**France Student Visas**

The Padnos International Center (PIC) provides general information on visa procedures as a service to GVSU students. We strive to maintain accurate information, however, changes to policies and procedures may occur frequently without our knowledge. **STUDENTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR OBTAINING THE APPROPRIATE VISA FOR THEIR PROGRAM AND MUST CONSULT THE CONSULATE DIRECTLY FOR THE MOST UP TO DATE INFORMATION ON APPLICATION PROCEDURES.**

**STEP 1:** Read the instructions six months prior to departure, including the visa guide on the PIC website



** STEP 2: Campus France**

* Prior to completing a student visa application, all students must apply through Campus France and pay the fee. This process takes a minimum of 3 weeks. To complete the campus France application, you will need:
  + Copy of Passport
  + Acceptance Letter to University in France
  + ID photo (standard passport-sized photo)
  + $205 fee
  + Additional documents may be required. Check your application status regularly as Campus France may contact you for additional materials.

**STEP 3: Visa Appointment**



* All students are required to travel to the VFS processing center in Chicago to have an interview and submit their visa application materials. This appointment must occur within 90 days of your program start date on your acceptance letter. Appointments made too early will need to be rescheduled. **We encourage you to schedule your appointment ASAP**. Dates will fill up quickly and you may not find an appointment that will allow you to arrive in time for the start of your program. **YOU DO NOT NEED TO COMPLETE THE CAMPUS FRANCE PROCESS BEFORE SCHEDULING YOUR APPOINTMENT.** You will need to pay a processing fee of $30 at the time of appointment confirmation.
  + Fall Students: Your appointment must be scheduled for a date no later than August 1
  + Winter Students: Your appointment must be scheduled for a date no later than December 10

** Step 4: France Visa Application**

* After receiving your confirmation email from Campus France, you can start your visa application.

** Step 5: Day of Visa Appointment**

* On the day of your appointment you will need to bring **originals and copies** of **ALL documents\*** indicated in your France Visas account. You will also need to pay the visa fee by debit or credit card. You will not be allowed to enter the building earlier than 15 minutes prior to your scheduled appointment. The appointment will last about 1 hour.
  + Application form
  + ID photo (can be taken at VFS center for $1)
  + Passport
  + Campus France confirmation and receipt
  + Proof of accommodation if not already listed in the acceptance letter from the host university.
    - Homestay students should provide a signed letter or contract from the host, along with the university or organization’s acceptance letter that also mentions the housing arrangement.
    - Students working with an agency to secure a dorm room or apartment should provide a letter from the agency describing the service they will provide.
    - Airbnb strongly discouraged
    - Too many students in the same dwelling is inadvisable
  + Proof of Funds:
    - Scholarship certificate or last 3 bank statements showing availability of at least 615€ per month, or letter of financial guarantee and last 3 bank statements of sponsor. If a letter of Financial Aid is submitted, it must show the estimated cost of attendance, and the difference between the financial aid amount and the cost of attendance must be of at least 615€ per month of stay.
  + GVSU and High School Transcripts
  + Fees (can only be paid by credit/debit card) currently 99 Euros

\*Other documents may be required. Please read all of your documentation thoroughly to ensure that you have the documents you need for your appointment.

**The visa processing center will take 1-4 weeks to process your visa and return your passport to you by mail.**