



VLS-TS VISA **LONG-STAY STUDENT** **VISA EXPLAINED**

How to apply for, validate, and renew your
VLS-TS visa for France



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RECAP: **WHAT TO REMEMBER**

RECAP

Short on time? No problem! Here's the key info about the VLS-TS visa.

➤ Unique rights and benefits

The VLS-TS allows you to stay in France for 4 months to 1 year to pursue higher education. Study in France, work up to 20 hours per week, travel freely within the Schengen Area, and access benefits like [Visale](#) and [APL](#).

1.

➤ Step-by-step process

Prepare your documents, submit your application (via Études en France or your consulate), and [validate your visa online](#) with OFII within 3 months of arrival.

2.

➤ Simplified renewal process

Extend your stay with a temporary residence permit (valid for 1 year) or a multi-year residence permit (valid for 2 to 4 years) by demonstrating a serious academic path and sufficient resources (at least €615 per month).

3.

➤ Plan ahead

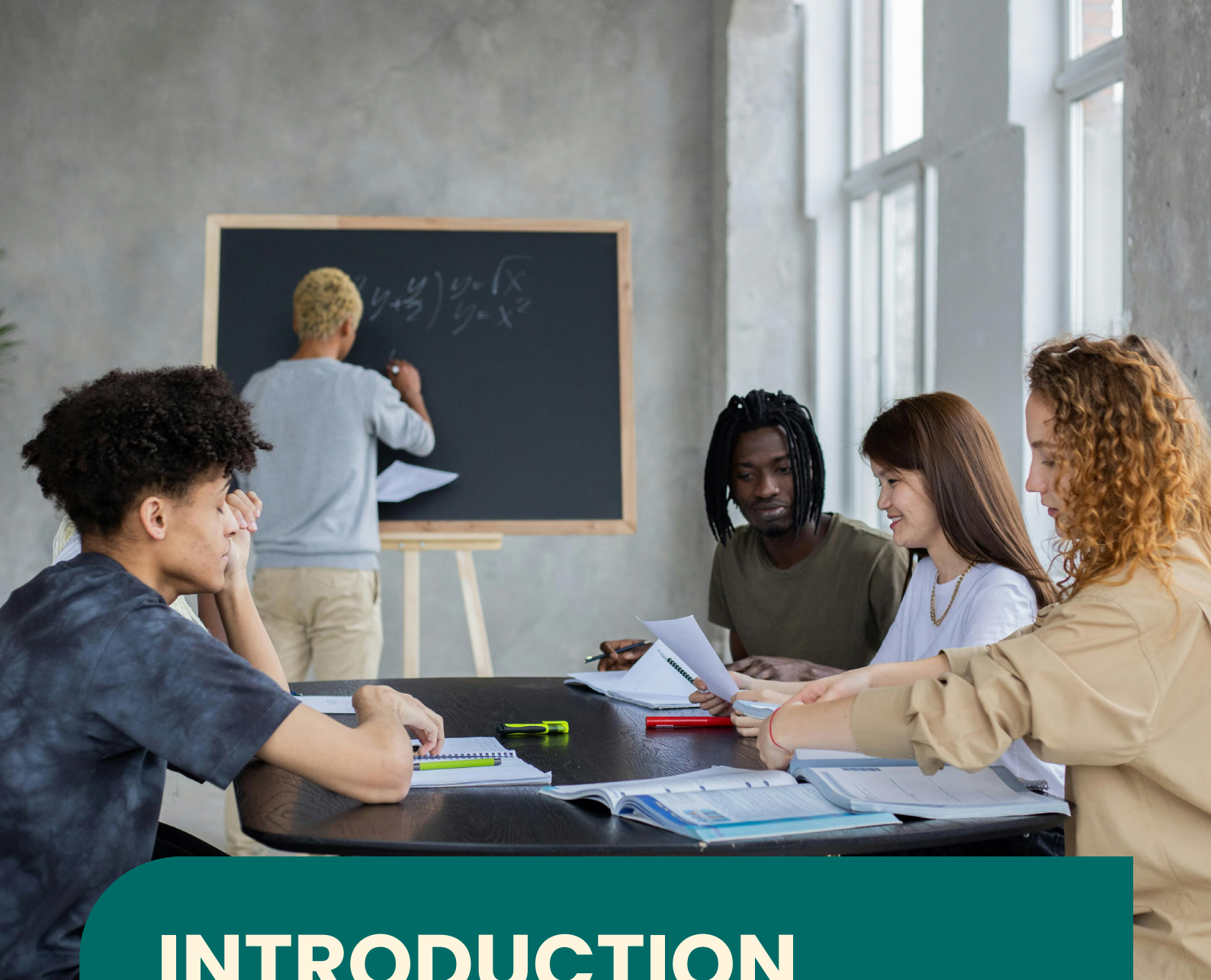
Start your application well in advance and respect deadlines for renewals (4 to 2 months before expiration) to avoid administrative issues.

4.



2

VLS-TS VISA: ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW



INTRODUCTION

Are you planning to study in France for more than three months? **The Long-Stay Visa as a Residence Permit (VLS-TS)** is one of the options available to you. If you're not a citizen of the European Union, Switzerland, Norway, Iceland, or Liechtenstein, this is likely the visa you'll need.

The VLS-TS student visa offers you numerous rights and opportunities throughout your stay in France, including the flexibility to travel freely across the Schengen Area.

In this article, we'll guide you through everything you need to know about this visa: its benefits, how to apply, the validation process, and the steps for renewal.

Ready? Let's get started!

What is the VLS-TS Student Visa?

► What the VLS-TS Student Visa Allows You to Do

The VLS-TS student visa is a long-term visa that allows you to pursue higher education in France for 4 months to 1 year. It replaces the temporary residence permit during your first year. With a VLS-TS labeled "student," you can:

- **Study legally** at a French higher education institution.
- **Work part-time:** up to 964 hours per year (around 20 hours per week).
- **Travel freely** within the Schengen Area.
- **Access benefits** like APL (**housing allowance**) or the free Visale rental guarantee.

Once it expires, you can apply for either a temporary student residence permit (valid for 1 year) or a multi-year student residence permit (valid for 2 to 4 years).

► Multiple-Entry Benefits

- With a **multiple-entry VLS-T**, you can travel outside France. This is particularly useful if you want to explore neighboring countries during your study year in France!

Note: After the first three months, you must **validate your visa** to continue traveling freely. The validation process is now fully online, through the OFII platform.



Eligibility Criteria for the VLS-TS Student Visa

► Who Can Apply?

- Students accepted at a French higher education institution for a program of at least three months.
- Students who can demonstrate sufficient financial resources (€615/month minimum).
- Applicants with health insurance coverage or a [European Health Insurance Card](#) (EHIC) for European citizens.

► EEF: implied Procedure for Certain Countries

- **Études en France:** If you live in one of the countries covered by this procedure, your admission and visa application are centralized through the official Études en France platform.
- **For other countries:** Applications are made directly through the French consulate in your country of residence.

AFRICA

South Africa, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritius, Mauritania, Nigeria, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Senegal, Chad, Togo.

ASIA

Myanmar, Cambodia, China, South Korea, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand, Vietnam.

AMERICAS

Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, United States, Haiti, Mexico, Peru, Dominican Republic.

NORTH AFRICA / MIDDLE EAST

Algeria, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Egypt, United Arab Emirates, Iran, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Qatar, Tunisia.

EUROPE

Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, United Kingdom, Russia, Turkey, Ukraine.

Our tip: Use the Visa Assistant tool on the [France Visas](#) website to check if you need a visa.

How to Apply for the VLS-TS Student Visa

➤ Step 1: Prepare the Required Documents

- A valid passport (valid for at least six months beyond your planned stay).
- An acceptance letter from a French institution.
- Proof of sufficient financial resources (bank statements, scholarship confirmation, etc.).
- Proof of accommodation (rental contract, letter from a host, or booking in a student residence).
- **Health insurance** coverage or a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC).

➤ Step 2: Submit Your Application

- For countries using **Études en France**: Your application will be processed through the centralized platform.
- For other countries: Book an appointment with the French consulate in your home country.

➤ Step 3: Processing Time and Fees

- **Processing time**: 2 to 6 weeks, depending on the time of year and your country.
- **Application fees**: Between €50 and €99, depending on bilateral agreements.

Validating Your VLS-TS with OFII

➤ Why Validation Is Mandatory

Without validation from the OFII, your visa will be considered invalid after 3 months. This step is essential to stay legally in France. The good news is that it's quick and easy—everything is done online.

➤ Step-by-Step Guide to Validate Your Visa

1. Go to the **OFII website**.
2. Fill out the online form with your details (arrival date, address, etc.).
3. Pay the OFII tax (€50) via credit card or using an electronic stamp.
4. If requested, attend a medical examination at the local prefecture.

Rights and Obligations with the VLS-TS Student Visa

► Your Rights

- Study in France without additional formalities during your first year.
- Work part-time (up to 20 hours per week) without needing a work permit.
- Travel freely within the Schengen Area.
- Access social benefits like APL (housing assistance).

► Your Obligations

- Validate your visa with OFII within three months of arriving in France.
- Renew your residence permit if you plan to extend your studies.

Renewing Your VLS-TS: What You Need to Know

When your VLS-TS expires, you have two options to extend your stay in France: apply for a **temporary student residence permit** (valid for 1 year) or a **multi-year student residence permit** (valid for 2 to 4 years).

These procedures apply only to students who came to France for higher education and who do not hold another type of residence permit (like a residence card or a “vie privée et familiale” permit).

► Conditions for Renewal

To renew your residence permit as a student, here are the main requirements:

- **Mandatory enrollment:** You must be enrolled or pre-enrolled in a French higher education institution (university, grande école, or professional training center).
- **Financial resources:** You must prove you have at least €615 per month to support yourself. This requirement may be waived if you’re attending an institution with a state agreement.

➤ Renewal Process

Apply for renewal 4 to 2 months before your visa or permit expires. Complete the process online via the official administration portal:

- You'll receive a digital acknowledgment of receipt upon submission.
- Track your application status and respond to additional requests online.
- If required, visit the prefecture for fingerprinting (if not already done).

➤ Documents Required for Renewal

Here's what you'll need to submit:

- Your current VLS-TS or valid residence permit.
- Proof of address (less than six months old).
- A compliant digital photo (e-photo with a code).
- Proof of enrollment or pre-enrollment in a French higher education institution.
- Academic records: transcripts, your most recent diploma earned in France, and a certificate of achievement.
- Proof of financial resources (€615 per month minimum): Scholarship documentation, pay slips, transfers from a sponsor, or sufficient savings.
- A signed commitment to uphold the principles of the French Republic.

➤ Fees and Deadlines

Renewing your student residence permit costs **€75** in fiscal stamps.

Important: if you submit your application late, an additional **€180 regularization visa fee** may apply—unless you can prove force majeure.

➤ Validity of the New Permit

The multi-year residence permit covers the remaining duration of your study program. For example, if you're in the first year of a bachelor's degree, the permit will be valid for two years, until the end of your third year. For students in a grande école, it covers the entire remaining length of your program, up to graduation.

CONCLUSION

Navigating the French immigration process can be challenging, and the VLS-TS is no exception. Preparing early and organizing your documents in advance will save you from unnecessary stress.

Resources like [Campus France](#) and [France Visas](#) are invaluable in helping you through this process. If you have additional questions or need support, our community is here to guide you!





FAQ: **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

Frequently Asked Questions

Find answers to your most common questions about the VLS-TS visa for France.



Who Can Apply for a VLS-TS Student Visa?



This visa is designed for non-European international students who have been accepted into a higher education program in France lasting at least 3 months.

Applicants must demonstrate sufficient financial resources (€615/month) and have [health insurance coverage](#).

How Long Does It Take to Obtain a VLS-TS?

Processing times generally range from **2 to 6 weeks**, depending on the time of year and your country of residence.

How Do I Validate My VLS-TS Upon Arriving in France?

You must validate your visa within 3 months of your arrival via the [OFII website](#). This step is mandatory to ensure your visa remains valid beyond this period..

Can I Work in France With a VLS-TS Student Visa?

Yes, the VLS-TS allows you to work up to 964 hours per year (about 20 hours/week) without requiring an additional work permit.

It also allows you to travel within the Schengen Area, and to access support like housing assistance (APL) or the free rent guarantee service (VISALE)—options not available with the [VLS-T visa](#).

What Should I Do if My VLS-TS Expires Before I Complete My Studies?

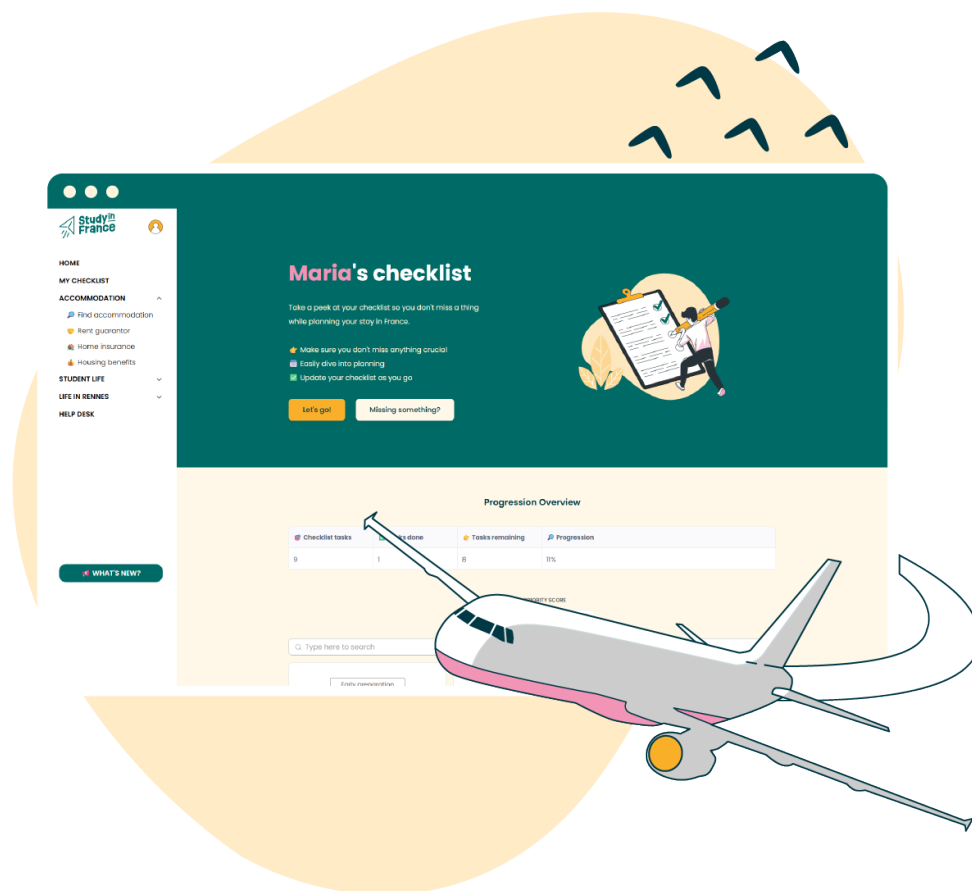
You can apply to renew your residence permit. There are two options: a **temporary student residence permit** (valid for 1 year) or a **multi-year student residence permit** (valid for 2 to 4 years), depending on the length of your study program.





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

🕒 10 min



Find a guarantor in France

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

Priority Score



Reading time

🕒 7 min



Choose the right home insurance

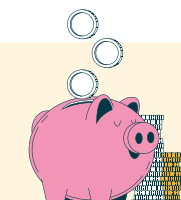
Why it's mandatory, how it works, and how to choose the right one.

Priority Score



Reading time

🕒 6 min



Open a bank account in France

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

Priority Score



Reading time

🕒 6 min

[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!**

