

# Study in France.

Public universities, selective specialist routes and very different city budgets make France richer than a single “study in Paris” idea. The student’s French level and the qualification awarded should shape the first shortlist.

|                     |                                                                            |
|---------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Study language      | Mostly French at undergraduate level; some English options                 |
| Main route          | Parcoursup for many first-year EU applications; other routes exist         |
| Institution types   | Public universities, grandes écoles, specialist and private schools        |
| Budget pressure     | Paris housing and private-provider fees                                    |
| Good first question | What qualification, language and application channel does this course use? |

For students coming from Spain or Italy, this guide brings the degree, admissions, economy, budget and everyday life into one decision. The examples are a starting point; always verify the exact programme and entry year.

## THREE QUESTIONS TO SETTLE FIRST

## Before the shortlist becomes a decision

### 1. The qualification behind the title

Identify the institution type, qualification awarded and any professional recognition relevant to the student’s goal. Similar names can conceal different pathways.

### 2. Language and application route

Check the language of teaching and assessment, required evidence and whether the course uses Parcoursup or its own process.

### 3. The city budget

Put tuition, a specific room, transport, food and setup costs beside each option. A country-wide average will not tell you what this student would spend.

## What can the student actually study?

The licence at a public university is one route; selective schools and specialist institutions follow other patterns. Check the official status and recognition of the award, especially at private providers. For engineering, business, art or health, the route and cost can depart substantially from a general university licence.

Compare Paris with Lyon, Toulouse, Lille, Nantes, Montpellier and other cities. A lower-cost city is useful only if it offers the right subject, teaching language and support. Read the first-year curriculum and progression requirements carefully.

### 02 / ADMISSIONS AND LANGUAGE

## The route from Spain or Italy

Campus France explains that EU applicants use Parcoursup for many first-year higher-education programmes. Some institutions and later-year entries have separate procedures. Use the official course listing, then confirm deadlines and supporting material with the institution.

For a Bachillerato or maturità student, check academic prerequisites, French or English evidence and the exact award. If a course is advertised in English, verify the entire bachelor's pathway, assessment language and any required French for placements or daily administration.

### 03 / FEES AND THE REAL BUDGET

## What a family should price

### Public tuition example

Campus France's 2026/27 information lists €178/year for a public undergraduate licence in the standard category. This is not a quote for every programme: private and specialist institutions set different charges; check eligibility and compulsory contributions.

### Living example

Campus France's broad FAQ indicates around €600–€800/month, but Paris and individual housing choices can exceed this. Build a current city-specific estimate from an actual room.

### Arrival cash

Allow for deposit, possible guarantor arrangements, insurance, transport, setup purchases and travel home. Check eligibility and timing of any housing assistance before counting it as income.

Planning method: request the exact programme fee, price a real room, and add food, transport, insurance, travel home, deposits and a contingency. Recheck every figure before accepting an offer.

#### 04 / ACCOMMODATION

## Make housing part of the choice

Look into CROUS residences, institution-provided rooms, private residences and shared flats. CROUS availability is limited and application calendars matter. Compare Paris and regional rent, lease terms, guarantor conditions, insurance and the full commute. Use verified platforms or institutional referrals and keep documentation before paying.

#### 05 / CITIES AND SETTINGS

## Where might the student thrive?

### Paris

Exceptionally broad cultural and academic offer; housing budget is the hardest trade-off.

### Lyon and Toulouse

Large student and industry ecosystems; compare course and neighbourhood.

### Lille, Nantes and Montpellier

Distinct student settings; evaluate programme availability and housing locally.

#### 06 / ECONOMY AND CAREERS

## Put the degree in context

France has large healthcare, aerospace, transport, luxury, energy, agriculture and technology sectors; opportunities vary strongly by region. A Toulouse aerospace cluster may matter for one engineering student while a Paris cultural network suits another. Explore course placements and language expectations without assuming study automatically leads to employment.

#### 07 / QUALITY OF LIFE

## Picture an ordinary Tuesday

The quality of everyday life depends heavily on the student's ability to handle French administration and social life, even on an English-taught course. Look at university induction, language support, health access, meals, transport and student associations. Discuss whether the student wants a large capital or a smaller city.

#### A PLAN FOR PARENTS AND STUDENTS

## Five decisions to make together

1. Choose three real programmes. Save their module lists, admission pages and the exact degree awarded.
2. Check eligibility. Record qualification and subject rules, language evidence, application channel and every deadline.
3. Build one budget per city. Use the published tuition for this student, a real housing option and a full-year living estimate.
4. Test the daily experience. Ask about accommodation, travel, wellbeing, healthcare and who can help on arrival.
5. Assign the next action. Decide what the student researches, what parents verify and which questions need a university answer.

### OFFICIAL STARTING POINTS

## Verify for your entry year

[Campus France: EU applications ↗](#)

[Campus France: tuition fees ↗](#)

[Campus France: living budget ↗](#)

[Campus France: housing ↗](#)

Reviewed September 2026. Cost examples are sourced and dated where available. National averages are not offers. Requirements, fees, deadlines, housing and work or visa rules can change; the university and competent authorities are the final source for the student's circumstances.

Talk with us in English, Spanish or Italian: [universityabroad.eu/consultation/](https://universityabroad.eu/consultation/)