



DISCOVER  
YOUR CITY



Campus France will guide  
you through your first steps in  
France and **exploring**  
**Aix-en-Provence**, your  
new home.

**WELCOME** **TO**

**AIX-EN-PROVENCE**





## YOUR ARRIVAL IN AIX-EN-PROVENCE /

### ◆ A Welcome Desk for international students

**Aix-Marseille Université (AMU) created an International Student Welcome Desk (Guichet d'Accueil) for foreign students enrolled in the following establishments: Ecole Centrale - Marseille, Kedge Business School, Ecole Nationale Supérieure d'Architecture - Marseille, IEP Aix-en-Provence, Ecole Supérieure d'Art d'Aix-en-Provence and Mines Saint Etienne in Gardanne.**

**The Welcome Desk is open from 9 September to 4 October 2024.**

On site, you'll find the services of the CROUS, the Prefecture, the City of Aix-en-Provence, and other organizations which will simplify your administrative procedures as concerns:

- visa validation
- housing and transportation
- banking and insurance
- health and welfare
- campus life (culture, leisure, sports, and recreation)

**Address:** Campus Schuman, 29 avenue Robert Schuman, 13100 Aix-en-Provence, at the entrance to the Cube building.

**Access:** Bus line A, stop: Facultés.

**Hours:** Monday to Friday, 9am to 4pm.

### Learn more:

- **International Student Handbook** Aix-Marseille University (bilingual), download from the AMU site: <https://www.univ-amu.fr> (International tab > Coming to AMU)

<https://dri.univ-amu.fr> > guides à télécharger

- **the Aix-Etudiant portal**, put in place by the City of Aix-en-Provence to help students in their search for information: <https://www.aixenprovence.fr/Aix-ville-etudiante>

- **the portal for the Direction des Relations Internationales (DRI), or International Relations Department** at the Aix-Marseille Université: <https://www.univamu.fr> (International tab)

### ◆ Welcome and orientation for researchers and doctoral students

Researchers and doctoral students will find useful information under the International tab >

Coming to AMU on <https://www.univamu.fr>

Aix-Marseille Université is a member of the Euraxess Network.

Contact: 04 86 09 08 43 or [drv-euraxess@univ-amu.fr](mailto:drv-euraxess@univ-amu.fr)

### ◆ Buddy System

**You can be assisted by a buddy in Aix-en-Provence!**

With the **ESN student association** (Erasmus Student Network), and the **Buddy System**, foreign students are assisted by French students, and have the advantage of personalized support:

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

### ◆ Welcome and orientation in other institutions

If you are registered in another institution, please consult the Campus France website for orientation.

The site presents a series of **Information Sheets covering the different higher learning institutions in France:**

<https://www.campusfrance.org/fr/recherche/categorie/provence-alpes-cote-d-azur-466>

If you cannot find your school in this list, then go directly to their website.

### ◆ National Services

- students: [www.etudiant.gouv.fr](http://www.etudiant.gouv.fr)

- doctoral students, researchers:

<http://www.euraxess.fr/fr>



Making you feel at home is a major concern for all French higher education institutions! The **Welcome to France label** is awarded to institutions that fulfil exacting criteria in the way they take care of their international students.



## ACCOMMODATION

**Finding somewhere to live is not always easy.**

Rents are often high, and landlords require financial guarantees (such as a deposit).

Nevertheless, there is a wide range of accommodation on offer: halls of residence that are exclusively reserved for students and managed by the CROUS, student halls and private lodgings, rooms in private homes, flatshares...

The main thing is to start preparing for this as early as possible, before leaving your home country.

• **Aix-Marseille Université** has put in place a **housing service** thanks to its partner platforms Studapart and Amastas, which can help you find accommodation more easily. It brings together and regularly updates a wide range of offers:  
<https://www.univ-amu.fr/fr/public/nos-plateformes-partenaires-logements>

For more information, refer to the **Guide Logements** published by AMU and available in French or in English:  
<https://vie-etudiante.univ-amu.fr> > vie pratique > se loger pendant ses études > guides logements

• The **CRIJ (Centre Régional d'Information Jeunesse)**, the regional youth information center, for Provence -Alpes - Côte d'Azur publishes free classified ads on its site:  
<https://annonces.infojeunesse-paca.fr/>

• The City's dedicated site, **Aix-Etudiant**, gives several leads for housing:  
<http://www.aix-etudiant.fr/> > Vivre à Aix > Se loger

## A FEW TIPS

### ♦ Short-term housing:

• The **Aix-en-Provence Tourist Office** has a **search engine on its site** which lists all types of housing:  
<https://www.aixenprovencetourism.com/> > Préparer son séjour > Hébergement

### ♦ Long-term housing

• **Aix-Marseille-Avignon CROUS** (Centre Régional des Œuvres Universitaires - Regional Center for University Services) for **housing**.  
Address: 31 avenue Jules Ferry,  
13090 Aix-en-Provence.  
Hours: Monday to Friday, 8:30am to 12:30pm  
and 1:30pm to 4:15pm.  
Housing contact: 04 42 90 08 00.  
Site: <http://www.crous-aix-marseille.fr/>

The website *Trouver un logement*:  
<https://trouverunlogement.lescrous.fr/>

### • Private Housing Platforms:

In addition to the Studapart platform (<https://www.univ-amu.fr/fr/public/nos-plateformes-partenaires-logements>), other offers for student housing managed by private companies, are also available.

Try these sites:

- <https://www.adele.org/>
- <https://www.immojeune.com/>
- <https://www.location-etudiant.fr/>
- <https://housinganywhere.com/fr/>

## GETTING AROUND AIX-EN-PROVENCE



From Paris, there are two options to get to Aix-en-Provence:

- by train (high-speed TGV train ride 3 hours and 10 minutes) that you can catch from Roissy-Charles de Gaulle airport (terminal 2) or from the center of Paris (Gare de Lyon). The Aix TGV train station is located outside the city. Take the shuttle for the 10km trip into town.
- by plane (flight time: 1 hour and 15 minutes). From Marseille Provence airport, take the shuttle for the 32km trip to the Aix bus station.

• Regardless of where you arrive in Aix-en-Provence, consult the dedicated page on getting to the Welcome Desk (Guichet Unique):  
<https://www.univ-amu.fr/fr/public/dispositifs-daccueil>



• In the city and surrounding areas, use the Aix-en-Bus public transportation (bus) system to get around: <https://www.aixenbus.fr/>  
The Aix-Marseille metropolis offers the annual pass at a discounted price for students:  
<https://www.aixenbus.fr> > Titres > Les titres et tarifs > Tous les titres de transport > Abonnement étudiant



For travelling within the region, take the:

- Provence - Alpes - Côte d'Azur regional trains: <https://www.ter.sncf.com/paca>
- The PACA Region created the **Carte ZOU** which allows you to travel cheap:  
<https://www.ter.sncf.com/paca> > tarifs et achats > cartes et abonnements

In the Bouches-du-Rhône department, you can also travel by bus:

<http://www.rtm.fr/cartreize>

If you want to travel further, don't forget the bus for low-cost fares: <https://fr.ouibus.com/> or <https://www.flixbus.fr/>



For ride-sharing, refer to the collaborative websites

- national website: <https://www.blablacar.fr>
- regional website: <https://covoiturage.autoclubaix.com/>



For more independence,, you can rent a bike. Check out the best addresses at the Aix-en-Provence Tourist Office:

Aix-en-Provence Visitor Center:  
<https://www.aixenprovencetourism.com/> > Préparer son séjour > Accès et transports > Loueurs de vélos

• There is also **Lokaviz**, a site managed by **CROUS**, which includes a listing of student accommodations in private homes:

<https://www.lokaviz.fr/>

• **Shared Leases**: Consult *La Carte des Colocs*, a national site for shared leases that's free and simple to use: <https://www.lacartedescolocs.fr/>

• **Other solutions available on the Campus France site**: [www.campusfrance.org](http://www.campusfrance.org) > Getting organized > Accommodation

#### ◆ If you need a guarantor to secure your lodging

Visale provides a free service for students who need a co-signer (guarantor) to secure housing: [www.visale.fr](http://www.visale.fr)

Please visit the AMU Housing FAQ section for detailed information on the supporting documents you will require and advice on simple ways to find a guarantor: <https://www.univ-amu.fr/fr/public/faqlogement>

#### ◆ If you want to file an application for APL funds (Aide Personnalisée au Logement, or personalized housing aid)

CAF (Caisse des Allocations Familiales) can check your eligibility: 32 30 or [www.caf.fr](http://www.caf.fr)

#### ◆ For housing adapted to your special needs, see:

<http://www.handitoit.org/>

Some establishments have specialized services for students with disabilities (assistance for housing, and also transportation and tuition).

**Aix-Marseille Université** has set up a **Mission Handicap** which welcomes and supports all students with disabilities: <https://mission-handicap.univ-amu.fr/>

#### The CROUS, at your service everywhere

Do you need any help and/or advice, somewhere to eat or to live, a job - or do you just want to find out all there is to know about student life? Then the CROUS is what you need!



The CROUS (Centre Régional des Œuvres Universitaires et Scolaires - Regional Centre of University and School Services)

has branches in all major French university towns.

It manages university halls of residence and canteens, allows you to meet social workers, and offers cultural activities and job opportunities.



## FIRST THINGS FIRST /

### ENROLLMENT IN YOUR INSTITUTION

#### ◆ CVEC

Before you can enroll in your institution, you must

download proof of payment of the Contribution Vie Etudiante et de Campus (CVEC) – the student and campus life contribution fee.

- Log in at: <https://cvec.etudiant.gouv.fr/>

- For additional information and special cases: <https://www.campusfrance.org> > Getting Organized > CVEC

#### ◆ Confirm Registration

**Take note!** Even if you have a pre-registration letter, you are not officially enrolled.

You must confirm your enrollment with the institution's Service de la Scolarité (Admissions) as soon as you arrive.

For AMU students, please visit:

<https://www.univ-amu.fr/fr/public/inscription-ou-reinscription-administrative-inscription-pedagogique>

### RESIDENCE PERMITS

#### WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

• If you have just arrived in France on a long-term VLS-TS student visa: you must **validate it online as soon as you arrive in France**, on the ANEF (Administration numérique pour les Etrangers en France - Digital Administration for Foreigners in France) website. This validation must be carried out within the three months following your arrival: <https://administration-etrangers-en-france.interieur.gouv.fr/particuliers/#/>

• If you have Algerian citizenship or you are a student holding a “concours” visa or a visa bearing the mention “carte à solliciter dans les deux mois” (“card to be requested within two months”): your request for a residence permit must be carried out at the Préfecture.

• If you hold a “mineur scolarisé” (“minor in education”) visa and you have since attained your majority, you must request a residence permit directly on the ANEF website or at the *préfecture* of your place of residence within the two months following your attaining the age of legal majority: <https://administration-etrangers-en-france.interieur.gouv.fr/particuliers/#/>

Please note: if you wish to renew your residence permit or VLS-TS, you must make your request during the third month preceding the date of end of validity of your current residence permit, on the following website: <https://administration-etrangers-en-france.interieur.gouv.fr/particuliers/#/>

The following tutorial can help you with this procedure: <https://www.campusfrance.org/en/tutorials-to-help-international-students-in-their-application-process>

• **Your institution's student support services can assist you in case of any difficulties.**

To find out more about your rights and obligations:  
<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/N110>



## PRACTICAL INFORMATION /

In Aix-en-Provence, the **Centre Information Familles** known as **Information Jeunesse et Eurodesk** is a **city service which welcomes students year-round**, during the course of their university studies (jobs, housing, health, training, etc.).

Address: 37 boulevard Aristide Briand.

Contact: 04 42 91 98 01 or [cif@mairie-aixenprovence.fr](mailto:cif@mairie-aixenprovence.fr)

### OPENING A BANK ACCOUNT

If you stay in France for more than 3 months, it will be much easier day-to-day if you open a bank account, **online or in one of the bank agencies located in Aix-en-Provence**

Some banks also have agents available at the Aix-Marseille Université Welcome Desk. For more information on this topic, please visit:  
<https://www.univ-amu.fr/fr/public/ouverture-dun-compte-bancaire>

In France, opening a bank account is a right:  
[www.service-public.fr](http://www.service-public.fr) > Argent > Comptes bancaires  
> Droit au compte

### ACCESSING HEALTHCARE

Accessing healthcare in France is almost free, but you must be insured. **You must therefore be registered with the national health insurance programme.**

Please go to the <https://etudiant-etranger.ameli.fr> website to register, understand your rights and to carry out the requisite procedures.

Learn more:

<https://www.campusfrance.org> > Getting Organized  
> Health

**As a student, you can also take advantage of the university medical services.** In these health services where consultations are free, you'll be greeted by a team of doctors, nurses, and social workers who can give personalized advice in terms of health and prevention.

**That's the case with the Aix-Marseille Université** which has a Service de Santé étudiante (SSE), or student health service, **with a satellite office in Aix-en-Provence.**

Address: 29 avenue Robert Schuman, Le Cube building, 13100 Aix-en-Provence.

Contact: 04 13 94 22 80

Learn more: <https://www.univ-amu.fr/> Student Life tab > Practical Life > Health

**In Aix-en-Provence, the city has created Santé Jeunes**, a youth health service which has a Point Accueil for health prevention where you'll be welcomed and where you can talk.  
<http://www.aixenprovence.fr/Sante-Jeunes>

### TAKING OUT COMPLEMENTARY HEALTH INSURANCE ("MUTUELLE")

**We recommend you take out complementary health insurance in order to cover the totality of your healthcare costs, which are not all covered by the compulsory and free national health insurance programme.**

Please note: options and levels of insurance vary from one insurer to another. In order to choose the complementary insurance that is best adapted to your situation and your budget, you can access more information on a student "mutuelles" price comparison website.

### HOUSING INSURANCE

**In France, housing insurance is mandatory.**

You can sign up for housing insurance called "garantie risques locatifs" - rental risk guarantee - at your bank or a private insurance company. Online subscription is often possible.

## EMERGENCY NUMBERS

**SAMU: Call 15** Emergency Medical Services  
**Police emergency: Call 17** in the event of violence, theft, robbery.

**Fire Department: Call 18** in the event of fire, gas leak, water damage, natural catastrophe, or traffic accident.

**Call 112:** European emergency services number that's accessible from anywhere in the European Union in addition to the French numbers above.

### LEARNING FRENCH

Learning French is an opportunity that's not to be missed! Find what works best for you:

- by consulting the Campus France site or the Français Langue Etrangère (FLE) - French as a foreign language - centers and universities which offer courses at all levels year-round:

<https://ecolesdete.campusfrance.org/#/main>

- The Service Universitaire des Langues (SUL – University Languages Services) of Aix- Marseille Université offers courses in French as a foreign language for international students: <https://url.univ-amu.fr/sul-fle>

## FINDING A JOB OR AN INTERNSHIP

**It is important that you have sufficient financial resources to come and study in France.**

Working in France as a foreign student is possible within limits, namely for a maximum duration of 964 hours per year. This can therefore only be a way of earning **supplementary funds**.

Please note: to work in France, if you are not a citizen of the European Union, you must hold a valid **student residence permit**.

**To help you find a job or work experience placement, 3 addresses:**

- **the Centre Régional d'Information Jeunesse Provence - Alpes - Côte d'Azur, or regional youth information center** publishes free classified ads online: <https://annonces.infojeunesse-paca.fr/>

- **the CIF (Centre Information Familles or family information center)** works with young people who are looking for a job or internship: <http://www.aixenprovence.fr/Centre-Information-Familles-CIF>

- **the Jobaviz website, run by the CROUS**, can help you find a student job compatible with your studies: <http://www.jobaviz.fr/>



## THINGS TO DO IN AIX-EN-PROVENCE /

### TAKE UP A SPORT

• In your institution, contact the Service des Sports for free access to sports facilities.

**At Aix-Marseille Université, the SUAPS** (Service Universitaire des Activités Physiques et Sportives), or university department for physical and sports activities organizes activities for students: <https://agon.univ-amu.fr/>

**In Aix-en-Provence**, you can also find a sports activity by contacting one of the city's 300 sports associations and facilities: <http://www.aixenprovence.fr/> > Sport à Aix

### BE ACTIVE

Attend cultural and sporting events, or join a social or community group, through one of the numerous local or national student clubs and associations.

**To find out more, contact:**

- your host institution (Service de la Vie Étudiante) At **Aix-Marseille Université**, a list of over a hundred associations is available:

<https://vie-etudiante.univ-amu.fr/> > Vie associative > Consultez la liste des associations étudiantes AMU

- consult the national sites:

[www.animafac.net](http://www.animafac.net) or [www.letudiant.fr](http://www.letudiant.fr)

### CULTURE AND NIGHTLIFE

Aix-en-Provence offers many ways to cultivate yourself or party. Movie theaters, concerts, theaters, operas, museums, exhibitions, and festivals are on the program and most of the time, at reduced cost for students. See the City site, Culture tab:

<http://www.aixenprovence.fr>

**At Aix-Marseille Université**, the Service Culture collaborates with regional and national cultural partners to develop an offer of artistic events. Since 2019, with the **AMU student card**, you can take advantage of **Pact'Amu**, which offers additional discounts on the young person rate for shows, and free admission for museums (in Aix and in Marseille): <https://www.univ-amu.fr/> > Vie des Campus > Vie culturelle > PacteAMU

**For entertainment or to pick up some culture, you can choose from:**

- 4 multiplex movie theaters (student rates, rewards program) including 3 art house theaters.

- 11 museums:

<http://www.aixenprovence.fr/Musees>

- a dozen performance centers including Théâtre Antoine Vitez, installed on the Aix-Marseille Université Schuman campus which presents contemporary programming by young artists:

<http://www.aixenprovence.fr/Liste-des-scenes-aixoises>

- around ten book shops including a major institution, Librairie Goulard

- 4 libraries and multi-media centers:

<http://www.aixenprovence.fr/Bibliotheques>

In Aix-en-Provence, for going out or staying abreast of current events, read **the regional daily paper, La Provence**, available in newsstands or on the Internet: <https://www.laprovence.com/> > Région > Aix / Pays d'Aix

You can also check out the Tourist Office's cultural agenda:

<https://www.aixenprovencetourism.com/> > Tous les événements



## TOP ATTRACTIONS /

- The Quatre Dauphins (Four Dolphins) fountain: Aix-en-Provence is a spa town known as "the city with 1000 fountains."
  - The Cours Mirabeau, in the center of Aix-en-Provence, is a beautiful avenue lined with plane trees. It has three fountains (Neuf-Canons, Moussue, and King René), cafés and terraces!
  - There are 8 private mansions classed as historical monuments: <http://www.aixenprovence.fr/hotels-particuliers-classes>
  - Vieil Aix (old town): Place de l'Hôtel-de-Ville (City Hall square), Tour de l'Horloge (Clock Tower), place Albertas, and the Saint-Sauveur cathedral and cloisters.
  - The Atelier Cézanne, the studio where the famous native-born Aix-en-Provence Impressionist painter, Paul Cézanne, lived and worked.
  - The Ancien Palais de l'Archevêché is the former Archdiocese Palace. The prestigious Festival d'Art Lyrique d'Aix takes place in its courtyard.
  - The Vasarely Foundation with unquestionably contemporary architecture, houses the works of Victor Vasarely, the Op Art master.
  - Sainte-Victoire mountain, a symbol of Provence and the Pays d'Aix which so inspired Cézanne.
  - And let's not forget all the lively, daily open-air markets in Aix-en-Provence!
- To learn (and see) more, consult the Tourist Office:

<https://www.aixenprovencetourism.com/>



## IMPORTANT ANNUAL EVENTS /

### APRIL

- Aix-en-Provence Carnival, a theme carnival in the city center.
- Aix-en-Foulées, a foot race through the city.
- Rencontre du 9<sup>e</sup> Art, a graphic novel festival (free admission).

### MAY

- **Pint of Science**, a European initiative for learning about research in atypical venues:

<https://pintofscience.fr/events/aix-en-provence>

- The Nuit Européenne des Musées (European Museum Night), an occasion to visit museums differently (and for free).
- C'est Sud, a festival with numerous events – musical, theatrical, and choreographed – in the city center (free admission)
- Pays d'Aix Tennis Open (free admission).

### JUNE

- Fête de la Musique with music everywhere in town (free concerts).

### JULY - AUGUST

- the Aix Festival, lyrical and musical, one of the most prestigious in France and the world (reduced rates for those under 30): <https://festival-aix.com/fr>
- Instants d'Été (Summer Moments), free movie screenings in the open-air, in the city center and surrounding parks
- ZIK-ZAK Festival, a festival of contemporary world music (free admission).

### SEPTEMBER

- Les Journées du Patrimoine (heritage days), free visits of cultural venues.
- Festival Jours et Nuits de Cirque(s), a contemporary circus festival with reduced rates for students.

### OCTOBER

- **Nuit des Etudiants du Monde – Students of the World Night**, a festive evening with student associations, CROUS, and the University (in Marseille): [www.nuitdesetudiantsdumonde.org/nem](http://www.nuitdesetudiantsdumonde.org/nem)
- **Aix Students Fest**, free concert at the start of the academic year.
- **Festiv'Amu**, two days of sports and cultural activities for the entire Aix-Marseille University community: <http://www.festiv-amu.fr/>
- **Fête de la Science**, a science festival in the university laboratories.

### NOVEMBER - DECEMBER

- Christmas activities, numerous events including the traditional Santons of Provence fair and the 13 Desserts Market (culinary specialties for a Provence Christmas).
- Tous Courts, an international festival for short-feature films (reduced rated for students).

**Learn more:** <http://www.aixenprovence.fr/>

> Culture à Aix > Les grands rendez-vous de la culture

Download the free **Aix Ma Ville app**:

<http://www.aixenprovence.fr/Application-smartphone-Aix-ma-ville>



**& SHARE  
PARTICIPATE**

To stay informed and attuned to others and the world, to share and dialogue with students, follow **social media** where Campus France has an especially strong presence!

*Don't forget to join the **France Alumni** network. Take part in discussion groups on various subjects, take advantage of cultural outings, and consult job and internship offers.*



# THINGS TO KNOW

**Aix-Marseille-Provence  
metropolitan area:**

**1,900,000** residents

**2<sup>nd</sup>** largest metropolis in France

**City of Aix-en-Provence:**

**143,000** residents

**35,000** students

**AIX-EN-  
PROVENCE:**

**2<sup>nd</sup>** largest city in  
the Bouches-du-Rhône department

**4<sup>th</sup>** largest city in the Provence-  
Alpes-Côte d'Azur  
(PACA) region

**PACA REGION:**

**6<sup>th</sup>** region for hosting  
foreign students in France  
(23,000 international students)

**Aix-Marseille Université :**

**1<sup>st</sup>** francophone university  
in the world

**80,000** students including  
12,000 international students

**3,400** doctoral students



**AIX-EN-PROVENCE, 19<sup>th</sup> OUT OF 46 FRENCH UNIVERSITY  
CITIES WHERE IT'S GOOD TO LIVE AND STUDY** (awarded by L'Étudiant magazine)

Most of the information presented in the Campus France City Information Sheets concerns all international students regardless of their institution.

In France, in each of the host cities, most foreign students study at universities. Accordingly, the City Information Sheets attach great importance to them without overlooking the other higher education institutions even if it is not possible to list them all here with their specific information.

For more information on the institutions' welcomes and orientations:

<https://www.campusfrance.org/fr/recherche/categorie/provence-alpes-cote-d-azur> 466

**CAMPUS FRANCE – PACA REGIONAL DELEGATION**

6 allée Turcat Méry, 13008 Marseille (metro line 2, Périer stop)

Monday to Friday, 9am to 12pm and 4pm to 5pm

04 91 29 97 00

**CAMPUS FRANCE**

28 rue de la Grange aux Belles, 75010 PARIS - 01 40 40 58 58 - [www.campusfrance.org](http://www.campusfrance.org)