

Moving to Paris Guide

2021-2022



UNIVERSITY
OF LONDON
INSTITUTE
IN PARIS

Bienvenue!

We've created this guide to provide some practical information to help you prepare you move to Paris. These are suggestions based on our students' experiences.

You do not have to do everything now, but to ensure a smooth and stress-free transition a bit of planning can go a long way! This document will give you an overview of steps ahead but applicants will also receive regular updates as we approach the summer and in the lead up to the start of term to remind them of key information.

We've included 'Accommodation' in the visual below as this guide should be read in conjunction with the accommodation guide. If you would like further information and assistance on this particular area, please email us at contact@ulip.lon.ac.uk.

As always, our student services team is here to help, so if you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us either via phone, by email or in person!



French Visa Requirements



- If you are outside the European Economic Area, you will normally require a visa to study in France
- Have a look at the new official website for French visa information
- Check with your country's Campus France office or French Consulate for detailed information of the procedure

Unless you have a EU passport or EU residency card, then you would normally need to apply for a long-stay visa to come to study at ULIP, including UK passport holders. The procedure below describes what to do if applying for a visa from within the UK or from another country.

The visa application process will vary depending on which country you are applying from, so we recommend you to investigate the correct procedure for your country, either via your country's Campus France Office or via the local French Consulate.

You are advised to start the visa application process two to three months before planned travel.

| | From the UK | From another country |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Use the visa wizard on the official website for visa application to France to check if you need a visa and corresponding supporting documentation: france-visas.gouv.fr | |
| 2 | You will be asked to provide a university acceptance letter, please email llm-paris@qmul.ac.uk to receive this. | |
| 3 | Etudes en France (EEF) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Gather the following documents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your acceptance letter in French Your passport (expiry date needs to be at least 15 months from start of visa/travel to France) An up to date resume Two supporting documents evidencing your education path (diploma or transcripts of records) Register on EEF (Etudes en France): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create your account on pastel.diplomatie.gouv.fr/etudesenfrance/ Confirm it through the link received on the email that you created your account with Select the tab « Students already accepted » and fill in the details of the higher education programme in which you have been accepted Once you have finalised your application you will receive a first email from EEF that confirms its reception. You will receive a second one after a few days once your application has been processed. | Check if your country has a Campus France office: campusfrance.org/en/espaces . Click on your country and access the local website. If you cannot find a Campus France office in your country, please contact your local French Consulate for details of the visa application process. Some countries will require applicants to complete an application on the EEF (Etudes en France) portal first and then submit their visa application on the france-visas.gouv.fr website. See EEF process in adjacent box. |
| 4 | France-Visas <p>Once your application has been approved on EEF, finalise your application on the platform france-visas.gouv.fr</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Indicate your application number that appears on your EEF application ((at the top right of your homepage below your name on EEF or in the subject line of your confirmation email) and fill in online your long stay student visa application file Digitise the supporting documents mentioned above as well as the supporting documents mentioned on France visas checklist Once you have completed your file on France-Visas, book an appointment with TLS Contact in London, Manchester or Edinburgh, so as to give your passport and biometrics. | Follow your country's procedure for booking a visa appointment Submit your visa application and biometric data at corresponding visa appointment centre and await your visa |

Within 3 months of arriving in France, you will need to validate your long-term student visa (VLS-TS) via an online process confirming your right to stay for 12 months.

For programmes of study lasting more than a year, students should apply for the renewal of their residence permit 2 months before the visa expires and will then be eligible for a residence card valid until the end of their programme of study at ULIP. Students wishing to stay in France after they complete their degree will need to renew their residence card by proving that they are starting a new programme of studies or that they have been offered employment and have been granted a work permit.

Accommodation



- Read our accommodation guide
- Watch our video with SU president's tips

You might not be able to make any firm housing plans until your offer is confirmed, but you should still actively be researching housing possibilities in advance of that date.

In the meantime, do some of the suggested things below

1 Accommodation Guide

Take the time to read our accommodation guide of you haven't done so yet. This is a great resource where you will find numerous information about how and where to look.

Click [here](#) to access the online version.

Once you have found your accommodation, click [here](#) to view our housing guide.

2 Accommodation Videos

Watch what Ellie has to say about insightful tips on how to go about your search for finding your new home in Paris. Click [here](#) to access the video.

Watch our Head of Student Services present the various housing options for ULIP students and share some practical advice. Click [here](#) to access the video

Find out what current students Harry, Jess and Marika have to say about their experience of finding accommodation and living in Paris. Click [here](#) to access the video.

3 Housing Benefits

Provided their name is on the lease, all students are likely to be eligible for housing benefit from the CAF (Caisse d'Allocations Familiales).

Students will be encouraged to submit their CAF application as soon as they complete registration in September as late applicants will not receive back payments.

Detailed instructions will be sent to students in September, but one of the documents required as part of the CAF application is a full-length birth certificate, so make sure you have a copy when you come to Paris.

Healthcare



- You must have adequate health insurance during your studies
- Make sure to have a copy of your full-length birth certificate
- If you are a EU student, apply for the free EHIC
- International and UK students will need to register on etudiant-etranger.ameli.fr when they begin their studies

International students, including UK students, must register on a dedicated website (etudiant-etranger.ameli.fr) for French social security as soon as they start their studies.

EU students do not need to register online if they have a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) and instead should ensure they have a valid EHIC card before leaving their home country.

Registration on the ameli website takes place in two stages:

- Temporary registration will require you to upload an enrolment certificate, passport and student visa (if applicable).
- Permanent registration will require you to provide your full-length birth certificate, a resident permit and French bank details.

Social security registration will provide basic cover for medical needs, but in most cases students will need to pay expenses upfront for doctors' appointment and prescriptions, and then apply for reimbursement. Depending on circumstances, social security only reimburses from 20 to 70% of approved rates so students are advised to consider an additional health cover as well.

European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) - *EU students Only*

EEA students should obtain an EHIC card before leaving their home country. This will give you the same cover as registering for French social security. **Applying for the card is free, and it can be valid for up to 5 years. Residents from other EEA countries can find the relevant contact details for their country on www.ehic.europa.eu**

Whether you have a EHIC card or have registered via the Ameli website, you will need to pay costs of doctors' visits, prescriptions and tests upfront, and subsequently claim for partial reimbursement.

Some doctors charge the approved social security rate (25 € for a "généraliste" or GP , 25 to 55 € for a specialist) while others will charge more, but you will still only be reimbursed 70% (16.50 €) of the approved social security rate when you see a doctor, and sometimes less for prescriptions or tests depending on circumstances.

Healthcare



- Doctolib is a good way to book an appointment with a doctor
- The European Emergency number is **112**
- If you need urgent medical attention but are unable or unsure about going to Urgences, you should call Samu (15) for medical advice

Doctor's appointment

Doctolib is a good way to book an appointment, and to check rates applied and languages spoken.

During the pandemic, a number of doctors have offered video appointments.

There are also walk-in medical centres ("centre medical") where you can see a GP without an appointment.

What next?

The doctor will give you a "feuille de soin" showing what you have paid, and possibly a prescription ("ordonnance") for treatment or tests.

You'll need to go to a pharmacy to pay and pick up any treatment and will be given another form showing what you have paid the pharmacy.

This paperwork can then be send off to claim your partial refund.

Emergencies

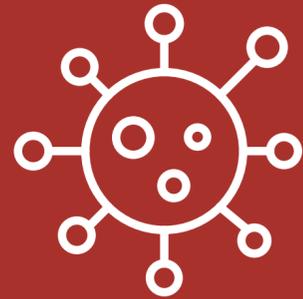
The European Emergency Number is **112**, and can be called from any phone. This is the number you should ring for any situation requiring urgent assistance, including:

- Serious medical problems (accident, unconscious person, severe injuries, chest pain, seizure)
- Any type of fire
- Life-threatening situations (crimes)

If you need urgent medical attention, you can walk into the 24/7 emergency services, called "Urgences". If you go to a public hospital (APHP), your EHIC card or social security registration form will ensure the vast majority of your expenses are covered.

If you need urgent medical attention but are unable or unsure about going to Urgences, you should call Samu (**15**) for medical advice. They can direct you to the nearest medical centre, send an ambulance or send a doctor for a home visit.

COVID-19



- The dates of the academic year will remain as planned
- We are currently planning to deliver a mixture of online and face-to-face teaching for the first semester.

Small group, intensive-block teaching is one of the characteristics of our pedagogical approach and we aim to maintain a high level of teaching while bearing in mind guidance from French and British authorities. Students are currently able to access the library and study spaces throughout the teaching terms, in a safe learning environment, and to integrate into the student community in Paris.

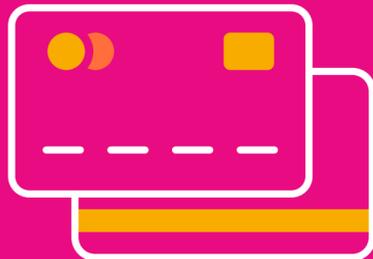
Learning and Teaching

To take into account possible restrictive safety protocols as well as to accommodate students who might not be able to be physically present in Paris, we are operating a blended approach to our induction activities and teaching. This means that we aim for students who will be in Paris to be able to benefit from some in-person activity with additional online content and synchronous teaching to ensure a high-quality learning experience. In the case of external restrictions affecting student and staff mobility, a series of online tools, such as lecture recordings, live remote seminar sessions, discussion forums and tutor office hours will be available.

Building

Our students' and staff's health and wellbeing are our utmost priority. Over the past year, we have implemented a number of Covid protocols, including signage, reduced room capacity, social distancing measures, augmented cleaning and PPE protocols to ensure building user's safety. We will continue to monitor local health authorities' advice to adapt our operation to requirements.

Banking Arrangements



- We recommend you open a French bank account in Paris as soon as you have secured your accommodation as you may have heavy charges using your UK account and for any access to various services that may require prélèvements
- Minimum charges on cards range from 10€-20€
- Click [HERE](#) to view a comparison of the two digital-only banks in France

Transferring money to France often has a cost which may vary from one bank to another. You should check the scale of charges with both your home bank and French bank before deciding how to transfer money. Students have often found that using money transfer services such as Transferwise is a competitive option. There are also likely to be charges involved in withdrawing cash and using bankcards abroad, which are again most easily investigated before leaving home.

Opening a bank account in France

We strongly advise full-time ULIP students to open a bank account in Paris as soon as they have secured accommodation.

Note that banking practices and fees differ in France from other countries, so we advise students to be sure they understand everything they sign up to. Be aware that in France **overdrafts are very costly** and you will be charged a fee for every day your account is overdrawn, even if you have a découvert autorisé, which only means that you have permission to be overdrawn, not that you have an interest-free overdraft.

When you open a bank account, make sure you are **given statements of bank details (RIB: Relevé d'Identité Bancaire)** which you will be asked to provide to anyone that you set up a direct debit with (eg, landlord, insurance company, electricity provider, student travelcard). Also, make sure you receive all Internet banking codes and details for online transactions and services.

Please note that depending on the bank, it may take about 2 weeks for your account to be open and to receive your bank card.

Digital-Only Banks

With the rise of new technologies, you now have digital-only banks enabling you to manage your account within the touch of your smartphone (e.g. blocking your card on the app if you lose it).

The two main options in Euros are N26 and Revolut. Both of them offer many free services (card, real-time exchange rate, money transfers to numerous countries...), however like any other banks there are either some conditions or some limits (e.g. cash withdrawals limit).

Some say N26 is best for everyday usage, while Revolut is best suited for travelers who juggle between currencies but it is really up to you.

Because their offers continuously evolve, we invite you to explore their websites and take a detailed look at their services to see whether this could be a suitable option for you:

Other bits and pieces



- Your Image R pass is one of the cheapest options. It will give you access to unlimited metro, bus, noctilien, tram and RER rides in all Ile-de-France.
- A phone number is quite useful as you will be required to share that information with various service providers.
- You can choose from a variety of cell phone providers: Free, Sosh, Red, SFR, Bouygues, Orange...

Imagine R Etudiant

This travelcard is for students who are over 16 years old and under 26 years old. It will give you unlimited access to most means of transportation in Ile-de-France: metro, bus, noctilien, tram, RER... It is one of the cheapest ways to get around Paris and you will also benefit from numerous discounts.

You now have the possibility to complete your application form online, where you will need the following documents:

- ULIP acceptance letter in French
- RIB if you want to set up a monthly direct debit
- Photo of yourself (to upload), or you can use your web cam

It may take a couple of weeks before you receive your Imagine R card, so you might need to get a Navigo Decouverte card, an electronic travel card that you can either charge weekly or monthly with unlimited metro, bus, tram and RER rides. These can easily be found at most train stations, simply ask someone at the help desk. Please note that the card cost approximately 5 €.

- Correspondance = Connection
- Correspondance n'est pas assurée= Connection is not ensured
- Sortie= Exit
- En travaux = Maintenance works
- Carnet = a book of 10 tickets, offered at a discounted price compared to single fare

Phone

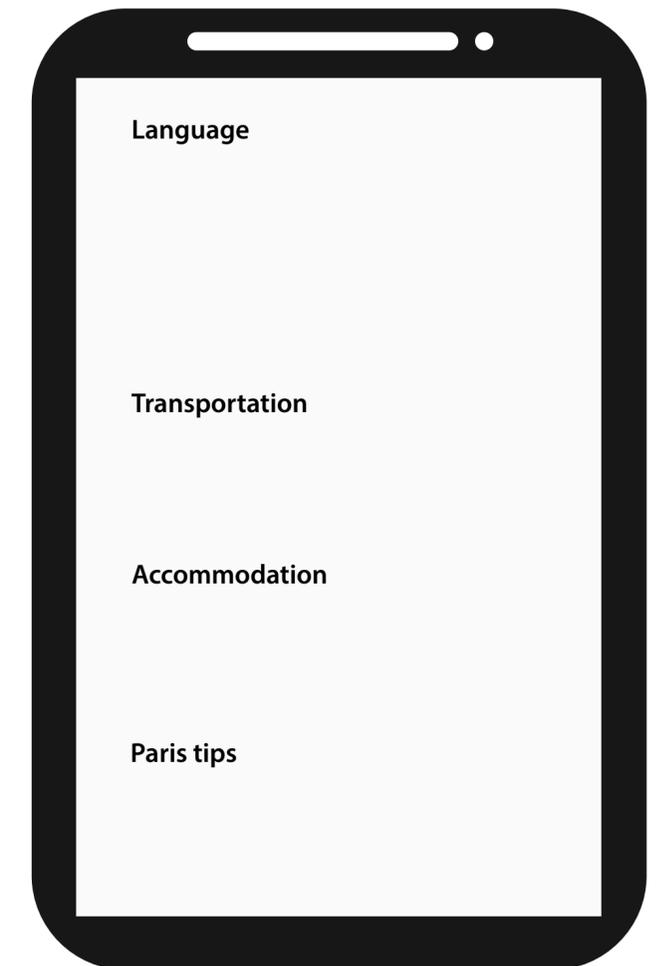
Most service providers will ask for a French number, so you may want to consider one of the numerous mobile providers.

You can choose between contract or contract-free. It seems that most students opt for contract-free and tend to choose Free, which is one of the least expensive options, however they might not have the best coverage.

Click [HERE](#) to view a comparison of cell phone providers and explore the various options.

Useful Apps

Click on the icons and check out these apps on the Android Play Store, they might be handy!





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**Looking forward to seeing
you in Paris!**

Need help?

Contact us between 9.15am-1pm, 2pm-5pm
(Paris time) via:

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The information given in this guide is correct at the time of going to press (April 2021). The University of London Institute in Paris reserves the right to modify or cancel any statement in it and accepts no responsibility for the consequences of any such changes.

Images from Unsplash: Paris rooftops (p.1 and 16) - Dimitri Iakymuk

Icon: Coronavirus Icon made by DinosoftLabs from Flaticon (p.11)