

Survival Kit: A Smart Packing Checklist for Indian Students

Decoding French bureaucracy, one acronym at a time.





Introduction

Bonjour and welcome to your student journey in France!

Whether you're heading to Paris, Lyon, Lille, or a charming university town, the first few weeks can feel exciting and overwhelming.

We've created this France Survival Kit so you don't arrive unprepared or overloaded.

From bedsheets to biryani masala, this checklist helps you pack smart — not just heavy.

This guide will help you decide:

- ✓ What to bring to France
- ✓ What to leave behind
- ✓ What to expect when you land.

At Ask Sétu, we've been in your shoes — and we're here to help you adapt faster, settle smoother, and feel at home in a whole new world.

Now take a deep breath. You've got this.

Let's get packing!



Geetanjali Shrivastava

FOUNDER & CEO



Ask Sétu



TRAVEL *Essentials*

Pack these in your hand baggage:

- ☐ Passport, visa, admission letter, insurance, accommodation proof
- ☐ Flight ticket printout + student card (if issued)
- ☐ Cash (100–200€ in small notes), international credit card / forex card
- ☐ Laptop + phone + universal adapters + chargers + earphones
- ☐ Notebooks, pens (your stationary starter kit)
- ☐ Travel-size toiletries & basic meds (paracetamol, digestive, etc.)
- ☐ Dry snacks (parle-G, theplas, khakra - your comfort food!)

French weather can be unpredictable. Make sure you pack:

- ☐ Daily wear (mix of western & Indo-western)
- ☐ Basic winter jacket (can buy better options in France if needed)
- ☐ Thermals, gloves, wool cap, scarf
- ☐ One pair of good walking shoes + formal shoes
- ☐ Indian outfit (for festivals, cultural events!)
- ☐ Compact umbrella or raincoat



Tip:

- Make copies of all important documents (digital + print)
- Decathlon is your best friend for shoes & jackets



ACCOMODATION *Basics*

Things your student room might not have:

- ☐ Bedsheets & Towels
- ☐ Basic utensils: 1 plate, 1 bowl, 1 glass, 1 mug
- ☐ Cutlery: A pair of spoons, forks, and knives + cutting essentials
- ☐ Spices: Garam masala, haldi, jeera, chili powder (small packets)
- ☐ Detergent pods or strips (easy to carry!)
- ☐ Dish sponge + mini washing soap bar



Tip:

- Pack light but smart. Prioritise lightweight, multipurpose items.
- Plan to buy pillows & blanket on arrival from IKEA or Action.

Extras That Help A Lot

- ☐ Small pooja items (if you practice)
- ☐ Pressure cooker (optional but highly recommended!)
- ☐ Hair oil, face wash, desi skincare (limited stock)
- ☐ Ayurvedic balms, Vicks, etc
- ☐ Small gifts (for host families, new friends)



FINAL *Tips*

Before you step on that plane, here are a few final words of wisdom from the Ask Sétu community of Indian students already thriving in France:

5 Pro Tips for a Smooth Landing

- ✓ Don't overpack clothes. You'll blend in better once you see what locals wear.
- ✓ Carry your comfort food. Your first dal-chawal meal hits different abroad.
- ✓ Buy big stuff in France. Mattresses, pans, and chairs are best bought locally
- ✓ Keep all documents scanned & backed up. *Digital files = lifesavers.*
- ✓ Join local Indian WhatsApp groups - your shortcut to survival hacks & secondhand finds.

Need More Than a Checklist?

Ask Sétu offers personalized student packages to guide you before and after arrival in France.

- ✓ Sign up for one of our packages,
- ✓ Join our [WhatsApp](#) group
- ✓ Follow us on LinkedIn: [[@ask-setu](#)]
- ✓ Follow us on Instagram: [[@ask.setu](#)]

