Welcome to Université Paris-Saclay

2016 - International guide
WE ARE DELIGHTED TO WELCOME YOU TO UNIVERSITÉ PARIS-SACLAY

With 13 graduate multidisciplinary institutes and over 65,000 students, Université Paris-Saclay is one of the most prestigious university place in France. You arrive also in a cutting-edge scientific and technological area with more than 350 laboratories hosted by the most important French research institutes. Université Paris-Saclay is also a very pleasant place to work and live. You will find in this international students guide the main necessary procedures to make it easier for you to settle in, with general and practical information.

TABLE OF CONTENTS:

1 SOME KEY DATA ON EDUCATION AT UNIVERSITÉ PARIS-SACLAY P. 4
2 VISA APPLICATIONS AND OFII P. 8
3 ACCOMMODATION P. 13
4 BANK ACCOUNT P. 15
5 HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECURITY COVER P. 18
6 PUBLIC TRANSPORT (METRO AND RER) P. 20
7 LIFE IN PARIS-SACLAY : SOME PRACTICAL INFORMATION P. 22
8 “CAMPUS FRANCE" RESOURCES AND GUIDES FOR PREPARING DEPARTURE, ARRIVAL IN FRANCE, AND EVERYDAY LIFE P. 24
9 CALENDAR OF PUBLIC HOLIDAYS AND CELEBRATION P. 25
10 EMERGENCY NUMBERS P. 26

CORE CAMPUS of UNIVERSITÉ PARIS-SACLAY
Foreign students and researchers: 23% of the UPSClery students and researchers

Foreign PhD students: 45% of the UPSClery PhD students
Between Paris and Versailles, Université Paris-Saclay is located in one of the largest economic and private research areas in Europe. It therefore operates in an environment conducive to producing innovation and to the development of industrial activity. Université Paris-Saclay is also a space open to all, next door to a natural, cultural and historical remarkable site: the national park of High Valley of Chevreuse which remains a rural area too among the most beautiful but also the most coveted of Ile-de-France. The landscapes are marked since the Middle Ages by the presence of lords and influential princes that signify their power by their great iconic areas and abbeys.

In the nineteenth century, quarries provide the sandstone cobblestone streets of Paris. The farms are located along rivers or trays, feed the capital with fresh produce. The villages with buhlstone have kept small bucolic churches, washing places and fountains. The continuation of farming preserves indeed rural or natural landscapes of the Chevreuse Valley, the forest of Yveline or Hurepoix.

The arrival of the railroad transformed the territory into a resort and inspiration close to the capital, attracting artists, intellectuals and notables. The towns will enrich stately homes built by the Parisian bourgeoisie. The development of the car in the twentieth century gives the valley a more residential look.

The Université Paris-Saclay campus is being developed in close connection with its environment, local residents, authorities and companies within its ecosystem.

Actively involved in new types of exchanges on the knowledge created, Université Paris-Saclay places its scientific and human potential at the service of a free dialogue between science and society. These interactions will be varied and require the participation of many players: associations, artists collectives, cultural or mediation organizations, and others. They enable citizens to identify with the issues and outcomes associated with knowledge, and at the same time enables partners of the future Université Paris-Saclay to understand the concerns, questions and expectations of society at large.

Among the regular opportunities for meeting and exchange feature:

• Events, particularly those organized around the science festival
• Conferences open to the public, such as the “Cyclops” cycle of conferences
• Welcoming the public, school children, etc. into laboratories and research centers
• And, of course, scientists and students are invited to participate in numerous events organized all over France.

Several associations contribute to the influence and dissemination of science in the Paris-Saclay area. They work together locally and in regional and international projects.

How are we working and how to join us?

Université Paris-Saclay offers a wide range of courses, from bachelor’s degree to doctorate, within colleges, all of a high international level, within the fields of natural, human and social sciences. The Diagonale is an ideal structure to create direct links between science and society: the teachers and the researchers of the Université are working together in all our events.

The events organized by the Diagonale are made for the civil society. The themes are very broad: activities for schools, open-doors days, festivals, websites and tools to spread the scientific knowledge... Through all its project, the Diagonale also try to create a community that can learn, teach and develop a scientific culture in the society.

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How to apply for a French visa?
The list of the French embassies and consulates is available on the website of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs:
http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/fr/le-ministere-et-son-reseau/annuaires-et-adresses-du-maedi/ambassades-et-consulats-francais-a-l-etranger/ (Click on the map to see the list of French representations in your country).

In most countries, it is compulsory to contact first the Campus France Agency (the French national agency for the promotion of higher education) in order to start the visa procedure. You should therefore contact them as soon as possible.

List of the Campus France offices:
http://www.campusfrance.org/en/espaces/map

You have to apply for a long-stay visa with residence permit (VLS-TS: Visa de Long Séjour valant Titre de Séjour) Price: up to 99€

The "Visa Long Séjour valant Titre de Séjour-VLS-TS", (Long Stay Visa worth residence permit)

It is a visa that exempts to ask a residence permit. It has a 3 months to 1 year duration.

The VLS-TS holder doesn't need to go to the Préfecture when arriving in France. However, the VLS-TS must be validated by the "Office Français de l’Immigration et de l’Intégration" (OFII).
The VLS-TS should be marked with the letter (D) and either "étudiant" or "scientifique_chercheur".

What is it?

VISA APPLICATION and OFII

You should always:
• Apply for a “Type D” visa (also called “national visa” or “long stay visa” or “residence visa” with the mention “Student”.
• Tick the box: “multiple entries” in the application form.
• The documents required for your visa application depend on your home country, thus you should contact your relevant French embassy. The lists given in this document are indicative and may change according to specific conditions applied by the consulate you will address.
• If you are planning to stay at Université Paris-Saclay for more than one year, you will need to renew your permit of stay two months before the end of your visa.
• A holder of a long-stay visa, issued by a Member State part of the Schengen Space, is allowed to travel to another country of the Schengen Space, for a maximum of three months in a six-month period.

OFII sticker:
The OFII sticker is a sticker of the size of a visa that the “Office Français de l’Immigration et de l’Intégration” (French Office for Immigration and Integration-OFII) sticks on a passport page.

Is it compulsory?
Yes. If six months after arrival in France, the student or researcher did not complete the OFII (Office Français de l’Immigration et de l’Intégration) formalities, he cannot ask for a “titre de séjour” (residence permit) within the French territory. He will be compelled to return to his country to reapply for a visa at the French consulate. The instructions and the steps are all explained in the OFII user guide (it’s given alongside the “long stay visa worth resident permit” (VLS –TS) at the French consulate).

Once OFII receive the file “Demande d’attestation OFII” (see on the next page) and all required documents, a filing certificate for the validation of the “long stay visa worth resident permit” (VLS –TS) is mailed.
A few weeks later, a convocation to the OFII is mailed to the candidate. He must then present himself at the OFII on the date indicated on the notice with all the requested documents to set forth the formalities.

Once there:
You will receive a convocation letter for a medical examination (unless the OFII medical examination has already been completed in the country of origin).
On the day of your appointment, you will have to bring a tax stamp of 55 €. The stamp may be purchased online at http://www.timbresofii.fr.

You may be asked depending on your country:
• Flight ticket
• Birth certificate
• CV + cover letter
• Diplomas sometimes, (translation in French)
• Certificate of participation in the program (acceptance letter)
• Medical insurance coverage
• Documents proving that you possess sufficient income (or at least 875€/month)
• Proof of accommodation in France (hall of residence)
• Medical insurance coverage

Extra documents that may be asked depending on your country:

List of certified translators:

Documents required for the visa application:
• Application form
• Passport or travel document valid at least three months after the visa expiry date
• 3 identical photographs, passport size (3.5x4.5), in colour, in white plain background
• Certificate of participation in the program (acceptance letter)
• Documents proving that you possess sufficient income (or at least 875€/month)
• Proof of accommodation in France (hall of residence)
• Medical insurance coverage

Applying for a French visa in India

1. Five weeks after submission of the visa application, the Indian embassy will forward your file to the French Embassy in New Delhi.
2. Once the Embassy in New Delhi has evaluated your file, it will send the result to the Indian embassy.
3. The visa will be either rejected or granted.

Sample letter "Application for a French visa"

[Your name]

[Your address]

[Your city, state, and zip code]

[Your telephone number]

[Your email address]

[Date]

[Name of the French embassy or consulate]

[Address of the French embassy or consulate]

[City and state]

[Your city, state, and zip code]

[Telephone number of the French embassy or consulate]

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to apply for a French visa.

I am a [Your nationality] citizen who resides in [Your city, state, and zip code]. I am [Your age] years old and I am currently employed as [Your current occupation] at [Your employer’s name] located at [Your employer’s address].

I am applying for a [Type of visa] visa that I will use to travel to France for [Your purpose of travel]. I will be staying in France for [Number of days] days.

I have [Number of years] years of experience in [Your field of work], and I am currently working as [Your current occupation]. I have [Number of years] years of experience in [Your field of work], and I am currently working as [Your current occupation].

I am married to [Your spouse’s name] and we have [Number of children] children. My spouse is a [Your spouse’s occupation].

I have enclosed [Number of documents] documents that support my application for the visa. These include [List of documents].

I am looking forward to visiting France and experiencing its culture and history. I am confident that my visit will be enjoyable and enriching.

Thank you for considering my application. I look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

[Your name]

[Your signature]

[Your contact information]

[Your city, state, and zip code]

[Your telephone number]

[Your email address]
Renewal of visa and residence permit:
This procedure is for those wishing to stay at least another year in France and who fulfill the conditions required by the Prefecture of the place of residence.

The “renouvellement du titre de séjour” (renewal of the residence permit) must be requested two months before the expiry of the “Titre de séjour” (residence permit) at Prefecture of the place of residence.

Multyear renewal:
All international students concerned can now receive a residence permit for the whole duration of their studies in France, up to four years: there are no longer degree level conditions (law of July 22nd, 2013).

Students holding a multyear renewal must send to the competent authority each year evidence that they have passed their final examinations for the year or that they have been admitted into the next year of study. That evidence must be sent by registered letter with confirmation of receipt.

More details:

Is it possible to work in France on a “student” visa?
Yes, student status allows you to work in France but under certain conditions:

It is possible to work up to 60% of the “durée légale annuelle” (annual statutory working hours), or 964 hours (for example, having a part time job over the year or a full-time job a few months of the year). It is important to respect the maximum hour limit, as working more than this amount can lead to the withdrawal of the “titre de séjour” (residence permit).

It is possible to request a waiver for more work when it is required by the student’s study program. In this case, the person should address its request to the DIRECCTE.

Holders of “VLS-TS” (long-stay visas) with “student” status must have their visa validated by OFII (see “OFII sticker”) in order to work.

More details (in French):
http://www.campusfrance.org/fr/page/travailler-en-france-pendant-ses-etudes

OFII form
Consulate
French consulates represent France abroad. Among other activities, they can issue visas. Visa applications must be addressed to them. For a list of consulates, refer to the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs: http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr

Prefecture
The prefecture is the French institution that deals in particular with residence permits issues. It is therefore necessary to reach them for every “renouvellement de titre de séjour” (residence permit renewal). There is a prefecture in each department.

OFII: Office Français de l’Immigration et de l’Intégration (French Office for Immigration and Integration)
This office is in charge for administrating medical visits to foreigners and validates the “visa longue durée valant titre de séjour” (long stay visas worth residence permit, VLS-TS). For more information: http://www.ofii.fr

DIRECCTE
Direction Régionale des Entreprises, de la Concurrence, de la Consommation, du Travail et de l’Emploi (Regional Directorate for Enterprise, Competition, Consumer Affairs, Labour and Employment)
DIRECCTE is in charge of foreign labor. It needs to be addressed in case of any “demande de permis de travail temporaire” (temporary work permit request).

Other possibilities:
- Héberjeunes Université Paris-Sud : http://www.heberjeunes.fr/fr/home/
- Cité internationale universitaire de Paris : http://www.ciup.fr/en/

Other useful link to find an accommodation:
- http://www.lokaviz.fr/
- https://www.immojeune.com/
- www.adede.org
- www.arpej.fr
- www.fac-habitat.com
- www.studelites.com
- www.estudines.com
- www.nexity-studea.com
- www.campusuea.fr
- www.studefi.fr

Shared accommodation
- www.appartager.com
- www.weroom.com/fr
- www.locservice.fr

Two types of apartment renting are to be distinguished: with or without furniture. In the latter case, no household electrical appliance is included.

The monthly accommodation invoices are to be kept within at least one year.

The rented room or flat must be left as clean as you found it. It is important to respect people and to take your deposit back. If the room or flat is dirty or damaged, the owner has the right to keep your deposit.

Do not wait until September to look for accommodation!
Advice: if you have the opportunity to come to France in June, July or August to look for accommodation, you will benefit from a better accommodation selection.

CROUS (Centre Régional des Oeuvres Universitaires et Scolaires) is the Regional student services centre. Admission conditions and housing offers for the student residence halls of the Versailles CROUS:
http://www.crous-versailles.fr/
The CROUS offers a limited number of rooms.
Housing insurance
A housing insurance is obligatory (covering water damage, fire, etc. in your accommodation).

If you already have this type of insurance cover in your own country, check that this cover also applies to your stay in France. If so, ask your insurer for a certificate translated into French, specifying the cover provided and your address in France.

If a bank account is opened with BNP Paribas, the bank will reimburse you for the housing insurance.

Housing Benefit
Whatever type of housing you choose, you may be eligible for housing benefit ("Aide personnalisee au logement" - APL). This benefit is designed to help with the housing costs.

The CAF http://www.caf.fr/ (Caisse d'Allocations Familiales) is a French social structure that can allow you an assistance to pay your rent. The amount depends on the location of your accommodation, your personal situation and your incomes.

These allowances are called APL (Aide Personnalisee au Logement) and ALS (Allocation de Logement Social).

Whatever your nationality, if you have a residence permit you can apply for that allowance. If you are not from EU you must present a birth certificate translated in French.

The amount you receive depends on your financial resources and your rent. The maximum allowance you can get from the CAF is about 170€, and less if you live in a shared flat.

You can fill an on-line form in, then take a print out of the form and mail it. A letter of confirmation should be received after 20 days: www.caf.fr

Procedure when arriving in France:
You should go to the bank as soon as possible after your arrival in France and take the required documents with you. Your bank account can then be opened quickly.

Required documents:
- Passport, valid visa and residence permit
- Proof of personal address: rental agreement, rent receipt, or a certificate issued by the property owner and his/her identity card
- Financial resources
- Your student card
- You will also need to provide the bank with a specimen signature which they can use as proof of the validity of your checks.

Fill in the bank account registration form carefully; make sure to give them your exact address as the bank will send you some documents by post.

You will then receive your bank account details (RIB), which you will need for further administrative steps. You should then be able to use your current account and order a bank card and a check book.

The bank card
You can use your bank card to withdraw cash from the automatic teller machine (automatic cash distributor) and to pay for your purchases in shops. You will be charged fees for your card. The amount charged varies according to the bank and to the type of card (national, international, immediate debit card, deferred debit card, etc.).

Opening a bank account as soon as you arrive is one of the most urgent things to do. It can be open with the admission letter to the Université Paris-Saclay instead of the student card.

Getting a French bank account is required to rent a flat as the loan has to be paid monthly by cheque. Choosing a bank usually close to your courses location can be convenient.

Payment card, access card (ATM card), immediate or deferred debit:
- You can use the access card (ATM card) to withdraw cash from the automatic teller machine (automatic cash distributor). Each bank sets a cash withdrawal limit for transactions generally over a period of seven days. The amount withdrawn is always debited immediately from the account.
- You can use your payment card to pay for purchases made in shops affiliated with the "CB" system, or via home shopping (online purchases, phone purchases, and mail order). There are immediate debit and deferred debit cards (debit is usually calculated at the end of the month).
- The Moneo system: most bank cards also include an electronic purse function. If this is the case, you will find the corresponding acronym on the back of your bank card.
You may also find other types of cards, such as renewable credit cards. Banks also offer further options and services such as savings accounts, loans and insurance. You can discuss these options with your contact person at the branch or find more information by visiting their websites.

Please note: some banks charge fees for managing the account, issuing a card or making bank transfers; they may also require a minimum deposit to open an account.

Payment incident
A payment incident occurs when your payment order is refused by the bank due to insufficient funds, regardless of the payment method used.

Please note: When the account becomes overdrawn, the bank charges so called “agios” (bank fees). An overdraft limit is set when opening the account. If you go over your authorized overdraft, the bank may withdraw your check book and bank card (“interdiction bancaire”).

Practical hints
Make sure you have a minimum amount of euros when arriving, or an international visa card, so that you will have enough money to cover your expenses until you receive your first salary, grant or money transfer from your home country. You have to be aware that to write a cheque in France when you have insufficient funds to cover it, is against the law.

If you find yourself in such circumstances, it is likely that you will receive a letter forbidding you to write another cheque for 5 years. This happens regardless of the amount on which the cheque was drawn.

The Moneo card
How to top up your Moneo card (electronic purse).
- Put your card into the machine and select “chargement” (top up).
- Choose the amount you wish to withdraw.
- Enter your PIN.
- Wait until you see “carte chargée” (top up successful) and then withdraw your card from the cashpoint.

The debit is secured immediately (as is the case with cash withdrawals) and the corresponding amount will be transferred straight to your Moneo card.

When purchasing using your Moneo card, the price of your purchases will be deducted directly from this amount.

The Université Paris-Saclay student card can be used as a Moneo electronic purse

Loss or theft of your means of payment
You should notify your bank as soon as you realize that your bank card or any related data has been lost, stolen, misused or used without your consent, so that the card can be blocked (“faire opposition”). All payments from your account will then be stopped. It will no longer be possible to use the card or related data. This procedure is not free and the amount charged varies according to bank institutions but can be taken care of through insurance offered by the bank for a monthly fee.

Your bank card is lost or stolen
Before reporting the problem to the police, you should immediately block your card by calling your bank during office hours. You will find the phone number on your bank statement and on your cheque book.

The central office for blocking bank cards (“centrale des oppositions pour Cartes bancaires”) in France:
0 892 705 705 (0,34 €/min. ATI) the service is available 24/7.

If you do not have the number with you, you can find it written on all cashpoints. The interactive voice server will then put you through to your bank’s blocking center.

You should then report the loss or theft to the police station and state that you have already blocked the card.

Your cheque book is lost or stolen
You can call the national call center for lost or stolen cheques, a service run by the Banque de France on 0 892 683 208 calls costs (0,337 €/min. ATI).

As soon as you call and state your name, the cheque book will be cancelled. You will then receive a registration number so that if necessary you can prove you cancelled the cheque book.

Useful lexicon
- Carte de paiement = Payment Card
- Ce card can be used to pay for purchases and to withdraw cash from cashpoints.
- Carte de retrait = Access card/ATM card
- This card can only be used to withdraw cash from cash machines.
- Compte-chaques = Checking account
- You can deposit your income and other financial resources on such a bank account. You can also use these accounts to pay for daily purchases and for other expenses such as rent, power bills, etc.
- Agios = Bank charges
- Fees charged in case of an overdraft (when you spend more than your available funds!)
- Interdit bancaire: All of your means of payment are withdrawn and all banks are notified that you have been refused banking services.
- Prélèvement automatique = Direct debit
- This payment method can be used for regular monthly or bi-monthly expenses related to utility bills such as rent, power, etc.
- Virement = Transfer
- Transferring money from one bank account to another.
- Endosser = Endorse, to
- Endorsing a cheque : you must sign and write your bank account number on the back.
- RIB : Relevé d’Identité Bancaire = Bank account details
- You receive this information from your bank; you can also download it from the Internet using your personal access/online banking, or find it on your cheque book. All your bank account details are stated here. You will need them to receive your salary or grant.
- Solde = (Account) balance
- Total amount of money available on your bank account at a given time. The balance can be found on your bank statement.
- Moneo = Electronic purse
- This service enables you to pay for your purchases at some shops using your bank card or a separate card that may or may not be related to your account. You can deposit up to 100€ on your Moneo card. You can top up the card at the money points located at the bank’s branches and at self-service banking points.
**Student National Health Insurance:**
- Membership in the student social insurance system is mandatory for all students under age 28 (as of October 1). You sign up when you register at the university (215€/year).
- European students, whatever their age, do not need to join if they have a European Health Insurance Card.
- Social security reimburses 70% of your medical expenses (however some expenses are excluded).
- You can subscribe to a supplementary mutual insurance that will reimburse the remainder. This is not mandatory but is strongly recommended.

During the registration, one has to choose the organization which will take care of reimbursements:
- **LMDE (La Mutuelle Des Etudiants)**: [www.lmde.com](http://www.lmde.com)
- **SMEREP (La Société Mutualiste des Etudiants de la Région Parisienne)**: [www.smerep.fr](http://www.smerep.fr)

Both organization give access to the « Sécurité Sociale » refunds and propose several complementary health insurance plans (« Mutuelle »). You must subscribe to the « Mutuelle » in order to benefit from the liability insurance.

Once affiliated, you will receive your final social security number and the carte vitale. The « Sécurité Sociale » will cover you from October 1st, to September 30th of the year after.

**Documents to be enclosed with the health sheet:**
- **Pharmacy**: Stick the vignettes of your medicines on the health sheet and enclose the prescription copy.
- **Biology analyses**: Enclose the prescription copy of analyses.
- **Glasses**: Enclose the ophthalmologist’s prescription copy and the invoice made by your optician.
- **Where to send your health sheet**: In the address of the student assurance health of your choice (SMEREP or LMDE)

**Glossary:**
- **Carte Vitale**: This card serves as proof that you have registered with Social Security. Non-transferable and in your name, it must be shown to healthcare professionals, it guarantees healthcare refunds within 5 days.
- **Medical excess = Franchise médicale**: This is the amount automatically deducted from your Social Security refund. This medical excess relates to pharmacy products (€0.50/pack of medication), transport (€2/tip), any interventions performed by medical auxiliaries (nurses, physiotherapists, etc.) (€0.50 per medical intervention).
- As a general rule, the medical excess is not refunded by mutual insurance companies.
- **Registration = Immatriculation**: This is the administrative procedure for allocating a Social Security number.
- **€1 fixed charge = €1 participation forfaitaire**: This is the amount automatically deducted from your Social Security refund. This €1 fixed charge (sum in effect as of 17th January 2011) applies to all interventions performed by a doctor together with any medical analysis tests required. As a general rule, this €1 fixed charge is not refunded by mutual insurance companies.
- **Patient charge = Ticket modérateur**: This is the difference between the fixed rate set by Social Security and its share of the refund, irrespective of the fee applied by the healthcare professional you are consulting.
- **Third party payment = Tiers payant**: A system whereby subscribers are not required to pay in advance when visiting a healthcare professional. The subscriber’s student social security scheme makes a direct payment to the healthcare professional.
What is the difference between Metro and RER?

The Metro just serves central Paris. The RER is a commuter rail network. The RER trains travel faster than the Metro, but there are fewer stops, which are further apart. A specific ticket should be used for the RER (No flat rate - Price change with destination).

Is the metro safe in Paris?

Yes, the metro is considered as quite safe by most Parisians or tourists. However visitors should be particularly vigilant of pickpockets as many operate here. Pick pockets usually work in small groups. When one or two of them try to distract attention another one is picking pockets. In any case travelers shouldn’t leave their belongings unattended and try to minimize access to their pockets or purses.

Where to buy tickets:

http://www.ratp.fr/, item “Practical” then “Where to buy tickets”.

Instead of buying only one metro ticket t+ (1,90€), we advise you to buy 10 at a time (14,50€ in 2016) as it is cheaper this way. Only for metro lines inside Paris. You have to ask for “Un carnet”.

The t+ ticket allows you to travel on the RER within Paris only. For any journey outside Paris you must purchase an Origin-Destination ticket (“Billet Origine-Destination”), the price of which is calculated from station to station.

Night bus:

With Noctilien night bus service, you can easily travel in the departments of the Ile-de-France region all night long. It runs every night from 0:30am to 5:30am, between opening and closing time of daily rail networks. http://www.vianavigo.com/en/your-transportation-guideline/travelling-at-night/

It replaces the main structural links of the day (RER, train, metro, tram). You can have access to Noctilien with ImagineR and Mobilis ticket. There is no zone control during the nights of Friday to Saturday and Saturday to Sunday.

The ticket t+ is also valid on the Noctilien network on those conditions:

• It does not allow connections;
• One ticket for the two first zones plus one ticket by any added zone.

A good way to travel in Paris... le Vélib

http://en.velib.paris.fr/
http://www.parisavelo.net/liste-stations-velib.htm

• Transport tickets:
The Ticket t+ is valid to take the metro, tramway and bus.

http://www.ratp.fr/en/ratp/r_61656/t-ticket/ 
http://vianavigo.com/fr/itinerare-plan-de-quartier/ 
http://www.imagine-r.com/

• Imagine R:
card valid for one year, proposed to any less than 26 years old student. As a student aged less than 26 years old, you can get a unique transportation ImagineR ticket which is valid 12 months to travel in the metro, the bus, the tram, the train and the RER (except Orlyval and Allobus). This ticket is refillable each year.

To buy this card, you will need your student card. This card allows you to travel without limitations every day across Ile de France. It is valid 12 months.

The price of the ImagineR card is 341,90€. It is possible to pay in 9 installments – or pay cash if you prefer.
LIFE IN PARIS-SACLAY: SOME PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Student Card

The student card is provided on the registration day once registration fees have been paid. It is useful to:

• buy an ImagineR card to use the RER, the subway as well as buses, this card being much cheaper than the standard one;
• open a bank account;
• get a discount in cinemas (except on Friday evening and week-end), museums,
• provide access to the CROUS restaurants;
• have access to schooling information on the public terminals at disposal;
• borrow books in one of the 30 UPSaclay members libraries.

This card will enable you to benefit from many discounts related to your student status: discounts in swimming pools, town theatres, free admission in some museums (e.g. Musée d’Orsay) and even discounts in fast-food chains.

Buses


Bus map of Plateau de Saclay, line 91-06

French language courses

Among the accredited Teaching centers (with the certification Qualité Français Langue étrangère, guaranteeing high-quality level of teaching and service) of the Parisian region, you can contact:

French for Engineers – Français langue étrangère pour ingénieurs et scientifiques (Sceaux-Cachan)
christine.mouret@epfl.ch; + 33 1 55 52 11 00
www.epfl.ch

The Université Paris-Saclay teaching community also implements LINKS: an active teaching initiative which combines innovative practice and online tools. It is aimed at students and language instructors alike. Indeed, transforming learning strategies must begin with training the instructors, who must themselves be able to adapt to the new dynamics and tools.

Their role is not to be the sole holder of knowledge, but rather to share their experience and implication in developing each student’s autonomy with three mobile applications:

• Epos: an online e-portfolio giving students the means to post their personal output online, self-assess their skills, work in groups on projects and keep all their group work accessible to all (audio, video, image, etc.).
http://epos-uni-paris-saclay.fr/

• Agora: a collaborative platform whose content is provided by its users: students and instructors of Université Paris-Saclay. This area enables users to pool their knowledge and information across higher education institutions and programmes:
http://agora.centralesupelec.fr

• Web2ESF (the website for Science study in France) : this tool enables international students to be closely supervised throughout their studies in an interactive way to develop methodological sheets.

These co-developed documents are then shared on a dedicated website and developed according to user requests and input. In addition, there is also a training programme for instructors of French as a Foreign Language and of Sciences, enabling them to reinforce their strategies for welcoming foreign students. It will be available in September 2016.

Average temperatures around Paris
(http://france.meteofrance.com/)

Average max. and min. temperatures

Average rainfall

Precipitations = rain
“CAMPUS FRANCE”
RESOURCES AND GUIDES
FOR PREPARING DEPARTURE,
ARRIVAL IN FRANCE, AND EVERYDAY LIFE

• Before departure

• 1 week in advance
  http://www.campusfrance.org/en/resource/1-week-advance

• First day
  http://www.campusfrance.org/en/resource/day-1

• First week
  http://www.campusfrance.org/en/resource/week-1

• First month

• Rent deposit & security deposit
  caution_depot_en.pdf

• How to find a housing with the CNOUS - CROUS
  fiche_crous_en.pdf

• Individual renting, flat sharing, subletting
  http://www.campusfrance.org/en/resource/individual-renting-flat-
  sharing-subletting

• Public/private university residences
  http://www.campusfrance.org/en/resource/publicprivate-university-
  Residences

• Steps to follow in a private renting
  http://www.campusfrance.org/en/resource/steps-follow-a-private-
  renting

• Alternative housings

• Every day life

CALENDAR
OF PUBLIC HOLIDAYS
AND CELEBRATIONS

Public Holidays in France
2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Holiday</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01 November</td>
<td>All Saints Day</td>
<td>Religious feast (all saints); this day celebrates dead people; it is a remembering day where people pray in cemeteries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 November</td>
<td>Armistice of 11 November 1918</td>
<td>End of the First World War</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 December</td>
<td>Christmas</td>
<td>Noel</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Holiday</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01 January</td>
<td>New Year's day</td>
<td>Jour de l'An</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 April</td>
<td>Easter Monday</td>
<td>Lundi de Pâques</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01 May</td>
<td>Labour day</td>
<td>Fête du Travail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08 May</td>
<td>WW2 Victory day 1945</td>
<td>Jour de la victoire 1945</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 May</td>
<td>Jeudi de l'Ascension</td>
<td>Religious feast which takes place 39 days after Easter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05 June</td>
<td>Lundi de Pentecôte.</td>
<td>Religious feast which takes 50 days after Easter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 July</td>
<td>National Day</td>
<td>Fête nationale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 August</td>
<td>Assumption</td>
<td>Assumption</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Other celebrations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Holiday</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6 January</td>
<td>Epiphany - Religious feast</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 February</td>
<td>Candlemas - La Chandeleur</td>
<td>Religious feast - It is the &quot;crêpes&quot; day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 February</td>
<td>Valentine day - Saint Valentin</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28 February</td>
<td>Pancake Day - Mardi Gras</td>
<td>Religious feast - We can cook &quot;crêpes&quot; also</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 March</td>
<td>Saint Patrick</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28 May</td>
<td>Mother's day - Fête des Mères</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 June</td>
<td>Father's day - Fête des Pères</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 June</td>
<td>Music day celebration</td>
<td>Fête de la Musique</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Emergency numbers

• **18 - Pompiers** – fire department: fire, accidents and medical emergency.
• **17 - Police** emergency squad, police force.
• **15 - SAMU**: emergency medical services in town.
• **115 - Samu social**: in Paris - societal welfare emergency medical services, support for the homeless.

Emergency medical services

• Poison centre in Paris: 01 40 05 48 48
• SOS Médecins (24h/24h): 08 20 33 24 24
• Medical care Paris (24h/24h): 01 42 72 88 88
• SOS Dental care: 01 43 37 51 00
• Serious burn aid Hôpital Cochin: 01 58 41 26 49
• Late night chemist/duty pharmacy: 39 15

0 892 683 208: SOS lost or stolen checks – CNACPV.
0 892 705 705: SOS lost or stolen bank cards. Carte Bleue/Visa/Eurocard/MasterCard

Before leaving France

• **Gas, water, electricity:**
  Terminate your contracts and subscriptions: gas, water, electricity, telephone as well as your car insurance contract (if any).

• **Bank account:**
  You might not close your account immediately for the following reasons:
  - The owner of your apartment has to give your bond (renting deposit) within two months;
  - This deposit might be diminished with the amount of money corresponding to repairs of damage (deterioration) you are responsible for.

• **Administrations:**
  Keep the administration informed about your new address:
  - The Post Office (to have your mail transferred to the right address for one year).
  - “Sécurité Sociale” and the health insurance plan (“Mutuelle”);
  - Your bank …
Welcome to a unique place
BIENVENUE DANS UN ENVIRONNEMENT UNIQUE

Our founding members and partners: