

# THE INTERNATIONAL STUDENT'S GUIDE TO FRANCE





Dear student of the world, welcome to your quick start guide to studying in France!

At BSB, we understand that moving to a new country can feel both exciting and overwhelming. That's why we're here to make your transition to living in France as smooth as possible and help you get the most out of your study abroad experience.

As the benchmark school for student support providing our students with the guidance they need to succeed, both academically and personally, we've got you covered every step of the way.

In this guide, you'll find practical tips and key information to help you prepare for your adventure in France, from navigating visas and healthcare to finding accommodation and managing your budget.

We're looking forward to welcoming you to our community and are here to assist you every step of the way.

# REQUIREMENTS AND PRE-TRAVEL INFO: COMING TO FRANCE

Before travelling to France and starting your adventure with us at BSB, it's important to obtain the required documentation. Below are a few tips to help you apply for a student visa and travel stress-free.

## OBTAINING A STUDENT VISA FOR FRANCE

### EUROPEAN STUDENTS

If you are from the European Union, European Economic Area, or Switzerland, you do not need to apply for a visa; your national identity card or passport is sufficient.

However, students from Ukraine, Serbia, Belarus, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, or the United Kingdom must apply for a long-stay visa.

### NON-EUROPEAN STUDENTS

If your stay in France exceeds 3 months, you must obtain a long-stay visa, known as the VLS-TS (long-stay visa equivalent to a residence permit), before your arrival. Please make sure your passport is valid for the duration of your stay in France. It is recommended to apply for your visa at least 3 months before leaving your home country via the Campus France website or at the nearest French Consulate or Embassy.

### SPECIFIC COUNTRIES

If you are from one of the following 46 countries, you must follow the "Etudes en France" visa procedure: Algeria, Argentina, Benin, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Gabon, Guinea, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, Peru, Republic of the Congo, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, United States, and Vietnam.

TIPS  
& RESOURCES

See the official website for visas in France

## THE RESIDENCE PERMIT: YOUR KEY TO STAYING IN FRANCE

You have to validate your student long-stay visa within 3 months of arrival in France. Once validated, your visa will act as a French residence permit with a maximum validity of one year.

For a longer stay, you must renew your residence card before the end of your first year of studies. This procedure can be completed online through the French Ministry's website. The BSB Student Services team is available to help you with the process, and it's advised to start the renewal as early as possible.



# LIVING EXPENSES IN FRANCE: HOW TO LIVE ON A STUDENT BUDGET

A student's monthly budget can significantly vary depending on the city, with average costs ranging from €900 in Dijon, €1,150 in Lyon, to €1,500 in Paris. Here are some details about living expenses you should expect in France.

## ACCOMMODATION

### DIJON

€270–€600/month (Crous/private accommodation)

### LYON

€400–€800/month (Crous/private accommodation)

### PARIS

€600–€1,200/month (Crous/private accommodation)

### ADDITIONAL MONTHLY EXPENSES

Multi-risk home insurance (mandatory): €5–€10

### ELECTRICITY/GAS/WATER

€50–€150

### INTERNET

€25

## FOOD

### GROCERIES

€150–€200/month

### FULL MEAL AT UNIVERSITY CANTEEN

€3.30 (€1 for scholarship students).

All BSB students can benefit from the national CROUS system (Centres Régionaux des Oeuvres Universitaires et Scolaires), which provide affordable, balanced meals at almost any university in France.



## TRANSPORTATION

### PUBLIC TRANSPORT SUBSCRIPTION

€20–€35/month

### ANNUAL PUBLIC TRANSPORT PASS

€250

### CITY BIKE RENTAL

€10/month

### SNCF YOUTH CARD (FOR 12-27 YEAR-OLDS)

€49/year

## HOBBIES AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

### MOVIE TICKETS FOR STUDENTS

Around €7

### MUSEUM ADMISSION

Many national and state museums are free - as are libraries for BSB students - and you'll benefit from discounts when you show your student card at many venues throughout France and even in wider Europe.

### CARTE CULTURE (DIJON)

€5/year

### CARTE CULTURE (LYON)

€15/year



# MANAGING YOUR FINANCES WITH CONFIDENCE

## TUITION FEES

**THEY ARE SPECIFIC TO EACH PROGRAMME BUT THEY ALL INCLUDE:**

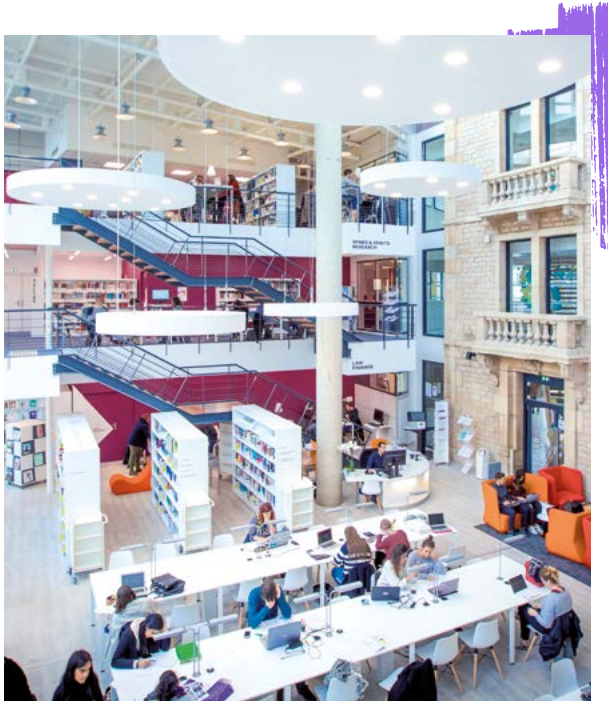
- Courses and conferences
- All course work, books, and access to online learning
- Access to Pathfinder™ support
- Access to One Health Center
- Access to campus facilities, the Learning Center (open six days a week from 8:30 am to 10 pm) and the digital learning center
- Language tests and preparation for IELTS, TOEIC or CEFR

**If applicable:**

- Field trip costs
- One or two semesters of academic exchange at one of our partner institutions (excluding transport and accommodation)
- Remedial courses and refresher exams

### IMPORTANT

A deposit is required to confirm your application and guarantee your place. The amount of the deposit varies according to the programme chosen and is deducted from the total amount of tuition fees.



## **CVEC:** MANDATORY STUDENT FEE

Prior to enrolment at an institution of higher education in France, all initial education students have to obtain a certificate of payment for or exemption from the student and campus life contribution fee (CVEC).

**It is a mandatory one-off fee created to improve student services and support.**

Among other things, it gives students better access to have better access to health care, social support through the national CROUS system (providing affordable student accommodation options and cafeteria eating), leisure opportunities, and artistic and cultural events.

# FINANCIAL AID AND WORK OPTIONS: HOW TO RECEIVE WHILE YOU LEARN



## MERIT-BASED SCHOLARSHIPS

Thanks to BSB Foundation, BSB offers up to 100 merit-based scholarships which cover up to 50% of tuition fees for talented international students with an international degree.

### ELIGIBILITY

All international degree holders accepted to study in one of BSB's programmes are eligible for a scholarship.

### ALL OF THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA ARE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT TO SELECT THE BEST STUDENTS

GPA and transcripts, quality of the application, cover letter and CV and statement of purpose, results of the admission interview.

### ACCEPTANCE

Students who are awarded the grant-scholarship recipients must accept within 3 weeks by paying the deposit. If the deposit is not paid within this timeframe, the scholarship will be withdrawn. The merit-based grant will be deducted from the tuition fee instalments and do not affect the deposit amount.

## PART-TIME WORK OPTION

Foreign students are authorised to work up to 20 hours per week while studying in France. If this aligns with your programme's timetable, finding part-time work can help fund your studies.

## EMERGENCY SUPPORT FROM BSB FOUNDATION

### HELPING HAND SCHOLARSHIPS

These scholarships assist students facing daily financial difficulties or significant life events that impact their living conditions, by ensuring they can continue their studies at BSB under favorable conditions. The amount awarded varies depending on the recipient's individual circumstances.

### EXCELLENCE SCHOLARSHIPS

Help finance the merit-based scholarships awarded to the highest ranking students in their first year of studies. See content on the left for details.

### MATERIAL HELP

BSB Foundation can also provide (donated) computers and housing assistance to support students in need. This allows them to ensure they can focus on their studies and prepare for independent living.



# STAYING HEALTHY: UNDERSTANDING THE FRENCH HEALTHCARE SYSTEM



In France, social security registration is free and mandatory for all students except those who have a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC).

You must register on the French Health insurance website. To receive better coverage for health expenses, you can subscribe to a supplementary health or mutual insurance policy ("mutuelle"). We also strongly advise you to subscribe to private insurance covering your unlikely repatriation throughout your entire stay in France.

## **IMPORTANT!**

You need to register for free health care after your student visa is validated and after your physical arrival in France. For this reason, BSB strongly advises you to have private health insurance coverage for at least your first two months in France.



# ADDITIONAL PERKS: THE BSB STUDENT ADVANTAGE



You can find a place to live before you arrive via our accommodation platform Studapart. There are numerous options to choose from such as apartments, studios, single rooms, shared flats, or a student residence room. You can even choose to live with a local family or elderly person who offer discounted rates in exchange for helping them with household chores or food shopping.

You need to have a guarantor residing in France to book your accommodation. A guarantor adds a layer of financial security and vouches for your credibility. If you don't have one, Studapart can act as your guarantor thanks to the BSB Studapart Guarantee.

Alternatively, you can use **VISALE**, a free deposit guarantee specifically designed for international students 18-30 years old, or **GarantMe** can act as your guarantor.

When you're ready to start looking for your accommodation, you can search on and book through the Studapart platform. Keep in mind that you can only finalise your booking once we receive your letter of acceptance.

VISIT  
THE WEBSITE

Click on Tenant space and sign up using your school's login credentials or your personal email address.

## ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL HELP FOR ACCOMADATION

Many international students also receive financial aid to pay their rent. The CAF (*Caisse d'Allocations Familiales*) can provide accomodation financing via *Aide Personnalisée au Logement (APL)* or *Allocation de Logement à caractère Social (ALS)*. If you came to France on a visa, you must have a VLS-TS to benefit from the CAF accomodation aid.



## BSB PROGRAMMES

### Degree programmes

- ▮ Bachelor in Management
- ▮ Master in Management / Grande Ecole Programme

### School of Wine and Spirits Business

- ▮ MSc Wine Management
- ▮ Mastère spécialisé CIVS (Commerce International des Vins et Spiritueux)
- ▮ MBA Wine & Spirits Business
- ▮ Wine Tourism specialisation (Bachelor in Management)

### School of Media, Culture & Communication

- ▮ MSc Arts & Cultural Management
- ▮ Mastère Spécialisé MECIC - Paris (Management des Entreprises Culturelles et Industries Créatives)

### Tech & Data

- ▮ MSc Artificial Intelligence & Digital Strategy Management
- ▮ MSc Sustainable Strategic Management & Environmental Change
- ▮ MSc Data Science & Organisational Behaviour

### Luxury

- ▮ MSc Luxury Management & Innovation

### Finance

- ▮ MSc Corporate Finance & Investment Banking

### Business Development & Strategy

- ▮ MSc International Business Development

## GETTING IN TOUCH

info-international@bsb-education.com

*BOOK A CALL*



### DIJON CAMPUS



29 rue Sambin  
21000 Dijon

### LYON CAMPUS



131 rue du Professeur Beauvisage  
69008 Lyon

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BSB-EDUCATION.COM

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