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**YOUR ULTIMATE  
GUIDE TO STUDENT  
VISAS FOR  
FRANCE**



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## INTRODUCTION

Are you ready to embark on an exciting journey of higher education in the captivating land of France? Look no further! Our comprehensive guide to obtaining a student visa for France is your key to unlocking a world of opportunities. From eligibility requirements to the thrilling scope of studying in France, we've got you covered.



## WHO CAN APPLY FOR A STUDENT VISA?

Applicants who are seeking admission for the following categories:

- Full-time programmes, including undergraduate, master's, and twinning degree courses.
- Erasmus-Mundus programmes.
- Student exchange initiatives.
- Programmes focused on the study of the French language.
- Short-term internship programmes integrated into undergraduate and master's level curricula.



## TYPES OF STUDENT VISAS

The category of student visa you receive depends on the length of your course.

**Short-term study visa ('Schengen' short-stay student visa):** Designed for study periods lasting less than 3 months. This visa primarily caters to short-duration educational programmes and language courses. It comes at no cost, obviates the need for a residence permit, and can be renewed upon expiration.

**Temporary long-stay study visa ('Visa de long séjour temporaire pour études'):** Tailored for study programmes with durations ranging from 3 to 6 months.

**Long-stay study visa ('Visa de long séjour études'):** Intended for study commitments extending beyond 6 months. To extend your stay beyond the initial one-year period granted by this long-stay visa, you will also need to apply for a residence permit.



## **ELIGIBILITY FOR A STUDENT VISA TO FRANCE**

To be eligible for a student visa to France, you must:

- Be over 18 years of age.
- Have been accepted to a recognised higher education institution in France.
- Have sufficient financial resources to cover your living expenses and tuition fees during your studies in France.
- Have adequate health insurance coverage.
- Have a clean criminal record.
- Coverage or scope of a student visa for France



## SCOPE OF THE VISA

A student visa for France allows you to stay in France for the duration of your studies, up to a maximum of four years. It also allows you to work part-time, up to 20 hours per week.



## **DOCUMENTS REQUIRED FOR A STUDENT VISA FOR FRANCE**

The following documents are required for a student visa application to France:

- A valid passport.
- Two passport-sized photos.
- A completed visa application form.
- An official letter of acceptance from your chosen educational institution in France.
- Correspondence from the educational institutions in India and France confirming the student's participation in an exchange programme, if on the Exchange Programme
- Proof of financial resources, such as a bank statement or scholarship letter. Tuition fees plus a minimum of 615 euros per month multiplied by the number of months of your intended stay (covering living expenses). Only liquid assets will be taken into consideration. If your education is being funded by a family member or friend, you must provide a written declaration on plain paper, duly signed, accompanied by the necessary financial documents.

This should include:

- Bank statements from the last three months for both the individual sponsoring the education and the student (if the student has a bank account).
- If you plan to be hosted by a family in France, you will need to furnish an "Attestation d'accueil," a sample of which can be obtained from this link. In such cases, you must demonstrate resources amounting to a minimum of 215 euros per month to cover your living expenses.





1. The OFII (Office Français de l'Immigration et de l'Intégration) form, completed and signed as required.
2. Language proficiency certificates, if mandated by the French institution.
3. Curriculum Vitae
4. Proof of health insurance coverage.
5. Accommodation arrangements in France.
6. A flight reservation or ticket (optional).
7. For students below the age of 18, the visa application must encompass consent from both parents for solo travel. This consent should be officially certified by a competent Indian authority and should be accompanied by copies of the parent's identity documents.

**Language Proficiency Requirements:** The minimum language requirements of various proficiency tests are:

**IELTS:**

- Bachelor's Degree- An overall band of 6 with no band below 5.5
- Master's Degree- An overall band of 6.5 with no band below 6

**TOEFL:** A minimum overall score of 82



## **APPLICATION PROCEDURE FOR A STUDENT VISA FOR FRANCE**

The application procedure for a student visa for France varies depending on your country of nationality.

However, the general steps are as follows:

- Register with Campus France, the French agency for international student enrolment.
- Complete and submit your visa application online.
- Pay the visa application fee. The French student visa fees are structured as follows:
  - Visa fee for countries following the CEF procedure: €50
  - Visa fee for all other countries: €99
- Schedule an appointment at the French embassy or consulate in your home country.
- Attend your appointment and submit your visa application documents.
- Wait for a decision on your visa application.

If your visa application is successful, you will be issued a visa vignette, which you must affix to your passport. You will then be able to travel to France and commence your studies.



## STUDENT MOBILITY

Students participating in European Union programmes, multilateral programmes involving mobility across one or more European Union Member States, or programmes established through agreements between at least two higher education institutions in two European Union Member States receive a distinct visa labelled as “Student - -mobility.”

You may receive one of the following options:

- A long-stay visa functioning as a residence permit (VLS-TS) that needs to be validated within three months of your arrival in France if your mobility period is 12 months or less.
- A long-stay visa, coupled with a residence permit, which must be applied for within two months of your arrival in France if your mobility period exceeds 12 months.



## RESIDENT PERMIT IN FRANCE

In your initial year of studies, the long-term student visa serves as your official proof of residency. Within a month of arriving in France, you must complete registration at the local French Office of Immigration and Integration (OFII) and undergo a medical examination to validate your visa.

For those planning to stay beyond one year, starting from the second year of your studies, you will be required to apply for a Carte de Séjour (CDS) or ‘titre de séjour,’ which is an official residence permit in France.

When applying for a carte de séjour, you will need to complete the OFII form and provide several documents. The typical list of documents, many of which may overlap with those you submitted for your visa application, includes:

- Proof of financial means.
- Two passport-sized photographs (typically available for around EUR 4.00 from automated “Photomaton” booths commonly found in town halls, train stations, and underground stations).
- A stamped self-addressed envelope.
- For non-European Union citizens, the following items are also required:
- A medical certificate obtained after a medical examination at ANAEM / OMI. You will receive a letter from the Prefecture a few days after submitting your initial application. Ensure you retain this certificate for future Carte de Séjour renewals.
- Fiscal stamps for each type of renewal. Check the rates at the Prefecture.



Once your application is processed, you will be notified (via mail or phone call) to personally collect your Carte de Séjour. The processing time for applications can vary, sometimes taking up to three months. In the interim, you will be provided with a “récépissé de carte de séjour” (Receipt of Carte de Séjour), which is valid for three months. If your Carte de Séjour is not received within this time frame, you will need to apply for the renewal of the récépissé carte de séjour at the Prefecture, along with three photographs. It’s not uncommon for the Carte de Séjour to take longer than three months to be issued, so there’s no need to worry. As long as you possess a valid récépissé, you maintain your legal resident status in France.

- Please note that you are not permitted to travel outside of France with your initial Récépissé de Carte de Séjour.
- For Proof of Residence, you may provide any one of the following:
  - Evidence of residence in France, such as a lease, electricity bill, property title, etc., covering a minimum of 3 months, along with one photocopy.
  - For hotel accommodation, a confirmed reservation (including the reference) and adequate financial resources to cover the expenses.
  - If lodging is provided by an individual, you will need an “attestation d’accueil” or a declaration of solemn undertaking. In such cases, copies of the individual’s identity card, electricity bill, rent payment receipt, or property title should be provided.
- In the case of accommodation within an establishment or institution, or if it is provided by such an establishment or institution, an attestation from the establishment or institution is required.



## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### **What types of student visas are available in France?**

There are short-stay and long-stay visas, including ones for language courses, internships, and regular academic programmes.

### **How do I know if I need a student visa for France?**

If you're from a non-European Union or non-European Economic Area country and plan to study in France for more than 90 days, you typically need a student visa.

### **What's the application process for a French student visa?**

You will need to complete an application, provide the required documents, pay the visa fee, and attend an interview at the French consulate in your home country.

### **What financial requirements are there for a French student visa?**

You'll need to demonstrate your ability to cover tuition fees and living expenses during your stay in France.

### **Can I work while on a student visa in France?**

Yes, you can work part-time during your studies, and there are opportunities for internships as well.

### **How long does it take to process a French student visa?**

Processing times vary but can take several weeks, so it's essential to apply well in advance of your intended start date.



## **Can I bring my family with me on a student visa?**

In some cases, family members can accompany you, but they will need to apply for their visas.

## **Do I need to have French language proficiency to study in France?**

While many programmes are available in English, having some knowledge of French can enhance your experience.

## **What's the difference between a short-stay and a long-stay student visa?**

Short-stay visas are for programmes lasting less than 90 days, while long-stay visas are for longer academic programmes.

## **Can I extend my student visa in France?**

Yes, you can extend your visa if you wish to continue your studies or have a change in your circumstances.

## **What is the process for obtaining a residence permit in France as a student?**

Once in France, you will need to register with the local Office of Immigration and Integration (OFII) and follow their instructions for obtaining a residence permit.



## **APPENDIX 1: LIST OF EEF PROCEDURE COUNTRIES**

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

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

**AMERICA:** Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Haiti, Mexico, Peru, USA.

**NORTH AFRICA / MIDDLE EAST:** Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates.

**EUROPE:** Azerbaijan, Georgia, United Kingdom, Russia, Turkey, Ukraine.







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