

GUIDE TO PREPARE YOUR ARRIVAL IN FRANCE



This guide provides information to foreign students about procedures to do **before** their arrival to France.

Important :

Once you arrive in France, have a look at the guide "[Living in France - International student guide](#)", a checklist of all the installation procedures and tips to survive in Paris.

student-life-support@learningplanetinstitute.org


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Registration at French platform education system "messervices.etudiant.gouv.fr"

Mandatory. Make sure to follow the indications on how to fill out the form. Any mistake on this form can affect your registration at the University and in our Visa application if the Consulate ask for the Enrollment certificate.

Very often, you receive a link from Campus France once you receive the confirmation of your admission from the university. This is the source of many mistakes that can affect your registration at the university if you wrongly fill in your personnel information. Indeed, the information that stayed in your **messervicesétudiant** account is later used to establish your CVEC attestation, so if the information stated in your CVEC does not match your ID, the university will not accept your registration. That's why the Student Life coordination will ensure a workshop, and make an effort to attend the meeting. The workshop won't be recorded, for it is useless as the procedure has to be done online with you. <https://www.messervices.etudiant.gouv.fr/>



Here is a document that shows how to register at Etudiant.gouv.fr:
 Guide "How to register at Etudiant.gouv.fr"

VISAS - NON EU NATIONALITIES

1. [Do I need a visa?](#)

This tool will inform you about the supporting documents to be provided according to your home address and citizenship.

General requirements for non European students planning to come to study in France :

- You must be over 18 years of age;
- You must be accepted by a higher education Institution.
 - ◆ Enrolment conditions differ depending on your nationality, please check the [Etudes en France](#)  website to see if your country of residence is included in the online enrolment scheme "[EEF procedure](#)". For other countries, check the enrolment conditions in terms of specialities and level of education on [Campus France](#) . Source : https://france-visas.gouv.fr/en_US/web/france-visas/student

1.1 CEF Procedure - or EEF

This procedure applies only to residents living in countries listed here below. A student **residing** in one of the countries have to fill out the plateforme "[Etudes en France](#)" prior to apply for the Student Visa :

Important : All documents in languages other than French must be translated into French.



AFRICA	Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Djibouti, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Togo.
ASIA	Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, Vietnam.
AMERICA	Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Haiti, Mexico, Peru, USA.
NORTH AFRICA / MIDDLE EAST	Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Israel, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates.
EUROPE	Azerbaijan, Georgia, United Kingdom, Russia, Turkey, Ukraine.

Do not forget to obtain the **"Attestation Etudes in France"** to add to your visa application, you will be required to provide your **"CEF or EEF number"**, the CEF number is your same Campus France number.

2. Where to apply ?

3. Start your application for a Student Visa online - The France-Visas portal

- If you wish, you can request a **2-year student visa** instead of the standard 1-year visa when applying through the France-Visas portal.
- This option can be useful if your academic program lasts two years, as it avoids having to renew your residence permit after the first year.
- However, to be eligible for a 2-year visa, you must provide **strong financial documentation** proving that you have sufficient resources to cover your entire stay in France - that means for *both academic years*.

Please take into account that if a private company is in charge of visa management applications in your country, you have the possibility to send digital copies of the supporting documents to complete your visa application online (check with your consulate). Ensure you respect the quality required to submit your supporting documents in pdf (dimensions, size, colour, etc.).

Source : https://france-visas.gouv.fr/en_US/web/france-visas/visa-application-guidelines

4. List of supporting documents

- **Original valid passport** (A travel document, issued less than 10 years ago, containing at

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least two blank pages, with a period of validity at least **3 months longer than the date on which you intend to leave the Schengen Area** or, in the case of a long stay, at least three months longer than the expiry date of the visa requested. Be sure to transmit (scan) ALL PAGES of your travel document containing visas, entry and exit stamps or any other inscription).

- If you are not a national of your country of residence: proof that you are legally resident in that country (e.g. **residence permit**).
- If you have an official travel document, a “note verbale” is required.
- Copy of your **birth certificate** (legalised by translator recognized by French authorities) dated less than 6 months;
- **Original diploma** - which allow you to have access to the training (legalised and translated by translator recognized by French authorities; usually it refers to the Bachelor's degree);

N.B. : Please note that this document (legalised) is also **required for your registration at Université Paris Cité**, and could be requested later by an employer (for an internship or job), or as part of a research contract.

- **ID photograph**
- **Admission letter from LPI** ;
- **Proof of financial resources** for students during their stay in France, either :
 - **Scholarship grant** - from the French or foreign government or private sector, indicating the **amount** and **duration of the scholarship**;
 - **Student's parents' resources and professional situation** - certificate of funding with the exact amount of funding with *three last payslips + work certificate*, last income tax notice + 3 last monthly bank statements, etc.); *Certificate of Irrevocable Transfer (AVI)* or bank guarantee for students of **615€** per month, i.e., a blocked amount of 7380 euros for one academic year.
 - If you finance your own stay, provide **proof of savings and salary slips**.

- **Proof of accommodation:**

It can be temporary for the time of your arrival in France : Hotel reservation + proof of financial means covering the reservation or prepaid reservation or statement/undertaking from a private individual + proof of accommodation + copy of ID of the host or statement/undertaking from an establishment, institution, residency, etc. or lease agreement or explanatory letter from the student on the accommodation solutions found for the arrival.

Click on this link to find out more about proof of accommodation for visa application:
[**Proof of Accommodation for Schengen Visa Application**](#)

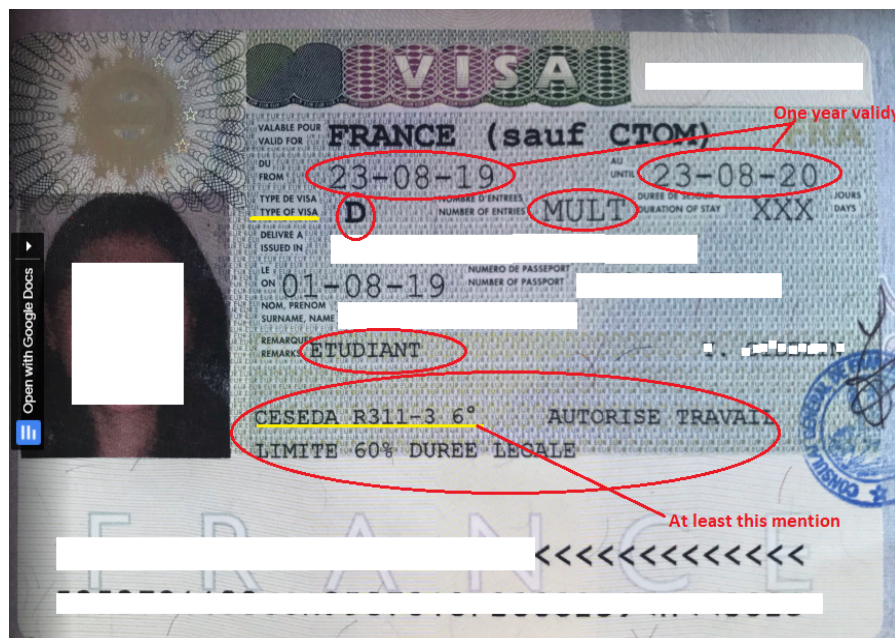
→ If you are looking for an accommodation, consult our [housing list](#)

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5. Collect your Student Visa

When you receive your visa, make sure to verify all the information, including the dates of your visa that covers your stay (one year or two)



FYI :

A Student Visa valid for more than 6 months has to be "Validated" in the ANEF plateforme - see indications in the guide "Living in France" within 3 months max.

If for any reason you can not fill out the visa form online, here the link to download, choose the one that applies to you : <https://france-visas.gouv.fr/fr-FR/web/france-visas/formulaires>

TALENT PASSPORT VISA FOR PHD & RESEARCHERS

Additional to the list of documents listed above if you apply for a Talent Passport Visa :

- "Hosting Agreement" signed by the Host University;
 - **Here are the contact details at UPC for the hosting agreement.** This form must be completed by you, with information provided by your research supervisor or the laboratory/company where you will be conducting your work. It must then be signed by the university that will act as your employer.
 - At Université Paris Cité, the designated contact person is **Mr. Ducados** from the **Student Affairs Office** (Vie Étudiante). Please make sure to check whether your

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doctoral contract will be attached to **Université Paris Cité (PLS) or Sorbonne University**, as this determines which institution should sign the agreement.

- Be a holder of at least a **Master's degree** (obtained in France or in another country)
- **Contract of Employment** with host university/higher education school or posted worker

FYI. :

If your stay in France as a PHD/Researcher is equal to or greater than one year, the consulate will issue you a **long-stay visa marked "passeport talent"** valid for a period of three months; And in the 2 months of your arrival you have to apply for the **Talent Passport Residence Permit** on the [ANEF](#) platform to obtain - see indications in the guide "[Living in France](#)" (**check whether you can apply for a Multy-annual "Resident Permit Passeport Talent Chercheur"** - page 24, case 2).

FELLOWSHIPS or SCHOLARSHIPS - applies for Students to register at UPC

Most of the calls for applicants open by November and close in March, in order to let the applicant have all the required documents for the visa procedure which starts in May-July.

Scholarship applications accepted by the French government are filed at the cultural service of the French embassy in your country of residence. Criteria to choose applicants depend on the cooperation programs concluded between the French government and the authorities of the country concerned. Scholarships are generally granted to graduate level students (masters' or PhD). The duration of the scholarship depends on the project. *Applications are processed in the month of March preceding the academic start of the year, so you should file your application as early as possible.*

[Finance your studies / Scholarships - Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs](#)

Unesco Scholarships & fellowships

[Les Programmes de bourses de l'UNESCO](#)

Campus Scholarship tool

[Campus France SCHOLARSHIP](#)

[CAMPUS FRANCE SCHOLARSHIP Options](#)

Where, for example, you can make a search and find different fellowships, list not exhaustive :

- ◆ Erasmus plus grants from the European Union : [Funding opportunities - Erasmus+](#)
- ◆ Erasmus Mundus–Action 1: joint master's and doctoral programs, grants from the European Union https://www.eacea.ec.europa.eu/scholarships/emjmd-catalogue_en

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- ◆ Eiffel master's grants from the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, grant from the French Government [France Excellence Eiffel scholarship program](#)
- ◆ Fondation de France is an independent administrative agency which was established by the French government. Their website provides access to multiple grants offered by private foundations.

Fondation de France

Check it, it list many NGO that fund students to study abroad, to come study in France, to do Research in France... : [Annuaire des bourses - Fondation de France](#)

Tibetans *orphelins* :
<https://www.fondationdefrance.org/fr/guide/fondation-benoit-chamoux>

Nicaraguanyen :
<https://www.fondationdefrance.org/fr/guide/fondation-bourse-lopez-mayer>

Cité Universitaire

For international Students living at Cité Universitaire : <https://portail.ciup.fr/>
 Commission de novembre
 Commission de mars

Fondation Besse

[Fondation Georges Besse](#)

To apply : [Devenir Lauréat off – Fondation Georges Besse](#)

Fondation Ghazal

Students from Liban [Prix & Bourses | Fondation Ghazal](#)

Centre France Asie

Students from Asia : apply through the Centre France Asie [Activités | centre france asie](#) financé par la Fondation Jean Perrin

University of Paris - SMART-UP scholarship

The SMARTS-UP programme (ex-MIEM), managed by Université Paris Cité, aims to promote the internationalisation of Master's programmes and to attract the best international students in order to constitute a pool of excellence for the recruitment of future PhD students.

[Appel à candidatures : SMARTS-UP Bourses de mobilité entrante en Master | Université Paris Cité](#)

AUF

[Agence universitaire de la Francophonie](#)

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ANDES

Association Nationale des Docteurs



Important message to international students: Please be cautious when receiving any publicity or message inviting you to apply for an Erasmus+ scholarship. We have been informed of numerous attempted scams. Before giving out any personal data or sending money, please always verify that the information comes from a trustworthy source.

FBS and EURIP

LPI International students are eligible to these two scholarships founded by Bettencourt-Schueller Foundation (FBS) and the *PIA3 investment program* (EURIP); both are allocated by the LPI Directors programs among all international students admitted. These scholarships reward exceptional academic merit and aim at providing financial support to talented overseas students. 4 to 5 scholarships FBS, one per track; 2 to 4 maximum EURIP scholarships to postgraduate students (Masters and PHD). No application is necessary, you are informed by your pedagogical coordinator after your admission. The allocation is done by June.

EIFFEL Scholarship

Futur Université de Paris Cité (UPC) students (all students recruited by LPI are enrolled at UPC) can contact first : **aides.mobilité.drive@u-paris.fr**

More information about this excellence scholarship on :

[France Excellence Eiffel scholarship program](#)

https://u-paris.fr/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/plaquette_eiffel_fr.pdf

Research Scholarships

CNGOF : Finance de projets de recherche sur l'Infertilité
<https://cngof.fr/recherche-scientifique/bourses-et-prix/les-bourses-du-cngof/>

Fondation Jacques Monod, finance des projets de jeunes chercheurs dans recherche bio moléculaire cellulaire

HOUSE-HUNTING

"Housing List" [HERE](#).

Every student does the housing research oneself. The housing list we proposed gathers different types of housing : State and private student residences, individuals and corporations that rent student flats, etc.

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Short lexicon of student lodging

Contrat de location, or bail (lease): contractual document establishing the responsibilities of the lessee and the lessor.

Caution solidaire or garant (guarantor): a person or entity agreeing to pay the rent in the event the renter does not.

For students who struggle in having a guarantor, there is an institution VISALE www.visale.fr which proposes to garant the rents. **HERE the details of every step to apply for the Solidarity Garant.**

Dépôt de garantie (security deposit): amount requested at the start, intended to cover the cost of any damage. It is returned at the end of the rental period, subject to conditions.

Etat de lieux d'entrée (entry inventory): In France this document is a very formal and important piece of the contract. It describes the condition of the accommodation and upon your entry to the accommodation. You have one month to point out the defects you encounter in the flat.

Etat de lieux de sortie (exit inventory): In the presence of the landlord or rental agency, you must inspect the premises before leaving and make an exit inventory that will be compared to the one that was drawn up when you entered the accommodation.

Quittance de loyer (rent receipt): receipt showing the details of the amount paid by the renter. Rent and utilities must be distinct.

Assurance habitation (home insurance): insurance covering civil liability and any damage due to water, fire, burglary, etc.

Caisse d'Allocations Familiales (CAF - Family Allowances Fund): public organisation that may provide you with financial assistance to help you pay your rent.

APL (housing aid): a public aid provided by the CAF (Caisses d'Allocations Familiales - Familial Allocation Office) under certain conditions - find the procedure how to apply in the Guide [Living in France](#)

Taxe d'habitation (habitation tax): Tax paid by an occupant of a lodging where he was occupying on January 1st of the tax year, i.e. the past year. The amount varies according to where the lodging is and its size.

Préavis (notice): a renter informs the landlord of his/her intention to move out this much time prior to leaving the lodging. It is one month for furnished rental lodging and three months for unfurnished lodging, except in metropolitan centres and areas with housing shortages.

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Des frais de dossier (souvent un mois de loyer hors charges): Administrative fees (often equivalent to a month rent without charges).

TUITION FEES at UPC

The following information is updated to 11/03/2025, valid for the academic year 2025/2026.

→ French, EU and Non-EU students :

Bachelor's Degree	175€
Master's Degree	250€
Doctorate	391€
Habilitation to supervise research (HDR)	391€

→ **For Non-EU Students at Université de Paris the tuition fees remain the same as for French students** - students in exchange do not pay the Tuition fees. (Due to the Bachelor program being discontinued from LPI, the exchange program is no longer feasible) Read here :

"Despite a decision from the French government¹ to change the regulations concerning the registration fee for non-European students, we decided not to adhere to these new regulations. Indeed, we are very attached to open up our university and therefore voted unanimously that non-European students will pay the same registration fee as French students. "

Further information on [Université de Paris](https://www.universite-paris-saclay.fr/) website.

Note

- **You won't have to pay the tuition fees if you are granted a scholarship from the French government or are awarded by the state if this is mentioned, written in your Scholarship certificate.**

CAMPUS CONTRIBUTION - CVEC - applies to Master and PHD

The CVEC contribution applies to **French and foreign students enrolling for a degree program in a public or private institution of higher education in France.**

1

Read

:

<https://pastel.diplomatie.gouv.fr/etudesenfrance/dyn/public/authentification/login.html?jsessionid=57E5BB0D6D832B9D69E99E9C07BE17E7.jvm01q152-2?codeLangue=EN>

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It costs **103 euros** per year and you can pay it before coming to France or once arrived in France but it is **mandatory** before enrollment to the University.

The CVEC may be paid online or in cash

To pay online:

1. Register at the site messervices.etudiant.gouv.fr (following the indications provided in section **"Registration at French platform education system"** ["messervice.etudiant.gouv.fr"](https://messervice.etudiant.gouv.fr))
2. Then connect to the dedicated CVEC site cvec.etudiant.gouv.fr.
3. Enter the city in which you are studying and pay the CVEC with a debit or credit card.
4. **Download and retain the proof of payment**, which you will need to show when you register at your university or other institution.

To pay in cash at a Post Office in France:

1. Register at the site messervices.etudiant.gouv.fr.
2. Then connect to the dedicated CVEC site cvec.etudiant.gouv.fr.
3. Download a payment notice.
4. Make the payment at any post office.
5. Within two business days you will receive a proof of payment by e-mail.
Download and retain this proof of payment, which you will need to show when you register at your university or other institution.

Read more :

- <https://www.campusfrance.org/en/10-things-you-need-to-know-about-the-new-student-and-campus-life-contribution-cvec>
- <https://www.crous-paris.fr/le-crous/la-contribution-vie-etudiante-et-de-campus-cvec-une-de-marche-obligatoire-et-utile-pour-les-etudiants/>
- Just in case, here the procedure detailing every step : https://www.campusfrance.org/en/system/files/medias/documents/2018-08/Proc%C3%A9dure%20CVEC_EN.pdf

If you realise that you have paid and you were eligible to be exempted, you can ask for a reimbursement, to obtain it follow the link and choose "demander un remboursement" - <https://cvec.etudiant.gouv.fr/> .

STUDENT BUDGET - estimation

Here an estimation of the living costs in France. It varies depending on the location or type of accommodation of the student.

Arrival expenses and installation	Costs	frequency	Comments
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Arrival (déplacements, logement temporaire, restaurants)	€450.00	/year	
Installation (first rent, rent deposit, basic equipment etc.)	€1,200.00	/year	Rents vary ~300€/900€ depending of the m² and location
Living expenses			
Housing and charges	€700.00	/month	A foreign student non EU can apply to the Housing Aid "APL" attributed according to their personal situation - EU students under some conditions
Food and other	€200.00	/month	There are University restaurants where students can have entire meal for 3.50€
Transport	€88,80	/month	<p>See the option for student under 26 years old (Permanent pass Navigo)</p> <p>If you come to France for a short time, or have not yet your housing and rental agreement to make a permanent pass Navigo in Paris, you can buy a Provisional pass (for few days, weeks or one month) in the metro, for this you will need to have a photo and do not forget to write your name on the card.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pass Découverte : https://www.iledefrance-mobilites.fr/titres-et-tarifs/soutiens/passe-navigo-decouverte • Pass Easy : https://www.iledefrance-mobilites.fr/titres-et-tarifs/soutiens/passe-navigo-easy <p>But keep in mind that Provisional passes can't be reimbursed !</p>
Telephone and internet	€45.00	/month	It depends of the contract ~10€ to 45€
Divers (housing insurance, supplementary health cover and	€70.00	/month	See options for student : LMDE

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others...)			
	€1090.00	/month	
Tuition fees			
Tuition fees - enrolment to the University (see tuition fees above, p. 9)	€170.00 (Bachelor) €250.00 (Master) €391.00 (PhD)	/year	Non EU students at UP will pay same tuition fees as for French students - students in exchange do not pay the Tuition fees; PHD student in other universities than UPC may pay more;
Campus Contribution (CVEC)	€103.00	/year	https://cvec.etudiant.gouv.fr/
TIP : The students status gives free entry for different museums and discounts for cinemas			
Good to know : if a student has to do an internship as part of the academic program, which duration is more than 2 months, he/she will receive a compensation of 550€ /month.			

DOCUMENTS TO BRING FROM YOUR COUNTRY

In preparation for the administrative procedures of installation in France, here is a list of documents you have to/must bring with you:

- **Valid passport** (EU and Non EU student) **or** identity card (only EU students)
- **Long-stay visa** stamped "student" (for Bachelor and Master) or "Passport Talent Visa" (for PHD) - Applies to Non EU members;
- **Birth certificate, legalised or apostille** by the authorities that issued the document - translated into **French** by a sworn translator recognized by the French authorities - **MANDATORY** (English is not accepted by the French administration in France) - **EU** citizens can ask for a "multilingual" birth certificate in your country.
- **High school diploma** (highly recommended "**legalised or apostille**" by the authorities that issued the document); **translated into French - MANDATORY** ;
- **Bachelor and Master diploma** (highly recommended "**legalised or apostille**" by the authorities that issued the document); and **translated into French - MANDATORY**;
- **Married students:** a **copy of the marriage certificate** translated into French - **EU** citizens can ask for a "multilingual" birth certificate in your country;
- **International driving licence**, if you have a driving licence in your country - **NON MANDATORY** but can be very useful
 - ◆ EU driving licence is valid in France
 - ◆ Some Non European driving licences can be exchanged for the French Licence (see at the Prefecture, in the first year in France).
- For healthcare cover
 - ◆ **EU Students :** bring your **European Health Insurance Card (EHIC)** and the form **S1** from your country - ask in your country Health Care Social Security.

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- ◆ Students from Quebec: ask in your Social Security (la **RAMQ**) the form “SE401Q102Bis or SE401Q106” or « **Attestation d'appartenance à un régime québécois**” prior leaving for France»
- ◆ All international students: **Health record book and record of vaccinations** (if necessary you will translate in France);
There are some vaccines required before boarding, here a list not exhaustive :
 - Yellow fever vaccine (the international card)
 Vaccines record books is useful (NOT MANDATORY) in case you get sick, doctors often check Tuberculosis, DPT (diphtérie, le tétanos et la poliomyélite);

INFORMATION TO KEEP IN MIND BEFORE ARRIVAL

French classes

After getting the acceptance at the University you should start the procedure to register for French classes for foreign students (FLE). These are highly requested classes with not many spots per semester, so we recommend you to reach out the contacts indicated here below, **definitely before getting your visa**. Waiting until September to apply for FLE classes at your university decreases your chances of getting in.

In the meantime, we strongly encourage you to begin learning the basics of French online. Here are some **free online platforms** with videos, audio, and interactive activities to get started :

[The French Experiment](#) : some free online beginner French lessons with audio.

[Learn french online](#) : Free online platform, beginner level French lessons.

[An online training offer to learn French and better understand the French society](#) :

Available free of charge on the France Université Numérique (FUN) platform, ranging from level A1 to level B1 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages.

For direct access to the MOOCs "Living in France" (you have to register):

- <https://www.fun-mooc.fr/fr/cours/vivre-en-france-a1/>
- <https://www.fun-mooc.fr/fr/cours/vivre-en-france-a2/>
- <https://www.fun-mooc.fr/fr/cours/vivre-en-france-b1/>

“[Living in France](#)” application : 10h of training, available on Google Play.

“[Happy FLE](#)” application : 120 exercises, available on Google Play.

“[French first steps](#)” application : basic oral communication in various everyday situations.

[Flyer "Online French course" program by the French Government](#)

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[TV5MONDE: learn French](#) : Free interactive platform to learn French (videos, exercises...)

[BBC - Learn French with free online lessons](#) : Free learning site (audio, video, etc)

FYI

UPC french classes are on the same schedule as your classes so they are incompatible with your agenda. For further information please check : [UPC Language Centres](#)
*French classes are not mandatory to any of the LPI programs, however it's **highly recommended** for a more engaging daily and social life in Paris. In addition, it will be a good asset to find an internship or a job later on.*

For UPC students : visit the [LivinFrance](#) new platform for international students

Since last year, the Student Life department has been working to make it easier for international students accepted by Paris university to arrive and settle in France, via the [LivinFrance](#) platform. Housing, CVEC, insurance, banks, visas... students can start their administrative procedures online before arriving and settling in France, and get help if they need it. Keep in mind that to use this platform you will need to have your email address UPC !

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