



Welcome to Lille!

Arriving in a new place also means dealing with a lot of different procedures. This guide aims at helping you organize before and during your stay in Lille in order to make your mobility easier and avoid unpleasant surprises.

First of all, here is how to arrive in Lille:

<https://www.univ-lille.fr/home/international-student/planning-your-arrival/#c1393>

For all your administrative procedures, do not hesitate to register on our platform [Livin France](#), it is a free service that will allow you to prepare your arrival in Lille!

VISA/Residence permit

You are a European citizen: to legally stay in France, you only need your **ID** or a valid **passport**.

You are not a European citizen: to legally stay in France, you must apply for a **visa** at the French Embassy in your home country and have a valid passport.

Warning: visa processing can take some time so you should apply in advance



Health insurance

You are a European citizen: you must apply for a **European Health Insurance Card** in your home country, it is valid for 2 years and it should cover the entire period of your stay in France. Therefore, you don't need to register to the French health insurance (CPAM).

You are not a European citizen: if you are an exchange student, you need to make sure that your home country health insurance covers you abroad. If you are coming as a free-mover, you should register on the website of the [Caisse Primaire d'Assurance Maladie](#) when you arrive. It is free of charge. You should also find a **mutuelle (additional insurance)** that covers the expenses that the CPAM won't cover. You can visit for instance the websites of the [SMENO](#) or the [LMDE](#)

Buddy System:

[ESN Buddy System](#): the Erasmus Student Network offers a Buddy system for all international students.



INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE
ERASMUS STUDENT NETWORK



Accommodation



As soon as you arrived:

Youth hostels: [Stéphane Hessel](#), [Gastama](#) 25-30€

[AirBnB](#): flat-renting service

[Couchsurfing](#): people offering a free space in their house for a few nights



Durant la mobilité :



[Résidences CROUS](#), [résidence REEFLEX](#): cheap rooms in public halls of residence.

Warning : limited number of rooms



[Studapart](#): a service that gathers a lot of different housing options + guarantor service

[HousingAnywhere](#), [GOTOO Lille](#), [HelloGoodBail](#): help you find accommodation

[LeBonCoin](#), [CRIJ](#), [Lokaviz](#): main French websites for flat-hunting

[Appartager](#), [LaCarteDesColocs](#), [BienIci](#), [RoomLala](#), [Colocatère](#), [Facebook](#): main French websites for house-sharing

[Studéa](#), [les Estudines](#), [Nemea](#), [Adele](#), [Campuséa](#), [Sergic](#): private halls of residence

[Kolocation à projets solidaires](#) by the AFEV association: alternative housing method when you commit to participating in solidarity projects in exchange for a cheap rent

You can also go for a walk in the city center and have a look at the real estate agencies offers.

Warning: the estate agencies usually charge the equivalent of one-month rent for administrative fees.





Administrative procedures for housing:



The guarantor: most owners require a guarantor that would eventually pay the rent for you if you cannot pay. Some options exist for international students:

Visale: public service that acts as guarantor for you



Studapart: when you log in Studapart website, you can subscribe to the guarantor service. Studapart will act as a guarantor for you for all types of housing options

Cautioneo and Garantme: private services that act as guarantor for you

Housing insurance: you must subscribe to a French housing insurance if you rent a flat, it is required to all tenants by law. It must run from the day you collect your keys.

SMENO, LMDE, StudyAssur, ADH Assurance: housing insurance for students with various offers

Electricity/gas : you must subscribe to an electricity and/or gas contract once you collect your flat keys. Here are some electricity/gas suppliers: EDF, Engie, Sowee, Direct-énergie, etc.

Financial housing assistance: once you have found accommodation, you can apply for public financial housing assistance, called APL, to the Caisse d'Allocation Familiale. You can check your eligibility by doing a simulation on the website.



You must be very careful and watchful when you sign the **lease agreement** (bail) and during the incoming **inventory of fixtures**. Do not hesitate to take your time to read all the documents in full!

If you have any **problem** with your owner, you can contact **tenant associations**: APU, CNL59, ADILNord.





Transports:

Ilevia: transport service in Lille and its surroundings. If you stay for several months, we advise you to take out a subscription. It includes a bike-renting service (VLille) and it allows you to take the train in the Métropole lilloise.



SNCF: the public railway company



Bank account:

If you stay for several months in France, we advise you to open a French bank account in order to facilitate the administrative procedures.

[La Banque Postale](#), [BNP](#), [Caisse d'Épargne](#), [Société Générale](#), [Crédit Mutuel](#), etc: most banks have an office in town, you can compare them and see which one is the most suitable for you.

[Fortuneo](#), [Boursorama](#), [HelloBank!](#), [ING](#), etc.: online banks

The opening of a bank account is free. Please bear in mind that it is preferable not to mention that you may be in France for less than a year, as some of the banks might refuse to open your bank account. **If you are awarded a grant by the ULille, it won't be transferred to a foreign bank account.**



Phone/Internet:

[SFR](#), [Bouygues Telecom](#), [Orange](#), [Sosh](#), [Free](#), etc.: you can subscribe to a French operator and have a French number. Most of these operators can propose an Internet box for your apartment.

Discover the city !

Tourism office in Lille: <https://www.lilletourism.com/>

Warning: Every year, on the first weekend of September takes place the «**Braderie de Lille**» where some locals sell their goods and others party in the streets. **We recommend you to arrive before or after this weekend not to be bothered during your arrival.**

Lille is a very festive and pleasant city but you should be careful, in particular when you go back home late at night. Try not to walk around alone at night and prefer animated streets.

For more information, do not hesitate to visit our [website](#) and to open [The Starter Box](#).

Enjoy your stay!

