Welcome Booklet for Indian Students Arriving in France

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Visas, housing, health insurance... is there an easier way to figure it all out?





Geetanjali Shrivastava

FOUNDER & CEO

M Ask Sétu

You're about to begin an exciting journey filled with new opportunities — and yes, a fair share of forms, deadlines, and unfamiliar systems.

The good news? Most of these steps follow a pattern, and once you understand it, everything becomes much easier.

This guide will:

- ✓ Help you prepare before you fly
- ✓ Break down essential paperwork and processes
- ✓ Make settling in smoother, from day one to graduation

Your adventure starts here. Bon voyage et bienvenue en France!



Before You Fly - Admin & Visa Checklist

What You Need	Why It Matters	When to Do It	Documents required
Campus France Approval	Mandatory for Indian students	Before visa application	Admission letter, ID
VLS-TS Visa	Long-stay visa = residence permit	6-8 weeks before your travel date	Admission letter, ID, funds, housing proof
Visa validation (OFII)	Legalizes your stay >90 days	Within 3 months of arrival in France	Visa, French address
CVEC Fee (€103)	Needed to finalise your enrolment	As soon as you arrive in France	International / French bank card

Avoid these mistakes



- Skipping CVEC = Blocked enrollment
 - Not validating visa = Illegal stay
 - No translated birth certificate = Health insurance delays





https://cvec.etudiant.gouv.fr





Housing 101 - Finding Your French Nest

Compare housing options

Туре	Cost	Social Life	Social Life
CROUS	€ 200 - 500	High	Scholarship students are given priority. Apply ASAP via <u>here</u> .
Private Residences	€ 500 - 800	Medium	Use <u>Studapart,</u> <u>Les Estudines,</u> <u>YouFirst Campus,</u> etc
Colocation (Sharing)	€ 400 - 800	Very High	Great for social life + cultural assimilation. Use <u>Carte des Colocs</u> etc
Studio	€ 600 - 1000	Low	Need guarantor or Visale / Garant Me

The Ultimate Guide to Student Accommodation Platforms



A garant in France is a person or service that guarantees to cover your rent if you're unable to pay, often required by landlords before signing a lease.



Health & Insurance - Stay Safe, Stay Covered

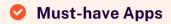
Step	When	What You Need
Register with CPAM	After arrival + OFII	Translated birth cert, proof of address
Apply for Carte Vitale	After CPAM	Social security number
Buy a mutuelle	Optional	For extra coverage (dental, vision)

CPAM Registration

- Visit ameli.fr to register for French healthcare.
- You'll get your Numéro de sécurité sociale → then a Carte Vitale.

You'll need:

- Legalised (apostille) & translated birth certificate
- Proof of address
- Passport and visa



Ameli → Track reimbursements **Doctolib** → Doctor appointments



Banking & Budgeting

Documents needed to open a Bank Account

- Passport and visa copy
- Proof of French address (attestation de domicile)
- University admission or enrolment letter
- French phone number (often required)



Why you should get a bank account in France ASAP:

- · Rent, salary payments, and CAF aid need a RIB
- A French IBAN will be useful for international transfers
- Student-specific accounts with low/no fees
 - BNP Paribas
 - Société Générale
 - Bunq (neo bank with minimum paper work that you can set up from your phone!)

Must-have Apps

 Lydia, Paylib → Easy transfer to other French bank accounts

Avoid these mistakes

- Not opening a bank account = no aid, no salary
- Forgetting to ask for RIB during setup



University Life - Learning the French Way

Secure your admission & student life in France by paying the CVEC

- What it is: CVEC (Contribution Vie Étudiante et de Campus) is €103 fee for student services (health, sports, etc.)
- How to pay:
 - Register at the site messervices.etudiant.gouv.fr.
 - Then connect to the dedicated CVEC site cvec.etudiant.gouv.fr.
 - Enter the city in which you are studying and pay the CVEC with a debit or credit card.
 - Download and retain the proof of payment,
- Needed for: University enrollment, residence permit extensions
- Checklist:
 - Payment proof
 - Include INE number (from your acceptance letter)

Tips for Academic Success

- Attend all lectures & TDs (tutorials)
- Ask for your ECTS credit list (60/year = full load)
- Use the BU (Bibliothèque Universitaire) for resources

A Pro-tips:

 Be on top of your ENT (campus portal), Moodle (course uploads) and Digital student card.

 Use libraries during exam weeks — they stay open late!



Daily Life in France

Know the essentials for French urban life

What	Pro-tips	
Public Transport	Get a monthly pass asap (metro, tram, bus)	
Food	Look for CROUS meals at €3.30, & plan 200-300€/month for groceries	
Shopping	Most shops are closed Sunday, so plan ahead! Watch out for soldes (sales) & second-hand deals.	

Useful Apps

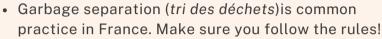


- Citymapper, SNCF, Google Maps
 - Google Translate (for signs, admin letters)

Pro-tips



- Renting cycles is common practice in most cities!
 - Carry a reusable bag plastic bags are discouraged.









Working in France - Earn While You Learn

You can work:

- 964 hrs/year = ~20 hrs/week (part-time)
- · Campus jobs, retail, language tutoring

Documents needed:

- Valid student visa/residence permit
- Certificate of enrollment (attestation de scolarité).
- French bank account (RIB)

What Will You Earn?

 As of January 2024, the minimum wage (SMIC) is €11.88 gross/hour

On-Campus Jobs

Universities offer paid student jobs (12-month contracts from Sept 1 - Aug 31) for:

- · Welcoming new students
- Tutoring or supporting peers with disabilities
- Running events or cultural programs

Max hours allowed:

- Sept-June: 670 hrs
- July-Aug: 300 hrs

These jobs are adapted to your class schedule to support academic success.

Avoid These Mistakes:

- Working without a contract = legal risk
- Forgetting internship agreements or wage rules
- Working too many hours =. risk of losing student status



Support & Integration

Get involved early:

- Orientation week = meet new friends
- Join cultural clubs, debate societies, language exchanges
- · Reach out to Disability Services if needed

Culture & Social Life

Experience More:

- Don't miss the special student rates at cinemas, museums & shows
- Join the events organised by the Bureau des Étudiants & FRASMUS
- Explore local cafés and city festivals

Social Etiquette:

- Always say "Bonjour" in shops
- Be punctual for all meetings
- Respect personal space in public places

A Pro-tip:

 Many museums (including Musée d'Orsay and the Orangerie) have free entries on the first Sunday of the month



Emergency Info & Departure Checklist

Important Numbers:

- 112 General EU Emergency (A not 911)
- 15 Medical (SAMU)
- 17 Police
- 18 Fire

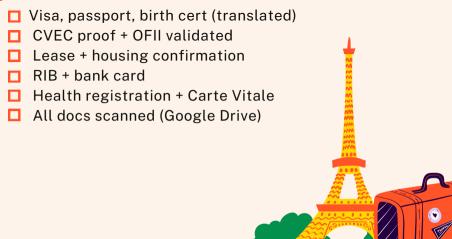
Other Important Websites:

- service-public.fr Official admin help
- etudiant.gouv.fr Student services
- · cvec.etudiant.gouv.fr
- ameli.fr Health insurance

Indian Embassy:

- 13-15 Rue Alfred Dehodencg, 75016 Paris
 - Metro line 9, stop La Muette / tram T3B, stop Porte Dauphine (Avenue Foch)
- +33 6 48 34 00 63 (Emergency number outside office hours for Indian nationals, in case of loss of passport or distress)
- https://www.eoiparis.gov.in/

Final Checklist



Got Any Questions? We've Got You Covered!

Navigating international education can be overwhelming. Ask Sétu combines cutting-edge AI with expert human guidance to make studying and working in France accessible, affordable, and successful for Indian students.

- Admissions
- Administration & Bureaucracy
- French Language Workshops
- Inter-cultural upskilling
- Career-readiness support

Join our WhatsApp Group!

A friendly, supportive space for Indian students in France.

- Connect with peers
- Get real-time tips
- Stay updated on events & deadlines
- Ask questions no question is too small!

See you on WhatsApp

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