

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS BOOKLET

Mockuza
Jk

FINANCIAL AID

RESIDENCE PERMIT

LABOR
RIGHTS

HEALTHCARE

HOUSING

Breadwinner

2026-2027

LIVRET DE RENTRÉE
ÉTUDIANT·ES
INTERNATIONAUX·ALES

AVAILABLE IN
OTHER LANGUAGES



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RESIDENCE PERMIT
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DURING YOUR
STUDIES

USEFUL RESSOURCES

EMERGENCY HOUSING

Auberge de Jeunesse Mulhouse

37 rue de l'Illberg 68100 Mulhouse
€20/night (student price, without
breakfast)

Logement d'Abord (LDA)

Support and emergency
accommodation in Mulhouse and
Colmar

Auberge de Jeunesse Colmar

2 rue Pasteur 68000 Colmar
€32/night (collective room), 40€/night
(individual room) : without breakfast



COLLECTIVES AND ASSOCIATIONS

Association des Étudiant-es Sénégalais de Colmar et Agglomération

@aesca.association/aesca.association@gmail.com



Association des Étudiant-es Sénégalais de Mulhouse

@AESM_Mulhouse_68



Collectif des étudiant-es mulhousien-nés venu-es d'ailleurs

PREAMBLE

The majority of international students face a **real obstacle course** when coming to study in France: administrative red tape, social insecurity, etc. This is not inevitable, but rather the consequence of **xenophobic and racist policies** pursued by successive governments: the 2019 Choose France decree, the January 2024 immigration law, etc. On top of this, there's **the breakdown of public services** (particularly prefectures, causing delays in residence permits). The result: a "factory of undocumented migrants." This booklet, which **complements the back-to-school booklets for Mulhouse and Colmar**, aims to help make the academic year less confusing and less difficult for international students. It contains **resources** and information on their **basic rights**. Only by improving living and studying conditions for everyone will students be able to study with peace of mind, go out, and **become independent!**

At University, for administrative procedures and questions,
you can ask the **BVE** (Bureau de la Vie Étudiante):

bve@uha.fr

STUDENT AID!

SOCIAL ASSISTANCES:

You can make an appointment with a CROUS or UHA **social worker** via the platform **mesrdv.etudiant.gouv.fr** by selecting "CROUS de Strasbourg" and "service social." The link is available directly via the QR code at the end of the booklet.

FOOD AID STRUCTURES:

MULHOUSE

Les restaurants du cœur: Maison de la SOLIDARITE, 33 Rue d'Ensisheim, 68270 Wittenheim
Public transportation route:

- Bus C4 Ste Barbe at the stop Place de Thiers.

Secours populaire français: 6 Rue des Amidonniers, 68100 Mulhouse

Public transportation route:

- Tram 1 at the stop Musée de l'auto.
- Bus C5 Jonquilles at the stop Musée de l'auto.
- Bus 16 at the stop Franklin.

TerrESStre Solidarity bags:

Every Thursday, alternating between the Fonderie and Illberg campuses in Mulhouse, bags of **organic and local vegetables are available for €3**, including a **fair trade salted product**. It is possible to add 500 g of starchy foods for an additional €0.50. These baskets are subsidized by the CROUS and the UHA.

- Distributions take place at the Maison de l'Étudiant in Illberg and at the association's room in the Fonderie.
- Distributions also take place every two weeks in the Learning Center's hall on Colmar's Grillenbreit campus.
- To reserve, see the TerrESStre networks: terresstre.association

The CSTE with the Maraîchers Solidaires project in Mulhouse and Colmar:

Bi-monthly distribution on campuses, **QR code** on the back of the booklet to subscribe to the distribution newsletter.

COLMAR

Centre d'entraide alimentaire la Manne:

23 rue Galtz 68000 Colmar

Public transportation route:

- Bus A at the stop Rapp.
- Mandatory appointment with the social worker in order to be registered as beneficiary.

Secours populaire français Haut-Rhin: 1

Rue du Linge, 68000 Colmar

Public transportation route:

- Bus E at the stop Trois Châteaux.

SPECIFIC ONE-TIME ASSISTANCE

This is **available** to all students (no age limit for students recognized as having a disability) regardless of nationality. This is a form of assistance, the amount of which may vary, to help you in the event of **temporary difficulties** (housing, equipment, study materials, etc.). It is paid in a single installment.

SIGN-UP FEES REFUND

You can apply for a **refund/exemption of your UHA registration fees** at the start of the academic year between September and November 2025 from the exemption committee, for the 2025-2026 academic year.

SPIEGEL SCHOLARSHIP

The Pierre and Jeanne Spiegel Foundation scholarship is a financial aid program for students who have completed at least one year of post-secondary education. Open to all, it can take the form of a one-time grant or monthly support to facilitate the pursuit of studies.

The procedures must be carried out with a social worker from CROUS or UHA.

FILING YOUR TAXES IN FRANCE ?

For an international student, **2 years of attested fiscal residence** lets you be exempt of the differentiated fees from the "Choose France For Higher Education" (2,895€ in Licence, 3,941€ for a Master's in 2026). **Even without an income**, getting registered at the Service des Impôts des Particuliers using identification papers and a proof of address lets you constitute a fiscal history.

SFiling taxes lets you prove your fiscal residence. **You do not necessarily need to pay taxes.**

For many types of financial aid, you will be asked to provide your bank account details: remember to open a bank account. To do so, you will need: a copy of your VLS / residence permit (proof of identity) + proof of residence (bill or CROUS certificate) + proof of enrollment.

While waiting to open an account, you can get a debit card at a tobacco shop and load money on it in exchange for cash.

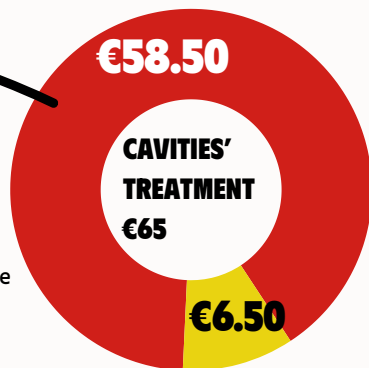
CHEAP HEALTHCARE

SOCIAL SECURITY

Social security allows the **refunding** of a part of your health expenses (General practitioner, dentist, prescription drugs,...). In Alsace-Moselle, 90% of the refund is covered.

To get it, you need to :

1. Sign up on <https://etudiant-etranger.ameli.fr/>
2. Deposit the required supporting documents (ID, Residence permit, School Certificate,...)
3. Retrieve your social security number
4. Fill a form to get your Carte Vitale



COMPLEMENTARY HEALTH INSURANCE

It covers the social security's **remainder** of what's left to pay, allowing you to pay less and sometimes fully covering some health expenses.

AND IF YOU CAN'T AFFORD IT, PICK THE COMPLÉMENTAIRE SANTÉ SOLIDAIRE (CSS):

Available to all students, depending on their income, the CSS covers most of the cost of GP consultations, reusable period protections and some dental care, hearing aids and eye care. The request has to be submitted with your household or individually, if you're no longer attached to a tax household or if you receive annual help from CROUS or if you have multiple children. The request has to be made on complementaire-sante-solidaire.gouv.fr.

YOUR FREE HEALTH DIRECTORY

PASS (ON-CALL HEALTHCARE)

Colmar

Service Social de l'Hôpital Pasteur, Building 26B
03.89.12.40.89 or 03.89.12.43.11
or 03.89.12.46.65
pass.carrefoursante@ch-colmar.fr

Mulhouse

Service Social de l'Hôpital Émile Muller (between the main building and the emergency services)
03.89.64.60.27

UNSCHEDULED CARE CENTER

No appointment, for intermediary care (between general practitioner and emergency)

Colmar

20 rue du Dr Albert Schweitzer, de 8h à 18h, sans rendez-vous

Mulhouse

3H, rue du Dr Mangeney, vers l'Hôpital Émile Muller, de 8h à 18h

STUDENT HEALTH SERVICES (SSE) :

- In Mulhouse: Maison de l'Étudiant, Campus Illberg, 1st floor, schedule an appointment: linda.wendling@uha.fr / 03 89 33 64 47
- In Colmar: Maison de l'Étudiant, Campus Grillenbreit, Building B, 1st floor, schedule an appointment: isabelle.turquier@uha.fr / 03 89 20 23 44

SEXUAL HEALTH

If you want to use birth control or get an abortion, some facilities can welcome you for free in the Haut-Rhin:

planning-familial.org/fr/le-planning-familial-du-haut-rhin-68/les-centres-ivg-et-contraception-373
HIV/STI testing: see CeGIDD and AIDES of Haut-Rhin

SANTÉ PSY SYSTEM (OR CHÈQUE PSY)

You can benefit from **12 free sessions** per schoolyear at an approved psychologist via the "Santé Psy" support system.

If you're under 26, you can find **free** feminine or masculine condoms without any prescription at the pharmacy. You must present a **Carte Vitale** or a **European Health Insurance Card** or an **AME** card (Aide médicale d'État, which allows people in irregular situations to access healthcare).

You can also find **morning-after pills** for free, without prescription, in drugstores.

HOUSING + BENEFITS

SCAM

Identity theft and phishing

- Ad looks too perfect?
- Price far below the local market?
- Sketchy lessors profile? (AI pictures, spam, weird information)



Look carefully at the profile, how many ads there are, when the profile was created. **Be sure** that you are really talking to the landlord.

- Suspicious emails?
- Someone pretending to be the landlord?

A fake emergency is created (i.e unpaid rent, technical error) and a transfer on their bank account is asked to be done immediately.

Ask for a home visit and a copy of the property tax if possible (Airbnb rented to scam you, etc.)

This kind of scam steals your personal data and uses your identity for misdeeds...

⚠ The landlord has no right to ask you money for a reservation.

SUBSTANDARD HOUSING AND RENT INCREASE? KNOW YOUR RIGHTS.

The landlord has to offer **proper liveable** housing, hand out the rent receipt for **free** (when you ask for it), and take charge of **repairs** with their own money (for faulty equipment, etc.). The landlord **cannot** enter your home without your agreement even if they have the keys.

In case of **pest**, the landlord has to get rid of it, get the house sanitized and pay for the damages made EXCEPT if the tenant was negligent (which has to be **proven**).

The landlord has the right to increase the rent one time per year if there is a clause in the lease (annual rent adjustment). The increase is made according to the RRI*, otherwise they have no right to exceed it.

$$\text{New rent} = \frac{\text{current rent} \times \text{new RRI* of the trimester of reference of the lease}}{\text{RRI* of the same trimester from the last year.}}$$

*Rent
Reference
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I'M THREATENED WITH EVICTION, WHAT SHOULD I DO?

In case of **unpaid C**, you have 6 weeks before the landlord has the right to initiate a procedure. Otherwise, since the court has not taken any decision, the landlord has no right to remove you.

Without a decision of the court, eviction is **prohibited**. This goes with a formal notice (bailiffs) then a subpoena (*court summons*), and only after can the court decide on an eviction or not (the *judgement*).

⚠ The landlord has no right to evict you during the winter truce (1st Nov. to 31st March).

PERSONALIZED HOUSING ASSISTANCE (APL)

The Personalized Housing Assistance (APL) is a financial aid granted by the **CAF in order to help students afford housing regardless of their parent's financial situation**. It was suppressed for all international students, but you may still benefit from it if:

- You're an international student with the CROUS scholarship
- You're a working international student (apprenticeships, fixed term/permanent contract)
- You're a refugee student, stateless, spouse of an international student

You must provide :

- Your housing contract
- A proof of address
- Bank details from a French bank

THE VISALE DEPOSIT

The VISALE deposit is an aid granted by Action Logement which helps you with **the security deposit** and also acts as a **guarantor**.

You can make your request on visale.fr

CROUS accommodation:

The accommodation is available online on Mondays and Thursdays at 2pm on the platform **trouverunlogement.lescrous.fr**.

If you want to keep your place for another year, it's possible: you must make a request for a renewal with CROUS (from March; end of the procedure in April).

RESIDENCE PERMIT

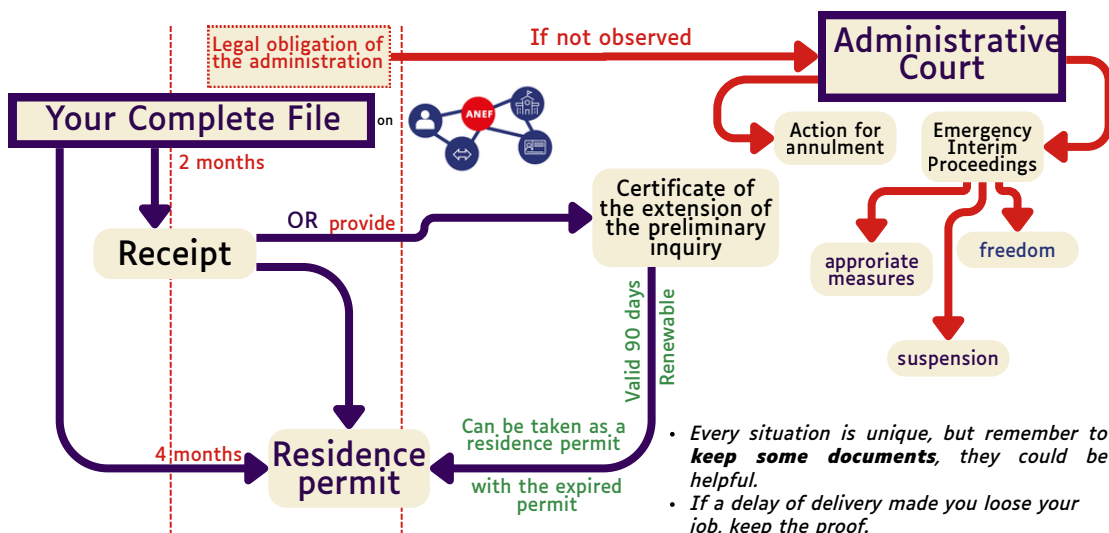
Once you've arrived in France, you have **3 months** to confirm your long-stay VISA which can be taken as your residence permit (VLS-TS) in order to not be considered as an illegal immigrant. You can do it on **ANEF**:

<https://administration-etrangers-entrance.interieur.gouv.fr/>

IN CASE OF REFUSAL

- **VISA refusal** (explicit by a fast answer, implicit if no reply within 2 months of requests), you can appeal the decision to the **Commission charged with visa refusal appeals (CRRV)***, within 30 days of the refusal.
- **Residence permit refusal** (explicit with a fast answer, implicit if no reply within 4 months of the request), you can file an informal appeal to the *préfecture* (within 2 months of the refusal). You can also refer to the **Defender of Rights***.
- **Refusal of the proof of residence** (explicit with a fast answer, implicit if no reply within 4 months of the request), you can file an informal appeal to the *préfecture** (within 2 months of the refusal).

** if this institution sends a refusal, refer to the administrative court.*



- Every situation is unique, but remember to **keep some documents**, they could be helpful.
- If a delay of delivery made you loose your job, keep the proof.
- If your lack of permit caused you to loose your welfare (APL), keep the notification, etc.



Careful, since August 1st 2026, the monthly amount to warrant getting a long-stay student visa has gone from 615€ to 877,5€.

The revenue stamp's amount has gone from 75€ to 150€ for an initial issuance and from 75€ to 100€ for a renewal.

If there is a problem, the **Bureau de la Vie Étudiante (BVE)** is here to help and support you in your procedures!

The BVE is on the first floor of the Maison de l'Étudiant.

 bve@uha.fr

LABOR RIGHTS

RESIDENCE PERMIT

STUDENTS / VLS-TS

The working hours are limited to **964h in 12 months.***

***reason of refusal** for the renewal of the residence permit

Your boss is only under the obligation to complete a **pre-employment** declaration at the *préfecture*.
The student doesn't have to perform any specific procedure.

EMPLOYEES

The legal limit is set at **35h/week**: 1607 per year.

INTERNSHIP AND APPRENTICESHIP

It takes **1 year of residency** in France to finalize the contract of apprenticeship, **EXCEPT IF** you're studying for a master's degree program, a CGE-accredited degree (Master spécialisé Gestion des Risques et Menaces N.R.C.B.E - ENSCMu / Master Spécialisé CGE Ingénierie Textile - ENSISA), and a vocational degree.

Signing an **apprenticeship contract** allows to exceed the working hours limit of a Student Residence Permit.
University conventioned internship hours do not count in the work hour limit.

RESIDENCE CERTIFICATE

ALGERIAN STUDENTS

The employer must make a **provisional work permit** (APT) at the *préfecture* and get it.

The working hours are limited to **803h per year**

ALGERIAN EMPLOYEES

and must submit the offer on "France Travail" for 3 weeks and then justify that the hiring is relevant.

necessary

LABOR LAWS - A FEW REMINDERS:

THE CONTRACT

- Payroll employment (temporary and permanent contracts, summer job, extra) must be formalized by a **written contract** stating: job, duration, schedule, wage, collective agreement and potential trial period. After signing, each modification requires an agreement employer/employee; if not, it is deemed as null.
- If the employer doesn't send you your temporary contract within 48h after hiring, the law views this as a **permanent contract**.
- The legal limit on working hours is: **10h max per day** (save derogation), **48h max per week**, and 44h on average on 12 weeks.
- In 2025, the minimum gross wage (**SMIC**) is **€11,65/h** (≈€9,22 net). For internships that last more than 2 months, the minimum reward is €4,35/h. In work-study contracts, the wage depends on the age and the year of the contract which can go from 27 % up to 100 % of the minimum wage.
- The **trial period** is not mandatory, it must be specified in the contract or the collective agreement, otherwise there is none. Its duration depends on the job. **The trial period is paid.**

WORKING HOURS & CO

- Extra hours** are paid for or recovered: from the 36th to the 43thh per week = +25%, after = +50 %. Extra hours must appear on the payslip.

If your employer **takes advantage** of you by using **blackmail** in order for you to get the APT: it's illegal.

- Stand up for your rights with the **labor union**!

- Right to mandatory breaks:** 20 min minimum after working 6 hours straight. Some collective agreements include more.
- If the employer imposes a uniform and requires you to get dressed and undressed on your workplace, this time must be **paid or compensated by a rest period**.
- In France, the employer must provide free adequate Personal Protective Equipment (EPI), ensure its maintenance, and teach how to use it.
- A **unfair dismissal** is when a dismissal is based on no real and serious motive whereas the reason should always be backed, objective and serious enough. For example: An employee dismissed for an absence, while it doesn't interfere with the company activities, constitutes an unfair dismissal.

SICK LEAVE - WORKPLACE ACCIDENTS

- Require a **doctor's note** sent within 48h to the health insurance and the employer. You will get a daily allowance without interruption.
- Workplace accident: any accident that happens because of or in the course of work, including on your way to work.
 - **Declaration:** inform the employer the same day or within 24h (save force majeure).
 - **Rights:** treatment is fully reimbursed by the Social Security, daily allowances that are more favourable than a sick leave.
 - In case of **accident**, remember to draw up a report (fall, fluid in eyes, burns, etc. in the event of after-effects, it will serve as a proof).



If you work more than 10 hours per week (Monday through Saturday morning) while studying, you can get a Special Studies Regimen (**RSE**). This allows to tailor the rhythm and the access to the training course to your needs. In order to get it, speak with the **Registrar's Office**. And if you experience any difficulty, feel free to **reach out to us**.

FOR MORE INFORMATIONS:

SCAN THE QR CODE

CAMPUS MAPS, SOCIAL WORKER APPOINTMENTS, CROUS&GO', JOINING CSTE
(AND A LOT MORE INFO ALL THROUGHOUT THE YEAR)

THIS BOOKLET IS AVAILABLE IN ENGLISH

CHECK IT OUT BY SCANNING THE QR CODE BELOW OR ON OUR WEBSITE



TO NEVER MISS IMPORTANT INFOS ABOUT CLASSES, EXAMS
AND STUDENT LIFE (CULTURE, EVENTS),
FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!



This booklet
was co-financed by the
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Contact us

contact@cste68.

07 89 33 59 46

03 67 26 81 22

Sarah Troller - Vice-president
Raphaële Portalès - General Secretary

Illustrations
done by:

- Pierrot @mockuza,
- Antoine Jeker
@kamueshi_art,

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