

## French Student Visa Guide 2020

This guide is a resource to help CEA students understand the French Student Visa process.

This guide is not a substitute for the requirements determined by the French Government. This guide is accurate as of March 2021, however all students should check with their presiding French Consulate/ VFS Global Center for the most up-to-date information and refer to the VFS Global Center as the final authority on all visa matters.

It is the student's responsibility to obtain a visa prior to departure. CEA cannot and will not intervene with the French Government, VFS Global Centers, or other authorities on behalf of the student.

**It is the student's responsibility to obtain a visa prior to departure.**

This guide assumes that students have the following:

- U.S. or Canadian citizenship
- A current passport **valid for at least 6 months** after the program end date

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We suggest that you read this guide completely, alongside [Campus France's](#) , and familiarize yourself with the process as soon as possible. CEA Enrollment Advisors are here to support you, but the advising will be more beneficial if you have a general understanding of the process and requirements.

## Section A: French Student Visa Overview

A student visa is a permit that allows study in the issuing region for an established period of time. The French student visa is issued in the form of a sticker affixed to a page in the passport.

<p><b>Who</b> needs a visa?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All U.S. and Canadian citizens studying and/or interning in France for more than 90 days are required to obtain a student visa.</li> <li>• Non-U.S. or Canadian citizens must contact the nearest French consulate to verify their visa requirements.</li> <li>• EU citizens may not need a visa to study in France. CEA does not advise on EU immigration requirements.</li> </ul>
<p><b>What</b> is the process?</p>	<p>The French Student Visa process includes 3 steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1. Complete Campus Franceregistration.</li> <li>• 2. Complete France-Visas application online.</li> <li>• 3. Schedule and attend a visa appointment in person.</li> </ul>
<p><b>When</b> do I apply?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete Campus France <b>immediately</b> (This includes the online application, paying the application fee, and uploading your supplemental documents).</li> <li>• Plan to complete the other two steps as soon as possible afterwards. Keep in mind you must receive confirmation of your registration with Campus France before your in-person appointment date (which can take 2-3 weeks).</li> <li>• The first day you can attend your visa appointment is 90 days prior to your program start date.</li> <li>• After your appointment, the visa can take up to 4 weeks to process</li> </ul>
<p><b>Where</b> do I apply?</p>	<p>Students can attend their <i>visa appointment at any VFS Global Center across the country.</i></p>
<p><b>How</b> much does it cost?</p>	<p>Applying for a student visa costs approximately \$290-\$300. Be sure to look into the breakdown of fees and exchange rates.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Don't forget to consider any travel that may be required for your visa appointment (i.e. gas, airfare, hotel).</li> <li>• Students attending partner institutions in France should be prepared to pay a 90 Euro CVEC fee imposed by the French government. This will take place once on-site, and our staff can help you submit this payment.</li> </ul>

## Section B: French Student Visa Applications Steps

### CEA Logistics

1. Review your name on your MyCEA account. If it is not your legal first and last name (as they appear on your passport), contact your CEA Enrollment Advisor by email with the correction. **Note:** Your middle name is not required.
2. If you are travelling internationally before or after your program, please inform your Enrollment Advisor. Also, be sure to research the immigration requirements for each country you plan to visit. The U.S. Department of State website is a great place to start!
3. Ensure your passport is in good condition and valid at least **six months** after the end date of your CEA program. If your passport does not meet these requirements, renew it immediately. It is possible to expedite the passport renewal process.
4. Make sure the permanent address on your account is correct, **as very important CEA visa documents will be sent to that address**. CEA visa documents can take several weeks to be re-sent if lost and you will be charged a \$150 processing fee.

### Step 1 – Complete Campus France: [Website](#)

1. Campus France is an agency within the French government tasked with promoting higher education in France. They maintain a database of foreign students studying in France.
2. You will need to register with [Campus France](#) before attending your visa appointment. You must complete the Campus France registration **at least 2-3 weeks before your visa appointment**, but we recommend completing it immediately after acceptance into your program. In order for your application to be considered complete by Campus France, you must have: submitted your online application, paid your application fee ([\\$190 regular service](#), [\\$340 expedited service](#)), and uploaded your supplemental documents to <https://www.docboxcfusa.org/>.
3. After you have completed the registration process and paid their fee, you will receive two email messages in your Campus France “Etudes en France” inbox. You will need to bring these two printed out email messages with you to your visa appointment.
  - *Registration email: this is a very short email message indicating that your CampusFrance application has been reviewed and that you are successfully registered.*
  - *Confirmation of payment email: this is your receipt of your payment for \$190.*
4. Please reference [Section F](#) for a step-by-step guide to completing your Campus France registration.

### Step 2 – Complete France-Visas: [Website](#)

1. This is the official visa website for France. You will create an account, fill out the application form, and then book your in-person appointment here.
2. Once you complete this application, be sure to save and print a copy. You will need to bring it, (completed, dated and signed) to your in-person appointment. Reminder: this is an additional step past Campus France.  
(Reference [Section G](#) for a step-by-step guide to completing this application, the Long-Stay Visa Application Form, which is a required document for each VFS Center.)

### Step 3 – Make a Visa Appointment

You can attend any VFS Global Visa Application Center across the US. Find a list of visa centers [here](#).

Make your appointment on the VFS Global Center website as soon as you can, they fill up very quickly and far in advance. The earliest that you can attend your appointment is 90 days prior to your program start date.

- **Gather Required Documents**

In your CEA Visa Packet, CEA will provide the following documents that you will need to take to your visa appointment

- Proof of Enrollment
- Proof of Accommodation
- Proof of Health Insurance
- CEA Financial Guarantee (does not satisfy all financial requirements)

There are additional documents that you will need to take to your visa appointment.

These documents vary by visa center, so check the France visa website for an exact list.

Reference [Section E](#) for a general list of required documents.

- **Attend in-person appointment at VFS Global Center**

1. You will need to travel and appear in person at the VFS Global visa center.
2. The appointment itself will take about 30 minutes-1 hour. Submit all documentation to the visa center, including the documents in the CEA Visa packet. They will keep all submitted documents, including your passport.
3. Be sure to check the [breakdown of fees](#) and [exchange rates](#) for your visa before you go.
4. It may take up to 4 weeks to process your visa application and return your passport/visa after your visa appointment. **Visa processing cannot be expedited** – so plan accordingly.
5. *Overview: You can go to any VFS Global Center across the United States. Reminder: you must be registered and have received confirmation from Campus France, have completed France-Visas online, and collected all supporting documents specified by the specific VFS center you are going to. CEA will also send you documents—bring those with you as well.*

## Section C: CEA's French Student Visa Resources

### What can CEA do?

1. **CEA Enrollment Advisors:** Enrollment Advisors are available to help answer questions about the visa process via email, phone, text, or chat.
2. **French Student Visa Guide:** CEA provides students with this helpful guide to clearly outline the process and help students understand the necessary steps.
3. **CEA Visa documents:** CEA mails the proof of enrollment letter, proof of accommodation letter, proof of medical insurance letter, and financial guarantee to **ENROLLED STUDENTS ONLY** (Enrolled meaning you've submitted your \$500 non-refundable confirmation payment).

**What can't CEA do?** CEA cannot intervene on behalf of students at the VFS Global Centers. It is the student's responsibility to obtain a visa prior to departure.

## **Section D: French Consulates/Visa Centers in the U.S.**

Students may schedule their student visa appointment at **ANY** VFS Center. However, each location has its own requirements. It is each student's responsibility to confirm the documents needed before the appointment. Again, you can find the locations [here](#).

Atlanta | Boston | Chicago | Houston | Los Angeles | Miami | New York City | San Francisco |  
Washington D.C.

## **French Consulates in Canada**

If you are a Canadian citizen, reference [this](#) page of the website for more information on how to apply for your student visa.

## Section E: Required Documents for Attending your Visa Appointment

Below are several documents that are required for a complete French Student Visa Application. *Each consulate/visa center varies in the requirements needed for a complete application. Please review your visa center website to verify.*

Please reference your appointment confirmation letter (the one that populates after making the appointment) for a complete list of required documents.

### Supporting documents required

The supporting documents to be provided are as follows:

#### > Pre-requisites

- > Application form, dated and signed
- > France-Visas receipt.
- > ID photograph
- > If you are not a US citizen, please provide proof of your legal status (green card, visa and I94 or endorsed I20 for students or endorsed DS2019 for interns..).
- > Travel document, valid for at least three months after the planned date of return, issued less than 10 years ago and with at least 2 blank visa pages and photocopy of passport pages

#### > Purpose of travel/stay

- > Country following the EEF-Études en France procedure: Certificate of pre-registration generated by the EEF-Pastel application, stating the EEF ID number. Country outside of the EEF-Études en France procedure: Certificate of pre-registration (or registration) in an establishment of higher education or training.
- > Last completed degree (countries out of procedure "CEF - Studies in France")

#### > Accommodation

- > Accommodation for the first three months (hotel booking or rental agreement or signed letter from the host + copy of the rental agreement/house deed + copy of the host's ID)

#### > Funds

- > Scholarship certificate or bank certificate proving deposits in a bank account of at least 615 euros per month, or proof of sufficient, reliable and regular funds, or coverage of costs by a sponsor who must provide evidence of sufficient, reliable and regular funds

The [French immigration \(OFII\) form](#) is available online on the France-Visas website. This form is **only** required of students studying in France for more than 180 days, planning to work, or are completing an internship abroad. Students complete the top portion of the OFII form and submit it to the VFS Center with the rest of the required visa application materials. The form will then be returned to the student along with the passport and visa.

Students **MUST** bring the OFII form with them to France. Students **MUST** have their passport stamped in customs when they arrive. Students will then be required to register with the French immigration office, OFII, upon arrival in France.

### **Guide to the OFII Form (Residence Form)**

Students will only need to complete the top portion of this form prior to their consulate appointment. The rest of the form must be completed once in France.

1. Nom de naissance (last name at birth)
2. Prenom (first name)
3. Nom d'épouse (married name; if not married, leave blank)
4. Sexe masculin, féminin (male or female)
5. Né(e) (birthdate; should be in day-month-year format)
6. A (birthplace)
7. Pays (country of birth)
8. Situation familiale (students enter celibataire, unless they are married)
9. Filiation (mother and father's names; nom/nom de naissance: last name, prenom: first name)
10. Nationalité (nationality)
11. Passeport (passport information – numero: number, delivre le: the date of the passport's issuance, in day-month-year format, a: where it was issued)

**Students who complete the OFII are required to complete a medical visit upon arrival in France and pay a fee of approximately 60€.**

## Section F: Guide to Campus France Registration

### Before You Begin:

- Download your CEA Acceptance Letter from your MyCEA account and save it to your computer. The document must be saved as a PDF, JPG or PNG file that does not exceed 300 kb. You can resize your image [here](#).
- 1. Log in to your [MyCEA account](#).
- 2. Locate the box titled “CEA Mailings” in the lower right hand side of the page.
- 3. Click the “Acceptance Letter” link.
- 4. Click the first link in the list of documents titled “Acceptance Letter”.
- 5. Verify that your personal information and program dates are correct and save the letter to your computer.
- Open up a web browser other than Safari. Download another browser such as Google Chrome, Firefox, or Internet Explorer if necessary.
- **Use this [link](#) as a guide!**

### Register for Your Campus France Etudes en France Account:

1. Go to the [Campus France Website](#)
  - a. The homepage will have two locations where you can log in. You’ll want to click on the one that says “Apply to ‘Etudes en France’” as seen below.



2. Follow the steps outlined for [Regular Service](#) or [Expedited Service \(Processed in 3 days + additional \\$150\)](#).

Keep in mind, the online application is not the only portion that needs to be submitted. In order to complete your application you must submit your application fee and supplemental documents [here](#). The instructions will appear on the [website](#) as shown below:

## STEP 2 - I PAY THE CAMPUS FRANCE FEE ONLINE AND I SUBMIT MY PAPERWORK

To pay online and submit your paperwork, please go to <https://www.docboxcfusa.org> :

- 1) Provide your personal information
- 2) Select the Campus France service you would like to receive: regular
- 3) Pay the Campus France service fee
- 4) Upload the required paperwork: Acceptance letter and copy of the receipt of payment
- 5) Submit your paperwork by clicking on the button "I submit".

**\*\*Note: If you can't find the university where you'll be studying, select "other" and then include a short program description. Ex. IAU and SKEMA\*\***

EX: IAU, AIX-EN-PROVENCE

First, you have to hit the blue button below that says "Find your French Institution" and then you can select other and type in "Institute for American Universities" and type in "Aix-en-Provence" for the city. See the screenshots below for reference.

### 2) Host institution in France

Institution :

Campus :

*If you have not found your host institution on the lists above, please click on the following button: "Find your French Institution"*

Find your French Institution

Host Institution : Institute for American Universities - Aix-en-Provence

### 3) Program information

Study-abroad/exchange/dual-degree program \* :

Make sure the name of the program is correct \* :

University of Dayton - Institute for American Universities - Aix-en-Provence

Description of the program \* :  Characters : 0 / 1000

Field of study \* :

Level \* :

format: dd/mm/yyyy

Start date of the program \* :

format: dd/mm/yyyy

End date of the program \* :

## Find the host institution in France that appears on your acceptance letter

Find the host institution that appears on your acceptance letter

Name of the host institution \* :

Search

Cancel

Aucun établissement ne correspond à la recherche

If it is not on the list, enter the name and the location (city) below as it appears on your acceptance letter :

Institution \* :

City \* :

Register

Cancel

## Section G: Guide to the Long-Stay Visa Application Form

One of the required documents to complete prior to your visa appointment is the [Long-Stay Visa Application Form](#). Listed below are screenshots of what the website will look like and how you should fill out the information.

### Step 1:



### Your plans

If you wish, you can save your work at any time. Any change made to a step (next, back) will be saved automatically. Fields marked with \* are mandatory.

Please note: according to your flight plan, it is possible that you may need an additional visa (Schengen or transit visa). If you are transiting through a member state of the Schengen area, whether for several hours or several days, a second visa may be necessary. For more information, consult the Traveller in transit page.

**Your stay**

Country of residence and country where you are submitting your application \*

United States of America
?

Visa type requested. \*

Long-stay (> 90 days)
?

Main destination of stay \*

France
?

Number of months of stay \*

Between 3 and 6 months
?

**Your travel document**

Issuing authority of the travel document \*

United States of America
?

Travel document \*

Ordinary passport
?

Travel document number \*

111111
?

Expiry date \*

17/01/2028
?

Date of issue \*

18/01/2018
?

Expiry date \*

17/01/2028
?

**Your plans**

Your plans \*

Study
?

Main purpose of stay \*

Student
?

**You need a visa.**

Unless you are:

- > a foreign national who holds a French residence permit.
- > a foreign national who is a minor and holds a TIR or a DCEM.
- > a citizen of the European Union (or Iceland, Lichtenstein, Norway or Switzerland).
- > a foreign national who holds a long-term resident permit from a state of the European Union.
- > a national of Andorra, Monaco or Saint Marino.

Unless you are family member of a citizen of EU/EEA/Swiss national (for the family member involved, refer to the section "your plan", choose "family purpose" then "family of european national") and if you are exempt from a short stay visa for the Schengen Area.

Save

Next

16

12

## Step 2:

Your plans

**Your information**

Your previous visas

Your stay

Your contacts

Recap



### Your information

Provide all the personal information below: identity, personal details, information about your family.

If you wish, you can save your work at any time. Any change made to a step (next, back) will be saved automatically. Fields marked with \* are mandatory.

#### Your identity

Information contained in the travel document used

Sex \*

Female ?

Marital status \*

Single ?

Last name/s \*

WEILER ?

Last name/s at birth (previous last name/s) if different

WEILER ?

First name/s, mandatory if exists

Christine ?

Date of birth (dd/mm/yyyy) \*

10 20 1991| ?

City of birth \*

BLOOMSDALE ?

Country of birth \*

United States of America ?

Current nationality \*

American ?

Nationality at birth (if different)

American ?

National identity no.

?

#### Your personal information

Address

815 N. 52ND STREET ?

Zip code

85008 ?

City \*

PHOENIX ?

Country \*

United States of America ?

Telephone number

?

Email address

cweiler@ceastudyabroad.com ?

### Details of your identity

Do you live in a country other than the country of your current nationality? \*

Yes  No 

### Your family

A close member of your family is a French national \*

Yes  No 

Do you have any family members who live in France? \*

Yes  No 

### Your job

Current job \*

Student, trainee 

Sector

Human health and social work 

Name of employer or teaching establishment \*

ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY 

Address



Zip code

85008 

City \*

PHOENIX 

Country \*

United States of America 

Telephone number



Email address



[Back](#) [Save](#) [Next](#)

### Step 3:

Your plans   Your information   **Your previous visas**   Your stay   Your contacts   Recap

 **Your previous visas**

Indicate here if you have previously resided in France for more than three months in a row, on which date and for what purpose.

If you wish, you can save your work at any time. Any change made to a step (next, back) will be saved automatically. Fields marked with \* are mandatory.

Have you previously resided for more than three months in a row in France?  Yes  No 

**Back** **Save** **Next**

### Step 4:

**\*\*CEF number is your Campus France ID Number. You can find this in the top right-corner of your Etudes en France account and should look like "USXX-XXXXX."**

Your plans   Your information   Your previous visas   **Your stay**   Your contacts   Recap

 **Your stay**

Provide all the information regarding your stay in France.

If you wish, you can save your work at any time. Any change made to a step (next, back) will be saved automatically. Fields marked with \* are mandatory.

**Details of your stay**

As a reminder, your destination of stay is: France 

Planned date of arrival in French territory \*      Planned duration of stay in number of months  

**The purpose of your stay**

As a reminder, the main purpose of your stay is: Study , the reason: Student 

CEF number  

Do you have a scholarship? \*  Yes  No 

Will you be travelling with members of your family? \*  Yes  No 

**Back** **Save** **Next**

## Step 5:

**\*\*Note: The contact person and address for this section will vary based on your study abroad destination. Directly below the screenshot, you'll find destination-specific information you'll use for this portion of the application\*\***



### Your contacts

To finalise your visa application, please provide all the information regarding your contacts in the place of your stay.

If you wish, you can save your work at any time. Any change made to a step (next, back) will be saved automatically. Fields marked with \* are mandatory.

#### Host person or organisation

A person will be accommodating me ?

A company, organisation or establishment will be accommodating me ?

#### Details of the host organisation/company

Name of the host organisation/company \*

CEA STUDY ABROAD ?

Address

6 RUE DE BRAQUE ?

Zip code

75003 ?

City \*

PARIS ?

Country \*

France ?

Telephone number

?

Fax

?

Email address

?

#### Details of the contact person

Last name of the contact person \*

MITCHELL ?

First name of the contact person

Alexandra ?

Address

?

Zip code

?

City \*

PARIS ?

Country \*

France ?

Telephone number

?

Fax

?

Email address

?

My hotel or place of accommodation (if different) ?

Funding of travel costs

Myself ?

Livelihoods \* ?

Accommodation prepaid  
 Transport costs prepaid  
 Traveller's cheques  
 Credit card  
 Cash  
 Other

By the company, organisation or establishment hosting me ?

By another sponsor ?

[Back](#) [Save](#) [Next](#)

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## Recap:

Visas / [Admin - My application](#)



Your plans   Your information   Your previous visas   Your stay   Your contacts   **Recap**

### Recap

You can view your application in progress and complete it if necessary.  
If all the steps of your application are confirmed, please view and check the content of the pdf form [\[i\]](#).  
If certain information is incorrect, correct it by returning to your application [\[p\]](#) before printing and signing the paper form.  
Invalid applications may be deleted [\[d\]](#).

#### My application in progress

<b>WEILER</b>	<b>Christine</b>	<b>✓ All the steps have been confirmed.</b>	<a href="#">[p]</a> <a href="#">[d]</a>
> Step 1 - your plans		✓ Confirmed	<a href="#">[p]</a>
> Step 2 - your information		✓ Confirmed	<a href="#">[p]</a>
> Step 3 - your last visa		✓ Confirmed	<a href="#">[p]</a>
> Step 4 - your stay		✓ Confirmed	<a href="#">[p]</a>
> Step 5 - your contacts		✓ Confirmed	<a href="#">[p]</a>

I declare that all the information provided is correct and complete to the best of my knowledge.  
I promise to print out and sign the form associated with my application.

**Continue**

## Section H: FAQs

### Campus France

**What is Campus France?** Campus France is a process designed and operated by the French government to maintain a database of foreign students studying in France.

**Assistance:** For information on the status of an application, Campus France must be contacted directly, either through email or fax. They tend not to answer phone calls and do not make their phone number available to the public.

**Timing:** It is imperative that students not wait until the last minute to begin this process. Campus France confirmation process can take 3 weeks.

**Troubleshooting:** The Campus France website is not compatible with Safari. You will need to use Internet Explorer, Firefox or Chrome instead, though Chrome seems to work the best.

**Required CEA Acceptance Letter:** This is located in your CEA account. Click on the "Acceptance Letter" in the CEA Mailings box. The first link ("Acceptance Letter") should be sent to Campus France. You can't send a copy of your confirmation email, but you can use this letter.

**Campus France Confirmation:** Students will not receive paper mail from Campus France, instead they send messages to your email address and/or your Campus France inbox in your portal. Check these two places for your Campus France confirmation message.

**I haven't received my Campus France Confirmation. What should I do?** Check your Campus France Etudes en France inbox 2-3 weeks after you have sent in your Campus France materials, including the money order and acceptance letter. When you log into your Campus France account you will see a navigation column on the left. The link you need is labeled "Your received messages." Look for the email titled "Confirmation email." The email will be in English. If there's no confirmation email in your mailbox, and it has been 2-3 weeks since you have submitted everything to Campus France, write them an email from your Campus France mailbox to ask for the status. Be sure you include your Campus France ID number in the email. Campus France is very difficult to reach by phone; email or fax is best.

**I emailed Campus France for the status of my application but haven't heard from them. Now what?** Emailing Campus France does not guarantee that they will write you back. It is a small office and they receive a large amount of emails every day. You will either have to wait for a reply or try to email again. You can try faxing or calling, but there's no guarantee this will get you an answer any faster.

**Is there any way to have Campus France expedite my confirmation message?** You are free to contact Campus France and ask, but they typically require at least three full weeks to process application materials and do not deviate from this practice unless you've paid for the expedited service.

**Is there anything that CEA can do for me in this process? Do you know if my application with Campus France is finished?** Campus France will not release any information to CEA or anyone other than the applicant. CEA does not have access to your Campus France account nor do we have any influence over the Campus France process.

**What do I enter for description of program?** You'll want to enter your program name as listed on your MyCEA Account. For example: "French Language and Culture" or "Engineering."

**Do I need to upload a copy of my resume?** No, this part is not required of study abroad students.

### **VFS Global**

**Do I need to bring my diploma with me to my visa appointment?** No, this is not a requirement for US citizens studying abroad.