Accommodation in France: a practical guide for students

Table of Contents

1. Student Housing

1.1 CROUS – Public Student Residences

CROUS (*centres régionaux des œuvres universitaires et scolaires*) residences, managed by France's regional student service centers, are public and government-subsidized. They're a top choice for students due to low rent, eligibility for CAF housing aid, proximity to campuses, and a vibrant student community. The main downside is their limited availability, as demand far exceeds supply.

Monthly Rent:

- Paris: ~500€
- Other cities: ~350€

Read more about CROUS here.

Other websites for student housing:

- www.etudiant.gouv.fr
- www.lokaviz.fr
- www.adele.org
- www.residenceetudiante.fr

1.2 Student Residences in Paris

Other options for student housing in Paris.

Maison des Étudiants Suédois (CIUP)

Located in the Cité Internationale Universitaire de Paris, it welcomes Swedish students.

- 3 months: 540€–960€
- <3 months: 740€–1,220€
- Website: maisonsuede.org

Cité Internationale Universitaire de Paris (CIUP)

The CIUP is a large student residence complex housing nearly 6,000 people from diverse fields. Rent varies based on amenities, age, and stay duration. To live at CIUP, you must be enrolled in a Paris-based institution and pursuing a master's degree or higher. For more details, visit the CIUP website under "Faire une demande de logement" (apply for housing).

- Rent: 670€–780€/month
- Website: www.ciup.fr
- Eligibility: Must be enrolled in a Master's or higher program at a Paris-based university.
- Apply under "Faire une demande de logement".

1.4 Private Market Housing

Rent alone or with others (*colocation*) through the private sector.

Average Rent:

- Paris: ~800€+ (studio)
- Other cities: ~400€

Useful Platforms:

- www.appartager.com
- www.lacartedescolocs.fr
- www.colocation.fr
- www.recherche-colocation.com
- www.leboncoin.fr
- www.immojeune.com
- www.uniplaces.com
- www.location-etudiant.fr
- www.locservice.fr

1.3 Intergenerational Housing and Host families

International students sometimes choose to live with a French family to improve their language skills. It’s an affordable option offering a private room in a home, along with the chance to experience daily French life. Some families may even offer free or reduced rent in exchange for services like childcare, homework help, or language lessons.

Websites:

- CoHomly : Logement étudiant gratuit contre services aux familles

You may also consider intergenerational housing, where students are matched with seniors offering a room in exchange for companionship, typically during evenings and overnight. Rent is modest or sometimes free.

Websites:

- ensemble2generations.fr
- lisfrance.org
- leparisolidaire.fr
- logement-solidaire.org

1.5 Listings Between Individuals

These avoid agency fees and connect you directly with landlords.

Websites:

- www.paruvendu.fr
- www.pap.fr
- www.seloger.com
- www.leboncoin.fr

2. Financial Assistance

2.1 CAF – Housing Aid in France

You may be eligible for a rent subsidy through CAF (France's family assistance fund) under one of two programs: APL (Aide Personnalisée au Logement) or ALS (Allocation de Logement à caractère Social). Many international students benefit from these programs.

The application process is fully online. You can even use an online simulation to check your eligibility and estimate the monthly subsidy you could receive.

Estimate your aid and apply: www.caf.fr

2.2 CSN – Support for Swedish Students

If you're studying abroad with CSN support:

- Full support is available (if credit requirements are met)
- Additional supplementary loan: 2,624 SEK/month

Max Monthly Support: 14,676 SEK
More info: csn.se – Utlandsstudier

3. Rental Process & Requirements

3.1 Documents & Guarantors

Required Documents:

- Valid ID
- Residency permit (e.g., VLS-TS)
- Student card + proof of enrollment
- Guarantor letter & ID

Guarantor: Must be French-based.
If unavailable, apply for VISALE (government-backed rental guarantee).

Website: www.visale.fr

3.2 Understanding Real Estate Ads

Term	Meaning
Studio	One room with kitchenette
T1/F1	Studio with kitchen & bath
T2/F2	One bedroom + living room
T3/F3	Two bedrooms + living room
RdC	Ground floor
Asc.	Elevator
CC	Utilities included in rent

3.3 Tips for Finding Housing

- Start searching early – ideally before arriving in France
- Avoid offers that seem too good to be true
- Opt for furnished apartments if staying short-term
- Never pay in advance before signing a proper lease
- Always verify listings and landlords through trusted sites

4. Moving in

4.1 Signing the lease

The rental agreement includes the following provisions:

- **Rent and charges**: The amount of rent and any additional charges, if applicable.
- **Security deposit**: A deposit, usually equal to one month's rent, to cover potential damages. It will be refunded if you leave the unit in good condition.
- **Notice period**: If you plan to move out, you must notify your landlord at least one month in advance, via registered mail with confirmation of receipt.

Be prepared to pay the first month’s rent and the security deposit at the time of signing the lease agreement.

4.2 Condition of the Premises (État des Lieux)

Before moving in, you and your landlord must conduct a thorough inspection of the unit. This step ensures mutual agreement on the unit's condition at the time of moving in. A document called the “État des lieux” is completed and signed by both parties to record any existing damage or issues.

This same inspection process will take place again when you move out to check if any new damages have occurred during your tenancy.

4.3 Property Insurance (Assurance Habitation)

It is strongly recommended to take out property insurance to protect yourself from damage or theft. The cost of the insurance depends on the size of the unit and can typically be obtained from banks or insurance agencies.