

RENDEZ-VOUS

EN FRANCE

Skills & Friends for life





The Visa Application Procedure

Your comprehensive guide to successfully apply for the visa and avoid any setback

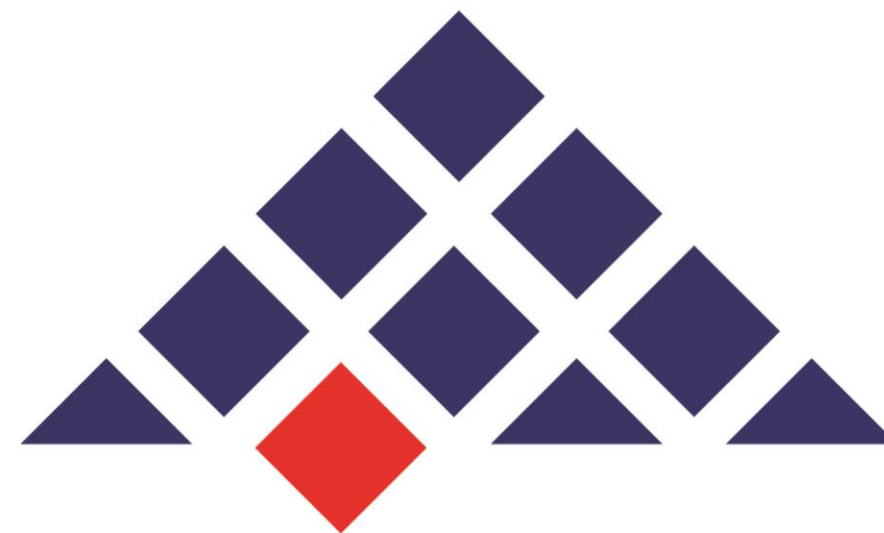
2026

Campus France UK

Our missions

Campus France is a public institution charged with promoting French higher education abroad and welcoming international students and researchers to France. We, as the UK branch of the organisation, serve as a vital bridge to strengthen academic collaboration between France and the UK. We are a service of the French Embassy in London.

- **Support academic and research partnerships** between British and French institutions
- **Facilitate student and researcher mobility** between the UK and France
- **Promote French educational excellence** within the United Kingdom
- **Manage scholarship programmes** and grants for international mobility
- Manage the **France Alumni Network**



**CAMPUS
FRANCE**
—UNITED KINGDOM—

Summary



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Types of visas



The Student VLS-TS

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

A long-stay student visa (**Student VLS-TS**) is compulsory **for all long-term UK residents of any nationality**, as long as you fit one of those categories:

- I have been accepted onto a **degree programme** in France;
- I am doing a **PhD without a work contract**;
- I have been accepted onto a **French intensive course (FLE programmes)**;
- I am doing a **study placement (exchange, double degree, study abroad)** for a semester or a year;
 - If you are also doing a work placement in addition to your study placement, you are eligible.

DURATION

If your stay is **longer than 3 months (90 days)**, you will need a student VLS-TS.

The visa cannot exceed a duration of **1 year maximum**. For any programme lasting longer than a year, a renewal at your local *préfecture* will be compulsory.

British citizens are allowed to stay in France without a visa for up to 90 days within an 180-day period.

I CANNOT APPLY FROM THE UK

If you are doing a study placement for a semester in another country + a study placement for a semester in France, you must apply for your French visa **at the French consulate of your first country of studies**.

If you are not British and you are spending your summer in your home country, you can also apply from there, but **you need to ask us for a transfer of files**.

It is impossible to apply from a country you are visiting as a tourist.

Exceptions or Specific Visas (*cas particuliers*)



EU CITIZEN

If you have the EU citizenship or you hold a long-term resident permit-EU from a EU country, **you do not need a visa**. Examples of EU citizenships include:

- Irish
- Romanian
- Polish



INTERNSHIP ONLY

If you come on a traineeship/internship contract (*convention de stage*) exclusively, you will apply for a **student trainee visa**.



SHORTER MOBILITY

If your placement is shorter than 90 days, whether you need a visa or not depends on your nationality.

No visa required: Visa-exempt nationalities (e.g. British, American, Canadian)

Short-stay visa required: Visa-required nationalities (e.g. Chinese, Indian, Pakistani)

The EEF Process

VLS-TS ONLY



Etudes en France (EEF)

ITS PURPOSE

The **Etudes en France (EEF) process** is handled by Campus France and aims to evaluate your study plan.

This work ensures that mobility aligns with applicants' academic records, **preventing fraud by detecting false documents**. It also allows us to collect anonymised data to better understand mobility trends and beneficiary profiles between our two countries, **helping us adapt our strategies accordingly**.

We halve or waive the fees under certain conditions, which are listed in the "Special Status" section of the application form.

*Once completed, you will be issued an **EEF Certificate**.*

[Click here to access the platform](#)

The logo for 'ÉTUDES EN FRANCE' is displayed. 'ÉTUDES' is in a teal color, and 'EN FRANCE' is in red. A small graphic of a person with arms raised is integrated into the letter 'A' of 'FRANCE'.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

- ☐ A valid **Passport** for the duration of the visa + 3 months
- ☐ An **ID Photograph**
- ☐ (If not British) A **proof that you are legally resident in the UK** (Biometric resident permit, immigration status + share code)
- ☐ A **CV**
- ☐ A **Proof of enrolment** at current institution or **latest diploma**
- ☐ The **Admission Lettre** from the host institution in France

£110



France- Visas & TLS

ALL VISA TYPES



France-Visas

THE PROCESS APPLICABLE TO ALL

France-Visas is the official online portal for all visa applications to France. This process requires 2 additional documents:

- ☐ A **Proof of Accommodation** (first 3 weeks)
 - Hotel reservation, rental agreement, sworn statement from the host...
- ☐ A **Proof of Financial Means of Support** (615€ x months)
 - Bank statements, proof of scholarship, sponsor...

If you didn't go through the EEF process, you won't need to upload an EEF Certificate. You will however need to provide your **admission Lettre** and/or your **internship contract**.

france-visas.gouv.fr

france-visas.gouv.fr/en/

**From 6 months to 15 days before
the start of the mobility period**

50€

TLScontakt

THE VISA PROCESSING CENTRE

TLScontakt is an official service provider in the UK that manages visa application centres on behalf of government clients. There are three centres in the UK processing visa applications for France:

- ❖ **London,**
- ❖ **Manchester,**
- ❖ **Edinburgh.**

The waiting time for an appointment can take several days or weeks, so be sure to have all your supporting documents ready and to apply as soon as possible. If your application is not complete by the time of your appointment, you may be required to pay a second time to reschedule.

Print all your documents beforehand!



TLScontakt
A Teleperformance Company

visas-fr.tlscontact.com

You will hand over your passport, which may be retained for several weeks until the end of the whole procedure

55€

Application timeline

This timeline illustrates the whole procedure required to complete the process.

Please note that, unless you possess another valid passport, you will be unable to travel abroad during this time.

We recommend planning accordingly.



**(VLS-TS only)
Complete the
EEF procedure**



**Fill in the
France-Visas
Form**



**Book an
appointment
online with TLS**



**Visa processing
at the French
Consulate**

Passport collection at TLS or
sent to your by post (additional
fee)

Settling in France

04



Accommodation

HOUSING IN UNIVERSITY RESIDENCE

CROUS is the main public service in France that provides affordable student housing, well below the private market. To apply for CROUS accommodation, students must first create an account on the [official portal](#), then complete the **Dossier Social Étudiant (DSE)** or, if applying outside the main phase, use the complementary phase application.

You'll need your acceptance letter, proof of identity, and details about your studies and finances. You submit your housing preferences and if you receive an offer, you must confirm within 48 hours and pay a booking fee.

For those going to Paris, you can also consider the **Cité Internationale Universitaire de Paris (CIUP)**. While open to undergraduate students, this is mostly available to postgraduate applicants.

HOUSING IN THE PRIVATE MARKET

The private housing market offers a wide range of accommodation options for students. Private studios or apartments typically cost per month:

❖ **Paris:** Between €700 and €1,500

❖ **Anywhere else:** Between €400 and €800

We recommend using websites such as **SeLoger**, **Lodgis**, **De Particulier A Particulier**, and **LeBonCoin**.

THE *COLOCATION*

The **flatshare** is the best, most fun, most convenient and most affordable option for students in France. It gives you the opportunity to make friends with French people and foreigners alike. This is also perfect as a last resort option.

We recommend using websites such as **La Carte des Colocs**, **Appartager**, **Roomlala**, **Immojeune** and **Cohébergement**.

Major "Don't" When Finding Accommodation



DON'T SEND MONEY OR SIGN A LEASE WITHOUT VERIFYING THE ACCOMMODATION

Scams are common. Never send money or sign a lease before you have seen the place, either in person or through a verified virtual tour. If something feels off, it probably is.

You will generally be asked to pay the security deposit when moving in, and **it cannot exceed 2 months of rent.**



DON'T IGNORE THE NEED FOR A FRENCH GUARANTOR

Most landlords require a French guarantor—someone living and working in France who can cover your rent if you default. As a foreign student, you likely won't have one. Don't agree to pay several months of rent upfront without exploring alternatives like the **VISALE** service, which can act as your guarantor



DON'T SKIP HOME INSURANCE

Home insurance (*assurance habitation*) is mandatory in France. Don't move in without arranging this, as it's sometimes required before you can collect your keys.

You can subscribe to home insurance easily online after having signed the lease.



Healthcare

Registering with Ameli is free and highly recommended, as it is necessary not only for managing your healthcare reimbursements but also for accessing other essential administrative services in France

Ameli is the name of the French NHS. Most universities will require you to subscribe to it after the enrolment process.

They have a dedicated site for foreign students (in English).

ameli.fr

In France, **you typically pay for medical treatment upfront**, such as at a doctor's appointment or when receiving hospital care. Afterward, Ameli reimburses you for a portion of the cost—usually about 70% for standard doctor visits, with the exact percentage depending on the type of care received.

If you want to be reimbursed for the remaining costs, you need to take out a supplementary health insurance policy known as a "**mutuelle**."



The **European Health Insurance Card (EHIC)** allows you to receive treatment under the same conditions and at the same cost as residents of the country you are visiting. Only EU and EEA citizens can benefit from this card. You can claim reimbursement once back home.

The **UK Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC)** replaced the EHIC for most UK residents after Brexit. To claim reimbursement for eligible expenses, you must submit a claim form with receipts to NHS Overseas Healthcare Services after your return.

For the rest...

Everything from that point on, your most likely contact will be the institution's **Global Engagement team** and your institution's associated **Welcome Desk**.

In France, a *welcome desk* for international students is a dedicated service point—either physical, online, or both—designed to **centralize and simplify all the essential administrative and practical steps you need to complete upon arrival**.

Welcome desks can support you on the following items:

- ☐ Visa validation
- ☐ Bank account
- ☐ Healthcare
- ☐ Housing
- ☐ All administrative procedures (grants, renewals)
- ☐ Everyday matters
- ☐ Cultural and social events

This service is part of a national initiative to ensure international students receive comprehensive support and a warm welcome as they settle into life and studies in France!



Post- mobility Support



Making the most out of your stay

JOIN THE NETWORK

After completing your studies in France, we offer opportunities to stay engaged with the French higher education system and contribute to promoting Franco-British academic relations:

- ✓ Join [France Alumni](#) and **connect with former students, based in the UK**, who have studied in France.
- ✓ **Become an [Ambassador](#)** and share your experience of studying in France through testimonials, interviews, or presentations.
- ✓ Attend **exclusive events** at the French Embassy and other prestigious venues.

PURSUE A MASTER OR PHD IN FRANCE

You can pursue your postgraduate degrees in France whether you speak French, as many universities now offer **a wide range of programmes entirely in English.**

Studying in France is significantly more affordable than in the UK, with public university tuition fees for international postgraduates averaging around **€3,941 per year** and as low as **€254 per year.**

Book a one-to-one appointment with us today to start your journey!

THE BENEFITS OF STUDYING ABROAD

Earning a French degree can give your career a substantial boost, thanks to the global recognition of French qualifications, strong industry connections, and abundant internship opportunities.

UUKi, the British agency for global opportunities in higher education, has released a report saying that having studied abroad leads to:

- ✓ **Better job prospects**
- ✓ **Higher starting salary**
- ✓ **Intercultural and linguistic skills**





Contact us

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[Book a guidance appointment](#)



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More information on: www.uk.campusfrance.org

