INFORMATION SESSION

Prepare your stay at Telecom Paris and in France

Updated on December 2023
Your check-list!

- Visa procedure
- Accommodation

Prior to your departure in France

- Bank
- Health insurance and mutuelle
- CAF
- CVEC
- Liability Insurance
- Transportation card («Navigo»)

Upon arrival in France
Prior to your departure in France

**Visa**

- Contact Campus France office in your country.

- Register on “Etudes en France” platform and upload the necessary documents if your country of residence is one of the 65 affected by “Etudes en France” procedure. Campus France will verify your visa application file before submitting it to the French consulate.

- Make sure your passport is valid for the entire period of your stay in France.

- Original birth certificate (translated in French), carried out by a sworn translator.

- The **VLS-TS** (“Visa Long Séjour valant Titre de Séjour”) is equivalent to a French residence permit that allows you to stay in France for one whole year.

- **A visa is not required for citizens of the European Economic Area (European Union member countries (EU), Iceland, Norway and Liechtenstein) or Switzerland.**
Covid-related information

https://www.interieur.gouv.fr/covid-19/deplacements-internationaux
Accommodation

Residences available on the campus or in the area are listed on the following page:


Residences included in the « Guichet Unique » (« One-stop shop ») are all located on the campus. The platform open around Mid-June (See FAQs) and closes in September. Outside of this period, you can contact the residences directly.

We also have direct partnerships with:

- **Cité universitaire** (contact to book a room there: logement@telecom-paris.fr)
- **Kley Saclay** (contact to book a room there: logement@telecom-paris.fr)
- **Ecla Residence** (contact to book a room there: logement@telecom-paris.fr)
- **Sciences Accueil**: https://www.science-accueil.org/en/request-services/

« Heberjeunes » is another organisation similar to Sciences Accueil (8€ registration fee) but we do not have a partnership with them. https://www.heberjeunes.fr/

//\ Payment start on the date mentioned on the agreement, not necessarily on the arrival date!!!
Accommodation
Guarantor (garant)

During the process, a guarantor (someone who will stand security for you) will be required.

If you do not know anyone in France to act as such (case for most of you!), some companies can provide you with a guarantor.

We recommend « Visale »: https://www.visale.fr/ (Free process)

The website is unfortunately in French only.

Some residences (or housing services like « Guichet Unique ») will prefer that you use Visale instead of someone you know in France.

FAQ: To book my accommodation through Guichet Unique, I am asked to provide a guarantor. However to provide this guarantor (or Visale certificate), I need to obtain my visa/resident permit for France first and to obtain my visa, I need an accommodation! What can I do???

Our answer: You can send your guarantor certificate later to Guichet Unique. If the system does not allow you to go further without any document, download any other document instead.
Open your French bank account

**Required documents**
- passport + accommodation proof (in France)
- student card or enrollment certificate for special offers dedicated to students

*The bank will give you a « RIB » (Relevé d’Identité bancaire (bank and account details); necessary for other administrative procedures.)*

The student Union (BDE) has a partnership with LCL Orsay that will allow you to get some benefits if you open your bank account with them (See pdf by LCL on « how to open your bank account ».)
Validation of your VLS-TS visa

The **VLS-TS (LONG-STAY STUDENT VISA)** is equivalent to a French residence permit that allows you to stay in France for one year and which is renewable.

You must validate it **within the 3 first months** after your arrival in France on the following website:

https://administration-etrangers-en-france.interieur.gouv.fr/particuliers/#/

**NB:** Tax to pay: 50€

The online process allows you to be considered as a legal resident: situation of a foreigner in possession of documents authorizing him/her to remain in France and to cross the borders of the Schengen area again.
HEALTH INSURANCE
(also called « Sécurité sociale », « Assurance maladie », « Amelie », « CPAM »)

All students registered to the French higher education must have a health insurance during their stay in France.

You’ll find below several options regarding your situation/nationality and application procedures.
Case 1: European students (UE) or students from Quebec

- You need a European health insurance card, valid for the whole duration of your studies in France.

- It’s not a full coverage of your medical expenses in France though. Which means that you have to pay in advance the medical expenses then ask for a refund. Private health insurance is recommended for a better coverage.

- (Students from Quebec are exempted of affiliation to the social security upon presentation of Form #SE401Q106.)

- In the absence of a European health insurance from your country, you have to join the French public health system (refer to Case 2).
**Case 2**: International students (non UE citizens), First year in the French higher education

Application to the French public health insurance (Sécurité Sociale) is free and **compulsory**.

Register to:  [https://etudiant-etranger.ameli.fr/#/](https://etudiant-etranger.ameli.fr/#/)

Upload the following documents:

- “Proof of registration for the current academic year” = enrollment certificate
- “Proof of identity” = first page of the passport
- “A student visa” = visa page of the passport
- “A vital record” = birth certificate (a translation in French is better)
- “A residency permit” = validation of your VLS TS student visa
- “RIB” = details of your French bank account

You will then receive your « Sécurité Sociale » number.
To do list:

• INDIQUE VOTRE NOM COMPLET SUR VOTRE BOÎTE POSTALE :
  Multiple documents to be received by post.

• A few months after your registration on étudiant-étranger.ameli.fr, you’ll receive your number (around 3 months) and the procedure to follow to create your personal account. Then you will receive later (6 to 12 months) your «carte vitale» (the social security card).

• Students affiliated to Sécurité Sociale should declare a “general practitioner” («déclaration de choix de médecin traitant»). If not, you’ll only receive a 30% instead of 60% refund of your medical consultations expenses.
“MUTUELLE” = complementary health insurance

• The Sécurité Sociale partially (15-80%) covers your medical expenses but can be completed by a subscription to a mutuelle.

• Reliable mutuelle providers for students: LMDE and HEYME, offer different packages from 15€ to 50€ per month.

• Heyme offers Telecom Paris’ students a discount if you register with them (through a code that will be sent later)

• Annual rather than monthly subscription to a mutuelle (for the whole academic year) is advisable.

Social security = free and compulsory
Mutuelle = not compulsory but highly recommended
CAF (Caisse d'allocations familiales)

- International students are eligible to a housing allowance called « aide au logement » provided by the CAF (also called « APL »): From 100 to 200€

- Some student residences will do the registration process for you.

- Check on [CAF.fr](http://CAF.fr) for more details.
CVEC (Contribution vie étudiante et campus) (Exchange students not concerned!)

• A tax known as the Student and Campus Life Contribution “intended for the promotion and improvement of student welcome and integration, social support, medical services, cultural and sports activities, and also for the support of student-oriented work related to disease prevention and education”.

• Paying the CVEC is a compulsory step when you enroll in a French higher education institution: A fixed amount of €100 for 2023-2024 academic year. [https://cvec.etudiant.gouv.fr/](https://cvec.etudiant.gouv.fr/)

• Your CVEC certificate must be submitted to Telecom Paris at the moment of your enrollment (September)
Liability insurance
or “assurance responsabilité civile”

• **Subscription is compulsory for all students**

• The liability insurance covers you in case of damages you may cause to people or their belonging(s)

• It can be included in a mutuelle, a housing or a car insurance, the services offered by your bank when opening a bank account… So check first to make sure you do not already have this coverage.

You have the possibility to sign up independently with an insurance company for less than 20€/year (Heyme/LMDE…)
HOW to reach the campus?

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION:

Download the RATP, vianavigo or citymapper app on your mobile to search for transit routes, timetables, etc.

To purchase your transportation card ("carte Navigo"), visit: www.iledefrance-mobilites.fr/titres-et-tarifs/liste?d=forfaits

(It takes up to one month to receive your card!)
Telecom Paris’ Campus situated on the plateau de Saclay, 

City of Palaiseau (southwest of Paris) 

Essonne Department
From CDG Airport (Paris Roissy Charles De Gaulle)

*Commuting time: +1 hour*
Reach the campus by public transportation

Take RER B towards Saint-Rémy-lès-Chevreuse or Massy-Palaiseau or Orsay Ville (avoid Robinson!)

- **Option 1**: Get off at Massy-Palaiseau then take bus TransEssonne 91.06 or 91.10 (until “Ferme de la Vauve”)

- **Option 2**: Stay in RER B and get off at Lozère station where you can reach Telecom Paris by foot (follow Ecole Polytechnique sign)

**NB**: Option 2 not recommended for your first visit at Telecom Paris if you have luggage as there are many unavoidable high stairs to climb!
Your integration into Telecom Paris’ student life

- Bureau des Elèves (BDE)
- Bureau des Internationaux (BDI)
- Bureau des Sport (BDS)
- Other clubs (displayed in the BDE brochure)
- Events organised all year long. Among them the most important event for your intégration: The « WEI » (Weekend d’Intégration in September)
- Buddy program
Useful Links:

- https://www.telecom-paris.fr/fr/international/etudiants-internationaux/avant-votre-arrivee
- Livin France (https://livin-france.com)
- https://bde.telecom-paris.fr/
  https://wei.telecom-paris.fr/?lang=en (WEI website)
  https://youtu.be/gA4WoU_jcxw (video with testimonies from WEI)