

## What is important to do as a newly arrived research in France?

1. Make sure your Visa status is correct;
2. Create a bank account – for salary, rent payment, etc.
3. Find a long-term apartment;
4. Identify if you can get any financial support and housing support;
5. Make sure you are health-insured;
6. Do not forget to pay your taxes!

### 1. Visas and residence permit:

- **UE citizens** do not need a visa to stay in France
- Short stays (< 3 months) need a VISA C;
- Long stays (> 3 months and < 1 an) need a VISA D. Following the arrival in France, the VISA D needs to be updated to obtain the “Visa Long Séjour valant Titre de Séjour” (VLS-TS) document on the website [ANEF](#);
- Long stays (> 1 an) need a VISA D. Following the arrival in France and in order to obtain a residence permit (Titre de Séjour - TS), the situation of the newcomer needs to be updated on the website [ANEF](#);

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Or check the [ADDAL](#) guide.

### 2. Bank account:

Papers to prepare necessarily for opening a bank account:

- 1 or 2 identity document(s) among the following:
  - a) national ID (both sides)
  - b) passport
  - c) TS or VLS-TS
  - d) family record book
  - e) birth act
  - f) copy of contract or registration
- proof of address (the ICPEES address could be accepted temporarily)

Papers which could be asked for opening a bank account:

- details (IBAN, BIC or swift code) of another bank account open by the same account holder
- student card
- registration to the University or job contract
- dated and signed (sometimes online) application

### 3. Housing

Mandatory supporting documents for the rental file

- Valid French or foreign proof of identity: identity card, passport, driving license, residence permit
- Proof of employment status: work contract or employer's certificate, internship agreement, student card or school certificate, as well as any recent document proving the professional activity
- Proof of financial means. It is extremely common that, for PhD students and post-doc, a guarantor is required (or greatly help the renter case) to prove that the renter can also be assisted, if needed, by family, close relations or aids (see following sections) to pay the rent. Similar documents to the one required for the renter are usually asked for. Note that, usually, a salary > 3x the rent is expected to rent a given apartment.
- Proof of address (rental receipt, electricity bill, certificate of residence, sworn statement by the host, etc.).

*Please note:* The law prohibits the landlord from requesting certain types of documents deemed confidential (bank account statement, bank account certificate, certificate of no credit, direct debit authorization, copy of marriage contract or cohabitation certificate, personal medical file, extract from the criminal record, etc.). Discrimination in

access to accommodation is prohibited under penalty of criminal prosecution. The law prohibits discrimination on the basis of origin, religion, political opinion, sex, physical appearance, etc.

#### 4. Financial Support

a) Scholarships:

- scholarships on social criteria
- merit scholarships
- DEA-DESS scholarships, etc.

Further information on [www.crous-strasbourg.fr/bourses](http://www.crous-strasbourg.fr/bourses) and [www.etudiant.gouv.fr](http://www.etudiant.gouv.fr) in the section “Vos aides financières”.

b) Caisse d'Allocations Familiales (22 Rte de l'Hôpital, 67000 Strasbourg, Tel : 3230 or 01 70 772 372)

The Caisse d'Allocations Familiales (CAF) allows you to benefit from housing assistance :

- APL (Allocation Personnalisée au Logement)
- ALS (Allocation de Logement Social)
- ALF (Allocation de Logement à caractère Familial).

We advise you to apply as soon as you arrive in France, even if you don't have all the documents required. You can send them later. Registration on [www.caf.fr/allocataires/actualites/2018/aide-au-logement-etudiant](http://www.caf.fr/allocataires/actualites/2018/aide-au-logement-etudiant)

c) Action Logement (2 Avenue de la Forêt-Noire, 67000 Strasbourg, Tel : 03 69 73 86 60)

Action Logement offers housing assistance to provide guarantors for students and young workers:

- VISALE, a free guarantee that allows you to cover rents and expenses in case of unpaid. It acts as a guarantee for the lessor: [www.visale.fr](http://www.visale.fr)
- LOCAPASS, a free service that allows to advance or pay the deposit for you: <https://locapass.actionlogement.fr/>

Further information on [www.actionlogement.fr](http://www.actionlogement.fr)

More details and information can be found in the [MUI](#) guide.

#### 5. Health

Ameli is the free health insurance accessible to everyone working and living in France.

In order to obtain your insurance number and to create your personal account, you need to send the following [documents](#)

- A proof of identity
- A copy of TS or VLS-TS
- A proof of civil status (such as a copy of birth act or the family record book)
- The hosting agreement signed by the employer (University of Strasbourg or CNRS)
- RIB of your french account

To Julien Bertrand ([julienbertrand@unistra.fr](mailto:julienbertrand@unistra.fr))

If you need help, please contact us at [icpees-bjc@unistra.fr](mailto:icpees-bjc@unistra.fr).

#### 6. Taxes

When you arrive in France, to declare your incomes for the first time please contact Julien Bertrand ([julienbertrand@unistra.fr](mailto:julienbertrand@unistra.fr)) or us ([icpees-bjc@unistra.fr](mailto:icpees-bjc@unistra.fr)).