Visa Information

Welcome to MICEFA!

Now that you have made the decision to study abroad on the MICEFA exchange, you need to start preparing for your stay. This includes getting or renewing your passport and applying for a visa through Campus France. You will find all the information you need below.

American & Canadian Students

All students planning to study in France are first required to register with Campus France Etudes En France. They can then proceed with their application through France-Visas.gouv.fr and an in-person appointment with a TLS Contact (USA) / VFS Global (Canada) processing center. This is a mandatory 2 step process. Plan a minimum of 3 weeks for Campus France / Etudes En France validation and 2-3 weeks for reception of your visa after the TLS Contact (USA) / VFS Global (Canada) appointment.

Go to the Campus France website and follow the procedure listed. Please read all listed and downloadable materials on the website.

American Students: https://www.usa.campusfrance.org/application-overview
Canadian Students: https://www.canada.campusfrance.org/en/exchange-students

NB. The last step of the process concerning validating your visa upon arrival with the OFII will be explained by the MICEFA when you arrive.

Important!

A student visa process involves multiples steps: registration through Campus France via the Etude en France platform, completing a Student Visa application through France-Visas, scheduling and attending an in person appointment at TLScontact (USA) / VFS Global (Canada), receiving your visa and finally validating your visa with the OFII upon arrival in France.

Please note that there are several weeks of processing time between each of these steps. Because the process includes multiple stages and waiting periods, students must begin their visa application as soon as they receive their MICEFA acceptance materials in order to obtain their visa in a timely manner.

Visa questions? Email us at info@micefa.org

Visa Information

Is a Student Visa required?
As you are staying for over 90 days a student visa is required for all students (European Union and E.C.C. students are exempt from this requirement). You must apply for a long stay student visa through Campus France / Etudes En France.

If my passport expires soon, should I get a new one before applying for a visa?
Yes, your passport should be valid for at least 3 months after the end of your exchange period. If this is not the case, please renew your passport.

What is the process for applying for a student visa?
Step 1: Register with Campus France Etudes En France.
Step 2: Apply for your visa via France-Visas.
Step 3: Schedule an in-person appointment with a VFS Global processing center.

What are the requirements to obtain a student visa?
Each student must check the France-Visas website to ensure they have the necessary documents.
Download the step-by-step visa guide from Campus France for North American students.

Does a student have to appear in person to obtain a student visa?
Yes, all students must appear in person at a TLS Contact/VFS Global visa processing center for their visa interview and to submit biometrics (fingerprints). All required documents must be physically presented.

How long does a student visa take, and when should I apply?
Campus France process: At least 3 weeks.
VFS processing time: At least 3 weeks after the in-person appointment.
Total estimated time: 5+ weeks. **Begin the process as early as possible to avoid delays.**

Will consulates make exceptions for emergency applications?
Students can pay for expedited service with Campus France (3-day processing instead of 3 weeks), but the TLS Contact/VFS appointment cannot be expedited. It is your responsibility to start the visa process on time.

How much does the visa cost?
Campus France fee: $270.00 (expedited: $430.00)
TLScontact/VFS Global Fee: $240
Passport return mailing fee (optional): $35.00
OFII registration: 50€ (~$55)
Total estimated cost: $455.00* (based on 2025 prices).

When can I buy my plane ticket?
We recommend that you wait to receive your visa before purchasing non-refundable airfare.

What do I need to do for the OFII registration?
All students holding a VLS-TS Long Stay Student Visa must register with the Office Français de l'Immigration et de l'Intégration within three months of their arrival in France. You must complete your registration on the OFII website. Please note that a 50 euros tax stamp is required to finalize your registration.

Am I able to work in France with my student visa?
Yes, you can work up to 20 hours per week with your student visa. You will need to sign up for a French Social Security number. Information about job opportunities will be provided during orientation.