

Student

Visa

Guidelines

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Who is involved?



Campus France USA is a French government agency that works with students in the US going to France for an academic program of 90 days or more. The Campus France Etudes en France application is a mandatory first step for all student visa applicants. Campus France USA ensures all academic criteria are met before the applicant submits a student visa application.



TLS is an external agency responsible for managing all visa appointments and visa application submissions across the US in 10 consular jurisdictions. After completing an online student visa application on the France visa website, students will visit a TLS Center in person to submit their visa application.



Once students have submitted a visa application at a TLS Center, the application is sent to the visa service of the French Consulate in Washington DC for processing. The VISA service reserves the right to contact students if they require any additional supporting documents during the visa review process. The visa service make decisions on the issuance of student visas.

1

Study abroad

French language

degree

or

certificat

1

Complete an Etudes en France (EEF) application

2

Submit your Campus France payment on our website

3

The Campus France team will review your EEF application (3-day or 3-week review)

4

Receive your confirmation email when your EEF application has been processed

5

Complete a student visa application on France Visa website

6

Schedule a visa appointment*** at a TLS Center and attend appointment**

7

Receive visa in the mail or pick it up at a TLS Center after a processing time of 3-4 weeks

8

Travel to France

9

Within the first 3 months following arrival, register and validate visa online

10

Register with French Social Security

* Students may begin the EEF application anytime. It is recommended to begin the application at least 10-12 weeks before departure

Students may attend a TLS Contact visa appointment **only within the 6 months prior to the start date of their program in France

*** Students with a TLS fee exemption should make sure to follow the instructions provided in the exemption email, for booking an appointment

2

Document Checklist



- ☐ Visa application form
- ☐ France-Visas receipt
- ☐ ID Photograph
- ☐ Travel document (passport)
- ☐ For non-US citizens, proof of legal status in the U.S.
- ☐ Campus France USA confirmation email
- ☐ Pre-registration certificate generated by EEF-Pastel
- ☐ Proof of accommodation in France
- ☐ Proof of sufficient funds for program period in France

Please note that requirements are subject to change. Students should always follow the checklist generated by France-Visas or TLS, which may include additional documents not listed here. This document serves an explanatory purpose to help students understand the items they will see on the France-Visas and TLS checklists. Please note that one requirement for all student visa applicants is the Campus France confirmation email. This requirement may not appear on the general global France-Visas checklist, but is mandatory for applicants from the US.

2

Document

Tips

Upload

supporting documents

to the France-Visas platform as you complete your application.

All details on document specifications can be found [here](#).

Uploading documents is recommended, but does not change the processing time for student visas.

Note: Students can use regular letter sized paper (8.5 x 11 inches) instead of A4 paper.

Bring

hard copies of documents

to the TLS center in-person appointment.

Even if you upload documents to the France-Visas platform, you must also bring hard copies of all documents to your in-person TLS Center appointment.

□ Visa application form

Demande de visa pour un long séjour

This is a PDF visa application form that is generated by the France-Visa platform. You will need to print a copy of this application form that you completed online. Print one copy of this three-page document and sign and date the application on the day of your appointment at your local TLS Center.

You will also be requested to upload supporting documents to the France-Visas platform when you complete this application. In addition, bring original copies of supporting documents to your in-person TLS Center appointment.

To print the application, log into your France-Visas account and click the magnifying glass icon to generate the PDF for printing.

France-Visas receipt

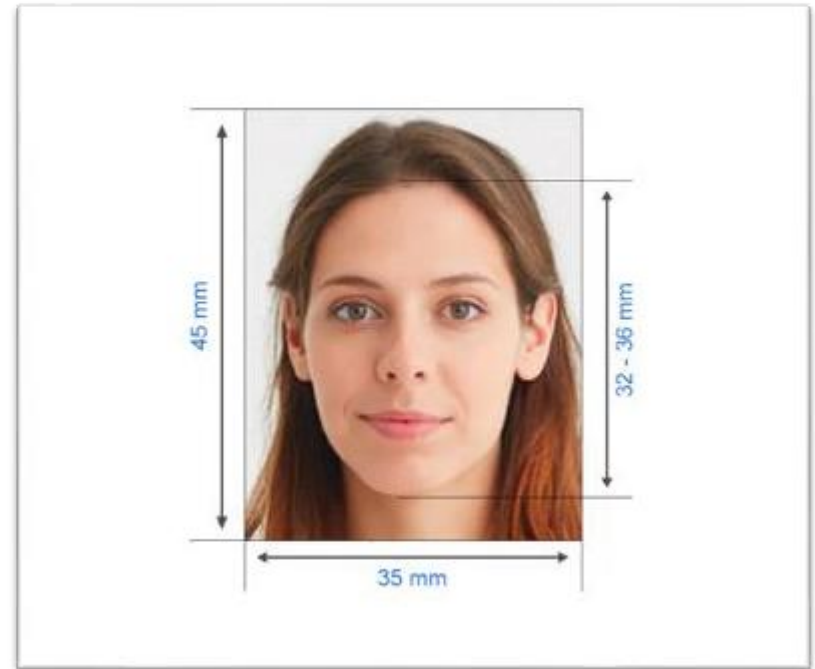
This is the receipt of your visa application generated by the France-Visas platform when you complete the visa application online. This document includes an application reference number, your name and DOB, and a bar code. You'll also see a checklist of what you need to bring with you. If you see additional items on the France-Visas checklist other than what you see on this Guidelines document, you should always bring those items.



The screenshot shows the 'Receipt of visa application' page on the France-Visas website. At the top, there is the France-Visas logo and the text 'The official website for visa application to France'. Below this, a box contains the title 'Receipt of visa application'. The main content area displays the following information: '2019/02/19, the following request has been registered by the France-Visas system', 'Application reference: FRXXXXXXXXXXXX', 'Last name: DUBOIS', 'First name: MATHIEU', and 'Birth date: 1985/01/01'. To the right of this information is a large, dark, rectangular area representing a barcode. Below the application details, there is a section titled 'REQUIRED SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS TO SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION'. This section includes a paragraph explaining the requirements for the documents to be submitted, followed by a list of 'Pre-requisites' and 'Purpose of itinerary' with checkboxes for each item. The 'Pre-requisites' list includes: 'Application form dated and signed', 'ID photograph', 'If you are not a national of your country of residence, please provide proof of your legal residency in this country (e.g. residence permit, etc.)', and 'Travel document, valid for at least three months after the planned date of return'. The 'Purpose of itinerary' list includes: 'Confirmed return booking or affidavit to leave France', 'Medical certificate stating that the visa applicant's health permits him or her to exercise a professional activity (if the bilateral agreement provides for this)', 'Proof of a clean criminal record (if the bilateral agreement provides for this)', and 'Proof of subscription or promise to subscribe to an insurance policy covering the medical costs (if the bilateral agreement provides for this)'. At the bottom, there is a section for 'Funds' with a checkbox for 'Proof of funds'.

❏ ID Photograph

This is a passport-style headshot photograph, 3.5cm by 4.5cm, in color, against a uniform white background. You can have these taken at your local pharmacy, FedEx, some USPS locations, or your university may offer photo services. Please do not take this photo yourself, your application will be rejected. The photo must be recent but does not need to match the photo in your passport. Your mouth must be closed, and your eyes and ears need to be visible. You must not be wearing glasses, a hat, or a scarf.



❑ Travel document (passport)

The original + 1 copy of the ID information and signature pages (shown in top image)

Your passport must be valid for at least three months after your planned date of return from France. For example, if your program starts September 1st 2025 and ends May 1st 2026, your passport needs to be valid until at least August 1st, 2026. If your passport expires before this time, you will need to renew your passport before applying for a visa.

Your passport must have two consecutive blank visa pages that are side by side (so when you open the passport you see two blank visa pages like an open book) plus a third blank page. Pages with the mention “Endorsement” are not visa pages. If your passport does not meet these requirements, you will need to renew your passport.

It must also be signed, or your application may be rejected. You will need to leave your passport with the visa service for the duration of visa processing, please plan accordingly.



- ❑ For non-US citizens, proof of legal status in the U.S. (resident card, visa, etc.)

The original + 1 copy

You will need to bring the original document and also on photocopy of your residency card or US visa to your TLS Center appointment, as well as your passport or travel document from your country of citizenship.

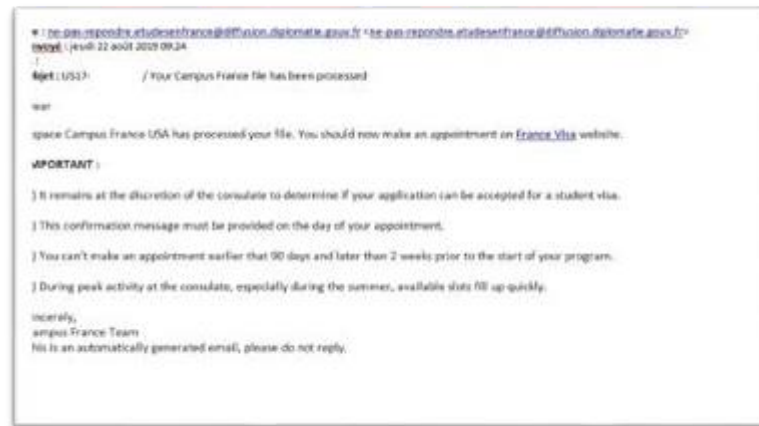
Only students with a legal U.S. residency exceeding the length of their proposed stay in France may apply for a French visa from the U.S. If this does not apply to you, you may need to apply through the Campus France office of your country of origin.



Campus France USA confirmation email

This item may not appear on the general global France-Visas or TLS checklist but is mandatory. This email confirms that Campus France USA has processed your Etudes en France application and that it is ready for review by the Visa service of the French Consulate. Depending on the language you selected on Etudes en France, this email will either be in French or in English.

This confirmation email will be sent to the email address used to create your Etudes en France account, and will have the subject line: USXX-XXXXX / Your Campus France file has been processed or USXX-XXXXX / Etudes en France: l'instruction de votre dossier est terminée



Pre-registration certificate generated by EEF-Pastel

This PDF is generated when Campus France has processed your Etudes en France application. Depending on your application type, this will be entitled “Confirmation d’acceptation” or “Accord préalable d’inscription”.

To find this document, log-in to your Etudes en France account. From the Welcome page, click on your application tab (either “Not Yet Accepted” or “Already Accepted” depending on your application type), and click on 1-Finalize the procedure. The PDF icon will be under the “Select a Program” section.



Proof of accommodation in France

It is required that all students have adequate accommodation arranged for the first three months* of their stay in France and that they provide an address in France at which they can be contacted.

**If at the time of your visa application you have not yet secured accommodation for the first 3 months of your stay in France, please provide proof of accommodation for at least the first week following your arrival in France, along with a letter explaining clearly your concrete plans regarding long term accommodation. If possible, please have this letter signed by an official representing your program of study.*

If you, as the student, are responsible for securing your own housing in France, please provide the proof of housing in one or more of the following ways:

- A rental agreement or lease in your own name
- A printed reservation at a hotel or apartment for the first three months of your stay in France
- Proof of a reservation in a student residence
- A written statement from a friend, family member, or individual who will house you in their home, including their address, the dates of your stay, the host's contact information, and the host's signature, AND a copy of your host's ID AND proof of address (the only documents accepted in this case as proof of address are copy of the lease or house deed).

If your home institution, host institution, or study abroad program will arrange housing for you in France, please provide the proof of housing in one or more of the following ways:

- An official letter from either the host institution in France or home university that explains in detail any arrangements made by these institutions to arrange your housing for at least the first three months of your stay in France. That letter must include the full address of the residence, contact information for all institutions involved, and the residence type (ex: student housing, hotel, home stay, etc.)
- Proof of a reservation in a student residence.

Proof of sufficient funds for your time in France

You will need to provide proof that you have sufficient resources to sustain yourself for the duration of your program.

The French government considers this threshold to be €615 per month.

You will need to provide the proof that AFTER you pay all tuition fees related to your program period (both fees from your French institution and American institution, and all travel costs, if applicable) you will have at least €615 per month at your disposal for all living expenses.

Provide proof of sufficient funds in one of the following ways:

- The three most recent official bank statements from your own checking and/or savings account that show either a balance of (€615 x # of months you'll be in France) OR that show a steady monthly income of over €615 per month. If you provide bank statements showing an existing income that is planned to continue, you need to provide proof of this future continuity, such as a valid employment contract with dates that cover your program period in France, or a letter from your employer.
- A financial guarantee form completed by a sponsor who agrees to provide you with at least €615 per month for the entirety of your time in France AND copies of that individual's bank statements showing sufficient and reliable funds and showing that this person has the financial means to provide you with at least €615 per month for the duration of your time in France. The sponsor could be present, another family member, or an individual who agrees to support you. The form must be notarized.
- An official written statement from your university or the awarding institution confirming that you are the recipient of a Scholarship or student loan package of a value of over (€615 x # of months you'll be in France) beyond all tuition, administrative, and program fees. You must provide proof that you will have at your disposal at least €615 per month after having paid all program fees for France and all outstanding tuition fees for the program period at your American institution (if applicable).

3

FAQs

1. What **fees** are involved in obtaining a student visa for France?
2. I've been asked to provide additional information about my **accomodation** in France. How should I proceed?
3. I've been asked to provide additional information about my **financial resources**. How to proceed?
4. I'm **scheduled to depart soon** for France and I haven't received my visa yet. How should I proceed?
5. Who should I **contact** with questions?
6. What should I do **upon my arrival** in France?



FAQs

What fees are involved in obtaining a student visa for France?

Before applying for a student visa, you will need to have paid the Etudes en France application fee of either \$270 or \$460 depending on the type of application and/or service chosen. Please note that the processing time of your Etudes en France application by Campus France USA is unrelated to the visa processing time. The Visa Service of the French Consulate does not offer an expedited visa processing service.

You will pay the TLS fee of 220€ (approximately \$255) when you schedule the TLS visa appointment online. Personal checks/cash are not accepted. There is a fee of \$40 for express mailing of your passport once your visa has been processed. If you live close to the TLS Center, you may choose to return to TLS to pick up your passport and visa in person when it is ready, in which case you would not pay this fee. You will also pay a visa application fee of 50€ (approximately \$58) for your long-stay visa upon filing your application.

Expect the total cost for Campus France/Etudes en France, TLS, and the consulate to be between \$580 and \$775, depending on services selected.

Please note that some students are exempt from the TLS fee. If you are a recipient of a qualifying scholarship or are pursuing a licence, master, or doctorat degree in France, you will receive an exemption letter when your Etudes en France application has been processed. Please wait until you have your exemption letter to schedule an appointment as TLS payments made in error are not guaranteed to be reimbursed.

FAQs

I've been asked to provide additional information about my accommodation in France. How to proceed?

All students going to France must provide proof that they have organized accommodation for themselves for at least the first three months of their stay. Please see page 14 of this document for details of how to provide this proof depending on your housing type. If, at the time of your visa application, you have not yet secured accommodation for the first 3 months of your stay in France, please provide proof of accommodation for at least the first week following your arrival in France, along with a letter explaining clearly your concrete plans regarding long term accommodation. If possible, please have this letter signed by an official representing your program of study.

FAQs

I've been asked to provide additional information about my financial resources. How should I proceed?

All students going to France must provide proof that they have at their disposal at least €615 per month during their stay. You can do this in a variety of ways. If you plan to receive support from your parents or another individual, they need to fill out the Financial Guarantee Form AND provide their bank statements that show that they could support you with €615 per month during your stay. The €615 per month need to be at your disposal after you have paid your full tuition, administrative, and program fees. If your housing costs and/or food costs are covered by your program, please provide an official letter that explains this in detail along with the proof of funds. If you provide a letter of financial aid from your university, the letter needs to show that you will receive enough financial aid to give you €615 per month of your stay after you have paid all tuition, administrative, and program fees to your university. Any application submitted without all the documents listed on the France-Visas checklist or with inadequate documents will face visa refusal. The visa service of the French Consulate will e-mail you only if you need to provide documents.

FAQs

I'm scheduled to depart soon for France and I haven't received my visa yet. How should I proceed?

Processing time may vary. For well-prepared applications, the average processing time is 3 weeks from the date of your appointment at TLS.

However, in some cases it may take longer. If you submitted your visa application at a TLS Center less than three weeks ago, please check the [TLS application tracking](#). Choose United States and follow the instructions to access the tracking. If you submitted your visa application at a TLS center over three weeks ago, please contact the Visa Service of the French Consulate at visas.washington-fslt@diplomatie.gouv.fr

FAQs

Who should I contact with questions?

Etudes en France application



Campus France USA
washington@campusfrance.org

DocBox and Campus France payment



Campus France USA
washington@campusfrance.org

Required documents for visa application



Check the [France-Visas FAQs](#)
Contact the visa service of the French Consulate at visas.washington-fslt@diplomatie.gouv.fr

Please note that your email will only receive a response if your question has not been already addressed on the France-Visas platform.

Tracking my visa application after the appointment



If you submitted your visa application at a TLS Center under three weeks ago, check the TLS application tracking.

Choose 'United States' and follow the instructions to access the tracking. If you submitted your visa application at a TLS Center over three weeks ago, have already checked TLS tracking, and still have questions, email the Visa Service of the French Consulate at visas.washington-fslt@diplomatie.gouv.fr to inquire.

FAQs

What should I do upon my arrival in France?

Questions?

08 06 001 620

dgef-support@interieur.gouv.fr

1

You have just been issued a long-stay visa serving as a residence permit, enabling you to legally stay in France. Within the first three months following your arrival, you must register and validate your visa at this site: administration-etrangers-en-france.interieur.gouv.fr/ This quick and simple process will ensure that you are registered as a legal resident in France in order to complete your relocation.

To complete the online visa registration, you will need to provide:

- a valid email address,
- your visa information,
- the date on which you entered France,
- your home address in France,
- your credit card details in order to pay a fee online for the issuance of your residence permit.

If you fail to validate your visa within the first three months following your arrival, you will no longer be considered a legal resident in France and will be unable to re-enter the Schengen Area if you leave.

2

Soon after you arrive in France, and after registering and validating your visa following the procedure explained above, all students need to register with the French Social Security by visiting this site: etudiant-etranger.ameli.fr/#/

Bon

Voyage

2025-2026