
- www.leparisolidaire.fr
- www.logement-solidaire.org

Private flats

- www.paruvendu.fr
- www.pap.fr
- www.seloger.com
- www.leboncoin.fr

Shared flats

- www.appartager.com
- www.colocation.fr
- www.recherche-colocation.com
- www.leboncoin.fr

<https://www.campusfrance.org/en/student-housing-france>



ACCOMMODATION

A guarantor is someone who agrees to pay your rent in the event you can no longer do so. The guarantor must be French.

VISALE

- A system which provides rental guarantees
- Students under 30 can benefit from it
- Easily accessible online in a fast and secure way: <https://www.visale.fr/>



Watch the video or read the [article in English](#)



ASSISTANCE FROM CAF

Two national programs funded by the CAF (family assistance fund) exist for helping student with their housing expenses:

- **APL** – *Aide personnalisée au logement*
- **ALS** – *Allocation de logement à caractère social*

Students need to **hold a VLS-TS** in order to qualify for CAF assistance

Don't hesitate to do an online simulation to check whether you're eligible and find out how much assistance you might be able to receive each month

<https://www.caf.fr/allocataires/aides-et-demarches/droits-et-prestations/logement/les-aides-personnelles-au-logement>





REGISTRATION



PAYMENT OF CVEC

Before registering to their university, **students need to pay the CVEC.**

WHAT IS CVEC ?

- Contribution to campus and student life
- Aims at offering additional services to students such as social, cultural, sports activities
- Finances awareness actions related to health

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST AND HOW TO PAY IT ?

- The CVEC costs **105 euros** for the year 2025-2026
- Can be paid either online or in cash at the local post office in France. Make sure to keep the proof generated after your payment.

All students must pay it, except beneficiaries of a scholarship from the Government.

PAYMENT OF CVEC



1

Sign up on : messervices.etudiant.gouv.fr

2

Connect on : cvec.etudiant.gouv.fr

3

Payment of CVEC

4

Download proof of payment when registering to university

5

The university controls and proceed with the registration

[Watch the video](#) or read the [article in English](#)





HEALTH

SOCIAL SECURITY

The registration to the French **social security system** is :

- free
- mandatory
- done online by logging into the website for international students : etudiant-etranger.ameli.fr

HOW DOES IT WORK ?

You will be given a « **Carte vitale** » (social security card) to benefit from reimbursements of any health expenses (up to 70%).



You can also subscribe to a health care mutual to cover the rest of your medical expense (example of mutuals: SMEREP, EMEVIA, Mutuelle des étudiants).



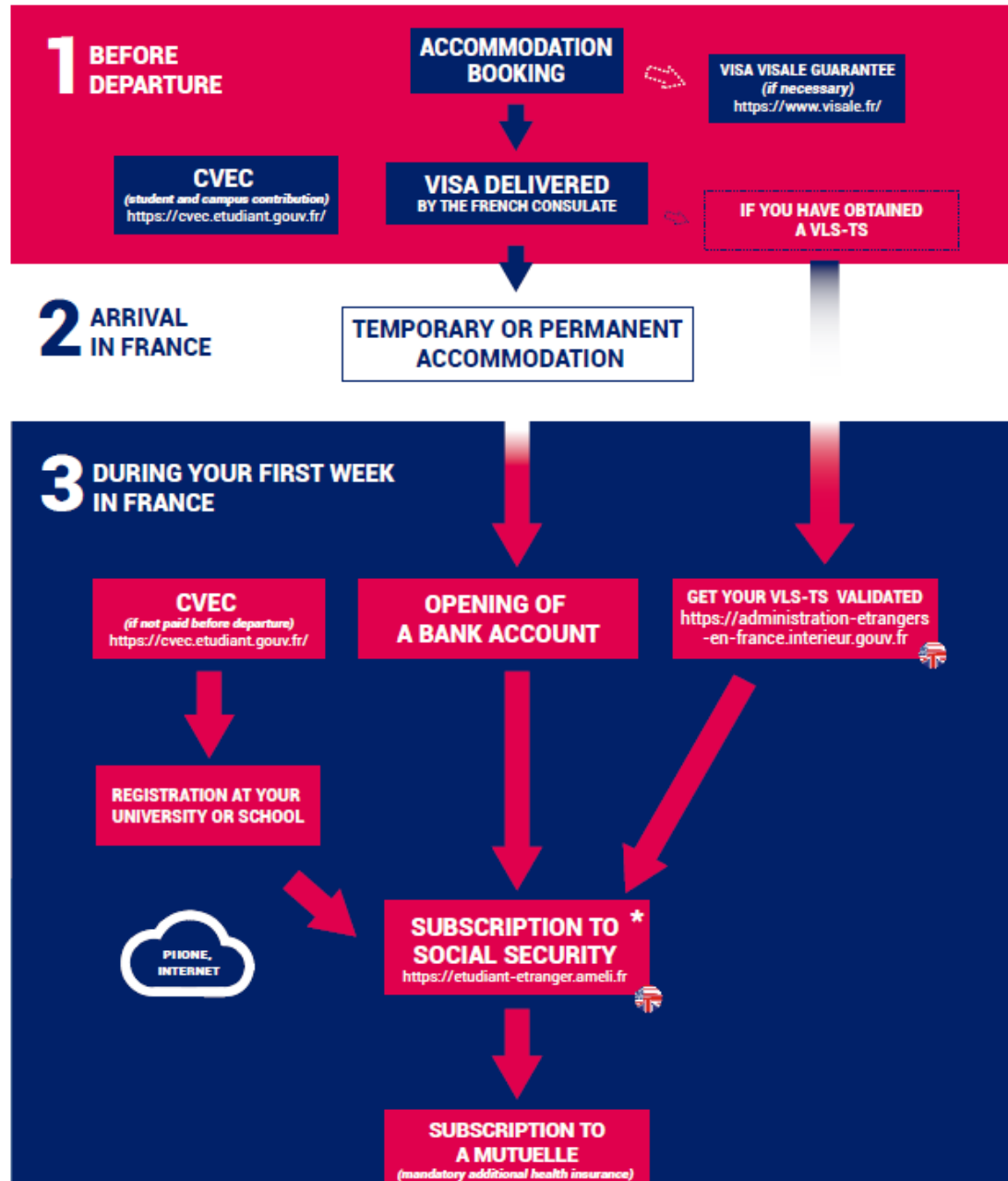
SOCIAL SECURITY



[Watch the video](#) or read the [article in English](#)



RECAP





WELCOMING FACILITIES

WELCOMING FACILITIES

WELCOME DESKS

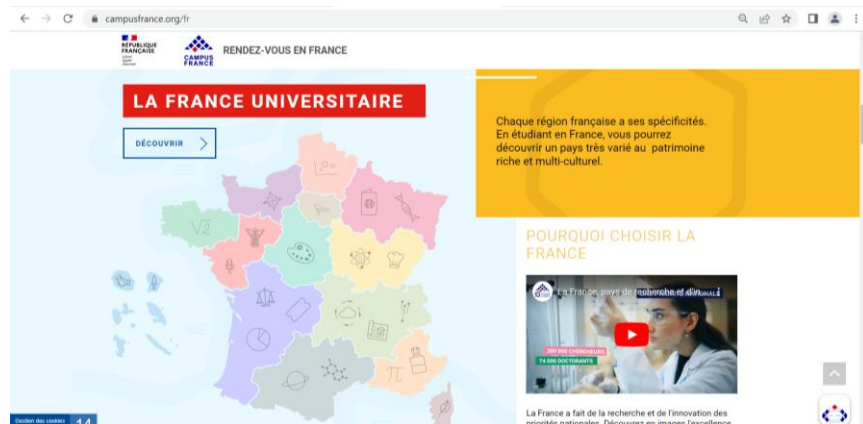
Bring together in the same place all the interlocutors an international student will have to contact when arriving to France (CROUS, banks, CAF, mutuals...)

Campus France has developed an interactive map that can be accessed from the homepage of the website, which presents the welcoming desks available in several cities.

BUDDY SYSTEM

A platform has been developed to help international students find a buddy

<https://buddysystem.eu/fr/>





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STUDENTS' LIVING EXPENSES

For a serene university year, it is important to prepare your stay in France well: estimating your budget is essential. Here are the main items of expenditure to be expected. These figures are given for information only. In large cities, prices are often close to those of Paris

ACCOMODATION

Paris and Ile de France		Other regions
	Rent	
200€ to 500 €	CROUS	150 € to 450 €
500 € to 900 €	Private student residence	280 € to 600 €
500 € to 1 100 €	Private studio	350 € to 800 €
	Multi-risk home insurance from 80 € to 100 € per year	
	Security deposit 1 ou 2 month(s) of rent	

GROCERIES

Paris and Ile de France		Other regions
200 € to 250 €	Monthly grocery shopping	150 € to 200 €
	1 complete meal at the university canteen 3,30 € (1€ for scholarship holders)	
	On an indicative basis <i>In Paris, prices are 19% more expensive than the national average</i>	
1,20 €	1 baguette	0,90 €
2 € à 4 €	1 coffee	1 € à 3 €
1,25 €	1 croissant	0,90 €
1,40 €	1 kg of pasta	1 €
3,80 €	1 kg of potatoes	2,90 €
2,10 €	1 kg of rice	1,70 €
0,95 €	1 litre of milk	0,95 €
2,80 €	6 eggs	1,95 €

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Paris and Ile de France		Other regions
88,80 €	Monthly transport pass (public transport: bus, tram, métro)	20 € à 35 €
374,40 €	1 annual transport pass	250 € to 300 €
	1 city bike around 10 €, per month Prices vary by city	
	The SNCF Avantage Jeune card for the 12-27 years old 49 € per year	
	<i>*This card, accessible to everyone up to the age of 27, offers reductions on all train tickets in France.</i>	

DAILY LIVING EXPENSES

Internet contract 20 € to 50 € per month
Mobile phone contract starting from 2 € per month
Mutual and civil liability insurance from 20 € per month
Cleaning and hygiene (household products, body care, etc.) 100 € per month

SCHOOL AND ADMINISTRATIVE FEES

CVEC 103 € per year
Visa validation tax stamp 50 €
Student visa renewal 75 € per year
Renewal of the "talent" residence permit for researchers 225 € per year

LEISURE ACTIVITIES

Paris and Ile de France		Other regions
around 9 €	1 cinema ticket*	5 € to 7,50 €
5 € to 15 €	1 museum ticket*	5 € to 10 €
3,50€ / 2€ (reduced price)	1 swimming pool ticket*	1,50 € to 3 €
	1 theatre ticket* starting from 10 €	
	1 journal around 2 €	
	<i>*You will often have access to discounts and special rates on presentation of your student card or simply if you are under 26 years old.</i>	

OPEN A BANK ACCOUNT

It can be very handy to open a bank account in France, especially for paying bills (electricity, telephone, rent) and subscriptions (transportation, Internet).

The different banks have branches in most cities: BNP Paribas, Société Générale, La Poste, Crédit Agricole, etc.

NB: Compare what the different banks offer. The costs of the bank card, international transfers and cash withdrawals abroad may vary noticeably from one bank to another.

Documents needed to open a bank account:

- ID
- Proof of residence
- Attestation of enrolment or student card

[Watch the video](#) or read the [article in English](#)



WORKING IN FRANCE DURING YOUR STUDIES

With your residence permit, you are allowed to work while during your studies:

- Students can work for up to 60% of the normal working year (964hours a year, 20 hours a week)
- Remunerated internships (i.e., internships lasting longer than 2 months) realised by students as an integral part of their studies (as specified in the internship agreement) are not counted toward the yearly limit
- France's gross minimum hourly wage is €11.52 before mandatory withholdings of approximately 20%



LEARNING FRENCH

To improve French skills, students are able to register in French classes directly within the university.

If this is not offered by your university, another option would be to register at the Alliance française of your city.



AT YOUR ARRIVAL IN THE AIRPORT

Step 1 : Follow the signs to to the customs services to get your passport stamped.

Step 2 : Get your luggages → follow the signs and don't hesitate to ask the airport staff if you need help.

Step 3 : Travel to your accommodation

STEP 3 :

- **If you go to Paris or near Paris :** Before your trip, see in advance what subway lines you will have to take ! You will not have internet when you arrive. **You can download City Mapper or MAPS.ME**

From CDG to Paris inner city : take the subway RER B (it costs 10€ : **make sure to have cash and a credit card**) <https://www.parisaeroport.fr/en/passengers/access/paris-charles-de-gaulle/public-transport/>

If you don't study in or near Paris, two possibilities :

1) Your train leaves from CDG Airport to your city : there is **a train station inside CDG Airport** (inside terminal 2 : follow the signs and ask airport staff to be guided properly to the station). Once you're near the rails, find the proper track on the panels : same, you can ask the staff to be guided.

More informations about the airport train station here :

<https://www.parisaeroport.fr/en/passengers/access/paris-charles-de-gaulle/train>

2) Your train leaves from Paris to your city : in this case you have to **take subway RER B** from the airport to get to Paris, and then take subways in Paris to get to your train station (there a 6 train stations in Paris so you have to go to the right one !).

It can be tricky ! Before your trip, see in advance what subway lines you will have to take ! You will not have internet when you arrive. **You can download City Mapper or MAPS.ME**

From CDG to Paris inner city : take the subway RER B (make sure to have cash and a credit card) <https://www.parisaeroport.fr/en/passengers/access/paris-charles-de-gaulle/public-transport/>



Citymapper helps you preparing your journey with public transports (tells you what subway/bus to take)

Obviously Campus France has no partnership with theses applications ;)



With MAPS.ME you can download maps of whole cities and region, and then access them even when you don't have internet connexion.

COMMUTING IN YOUR CITY

Annual transport subscription at the student rate :

- Paris and the suburbs: 365 €
- Other cities: 250-300 €

You can type “transport public + city name” in Google to get the website of the company organizing public transport in your city and see how to get a subscription.

Students haven reduced prices for subscriptions, be sure to check that.

IT MAY BE DIFFICULT AT SOME POINT, AND **IT'S OK** :

You are going to be in a foreign country, sometime alone, you won't speak the language so you may find yourself isolated sometimes. **Please, if you feel weak or a bit down, it's normal !** It can happen to everyone and it's part of the journey. However, **the most important is not to stay isolated.**

There are many people you can get in touch with :

- _ you classmates
- _ your teachers : they are here to help you !!
- _ your contact at your school in France
(International Students Desk or International Relations Department)
- _ Kenyan Student In France Association (KSAF) :
ksafcontact@gmail.com

Same if you have some difficulties with **courses and exams** : it's ok, it can happen and it's not the end of the world. French universities may be different from Kenyans, and so you could feel a bit lost, **the most important is not to stay isolated**, and just to talk about it with your teachers. **They will be able to help and to find solutions for you !**



AFTER YOUR STUDIES

WORKING IN FRANCE AFTER GRADUATION

- If you have an offer of employment or employment contract, it must specify that remuneration is at least 50% higher than the minimum wage
- If you do not have an offer of employment, you can apply for a temporary (12-month), non-renewable residency permit marked “recherche d’emploi/création d’entreprise” (job search/business start-up). The applicant must hold a licence professionnelle or master’s degree.

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION: FRANCE ALUMNI AND AFRAKEN

France Alumni :

- 300,000 alumni and 3,000 partner organizations, 750 of them business enterprises
- Enables students and alumni to meet and communicate with others
- Cultural events (lectures, outings, online courses, etc.)
- Professional opportunities Numerous partners (companies, educational institutions) post notices of job openings and internships in France and around the world.



QUESTIONS ?

GOOD LUCK TO EVERYONE AND DON'T FORGET TO STAY IN TOUCH!

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Facebook and Instagram : Campus France Kenya

