

FRANCE

****You must check the appropriate French consulate's website for updated information regarding visa applications. The requirements, fees and deadlines change frequently. These instructions are written for US citizens. If you are not a citizen of the US, please contact your program coordinator, as the process may vary significantly. Please remember, it is your responsibility to ensure that the appropriate visa or entry clearance is obtained.**

General Information

Students planning to study in France for longer than three months are required to apply for a student visa **no earlier than three months before their program start date** (Before this, a visa will not be issued). Students must appear in person at the Chicago consulate and can expect to have their passport returned to them by mail.

Stay of less than three months

As of March 24, 2009, students planning to study in France **for less than three months** are NOT required to obtain a visa: Visit the French Consulate in Chicago for more information:

- o Visa requirements, <http://www.consulfrance-chicago.org/spip.php?article686>

Stay of three months to a year

Students planning to study in France for more than three months are required to apply for a **long stay visa**. You must complete two steps:

1. Once you have been accepted to your study abroad program, you will need to apply to CampusFrance, including:
 - a. Registration with CampusFrance, at <http://usa.campusfrance.org/en/1.html>
 - b. CampusFrance will email you to let you know when the process is complete, and will provide you with a document you will need to include with your visa application.
**This process should take around three weeks

2. Apply for your temporary long-stay visa from the French Consulate
 - a. It is recommended you make an appointment with the French consulate and start gathering the necessary documents for your visa **BEFORE** your CampusFrance registration has been validated.
 - b. visit the website of the French Consulate in Chicago for:
 - i. Visa requirements, <http://www.consulfrance-chicago.org/spip.php?article675>
 - ii. To request an appointment, www.consulfrance.net

Requirements for the long stay visa:

1. **Original passport** or travel document (+ **copy** of the identity pages). Your passport must have been issued **less than 10 years ago**, be **valid for at least three months after your return to the US** and have **at least 2 blank visas pages left**.
2. **If you are not a U.S. citizen:** A valid U.S. permanent residence card ("green card") or a valid U.S. visa with valid I-94 or valid I-20 (original + 1 photocopy).
3. Positive **proof of residence** in the geographic area [1] for which the consulate is responsible:

- a. **lease or rental agreement** in the applicant's name or a notarized statement from the owner or leaseholder plus a recent (utility) bill in the applicant's name;
 - b. or the applicant's **driver's license** issued by a state falling within the consulate's jurisdiction [2];
 - c. or a **valid student ID card** (or a statement issued within the past 2 months from the registrar of your university), which must be located in the consulate's jurisdiction [3].
4. Processing fee in the U.S. dollar equivalent of €50. Exceptions: Recipients of scholarships from the French government or European Union (Chateaubriand, Eiffel, Franco-American Fulbright Commission, Erasmus Mundus, Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie) are not required to pay the application and processing fee.
5. One application form (available on consulate web site) filled out completely and signed by the applicant.
6. **One ID picture** glued/stapled onto the application form (white background, full face, no glasses nor hat, closed mouth).
7. **"Attestation" from CAMPUSFRANCE:** An e-mail message from CampusFrance (entitled "confirmation e-mail") informing the student that he or she may begin preparations to apply to the consulate for the visa (make appointment, collect documents). Attention! **This message should not be confused with the earlier message from CampusFrance** notifying the student of the creation of his or her CampusFrance account, or with the message indicating that a receipt for payment was available for download.
8. **Receipt for payment** issued by CampusFrance (does not apply to exempted students).
9. **Proof of registration:** A copy of the student's official acceptance letter or acknowledgment of enrollment, addressed to the student and mentioning his or her full name, printed on institutional letterhead and specifying the exact dates (day, month, year) of the academic program and including full contact information for the individual issuing the offer or acknowledgment, as well as the full address of the educational institution. Said address may serve as the student's temporary address in France. Three cases are possible:
 - a. **Students taking part in an exchange program between an American and a French institution.** In this case, the acceptance or enrollment letter may be issued from either institution provided the formal exchange agreement is identified and the information specified above is provided.
 - b. **Students enrolling directly in a French institution as an independent student.** In this case, the acceptance or enrollment letter must be from the admitting institution and include all of the information specified above.

- c. **Students enrolling in an American program in France** (operated by an American institution with a branch in France). In this case, the acceptance or enrollment letter must come from the American institution and include all of the information specified above.
10. **Financial guarantee:** Nonscholarship students must prove that they have access to at least \$700 per month. Proof may be provided in the form of:
- a. a **bank statement** showing a balance of \$700 multiplied by the number of months to be spent in France,
 - b. or a **notarized statement** from a guarantor declaring that the guarantor will provide the student applicant with at least \$700 per month, accompanied by the guarantor's most recent bank statement,
 - c. or for students receiveing **scholarship and financial aid:** Letter of scholarship award specifying amount and duration of award, issued by the financial aid office of the student applicant's home institution.
11. If you intend on staying in France for more than 6 months: **One residence form** with the upper portion filled out by the applicant. Applicants are requested to print their e-mail address very carefully to avoid any risk of confusion or error. Applicants will be notified of their appointment by e-mail.
12. **An airline reservation** showing date of departure or a handwritten and legible statement from the applicant indicating the intended date of departure, as well as a formal commitment not to depart before that date. It is not possible to modify the start date of a visa once the application is made.
13. A **self-addressed prepaid EXPRESS MAIL envelope** from the US POST OFFICE ONLY - NO FEDEX / UPS / AIRBORNE EXPRESS accepted.

Please do NOT stick the mailing label on the envelope and fill out as follows
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FROM:
CONSULATE GENERAL OF FRANCE
205N. Michigan Ave, Suite 3760
CHICAGO, IL 60601

TO:
Your full name
Your address

Whom Do I Contact?

French Consulate
Chicago, Illinois
205 N. Michigan Avenue - Suite 3760
Chicago, IL 60601 Ph.# (312) 327-5229 - Fax # (312) 327-5201 Email:
visas@consulfrance-chicago.org
Website: www.consulfrance-chicago.org/main_visas_eng.htm.