

Visa Guidelines - FRANCE

The information below provides general guidelines regarding the visa application process and required documents. This information can change frequently and students should always refer to the French consulate's website for the most up to date application procedures, required documents, and visa fees.

Please look over the visa information carefully and do not delay, as visa procedures can be complicated and subject to change. This process will take a minimum of 7-8 weeks but can take up to 12 weeks.

You will be required to make an appointment with the VFS Visa Processing Center in Chicago (or any of the other VFS French visa processing centers located throughout the United States) in order to apply for your visa. The longer you wait to make this appointment, the fewer options you may have.

France	
Nearest VFS Global Processing Center Nearest Consulate or Embassy	VFS Global Center - Chicago 564 West Randolph Street Regus Office 2nd Floor Chicago, IL 60601 Please Note: The nearest French consulate is also located in Chicago but is no longer processing visa applications as of May 2018.
Contact Information VFS Global Visa Processing	(212) 784-6157 or (347) 252-3055 Info.FranceUSA@vfsglobal.com Please Note: GVSU has been informed by past participants that VFS has provided conflicting information regarding more complicated visa questions. Please contact the Padnos International Center for assistance with complex visa questions.
Website(s)	Campus France Step by Step Student Visa Application Procedures http://www.usa.campusfrance.org/en/page/applying-a-student-visa---step-step-0 France Online Visa Application https://france-visas.gouv.fr/en_US/web/france-visas VFS Global French Visa Processing Center (to schedule your visa appointment) Track your visa application (after your appointment) France Consulate in Chicago https://chicago.consulfrance.org/

<p>Required visa application materials <i>subject to change without notice</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. You must complete the Campus France online application process before submitting your visa application to the French Consulate http://www.usa.campusfrance.org/en/page/students-already-accepted%20 2. It is very important that you carefully follow ALL OF THE STEPS listed in the Campus France application process. If you do not mail your confirmation of payment (\$190 – subject to change at any time), you will not be approved by Campus France to apply for the student visa. The Campus France process takes a minimum of 3 weeks*. 3. Once you send your payment to Campus France, you can start your visa application on the France Online Visa Application website. Students are encouraged to start this process early so that they have plenty of time to complete the visa process. 4. After completing the application, you can proceed with your visa appointment. Your visa appointment must occur within 90 days of your official program start date listed on your acceptance letter from the institution in France. If your appointment is scheduled for an earlier date, you will not be granted a visa. 5. Documents required for your visa: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Valid passport + 1 photocopy <input type="checkbox"/> (1) passport-size photo <input type="checkbox"/> Visa Application Form + 1 copy <input type="checkbox"/> "Attestation" from CAMPUSFRANCE: An e-mail message from CampusFrance (entitled "confirmation e-mail") <input type="checkbox"/> Receipt for payment issued by CampusFrance <input type="checkbox"/> A copy of the student's official acceptance letter or acknowledgment of enrollment. <input type="checkbox"/> Financial guarantee: Students must prove that they have access to at least €615 (\$719 per exchange rate 6/4/18) per month. Proof may be provided in the form of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ the applicant's bank statement showing a balance of €615 multiplied by the number of months to be spent in France, ▪ or a notarized financial guarantee form signed by a guarantor declaring that the guarantor will provide the student applicant with at least €615 per month, plus the guarantor's most recent bank statement ▪ or for students receiving scholarship and financial aid: Letter of scholarship award specifying amount and duration of award, issued by the financial aid office of the student applicant's home institution. <input type="checkbox"/> Attestation d'accueil (Housing Certificate). This is an official document provided by your housing. You must have the original document mailed to you to take to your visa appointment. A copy or emailed version will not be acceptable. If you are organizing your own housing through a company outside of the university you will attend, you will need to request this document as soon as you book your housing to allow enough time for it to be mailed to you before your appointment. You must have proof of housing for at least your first 3 months in France. <input type="checkbox"/> The French immigration (OFII) form (upper part) should be filled out by the following students: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ALL students who will be staying in France for more than 12 months (180 days);
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Students who will be staying in France for a period of time between four and six months (for a total duration of 91-180 days) who wish to be allowed to work in France while studying; ▪ Students who will be staying in France for a more than four months and who wish to be able to extend their visa once they are in France. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> An airline reservation showing date of departure or a handwritten and legible statement from the applicant indicating the intended date of departure, as well as a formal commitment not to depart before that date. It is not possible to modify the start date of a visa once the application is made. <input type="checkbox"/> Visa Fee <input type="checkbox"/> A self-addressed prepaid UPS envelope (ONLY UPS is accepted, \$35 and available at visa processing center)
Processing Time	<p>Campus France 3 week minimum*</p> <p>VFS Global 1-4 weeks</p> <p>The total processing time is usually 7-10 weeks but it can take longer if you run into issues or problems with your application</p>
Estimated Cost	<p>Campus France \$190</p> <p>Student Visa Processing Fee 99 Euro</p> <p>VFS Global Appointment Fee \$33 (online payment only)</p> <p>Return Envelope \$35 (purchased at VFS Center)</p> <p>OFII 55 Euro</p>
Additional Information	<p>The Campus France Application can be started immediately after you receive your acceptance letter. The interview through VFS can happen no sooner than 90 days before your official program start date.</p>
Specific Programs that this visa information applies to:	<p>Any programs lasting longer than 90 days in France</p>

*There is a 3-day expedited Campus France Service available for an additional charge of \$150 on top of the \$190 Campus France fee. If students are finding themselves behind in the process of applying for their visa, they may want to utilize this service.