



GUIDE FOR

INTERNATIONAL

STUDENTS (NON-EU)



*To enhance readability, we have used the masculine gender-neutral term to refer to individuals of all genders.
The use of the masculine form in this guide is intended to be gender-neutral, encompassing all genders.
GAELIS is deeply committed to the battle against discrimination based on gender and consistently initiates projects in this field.*

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**This guide is not exhaustive, and it is impossible to draw up a list of the general standards that apply to foreign students on French soil*.*

INTRODUCTION

GÆLIS is delighted to introduce its guide for non-EU students. This is a support service designed to assist and clarify the procedures for entering and staying in France, the procedures and access to rights, and to provide contacts in case of need.

→ The students covered by this guide are students from outside the European Union who come to study in France, i.e. students of non-European Union (EU) nationality.

Most of the questions and information in this guide apply throughout France. It also provides information on the specific features of the Lyon academy and the Rhône administrative district (mainly Lyon and Bourg-En-Bresse, but also the Saint-Etienne academy).

GÆLIS why ?



GÆLIS stands for Groupement des Associations et Élus étudiants de Lyon, Indépendant et Solidaire, and is a student association. GÆLIS has set up a number of projects to combat student insecurity and social isolation on a daily basis, and its aim is to represent and defend students throughout their years of higher education.

Essential legislative texts :

The rights of certain foreign students on French soil depend on agreements between France and their country of origin : *Les accords bilatéraux en matière de circulation, de séjour et d'emploi / Les accords bilatéraux / Europe et International - Direction générale des étrangers en France - Ministère de l'Intérieur (interieur.gouv.fr).*

The general framework of the rules of foreigners in France is codified in the Code of Entry and Residence of Foreigners and the Right of Asylum (CESEDA), available in full here : Code de l'entrée et du séjour des étrangers et du droit d'asile - Légifrance (legifrance.gouv.fr). This general framework applies in its entirety if France has not agreed an agreement with your country of origin. Les accords bilatéraux en matière de circulation, de séjour et d'emploi / Les accords bilatéraux / Europe et International - Direction générale des étrangers en France - Ministère de l'Intérieur (interieur.gouv.fr)

INFORMATION TO KNOW BEFORE ENTERING FRANCE

① Résidence permit

What residence permit for my studies in France ?

→ **If I am over 18**, I can apply to the French embassy of my country of origin for a **Long Stay Visa worth Residence Permit (VLS-TS)** before entering France. The VLS-TS is issued for **courses of more than 3 years**.

This VLS-TS is directly on my passport, it is **valid for 1 year for 3 years** training. If I continue my studies, I can apply for a residence permit !

→ **If I am under 18, I am exempt from VLS-TS**, I can then return to France with a **tourist visa**, and I can apply to the prefecture of Rhône **for a residence permit**.

The VLS-TS is equivalent to a Schengen visa allowing you to move and stay in the Schengen area outside France, that is to say, throughout the European Union as well as in Switzerland, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway.

→ The **Visa Long Stay Temporary mention 'student' (VLS-T)** is intended for students undertaking **a course of 4 to 12 months**. This residence permit is **not renewable** and does **not allow eligibility** for certain rights such as the Personalised Housing Allowance (APL), does not allow to work or benefit from the VISALE deposit scheme. However, with this residence permit you **can travel throughout the Schengen area** and you can benefit from **social security**.

🌐 Here is the official website of visas for French : [Les différents types de visas étudiants | Campus France](#).



② Revenue stamp

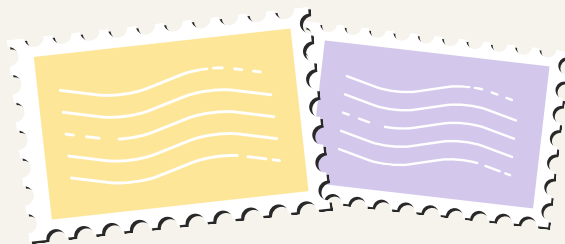
The **revenue stamp** is an official mark or figurine intended to prove that a constituent has paid the administration.

In addition to the documents required by the prefecture, you will often have to pay a tax stamp for an initial application, a renewal or a duplicate. The revenue stamp costs 75 euros.

🌐 The revenue stamp can be purchased on the internet ([Achat en ligne du timbre fiscal - Titre pour étranger \(Formulaire\) | Service-public.fr](#)) or in a **tobacco shop**.

🌐 If **you do not use your revenue stamp** and yet you have already purchased it, it is possible to apply for a refund : [Demander le remboursement d'un timbre fiscal \(Démarche en ligne\) | Service-public.fr](#).

📌 All additional information here : [🌐Étranger en France : comment acheter un timbre fiscal ? | Service-public.fr](#).



③ Find your studies and register

To help find your studies Campus France has set up :

🌐 A directory for bachelor's bachelor's ([Bachelor's Catalogue v3.4.2 \(campusfrance.org\)](#))

🌐 A directory for master's ([Master's Catalogue v3.4.2 \(campusfrance.org\)](#)).

If you make a first registration for a first year on a bachelor's programme, it is **mandatory** to make an **Application for Preliminary Admission (DAP)**.

There are two booklets :

- **The green booklet** : If you **live in France** but you have not obtained or prepared for the French or European baccalaureate, and if you are not a French national, the green booklet applies to you. The green booklet must be sent or handed in in December, and the school's decision is taken in April/May.

🌐 More information here : [Green file] Application for prior admission (DAP) for a first registration in the first year of a bachelor's degree at a French university - 2023-2024 | enseignementsup-recherche.gouv.fr.

- **Le livret blanc** : Si tu habites à l'étranger, que tu n'as pas obtenu ou pas préparé le baccalauréat français ou européen et si tu n'as pas la nationalité française, c'est le livret blanc qui te concerne. Le livret blanc doit être envoyé ou déposé en décembre et la décision de l'établissement est en avril/mai.

🌐 Plus d'informations ici : [Dossier blanc] Demande d'admission préalable (DAP) pour une première inscription dans une université française - 2023-2024 | enseignementsup-recherche.gouv.fr.

However, depending on the study institution chosen, the situation, the nationality, etc., applications may vary.

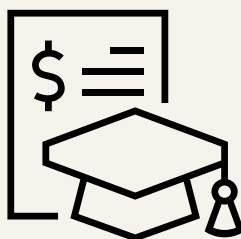


④ Registration fees

Tuition fees for non-EU students can **amount to €2,770 and go up to €3,770** for an academic year.

i For more information on registration fees, please visit the **site of the institution in question**.

It is possible to **request an exemption**. It can be partial, but sometimes depends on the social situation. In some cases, it may not be possible. This price is significant and the exemption is not guaranteed, so it is necessary to take this amount into account in the study project.



ONCE ON FRENCH SOIL

① The steps

Several steps must be taken once you arrive on French soil.

🌐 It is necessary to validate your VLS-TS, this process can be done digitally : [Accueil | Étrangers en France \(interieur.gouv.fr\)](#).

Then, it is **strongly advised to open a bank account** to facilitate the payment of bills, receive your salary, be reimbursed for his health expenses and so forth. You should be wary of the offers that banks make.

While waiting for your credit card you can get a **Revolut card** to pay internationally without bank fees.

🌐 Here's the link : [Affiliate Generic Tracking Link 3 months Premium | Generic £10/€10 Top up | Revolut](#)).

A **French telephone number** is also required.

It is also important to know that it is **mandatory to have home** insurance to become a tenant of a home. This insurance covers damage to property, third-party liability and personal liability. You need to compare different contracts to see the differences in price and cover.

② The rights

Once your residence permit has been validated, you will be able to tackle the formalities concerning your rights.

As far as financial aid is concerned, you can, as a non-EU student, apply for a grant from your home country.

🌐 To find out more and make an informed decision, take a look at this link: [CampusBourses - v1.3.6 \(campusfrance.org\)](#).

If you are doing a course in health or social care, you can apply for the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Region Grant. There are no nationality or age requirements: all you need to prove is that you are regulated in France.

🌐 You will find all the information here : [Region Rhône Alpes - Regional aid \(auvergnerhonealpes.fr\)](#).

→ The **CROUS** (Regional Centre for University and School Work) offers a **Specific One-off Allocation Assistance (ASAP)**. It is a one-time help for students in need of emergency assistance, when their continuation of study is compromised. You must be **under 35 years of age** and be in **formal education**. There is no nationality requirement and there is no age limit for students with disabilities.

→ With regard to Social Security :

- If you came to study in France **with a VLS-TS** and it is **validated**, you get a vitale card that will facilitate your reimbursement of medical expenses.
- If you came with a **temporary long-stay visa (VLS-T)**, you do not get a vitale card but you still benefit from **coverage of your medical expenses** for the duration of your stay.

🌐 Here is the link of the Social Security : [Registration of foreign students and overseas collectivities to the Social Security \(ameli.fr\)](#).

→ The **Family Allowance Fund (CAF)** can be requested to request assistance regarding the payment of rent. You can benefit from either :

- Personal housing grant (APL)
- Social Housing Allowance (SLA)

🌐 Here is the CAF website : [Allocataires Homepage | Welcome to Caf.fr](#)

→ To continue with housing assistance. When you are looking for **accommodation** you will be asked to have a **guarantor**, unfortunately not everyone has a guarantor that is why the **VISALE deposit scheme** exists. The Visale deposit scheme covers any unpaid rent or service charges during the first 3 years of the lease. The student's debt will be with VISALE rather than the landlord.

🌐 Applications can be made via the website: [Visale](#).

📘 If you want to continue to benefit from these public services, you will need to **inform the authorities** you have contacted of the renewal of your residence permit.

③ Renewal and receipt

For the renewal of your residence permit you must take it **at least 3 months before the expiry date**, the procedure is done online.

🌐 Here is the link for the renewal of your residence permit : [Home | Foreigners in France \(interieur.gouv.fr\)](#).

When you apply for a residence permit or renewal, you receive a **receipt**. The receipt attests to the **regularity of your presence** on French soil. This document proves that the application or renewal of the residence permit has been made.

The receipt, together with the previous residence permit which has expired, entitles you to certain rights: travel, administrative formalities.

④ Student jobs

An extra-Community student has the right (depending on his residence permit) to work up to 964 hours per year in France.

For your search, the **Lyon Regional Youth Information Centre (CRIJ)** and the **Youth Information Office (BIJ)** can help you.

🌐 Here is the link to access the site : [Welcome to Info-jeunes Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes | Info Jeunes Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes](#).

Below you will find a **list of student job sites**. You can find more information on: [Student job - Lyon Campus](#) :

🌐 **Jooble** : Offres d'emploi Lyon (salaire indiqué!) - Janvier 2023 - Jooble

🌐 **Yoopies** : Yoopies | N°1 des services à domicile

🌐 **Jobaviz** : Accueil - Crous emploi Jobaviz

🌐 **Student Job** : Accueil - Crous emploi Jobaviz

🌐 **JobyPepper** : JobyPepper - Votre coach emploi

🌐 **Pôle Emploi** : 345 offres d'emploi pour Etudiant | Pôle emploi (pole-emploi.fr)

⑤ Obligation to Leave French Territory

The Obligation to **Leave French Territory (OQTF)** is a decision taken by the prefect in case of refusal to issue a residence permit or illegal residence (in case of non-renewal of his residence permit, for example). It may also be sent to a foreigner who has **committed particularly serious offences**. The decision of an OQTF is a decision that remains rather rare and must be justified. (article L211-2 and following of the code of relationship between public and administration)

The OQTF can leave a period of 30 days to leave the territory by your own means. An appeal is possible, depending on the situation, the **deadline varies between 15 days or 30 days**.

🌐 To have more time, simply go to this link : [Obligation to leave France \(OQTF\) | Service-public.fr](#), then you have to go to 'Possible Remedies', then 'General case'.

The **appeal** may be :


- Informal appeals to the Prefect
- Hierarchical appeal to the Minister for the Interior
- Litigation with the administrative court responsible for the prefecture that made the decision.
-

The OQTF **can be without notice**, that is to say that it is necessary to leave the territory quickly. An appeal is possible within 48 hours of notification. The **appeal is made to the administrative court** competent for the prefecture that took the decision.

STAYING IN THE AREA

① The Jobseeker's or Business Creation residence permit

Staying in France after your studies is possible with the "**residence card job search or business creation**". This card is a **temporary** residence permit, it allows you to stay 1 year in France after graduation for professional experience or to create your business.

i Algerian students must apply for another residence permit depending on the situation :  1-year residence certificate for Algerian | [Service-public.fr](https://service-public.fr).

② Movement visa or Schengen visa

To stay on French territory following your studies, it is also possible to apply **for a movement visa or Schengen visa**. On the other hand, this movement visa is reserved for holders of a **Master's level** diploma of French higher education.



CONTACT

→ Structures focused on supporting and defending the rights of foreign nationals :

✓ **Student Welcome Desk (SWD)** is in contact with the prefecture as well as with the Commission of Lyon (which brings together the majority of higher education institutions in Lyon and Saint-Étienne). It is a body specialised in welcoming international students to the Lyon area. SWD teams inform and guide students in all administrative procedures for re-entry and in particular on the residence permit.

🌐 The SWD also has a **hotline** (multilingual) and **FAQ** available here : [UDL - Students Welcome Desk \(universite-lyon.fr\)](#).

✓ **RUSF Lyon** is a **collective** of undocumented and supportive students.

✉ They set up **legal hotlines by appointment** via this email address : collectif.etudiants.etrangers.lyon@riseup.net.

🌐 Here is the link of the site: [Collective of undocumented and supportive students \(RUSF Lyon\) - Sursaut Citoyen \(sursaut-citoyen.org\)](#).

✓ **La Cimade (Inter-Movement Committee for Evacuees)** : *"The aim of Cimade is to show active solidarity with oppressed and exploited people. It defends the dignity and rights of refugees and migrants, whatever their origins, political opinions or beliefs. It fights against all forms of discrimination and, in particular, against xenophobia and racism".* (Article 1 of the Statutes of La Cimade).

🌐 La Cimade organises drop-in centres : [Auvergne Rhône-Alpes - La Cimade](#).

✓ **GAELIS organises advocacy offices** every month, providing support and guidance in connection with studies, daily life, administrative procedures, etc.

✉ It has an **email address dedicated to defending student rights** : mesdroits@gaelis.fr

→ And where do the universities fit in ?

Most of the public higher education establishments in the Lyon area (Lyon 1, Lyon 2, Lyon 3, etc.) have an international relations department to help foreign students in France.

The contacts of the **international relations** services by university :

✉ For **Lyon 1** : catherine.guillaumon@univ-lyon1.fr

✉ For **Lyon 2** : laura.dubois5@univ-lyon2.fr


✉ For **Lyon 3** : chantal.ortillez@univ-lyon3.fr

→ Information sites for non-EU students :

🌐 **OFII** (Office Français de l'Immigration et de l'Intégration) : [Home- Ofii](#)

🌐 **Campus France** : [Students | Campus France: Studying in France.](#)



Université Claude Bernard  Lyon 1

— université
— Lumière
— LYON 2

