

## What do you need for a French Student Visa? – Overview of process (as of 1 Jan 2020)

### Step 1: Campus France

- <https://www.campusfrance.org/fr>
- This should be done as soon as possible. It is the slowest piece and will delay the rest of the visa process
- Campus France fee applies: \$190 (according to Campus France USA website). You can also have your package expedited in 3 business days for \$340. If you are getting charged a different amount, their site information page may not be up to date.
- What you need from Campus France: verification (this is generally issued within 3 weeks)\*\* you cannot go to the consulate without this.

### Step 2: Apply for Visa and make Consular appointment – VFS Global

- [https://france-visas.gouv.fr/en\\_US/web/france-visas/ma-demande-en-ligne](https://france-visas.gouv.fr/en_US/web/france-visas/ma-demande-en-ligne)
- <https://visa.vfsglobal.com/usa/en/fra>
- Campus France now instructs students to use VFS global to make their consular appointment (this is new). There is a \$28 fee for VFS Global as they function as a courier service.
- Visa type: long sejour/ long stay
- Students must have their Campus France approval and Universite de Strasbourg acceptance letter before going in person to the consular appointment

### Step 3: Consular appointment and receipt of visa

- Students are supposed to go to the consulate that services their legal residence.
- The consulate will not accept incomplete visa applications.
- Visa fee of 99 € (approx. \$111) applies.
- Students can pick up their visa in person or have it mailed to their address (they will have to bring a pre-purchased envelope if they select this option. This process is usually completed within 1.5-2 weeks of the appointment

#### Step 3.1: What to Bring to the Consular Appointment

- We know that this process is confusing!!! This website offers additional resources to help students and workers settling in France understand the visa process: <https://www.welcometofrance.com/>
- You *definitely* need:
  - OFII Application (this will accompany your visa and will be returned with your passport) [https://washington.consulfrance.org/IMG/pdf/ofii\\_ENG-3.pdf](https://washington.consulfrance.org/IMG/pdf/ofii_ENG-3.pdf)
  - Visa Application (this is for the Consulate to process your visa, you will probably complete it online, but you should bring a copy with you as well) [https://www.formulaires.modernisation.gouv.fr/gf/cerfa\\_14571.do](https://www.formulaires.modernisation.gouv.fr/gf/cerfa_14571.do)
  - Passport
  - Housing Letter (provided by CEPA)
  - Campus France Confirmation (provided by Campus France)
  - Evidence of “sufficient financial means” – This is generally \$700 for each month that you will be in the country. If you have this in your bank account, print your bank statement. Otherwise, bring a print-out from your parent’s account and with proof that you are their dependent. You can also bring confirmation of scholarships or

other financial aid. We recommend that you also demonstrate that your housing and tuition is already covered as part of your program costs.

- Airline Confirmation
- Two passport-style photos. See style guide here:  
[https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/IMG/pdf/sample\\_photos\\_france.pdf](https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/IMG/pdf/sample_photos_france.pdf)
- We *recommend* that you also bring:
  - Acceptance letter from University of Strasbourg (provided by University of Strasbourg)
  - Confirmation of international student health insurance (provided by your school)
  - Any Receipts from Campus France, VFS Global, CEPA, you school... just in case!
- You *may* be asked to bring:
  - A pre-paid FedEx envelope (with Tracking) so that the Consulate can mail your Passport back to you securely (if you live nearby, you will likely have the option to pick up your passport in person)