

# Welcome

## GUIDE





# Welcome

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# Welcome

## TO THE FRENCH RIVIERA!

Mainly based in Nice, the Université Côte d'Azur is also located on other geographical sites in the region.

Depending on your choice of training, MSc courses take place in Nice, Sophia Antipolis, Grasse and Cannes.

The following guide is full of useful information, and the MSc International Office (MIO) will provide extra help if needed: [msc@univ-cotedazur.fr](mailto:msc@univ-cotedazur.fr)



## BEFORE YOU ARRIVE

### Apply for a visa

**Members of the European Union** can travel to and from France without a visa. **Other nationalities** must have a visa.



<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F2231>

<https://www.campusfrance.org/en/student-long-stay-visa>



The most common are short-stay C ( $\leq 90$  days in France) and long-stay D ( $> 90$  days in France) student visas.

**Request a Visa at least 2 months prior to your departure** at the closest French Consulate/Embassy.

## Finding accommodation

The Côte d'Azur region is a popular destination! Make sure you give yourself plenty of time to learn about your accommodation options and start looking.

### Public accommodation

- **Public student residences** are managed by the **CROUS** (11 residences in Nice, 2 in Sophia Antipolis & 1 in Cannes). Every year the Nice CROUS faces a significant demand for housing, it is not possible to offer housing to all students. **Make sure you do not miss the application deadline.**



<https://www.crous-nice.fr/logements/>

### Private accommodation

- You can also choose accommodation in a private university residence that are generally more expensive and offer various services.



<https://www.lokaviz.fr/>

**Warning!** Some residences ask the payment of application fees during the reservation of your housing. Sometimes these renting options last for 1 or 2 years (long-term housing), check under which conditions you can cancel the renting contract in case you want to leave earlier.

- You can also find housing through a private landlord or a real estate agency. Of course, it is also possible to look for a shared flat if you are open to live together with other people. This type of accommodation has the advantage of lowering the rent and sharing good moments of conviviality with several people.

**Warning!** Some offers can turn out to be scams, be aware and do not:

- Communicate personal information or bank details before signing the contract
- Continue the process if the landlord is/pretends to be currently abroad

If you have any doubts, contact [msc@univ-cotedazur.fr](mailto:msc@univ-cotedazur.fr)

## Prepare your rental documentation

- Finding accommodation also means providing landlords with comprehensive documentation including:
- Valid proof of identity document
- Student card or certificate of attendance for the current year
- Last three rent receipts for the previously occupied flat
- Proof of a guarantor. Most owners require a guarantor to pay the rent if the tenant fails to meet their obligations. Without a guarantor, your application will not be given a preference. If you are under 30 years old and your monthly rent is under €600, Visale can act as a guarantor in order to simplify the process of obtaining housing

## Finding a student job

**Students can work 964 hours / year**

**= 60% of the legal working time. The contracts last for 12 months max from September 1st to August 31st.**

**Students working in French universities may not work more than 670 hours from September 1st to June 30th and no more than 300 hours from July 1st to August 31st.**

If you intend to work under more than one contract, please check with your employers if it is possible. More info and ads:



<https://www.jobaviz.fr/>

<http://jobs-stages.letudiant.fr/jobs-etudiants/offres/region-provence-alpes-cote-d-azur.html>



## Learn french

It's possible to have access to the **Language Resource Centers** of the University. They also offer intensive **Summer Schools** in June and July (2 weeks; classes from 9am to 1pm).



<http://www.unice.fr/scl/index.php/>

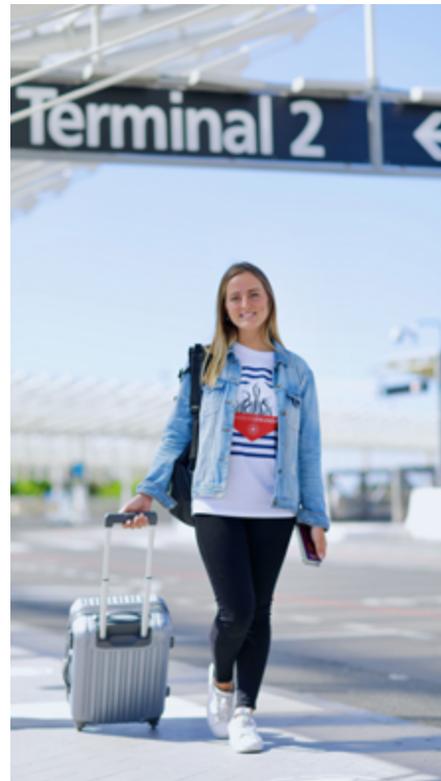
<https://www.facebook.com/ESN.Nice>



The **Erasmus Student Network (ESN)** offers numerous events to meet foreign students and to promote cultural exchange.

## What to bring with you

- Scan or copy of all the important documents (ID/ passport, high school and university diploma, (European) health insurance card)
- Health Record and vaccination certificates
- Admission letter from your host French school/university (original if available).
- Student card from your home school/university (if available).
- Driver's license if you want to drive in France.
- Adapter, depending on the electricity standard in your country
- Certified copies of your birth certificate (3 recommended)





## YOUR ARRIVAL ON THE FRENCH RIVIERA

### By plane

Once at Nice Côte d'Azur Airport, you have several options to get to the city centre but the easiest way is to take the tram (Line 2).

You can buy your tickets with euro coins or a credit card from ticket machines located at each tram stop. A single ticket costs €1.50 but if you buy a 10-journey pass. A map of the tram network is available on the Ligne d'Azur website.

### By train

The Côte d'Azur is easily accessible by public transport. From the 4 SNCF stations in Nice (Saint Augustin - Nice Ville - Riquier - Pont Michel), you can go almost anywhere.



<https://www.lignesdazur.com/fr/plans/71>

<http://www.ter.sncf.com/>

# ONCE YOU ARE HERE

## Moving around

### Bus & tram

**Lignes d'Azur** is the public transport agency which provides the bus and tram routes in Nice.

**Envibus** is running in Antibes and its surroundings. They also have buses going to Sophia Antipolis. In Cannes, there is Palmbus.

- o to go to Sophia-Antipolis: n°200 to Antibes station then take bus n° 1 or directly the Sophia Express n°230 (except on weekends)



<https://www.lignesdazur.com/>

<http://www.envibus.fr/en.html>

<https://www.palmbus.fr/en>

### Vélos Bleus



**Vélos Bleus** is a network where you can rent a bi- cycle at a self-service station if you have a mobile telephone and a credit card to pay at the rental terminal. Consult the Vélo Bleu site to register and for bicycle availability.



[www.velobleu.org](http://www.velobleu.org)

### City Scoots

... are self-service electric scooters parked in public and geolocated spots on the Cityscoot application. The loan of a helmet is also provided. To rent a scooter, simply register for free; fill in your credit card details and driver's license, before receiving a four-digit code to start the scooter.



**Of course, you can also take a taxi or call a Uber!**

# Health Insurance



## European students

If you have a **European Health Insurance Card (EHIC)** or a certificate of entitlement to healthcare, you don't necessarily need to register to the French social security. You can use your card and receive care in France for the duration mentioned on your card.

Students included are those with the nationality of a country of the European Union, Iceland, Lichtenstein, Norway or Switzerland.

## Non-European students

You must **register to the French general social security** system upon arrival in France. This affiliation is free but mandatory and can be done online on the following platform.



<https://etudiant-etranger.ameli.fr/#/>



This will cover **basic health insurance costs** up from the date of registration (proof of enrollment): even if you still do not have your « Carte Vitale », you can be reimbursed retroactively. The general practitioner charges €25 for the visit. The CPAM will reimburse 70% of this amount (= €16,50). There are two kinds of doctors: Secteur 1 & Secteur 2.

**Make sure on to locate the closest doctor from Secteur 1** (no extra fees) on: <http://annuaire.sante.ameli.fr/>  
To benefit from an optimal reimbursement of your health expenses, you can subscribe to a "mutuelle" or complementary health insurance (a fee applies).



## Housing allowance



The **Caisse d'Allocations Familiales (CAF)** offers housing allowance for all individuals living in France. It is important to apply for it as soon as you move into your accommodation, because the aid is only paid the month following the approval of your application.

## Rental insurance & civil liability insurance

Subscribing a rental insurance is a **legal obligation in France**. It will cover you in case of theft, water damage & others. The rates depend also on the size of the apartment. (≈ €37/year for a room and ≈ €60/per year for a studio). Most banks will also offer rental insurance.

**Civil liability** corresponds to the obligation to compensate for physical injury and material damage caused to others. If you do an internship, you need to take out civil liability insurance. Then the insurance company covers the damage you have caused.

Sometimes rental & civil liability insurance is offered as a package, please check with your bank / insurance company.

## Mobile phone



Calling plans start at €2/month from various providers (Orange, Bouygues, SFR, Free). Prepaid plans and calling cards are available in supermarkets or small Tabac shops (Bar Tabac) beginning at €5.

## Bank account

In general, you need to be settled in France before opening a bank account in France. The list of required documents include normally: the passport, proof of residence not older than 3 months (renting contract, water, electricity, Internet bill...), proof of enrollment at the university...





## BECOMING A UNIVERSITY COTE D'AZUR STUDENT

### The MSc International Office (MIO)

The MIO Informs, helps and supports MSc students with their administrative procedures.



[msc@univ-cotedazur.fr](mailto:msc@univ-cotedazur.fr)

### Registering at Université Côte d'Azur

The entire process is done online, including the payment of your registration fees and the uploading of the required documents.

Before any form of registration, you must apply on an online platform.



<https://ecandidat.univ-cotedazur.fr/>

## Tuition fees and CVEC

Different **tuition fees** and rates may apply, depending on your circumstances. They may also vary from one year to the other.



<https://univ-cotedazur.eu/msc-programs/tuition-fees>

The **CVEC** is a €92 tax all students have to pay to register with French universities. Once the CVEC is paid for, students get a certificate that is **compulsory** to complete their registration.



<https://cvec.etudiant.gouv.fr/>

## Student card

As soon as you have finished your registration at university and have **uploaded all your required documents** to the PJweb platform, you will get a student card that allows you to access the buildings, take advantage of some special offers and to charge it with money.

**Izly**: = payment service for Crous services (especially the canteen, printing via Secureprint, vending machines, laundry...) on their campus and sending each other money between users.

## Scholarships

To help students from the most modest backgrounds.



<http://www.etudiant.gouv.fr/pid38613-cid139553/financial-sup-port-and-grants.html>



## STUDENT LIFE WHAT'S UP ON CAMPUS?

### Connecting to Wifi

Everywhere on campus, you can connect to Internet via the **Unice Hotspot**. Just use your personal user name and password from the **ENT (Environnement Numérique de Travail** = online platform of the University) and you can get online right away.

### Covid 19

Universities have been heavily impacted by the Covid 19 pandemic but Université Côte d'Azur has **adapted quickly**.

During the lockdown, distance-learning courses were rapidly set up. Computers were lent and masks given to students in need. Covid tests are available on campuses.



<https://univ-cotedazur.fr/covid/faq-etudiants>



## Where can I have a meal on the campus?

The CROUS offers student menus for €3,30 which is a very good price for a complete lunch (starter + main dish + dessert).

Due to the Covid 19 pandemic, the CROUS is offering students 2 lunch packs for just €1,00.



<http://www.etudiant.gouv.fr/cid97554/ou-trouver-nos-restos.html>

## Special support for disabled students

Disability should not be an obstacle in higher education. Therefore, the University supports the students with setting up arrangements for exams and studies.

Contact: Service d'Accompagnement des Étudiants en situation de Handicap (SAEH):



[saeh@univ-cotedazur.fr](mailto:saeh@univ-cotedazur.fr)

## University libraries



<https://bu.univ-cotedazur.fr/fr>



## Engagement Centre

The Engagement Centre promotes the commitment of students in addition to their studies and corresponding to the values of the university. Devote 20 hours to a listed project and earn 0.25 bonus points per semester on your final grade.



[engagement@univ-cotedazur.fr](mailto:engagement@univ-cotedazur.fr)



<https://univ-cotedazur.fr/reussir-ses-etudes/s-engager-pour-la-societe>

## Sports

Sign up for **UCA SPORT** classes and access a great diversity of activities, including climbing, paddle boarding, orienteering, diving, and much more. Have your sports activities registered on your **sports bonus card** and earn 0.25 bonus points per semester on your final grade.



<https://sport.univ-cotedazur.fr/fr/>





## FOR ALL STUDENTS

### PASS Santé, prevention, contraception

This PASS is offered by the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur region to all young people under 26. Presented in the form of a chequebook, the Pass includes 9 coupons of an approximate value of 250€ allowing you to consult a doctor, carry out biological analyses and purchase contraceptive methods for one year. There is no need to present the Carte vitale; only the corresponding coupon is given to the doctor, pharmacist or laboratory.



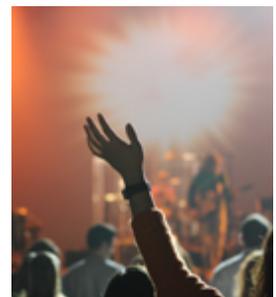
<https://passantejeunes.maregionsud.fr//Account/LogOn?ReturnUrl=%25252fAccount%25252fLogOn%25253fReturnUrl%25253d%2525252f>

### PASS Culture

Register on the Pass Culture website and get credit to spend on cultural activities in your region (up to €500 to be spent on cinemas, theatres, concerts, and museums, drawing or dance classes, and up to €200 to be spent on CDs, books, DVDs, etc.)



<https://pass.culture.fr/>



# EVENTS

A few examples of what to expect!

## MSc students Welcome Day



## My thesis in 180 seconds

doctoral students present their research topic, in French and in simple terms; exciting event to follow!

<http://mt180.fr>

## UCA Talents

This talent competition is reserved for staff and student registered at the University Côte d'Azur for the promotion of art and culture among the entire student community.





## PRACTICAL INFO

Follow Université Côte d'Azur on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#) to be up to date with the events on campus, new research projects and how our university is developing day by day.

MSc Contact point: The MSc International Office will be glad to answer your queries; e-mail:



[msc@univ-cotedazur.fr](mailto:msc@univ-cotedazur.fr)

### Useful phone numbers

15

Samu

17

Police

18

Pompiers

112

ALL emergencies

**Nightline**  
01 88 32 12 33

**listening support service run by students, for students.**

Open 9pm – 2.30am. Mon, Thurs, Fri, Sat, Sun: 01 88 32 12 33



<http://www.nice.fr/fr/les-numeros-et-adresses-utiles>

# APPENDIX





DO

- 1) Do be polite: Say « **Bonjour** » / « **Bonsoir** » (after 6pm) when entering a store, restaurant/ café or bus. Say « **Au revoir** » when leaving. Use « s'il vous plaît » and « **merci** ». Also applies for e-mails to staff at the public service: absolutely avoid orders.
- 2) **Do dress appropriately** (shorts/ flip flops are too casual and reserved for the beach & exercising) & do wear shoes in public buildings => no barefoot walking
- 3) Do « **faire la bise** » to greet family, friends and colleagues: air kiss on both cheeks (**note that La Bise has to be avoided in times of pandemic!**)
- 4) **Do think about a gift** for your host when you are invited at someone's place : flowers, chocolate or wine are the most classical ideas
- 5) **Do consider arriving 10-15 minutes late at your friend's place**, so that (s)he has enough time to prepare => Being early/ on time can be considered as impolite!



DON'T

- 1) Don't use « **tu** » but « **vous** » until the person offers you to switch => more formal & respectful
- 2) **Don't eat & drink before everyone has been served** => Sharing a meal is a social happening!
- 3) **Don't make slurping noises** => considered as bad manners
- 4) **Don't give tips at the restaurant automatically.** Service is included in the prices. If the service was exceptional, you can leave some additional euros on the table.
- 5) **Don't approach someone on the street and start talking to them in English** without first asking them whether they speak it.
- 6) **Don't be disappointed if social relations take more time to grow as you expected.** French people will not invite you to their homes right away; building up a network is a bit more challenging but it is worth to be patient: Good things take time!

# LAST BUT NOT LEAST

Keep in mind the phenomenon called culture shock  
between euphoria & effort:

It is an experience of disorientation and then adaptation to  
a new environment. An exciting challenge!

The first few months in a new country are full of stimulating  
impressions.

You meet many new people and have to cope with  
changes. This can also be challenging and stressful. This  
experience is called culture shock.

It is usually felt 2-3 months after arrival and becomes more  
apparent the more your home country differs from France.

Give yourself enough time and do not be afraid to seek  
help and advice.

As time goes by, you become more familiar with the cus-  
toms in France. The benefit will be your « biculturalism »:  
you are familiar with two different cultures; you can unders-  
tand and live in both without losing your own identity.









# UNIVERSITÉ CÔTE D'AZUR

[univ-cotedazur.fr](http://univ-cotedazur.fr)