



HOUSING BENEFITS IN FRANCE: SAVE ON RENT AS A STUDENT

What housing benefits are, why they're a game-changer for students, and how to apply



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RECAP : **WHAT TO REMEMBER**

RECAP

No time to read everything? Here's what you need to know about housing benefits in France.

➤ Housing assistance (APL), what's it for?

It's financial aid that helps students reduce their rent while studying in France. If you're eligible, you'll receive a monthly payment to lighten the load!



➤ Who can benefit?

All students, including international ones, as long as they meet certain conditions. If you're renting a place in France, it's worth checking if you qualify!



➤ How much can you receive?

On average, between €100 and €280 per month, depending on your location, type of housing, and personal situation. It's a great way to make rent more affordable.



➤ How to apply?

Applications are done online, in French, on the [CAF website](#) (the organization managing APL). If you need help, [EasyAPL](#) is a service that simplifies the process for international students.





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HOUSING BENEFITS: ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW



INTRODUCTION

Finding student housing in France is already quite a challenge. Financing it? That's a whole different story! With rent prices steadily rising in major cities and a tight rental market, things aren't exactly easy for both French and international students.

Thankfully, France offers **Housing Assistance** (APL) to ease the burden. Managed by **CAF**, this aid can cover part of your rent, helping to lighten your monthly expenses.

Good news: as an international student, you may also qualify, provided you meet certain criteria. In this article, we'll break down everything you need to know about APL: what it is, who's eligible, and how to apply.

Ready? Let's dive in!

What Is Housing Assistance, and Who Can Benefit?

► CAF and APL: What You Need to Know

The **APL** (Aide Personnalisée au Logement) is a monthly subsidy distributed by **CAF** (Caisse d'Allocations Familiales). It is designed to help low-income tenants cover part of their rent.

Students account for a large portion of beneficiaries, so you can apply as long as you meet the eligibility requirements

► What Are the Eligibility Criteria?

Pour bénéficier de l'APL, il faut remplir certains critères.

- **Type of housing:** Your accommodation must be eligible (e.g., CROUS residence, private rental with a registered lease).
- **Status:** You must be a tenant or co-tenant with a lease in your name.
- **Financial situation:** Your income must be modest (which is usually the case for students).
- **Nationality:**
 - EU/EEA students: A national ID or residence permit is sufficient.
 - Non-EU students: A valid residence permit is required. **VLS-TS** visas qualify, but **VLS-T** visas do not.
- **Age:** There is no specific age limit for students, unlike other types of aid.

Note: Family housing or undeclared subletting is not eligible for APL.

► How Much Can You Receive Per Month?

The amount of APL you receive depends on several factors:

- **Localisation du logement:** Higher subsidies for accommodations in Paris and major cities.
- **Revenus:** Students with no income generally receive higher aid.
- **Type of housing:** Single occupants receive more aid than those in shared housing.

On average, students receive between **€100 and €280/month**. For a precise estimate, use the **CAF simulation tool** (available in French only).

How to Apply for APL

► Step-by-Step Guide to Submitting Your Application

Applying for APL may seem intimidating, especially if French isn't your first language. Here's how to navigate the process:

- 1. Sign up on the CAF website:** Create an account to access your personal space.
- 2. Gather your documents:** Ensure everything is up to date (see list below).
- 3. Complete the online form:** Enter details about your housing, income, and personal information.
- 4. Track your application:** Regularly check your personal space for updates.

Tip: CAF offers online tutorials to guide you through each step (see below).

► Required Documents for Your Application

To avoid delays, make sure you have the following:

- A rental agreement in your name or proof of residence.
- A **rent certificate** signed by your landlord.
- A valid ID or residence permit (for non-EU students).
- A **French bank account** (IBAN).
- A tax declaration (if applicable) or a non-taxation certificate.

► Processing Times and Application Tracking

- **Processing time:** Applications typically take 3 to 6 weeks to be processed.
- **First payment:** Payments are retroactive to the month following your move-in date.

Note: Processing times may be longer during peak periods (July–September and December–January). If your application is delayed, contact CAF through their helpline or online form.

Practical Resources for International Students

► CAF Multilingual Tutorials

CAF provides explanatory videos and translated guides to help international students complete their applications. These are particularly useful if French isn't your first language. You can find them on the [International Student Hub](#).

► EasyAPL: A Dedicated Service for International Students

If you're worried about making mistakes or want to save time, EasyAPL is a paid platform that handles your application from start to finish.

- **Convenience:** 100% online, available in French and English.
- **Cost:** €120 for full application management.
- **100% satisfaction guaranteed:** EasyAPL refunds your application fee if you're not eligible for housing assistance (APL).

► “Welcome Weeks” on Campus

Many universities and student associations (like [ESN France](#)) organize events to help students navigate administrative tasks. Use these opportunities to ask all your APL-related questions.

CONCLUSION

Getting APL can make a significant difference in your monthly budget. While the administrative process may seem daunting, it's absolutely worth the effort!

Take advantage of CAF's resources and the support available on your campus to submit your application as soon as you've signed your lease. And **don't forget to notify CAF of your move-out date** once you leave your accommodation.



FAQ: **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

Frequently Asked Questions

Housing benefits in France: key questions and answers.



How Long Does It Take to Receive APL?



Processing usually takes **3 to 6 weeks** once you've submitted a complete application, but it **can be longer during peak months** (July–September).

The good news? APL is retroactive from the month after you apply, so you won't miss out!

Do I Need a French Bank Account to Receive APL?

Many students have faced issues receiving payments in non-French accounts.

To get APL, you need a bank account with a French IBAN, like **N26**, **Bunq** or **Revolut**.

Do I Need Income to Apply for APL?

No, APL is designed **for students with little or no income**. Your eligibility depends on factors like your rent, housing type, and personal situation—so don't worry if you're not working!

Can Students Get APL for University or Shared Housing?

Yes! **Most CROUS residences are eligible**, and if you're in shared housing, you can also receive APL—just make sure your name is on the rental agreement.

Not sure if your place qualifies? Ask your landlord or whoever is renting it to you—they should know!

Can Non-European Students Receive APL?

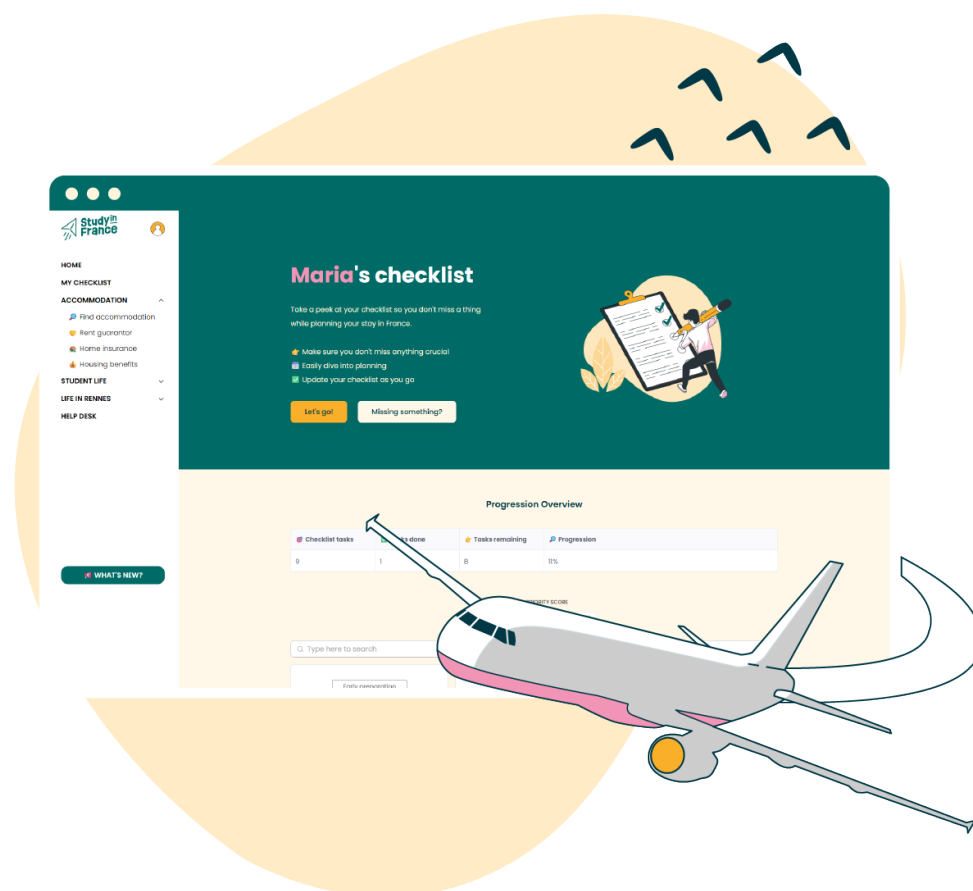
Yes! As long as you have a valid residence permit (e.g., **VLS-TS**), you can apply.





USEFUL RESOURCES

The International Student Hub: your all-in-one app for life in France



The International Student Hub is a **free web app** that brings together everything you need to prepare for your stay in France.



**Student
housing search**



**Scholarships &
financial aids**



**Administrative
procedures**



**Campus life &
integration**

Pick your city, create your account, and start planning!

Check out the app

Bonus: dozens of free downloadable guides on Study in France

Alongside the International Student Hub, we've got a bunch of guides to help you prep everything on your own — from banking and health insurance to getting a SIM card and more!



Register to health insurance

All you need to know about health insurance and top-ups in France.

Priority Score



Reading time



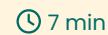
Find a guarantor in France

What to do if you don't have a guarantor in France.

Priority Score



Reading time



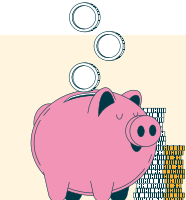
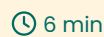
Choose the right home insurance

Why it's mandatory, how it works, and how to choose the right one.

Priority Score



Reading time



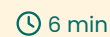
Open a bank account in France

How to choose and open a bank account in France, step by step.

Priority Score



Reading time



[Explore all the guides](#)

FINAL NOTE

We hope this guide helped you see things more clearly! Don't forget to join our community to stay updated and connect with other students.

Good luck with your preparations — and see you soon on **Study in France** !

