



## DISCOVER YOUR CITY



Campus France will guide  
you through your first steps  
in France and **exploring Lille**,  
your new home.

# WELCOME TO LILLE





## YOUR ARRIVAL IN LILLE /

### ◆ Different welcome and orientation desks for students

• **At Université de Lille**, depending on your course of study (science, arts and humanities, law, medicine), your first port of call will be:

- dedicated websites for anything pertaining to academic procedures;
- and one single website, the **Maison internationale**, for administrative procedures.

**To find out where to go, please visit:** <https://international.univ-lille.fr/> International/Maison Internationale/ Procedures and practical information/

**The Maison Internationale is Université de Lille's single, multi-service reception desk for international students, doctoral students and academics.** It offers two types of support:

- the HelpDesk, which provides individual support with all administrative procedures;
- the WelcomeDesk, which promotes the integration of international students and doctoral students by organising cultural visits and social activities.

Address: Campus Cité scientifique -

Bâtiment A4, 59655 Villeneuve d'Ascq.

Hours: Monday to Friday from 8:45 am to 4:30 pm.

Contact: 03 20 43 44 07 or

maison-internationale@univ-lille.fr

Website: <https://international.univ-lille.fr/maison-internationale/>

### ◆ In other institutions

Regardless of your institution, please consult the Campus France website for orientation. The site presents a series of **Information Sheets covering the different higher learning institutions:**

<https://www.campusfrance.org> > Students > Documentary resources > Practical information for students and researchers > Reception arrangements in institutions

If you cannot find your school in this list, then go directly to their website.

### ◆ Welcome and orientation for researchers and lecturers (international mobility)

The **Euraxess** office of Lille Haut de France Nord de France provides the support you need during your move.

Contact: [mobilitycentre@cue-Inf.fr](mailto:mobilitycentre@cue-Inf.fr)

or by appointment at 03 20 79 87 25.

For more information: <https://international.univ-lille.fr/euraxess-accueil-des-doctorants-et-enseignants-chercheurs-en-mobilite/>

### ◆ Buddy System

In Lille, you can receive the support of a welcome student who will welcome you and help you with any administrative procedures:

- please visit Université de Lille's mobile app, ULillExplore : <https://ulillexplore.univ-lille.fr>

- Website: <https://ulillexplore.univ-lille.fr>

- Contact: [ulillexplore@univ-lille.fr](mailto:ulillexplore@univ-lille.fr)

- as well as the ESN Lille's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/ESNLillePage> or the Buddy System website: [www.buddysystem.eu](http://www.buddysystem.eu)

### ◆ National Services

- students: [www.etudiant.gouv.fr](http://www.etudiant.gouv.fr)

- doctoral students, researchers:

<http://www.euraxess.fr/fr>



Making you feel at home is a major concern for all French higher education institutions! The **Welcome to France label** is awarded to institutions that fulfil exacting criteria in the way they take care of their international students.



## ACCOMMODATION

### Finding somewhere to live is not always easy.

Rents are often high, and landlords require financial guarantees (such as a deposit).

Nevertheless, there is a wide range of accommodation on offer: halls of residence that are exclusively reserved for students and managed by the CROUS, student halls and private lodgings, rooms in private homes, flatshares...

**The main thing is to start preparing for this as early as possible, before leaving your home country.**

**Université de Lille offers a range of housing solutions, as well as a guide to accommodation options that all students will find useful:**

- ULillGo: <https://ulillgo.univ-lille.fr> > Before your arrival > Looking for accommodation > Complete Housing Guide (in French or in English).

ULillGo is a mobile app for international students at Université de Lille. It is a genuine, comprehensive guide, in which students and doctoral students will find all the practical information they need.

### A FEW TIPS

#### ◆ Short-term housing:

- The Stéphane Hessel youth hostel, with its futuristic architecture, near the center, Porte de Valenciennes metro station: <https://www.hifrance.org>
- The Gastama, a youth hostel in the old-town Vieux Lille: [www.gastama.com](http://www.gastama.com)
- The Eklo Hotel, an affordable and welcoming solution (with common rooms),

Porte de Valenciennes metro station:

[www.eklohotels.com/hotels/lille/](http://www.eklohotels.com/hotels/lille/)

• Other solutions on the website of the Lille Tourist Office: <https://www.lilletourism.com> > dormir

### ◆ Long-term housing

• **CROUS student housing** (Centre Régional des Oeuvres Universitaires et Scolaires), the regional center for university services **for Lille Nord-Pas-de-Calais**.

Contact for accommodation and student hall life: [dve@crous-lille.fr](mailto:dve@crous-lille.fr) or 03 20 88 66 15.

You have the opportunity to meet a manager at the CROUS central office at 74 rue de Cambrai à Lille, from Monday to Thursday from 9 am to 12 pm and from 1 pm to 4:30 pm, and on Friday from 9 am to 12 pm and from 1 pm to 4 pm.

Address: 74 rue de Cambrai, 59000 Lille.

Hours: Monday to Friday, 9am to 12pm and 1pm to 5pm.

**For housing for international students, you can also try the following contact:**

**03 74 09 12 02 or 03 74 09 12 11 and service.**

**international@crous-lille.fr**

Website: [www.crous-lille.fr/](http://www.crous-lille.fr/)

Website *Trouver un logement*:

<https://trouverunlogement.lescrous.fr>

### • Private Housing Platforms

Most institutions in Lille are members of **Studapart**, a private housing platform:

<https://univ-lille.studapart.com/fr/>

Université de Lille also has an agreement with **Housing Anywhere** which gives students privileged access to housing offers: <https://housinganywhere.com>

You can consult other specialized sites, for example:

- <https://www.adele.org/>

- <https://www.immojeune.com/>

- <https://www.location-etudiant.fr/>

• There is also a **Lokaviz, site managed by CROUS, which includes a listing of student accommodations in private homes:**

<https://www.lokaviz.fr/>

• **Shared Leases:** consult *La Carte des Colocs*, a national site for shared leases that's free and simple to use: <https://www.lacartedescolocs.fr/>

• **Other solutions available on the Campus France site:** [www.campusfrance.org](http://www.campusfrance.org) > Getting organized > Accommodation

### ◆ If you need a guarantor to secure your lodging

Visale is a new and free guarantor system: [www.visale.fr](http://www.visale.fr)

◆ **If you want to file an application for APL funds (Aide Personnalisée au Logement, or personalized housing aid),** CAF (Caisse des Allocations Familiales) can check your eligibility: 32 30 or [www.caf.fr](http://www.caf.fr)

◆ **If you need housing adapted to your special needs,** contact the CROUS Service Social which will work with your host institution. Contact: [service.social@](mailto:service.social@)

[crous-lille.fr](http://crous-lille.fr) or 03.20.88.66.27. The social desk is open from Monday to Thursday from 9 am to 12 pm and from 1 pm to 4:30 pm (4 pm on Friday) at 74 rue de Cambrai à Lille. Some of our institutions have specialized services for disabled students (housing assistance and also transport and tuition).

**At Université de Lille**, the BVEH (Bureau de la vie étudiante handicap) greets and assists students with a disability:

<https://www.univ-lille.fr/vie-des-campus/etudes-et-handicap/>

Contact details for the International Relations Office

### The CROUS, at your service everywhere

**Do you need any help and/or advice, somewhere to eat or to live, a job - or do you just want to find out all there is to know about student life? Then the CROUS is what you need!**



The CROUS (Centre Régional des Œuvres Universitaires et Scolaires - Regional Centre of University and

School Services) has branches in all major French university towns.

It manages university halls of residence and canteens, allows you to meet social workers, and offers cultural activities and job opportunities.



## GETTING AROUND LILLE



**If you arrive in Lille by air or rail**, you can follow the advice offered by Université de Lille, whatever your exact destination of arrival: <https://international.univ-lille.fr> > venir étudier à l'université > préparer son arrivée



**For travel in and around the city**, there is a dense public transport network (bus, metro, tram, shuttle) that runs day or night: <https://www.ilevia.fr/fr/>



**There are regional trains for getting around the region:**

[www.ter.sncf.com/hautes-de-france](http://www.ter.sncf.com/hautes-de-france)  
Coaches are also an option for low-cost travel: <https://fr.ouibus.com/> or <https://www.flixbus.fr/>



**For ride-sharing**, refer to the collaborative websites:

- local: [www.covoiturage-libre.fr](http://www.covoiturage-libre.fr)  
- national: [www.blablacar.fr](http://www.blablacar.fr)



For more independence, use the **V'Lille** system, which offers self-service bicycles that are available in more than 260 stations: <https://www.ilevia.fr/fr/>

in case of any specific needs:

- for students on exchange programmes: [incoming-specialneeds@univ-lille.fr](mailto:incoming-specialneeds@univ-lille.fr)
  - for students outside exchange programmes (free movers): you must contact the Bureau de la vie étudiante et du handicap (BVEH) located on each site.
- General Address: [vie.etudiante-handicap@univ-lille.fr](mailto:vie.etudiante-handicap@univ-lille.fr)



## FIRST THINGS FIRST /

### ENROLLMENT IN YOUR INSTITUTION

#### ◆ CVEC

Before you can enroll in your institution, you must download proof of payment of the Contribution Vie Etudiante et de Campus (CVEC) – the student and campus life contribution fee.

- Connect to <https://cvec.etudiant.gouv.fr/>
- For additional information and special cases: <https://www.campusfrance.org> > Getting Organized > CVEC

#### ◆ Confirm Registration

Take note! Even if you have a pre-registration letter, you are not officially enrolled. You must confirm your enrollment with the institution's Service de la Scolarité (Admissions) as soon as you arrive.

### RESIDENCE PERMITS

#### WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

- If you have just arrived in France on a long-term VLS-TS student visa: you must **validate it online as soon as you arrive in France**, on the ANEF (Administration numérique pour les Etrangers en France - Digital Administration for Foreigners in France) website. This validation must be carried out within the three months following your arrival: <https://administration-etrangers-en-france.interieur.gouv.fr/particuliers/#/>
- If you have Algerian citizenship or you are a student holding a "concours" visa or a visa bearing the mention "carte à solliciter dans les deux mois" ("card to be requested within two months"): your request for a residence permit must be carried out at the Préfecture.
- If you hold a "mineur scolarisé" ("minor in education") visa and you have since attained your majority, you must request a residence permit directly on the ANEF website or at the *préfecture* of your place of residence within

the two months following your attaining the age of legal majority: <https://administration-etrangers-en-france.interieur.gouv.fr/particuliers/#/>

Please note: if you wish to renew your residence permit or VLS-TS, you must make your request during the third month preceding the date of end of validity of your current residence permit, on the following website: <https://administration-etrangers-en-france.interieur.gouv.fr/particuliers/#/>

The following tutorial can help you with this procedure: <https://www.campusfrance.org/en/tutorials-to-help-international-students-in-their-application-process>

- Your institution's student support services can assist you in case of any difficulties.

To find out more about your rights and obligations: <https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/N11>



## PRACTICAL INFORMATION /

### OPENING A BANK ACCOUNT

If you stay in France for more than 3 months, it will be much easier day-to-day if you open a bank account, **online or in one of the bank agencies located in Lille.**

In France, opening a bank account is a right: [www.service-public.fr](http://www.service-public.fr) > Argent > Comptes bancaires > Droit au compte

### ACCESSING HEALTHCARE

Accessing healthcare in France is almost free, but you must be insured. **You must therefore be registered with the national health insurance programme.** Learn more:

Please go to the <https://etudiant-etranger.ameli.fr> website to register, understand your rights and to carry out the requisite procedures.

<https://www.campusfrance.org> > Getting Organized > Health

As a student enrolled at Université de Lille, you can access the university's Service de Santé étudiante (SSE), or Student Health Service, which brings together five healthcare centres offering medical, psychological and social support.

In this service, where consultations are free, you will be greeted by a team of doctors and nurses

who can give personalized advice about health and prevention.

• **For students at Université de Lille, the Service de Santé étudiante offers:**

- **a unique phone number: 03 62 26 93 00.**

- **five reception centers in the different schools,** open non-stop Monday to Friday, 8:30am to 5pm (excluding holidays).

Learn more: [www.univ-lille.fr](http://www.univ-lille.fr) > Vie des campus > Santé, bien-être > Centre de santé des étudiants

• **For students enrolled in other institutions in Lille,** contact your school's Service de la Vie Étudiante or Services des Relations Internationales to find out if you can use the health center services. Some institutions are in fact bound to this Center by an agreement.

## TAKING OUT COMPLEMENTARY HEALTH INSURANCE ("MUTUELLE")

**We recommend you take out complementary health insurance in order to cover the totality of your healthcare costs, which are not all covered by the compulsory and free national health insurance programme.**

Please note: options and levels of insurance vary from one insurer to another. In order to choose the complementary insurance that is best adapted to your situation and your budget, you can access more information on a student "mutuelles" price comparison website.

## HOUSING INSURANCE

**In France, housing insurance is mandatory.**

You can sign up for housing insurance called "garantie risques locatifs" - rental risk guarantee - at your bank or a private insurance company. Online subscription is often possible.

## EMERGENCY NUMBERS

**SAMU: Call 15** Emergency Medical Services

**Police emergency: Call 17** in the event of violence, theft, robbery.

**Fire Department: Call 18** in the event of fire, gas leak, water damage, natural catastrophe, or traffic accident.

**Call 112:** European emergency services number that's accessible from anywhere in the European Union in addition to the French numbers above.

## LEARNING FRENCH

Learning French is an opportunity that's not to be missed! Find what works best for you:  
- by consulting the Campus France site or the

Français Langue Etrangère (FLE) - French as a foreign language - centers and universities which offer courses at all levels year-round:

<https://ecoledete.campusfrance.org/#/main>

- by asking in your institution, at city hall, or in your host city's Maison des Associations - community centers.

## FINDING A JOB OR AN INTERNSHIP

**It is important that you have sufficient financial resources to come and study in France.**

Working in France as a foreign student is possible within limits, namely for a maximum duration of 964 hours per year. This can therefore only be a way of earning **supplementary funds**.

Please note: to work in France, if you are not a citizen of the European Union, you must hold a valid **student residence permit**.

**To help you find a job or work experience placement, 2 addresses:**

• **CRIJ des Hauts-de-France** (Centre Régional d'Information Jeunesse) - the regional youth information center has a platform for job and internship offers available for young people:  
<http://www.crij-hdf.fr/>

• **the Jobaviz website, run by the CROUS**, can help you find a student job compatible with your studies:  
<http://www.jobaviz.fr>



## THINGS TO DO IN LILLE /

## TAKE UP A SPORT

**In your institution**, you can obtain special access to the sports activities by contacting the Service des Sports (or the Service de la Vie Étudiante).

**At Université de Lille**, you can choose any sport from those on offer:  
[www.univ-lille.fr](http://www.univ-lille.fr) > Vie des campus > Sport

**In Lille**, choose from the 200 sports facilities set up by the city or the Métropole (metropolitan area):  
- <https://www.lille.fr> > Que faire à Lille > Envie de sport  
- <https://www.lillemetropole.fr> > Votre métropole > Compétences > Promotion du territoire > Sport

## BE ACTIVE

Attend cultural and sporting events, or join a social or community group, through one of the numerous local or national student clubs and associations.

To find out more, contact:

- **your school (Service de la Vie Étudiante) for information.** If you are enrolled at Université de Lille, check out the section on the website:

<https://www.univ-lille.fr/> > vie-des-campus/vie-associative-et-engagement-citoyen/vie-associative  
- consult the national sites: [www.animafac.net](http://www.animafac.net) or [www.letudiant.fr](http://www.letudiant.fr)

**In Lille, the ESN association, which is an organization that welcomes international students, is very active in helping foreign students settle in:**

<http://www.esnlille.fr/satellite/fr>

## CULTURE AND NIGHTLIFE

Lille offers many ways to cultivate yourself or party. Movie theaters, museums, operas, exhibitions, and festivals are on the program and most of the time, at reduced cost for students.

For more information:

- [www.lille.fr](http://www.lille.fr) > Que faire a Lille/Envie de culture  
- <https://www.lillemetropole.fr> > services > culture

**The Service Culture at Université de Lille** created the **Atout Culture** (culture asset) program so that students can benefit from the region's cultural organizations (discounts, free admissions, artistic gatherings, guided tours):

<https://culture.univ-lille.fr> > atout culture

**In most of the other institutions in Lille,** you can also contact your school's Service Culture or Vie étudiante for available activities

**For entertainment or to pick up some culture,** in Lille, there are:

- more than 20 movie theaters with multiple screens (student rates, rewards card) including 3 art house theaters: Le Métropole, le Majestic and l'Univers, as well as le Kino-Ciné, part of Université de Lille.

- 12 top museums, reduced rates for students:

[www.lille.fr](http://www.lille.fr) > Que faire a Lille/Envie de culture > musées et expositions

- 20 large venues for concerts, theater, dance and opera: [www.lille.fr](http://www.lille.fr) > Que faire a Lille/Envie de culture > théâtres et spectacles

- approximately 40 bookshops including a major institution: The Furet de Nord on the Grand-Place of Lille, one of the largest bookshops in France and Europe. It also buys your used books.

- 12 large libraries and media libraries:

<http://www.bm-lille.fr/>

For going out and staying abreast of current events in Lille, **read the leading regional daily paper, La Voix du Nord**, available in news stands or online:

<http://www.lavoixdunord.fr/region/lille-et-ses-environs>

You can also check out the cultural agenda on the Lille Tourist Office: <https://www.lilletourism.com> > sortir > tout l'agenda

## TOP ATTRACTIONS /

**Lille has been listed as a City of Art and History since 2004.**

- The Grand-Place, in the heart of the city, also known as the Place du General de Gaulle.
- Vieux Lille, or old-town a neighborhood that dates back to the 17th century.
- The Palais des Beaux Arts, the second largest French museum after the Musée du Louvre.
- The Hôtel de Ville (Town Hall) and its belfry, listed world heritage sites by UNESCO.
- The house where Charles de Gaulle was born.
- The cathedral of Notre-Dame de la Treille, built in the neo-Gothic style.
- The Piscine, museum of art and industry, in the Art Deco surroundings of a former swimming pool (in Roubaix).
- The LaM, museum of modern art of Lille Métropole (in Villeneuve d'Ascq), for its collections of modern and contemporary art.
- the Villa Cavrois, a masterpiece by the architect Mallet-Stevens (in Croix).
- the IMA, the Institut du Monde Arabe (in Tourcoing).
- the MUba, a dialogue between contemporary art and art from previous centuries (in Tourcoing).

Learn (and see) more:

<https://www.lilletourism.com> > découvrir







## IMPORTANT ANNUAL EVENTS /

### FEBRUARY

- Lillarious, a comedy festival, the leading contemporary art fair in the region.

### MARCH

- Art Up, the region's first contemporary art fair.
- The Séries Mania Festival, the international festival of television series.

### APRIL

- **The Festival of Art and Culture in Higher Education (JACES):**  
<https://journees-arts-culture-sup.fr> > lille
- The Anim Festival, an international event dealing with every kind of animated production.

### MAY

- **The Pint of Science Festival:**  
<https://pintofscience.fr/>
- The Nuit Européenne des Musées (European Museum Night), an amusing way to visit the museum at night, for free.
- The Festival International de la Soupe, a celebratory soup festival, with world music concerts.

### JUNE

- Fête de la Musique: Music everywhere in town (free concerts).
- Lille Piano(s) Festival, 50 artists, 30 concerts in 3 days (discounted rates).
- The Latitudes Contemporaines, a contemporary dance festival.

### AUGUST

- The Festival des Nuits Secrètes (festival of secret nights), for discovering "alternative music" at Aulnoye-Aymeries, a town near Lille (discounted rates).

### SEPTEMBER

- **The Journées d'Immersion dans la Vie Étudiante, (JIVÉ), student induction days at Université de Lille.**
- **Welcome Days dedicated to welcoming first-time international students at Université de Lille.**
- The world-famous Braderie de Lille, the largest flea market in Europe.
- Journées du Patrimoine (heritage days), free visits of cultural venues.
- The Course des Terrils (slag heap run), 5,000 participants scrambling for two days!
- BAL - Bière à Lille, a festival of brewing culture.

### OCTOBER

- **The Nuit des Etudiants du Monde (World Student Night),** a highlight of student life.
- **La Fête de la science,** in the universities' laboratories, with the Science Village at Saint-Sauveur Station.
- **HelloLille,** an event organised as a partnership between Université de Lille and Université catholique de Lille, for an evening bringing together newly-arrived international students throughout the European Metropolis of Lille.

### NOVEMBER

- **International Student Week,** for international and French students from the University of Lille, a way to meet up by joining in friendly festive events:  
<http://isw.univ-lille.fr>

### DECEMBER

- The Christmas markets.
- Braderie de l'art, 24h of live, non-stop artistic creation.

Learn more: <https://www.lille.fr> > que faire à Lille > les grands événements



**& SHARE  
PARTICIPATE**

To stay informed and attuned to others and the world, to share and dialogue with students, follow **social media** where Campus France has an especially strong presence!

*Remember to sign up on the **France Alumni** network to take part in discussion groups on various subjects, take advantage of cultural outings, and consult job and internship offers.*



# THINGS TO KNOW

**LILLE**, CAPITAL  
OF THE NORD  
DEPARTMENT,  
capital of the  
Hauts-de-France region  
which is made up of  
5 departments

## EUROPEAN METROPOLITAN AREA OF LILLE:

**1,2 million** residents

## CITY OF LILLE:

**238,000** residents  
more than half of whom are under 30

## HAUTS-DE- FRANCE REGION,

RANKED **5<sup>th</sup>** for the  
number of foreign  
students (more than  
25,000 international  
students)

## Lille:

**115,000** students,  
one of the largest university cities in France

## Université de Lille:

**78,000** students including  
9,900 foreign students of 150 nationalities



**LILLE** RANKED **17<sup>th</sup>** (OUT OF 46) BEST CITY IN FRANCE WHERE IT'S  
GOOD TO LIVE AND STUDY (awarded by L'Étudiant magazine)

Most of the information presented in the Campus France City Information Sheets concerns all international students regardless of their institution.

In France, in each of the host cities, most foreign students study at universities. Accordingly, the City Information Sheets attach great importance to them without overlooking the other higher education institutions even if it is not possible to list them all here with their specific information.

For more information on the institutions' welcomes and orientations:

<https://www.campusfrance.org/fr/recherche/categorie/hauts-de-france-555>

CAMPUS FRANCE

28 rue de la Grange aux Belles, 75010 PARIS - 01 40 40 58 58 - [www.campusfrance.org](http://www.campusfrance.org)