

# STUDYING IN FRANCE: IMMIGRATION RULES

*Beware of the fact that below information is valid as of today (March 2012). It might change as new rules are implemented regularly. So it is always good to double check this information.*

Whether or not you need a visa to study in Aix-en-Provence, France will depend on your country of citizenship.

## **Students from the European Union or of the European Economic Area:**

- You need a valid identity card (or a valid passport).
- The residence permit is no longer compulsory for you.

## **Non-European, non EEA students: Before leaving for France you must get a passport with a valid visa**

Consequently, long time in advance you have to undertake the first procedures to obtain all the necessary authorizations for your stay in France. You need a valid passport and you need to apply for a visa “valant titre de séjour” (VLS-TS) or a “D” Student Visa whatever the duration of your studies.

To obtain your visa, you need to contact the French embassy in your home country. You can find information regarding the French embassy of your country on the website of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs :

<http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr>

**Below are a few links and general information that you might find useful**

- **There is a website dedicated to administrative procedures in France:**  
<http://www.service-public.fr/langue/english/>

- **There are several categories of visas**

### **The short-stay visas (Schengen visa)**

The short-stay visas are so-called "Schengen" visas which allow the holder to travel freely within the Schengen countries for stays of up to 90 days per six months. These visas can be issued for one or more entries.

This type of visa is usually issued for tourist travel, business travel or for family visits, it also allows the holder to come to France for short courses, internships or gainful employment, subject of obtaining a temporary work permit (touring artists, athletes competing in a championship, an employee seconded to a delivery service, etc. ...).

Transit visas allow the holder to stay in the Schengen area for periods of less than or equal to 5 days.

The transit of aliens by a French airport without leaving the area called "international" is a special case, for the stranger does not enter French territory and is not subject to entry visa, unless exception. Indeed, some foreigners are subject to a visa for airport transit in France (information on airport transit).

**A website dedicated to short-stay visas :**

<http://www.campusfrance.org/fr/page/les-visas-de-court-sejour-moins-de-90-jours>

<http://www.campusfrance.org/en/page/short-stay-visas-less-90-days>

**The long-stay visas**

This visa is issued when the stay exceeds three months. The main reasons for issuing such visas are most frequently studies, work and family reunification.

The visa requires, on arrival in France, registered with the French Office of Immigration and Integration or, as appropriate, to the prefecture responsible for issuing a residence permit.

- **If you are a resident from one of the following 29 countries** there is a website specially designed for visiting students and you must apply following the procedure indicated on that website :

Algeria Argentina Benin Brazil Burkina Faso Cameroon Canada Chile China Columbia Congo Brazzaville Gabon Guinea India Ivory Coast Japan Korea Lebanon Madagascar Mali Mauritius Morocco Mexico Russia Senegal Syria Taiwan Tunisia Turkey United States Vietnam Zimbabwe.

The address of the website is :

<http://www.<name of your country in French>.campusfrance.org>

For example, if you're from India go to <http://www.inde.campusfrance.org>

- **Consulates in Marseille**

More than 70 consulates in Marseille. More information at: [www.consulats-marseille.org](http://www.consulats-marseille.org)

- **Other links of interest:**

**Centre International d'Etudes Pédagogiques:** [www.ciep.fr](http://www.ciep.fr)

**To study in France:** [www.etudier-en-france.com](http://www.etudier-en-france.com)

**The student:** [www.letudiant.fr](http://www.letudiant.fr)

**Ministry of Higher Education and Research:** [www.enseignementsup-recherche.gouv.fr](http://www.enseignementsup-recherche.gouv.fr), [www.education.gouv.fr](http://www.education.gouv.fr), [www.etudiant.gouv.fr](http://www.etudiant.gouv.fr)

**Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs :** [www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/](http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/)

**ONISEP : Offre nationale d'information sur les enseignements et les professions**  
[www.onisep.fr](http://www.onisep.fr)

**CNOUS : Centre National des Oeuvres Universitaires et Scolaires :** [www.cnous.fr](http://www.cnous.fr)

**CROUS : Centre Régional des Oeuvres Universitaires et Scolaires de l'Académie d'Aix- Marseille :** [www.crous-aix-marseille.com.fr](http://www.crous-aix-marseille.com.fr)

**European Youth Portal:** <http://europa.eu/youth/>