



Making Your Stay Official in France

French Visas and Residence Cards

DISCLAIMER: The information below relating to French legal requirements is provided for general information only and may not be totally accurate in a particular case. Questions involving interpretations of specific provisions or application to a specific case should be addressed to the French government officials. The Embassy is not in a position to intercede with French authorities on behalf of Americans seeking visas, visa exemptions and work permits, or answer questions concerning a specific case.

Tourists:

U.S. citizens planning to enter and visit France for a maximum of 3 months (90 days) as tourists do not require a visa and are permitted to remain in the country only for that period of time. (See page 10 for Schengen Treaty Member Country requirements.) All questions concerning overstaying a visit on the French visa waiver program must be addressed directly to the French Embassy or Consulate in the United States: fax 202 944 6212, or by e-mail visas@consulfrance-washington.org, or contact the *préfecture* nearest your residence in France. (See also pages 11-13 for a list of French Consulates in the United States.)

Residing in France:

Americans planning to stay in France for **more than 3 months**, or for purposes other than tourism, **must have a long stay visa (*visa de long séjour*)** in their passports on arrival in France. **They must apply for the appropriate long stay visa issued in the U.S. prior to their departure for France, and must apply at the French Consulate having jurisdiction where they reside in the United States.** (See list of French Consulates in the U.S. on pages 11-13.) You may refer to the website of the French Embassy for further information <http://www.ambafrance-us.org/spip.php?article359>.

Working in France:

In order to work in France, American citizens must hold a valid French work permit which is obtained at the *préfecture* in France after a visa is issued from the French Consulate in the applicant's country of residence. The visa is valid for France only.

Very Important Note: Persons who have not obtained the required visa for extended stay (more than 90 days) in the European Union may be detained and/or refused authorization to continue traveling, at any time, by immigration officials in any of the Schengen Member Treaty Countries.

Note: It is not possible for an American citizen to come to France as a tourist and then change his/her status to that of a worker, a student or a resident. The French authorities will require such individuals to return to the U.S. to apply for the appropriate visa.

Employment in France

Americans hoping to enter the French labor market are cautioned that it is very difficult to find employment. To be able to work in France, Americans, except for those in special categories (see below,) must have arranged employment approved in advance by the French Ministry of Labor and they must have obtained a long stay work visa before entering France (see "Visa Requirements for France" on page 6.) The Embassy will not intervene with French Authorities on behalf of American citizens seeking a visa, visa exemption or work permit.

Americans who disregard the visa requirement and apply in France for a work permit are required to leave the country to obtain the appropriate visa at a French consular office in the U.S. American citizens should not come to France expecting to find a job and to change their status after arrival. Such expectations are unlikely to be fulfilled and personal hardship may result. Most foreigners are not eligible for French Social Security or unemployment benefits. In some cases, individuals may have difficulties with French authorities and may face expulsion from France.

Employment Situation in France:

Since July 1974 there has been a virtual freeze on the employment of nationals of all countries other than nationals of member countries of the European Union. Unemployment in France for the first quarter of 2009 reached about 8.7 %, and French laws and regulations governing immigration and employment in France are enforced with increasing rigor.

A few categories of Americans in France are in a special position with regard to employment. These are:

- a. bearers of a carte de résident who have resided in France in that category for ten years;
- b. spouses of French citizens.

Most Americans, however, do not fall into any of these special categories. The only other Americans who have any chance for full-time employment in France are highly skilled technicians and qualified managerial (*cadre*) personnel. Some students can qualify for part-time *au-pair* employment, and other students can qualify for part-time or summer employment. There are also some voluntary collective work programs. Visas for any of these jobs must be obtained before entering France. The Embassy cannot assist Americans to find employment in France, but this information sheet as well as the related ones herein offer some guidance.

Persons seeking Employment:

In addition to the basic requirements, an American who wishes to work in France needs a work contract approved by the French Ministry of Labor. This means that the French employer is required to present the signed contract to the Ministry with a request for its approval. A medical examination is required (within the last three months and usually by a doctor on a list prepared by the French Consulate); the visa applicant is expected to pay the doctor's fee.

For more information about working in France please see the French Embassy website pages:

<http://www.ambafrance-us.org/spip.php?article360> and http://www.consulfrance-washington.org/spip.php?article500&var_recherche=etudier%20en%20france

Teaching Positions:

The teaching field in France is largely closed to Americans. Teachers in French public secondary schools and public universities must be French citizens. At the secondary level, the only exceptions are teaching assistants. Public universities can hire foreigners as visiting professors (*Professeurs Associés*) or as *Maîtres de Conférences Associés*, Assistants and *Lecteurs*. The Franco-American Commission for Educational Exchange in Paris (Fulbright Commission) can provide information on openings for visiting lecturers in France and has a general information sheet on "Teaching Positions in France" with useful addresses in both France and the United States. Interested persons may write to:

Franco-American Commission for Education Exchange

9 rue Chardin

75016 Paris

Educational Advising Center tel: 0 892 68 07 47

Website: (<http://www.fulbright-france.org>)

E-mail: cfa@fulbright-france.org

For further information on teaching in France you may refer to this website page:

<http://www.ambafrance-us.org/spip.php?article375>

For further information on French Employment Laws please refer to the following website:
<http://www.avrio.net/533.0.html>.

Exchange program: (*convention de stages*)

There is a reciprocal agreement between France and the United States on exchange programs. For more information on this program, please refer to the following website page:

http://www.consulfrance-washington.org/spip.php?article391&var_recherche=convention%20de%20stages

Employment with American firms in France:

The Embassy has no information on employment opportunities with private firms in France. A detailed list, "American Firms in France", is available at the:

American Chamber of Commerce in France

156 Boulevard Haussmann
75008 Paris

Phone: +33 (0) 1 56 43 45 67

Fax: +33 (0) 1 56 43 45 60

Website: <http://www.amchamfrance.org>

E-mail: amchamfrance@amchamfrance.org

The Chamber of Commerce itself does not handle inquiries on employment opportunities.

Establishing a business in France:

Americans considering establishing a business in France can begin by contacting the Commercial Counselor at the nearest French Consulate in the United States for information and guidance. Interested Americans may also write to: American Embassy, Commercial Affairs Section, 2 Av. Gabriel, 75382 Paris Cedex 08.

Employment at the United States Embassy:

Under certain conditions, the Embassy recruits American citizens locally. For further information, please contact the Office of Human Resources directly, Tel: 01 43 12 25 74.

The following information pertains to employment of U.S. Citizens within the Embassy and the Consulates, UNESCO and OECD. Please note that, due to the current fiscal climate, employment opportunities are limited.

The Human Resources Office accepts and considers only applications that are associated with a specific vacancy announcement. Job opportunities are posted on the Embassy website at: http://france.usembassy.gov/job_opportunities.html.

With the exception of certain Eligible Family Members of Mission employees, all other categories of candidates must have the required work and residency permits at the time that they apply for local positions in France. **Please note that the U.S. Embassy is not able to sponsor candidates for a work entry visa to France.**

Local position vacancies are generally advertised internally and externally, concurrently, or at times internally only. The recruitment process is competitive and it is essential that candidates address the selection criteria (required qualifications) for the vacancy with specific and comprehensive information. When equally qualified, candidates will be given preference in the following order: Appointment Eligible Family Members, U.S. veterans claiming preference, and all others.

The application language is English unless a position requires only a limited knowledge of English. A complete application package must include:

- A cover letter indicating the job title/number and highlighting the particular qualifications for the position as advertised.
- A current detailed resume which provides the following additional information as appropriate:
- For all - Indication of nationality (also dual nationalities) and address of residence.

To apply for Embassy employment please send the following documents to Office of Human Resources, American Embassy, 2 avenue Gabriel 75382 Paris Cédex 08: a letter describing your area of interest, a current CV, a copy of **both sides** of a **valid French Carte de Séjour and Work Permit or French Identity Card**, a copy of your U.S. passport and, if applicable, a copy of your current security clearance. Due to limited staffing, we are unable to give descriptions of jobs over the telephone and we cannot acknowledge receipt of applications. Applicants who wish to receive an acknowledgment of receipt should either send their application by registered mail with return receipt or enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Successful applicants will be notified when employment in their area of interest is available. Applications will be kept on file for one year.

Employment as a Foreign Service Officer:

Those interested in becoming Foreign Service Officers may consult the following website: (<http://www.careers.state.gov>), or should write to the Board of Examiners for the Foreign Service, Box 9317, Roslyn Station, Arlington, VA 22209. The Foreign Service examination brochures and application forms are available at U.S. Embassies and consular offices each year and may be obtained from this Embassy by writing to: American Embassy, Office of Human Resources, 2, avenue Gabriel, 75382 Paris Cédex 08. Those interested in employment with other U.S. Government agencies should write to the employment division of the appropriate agency in Washington, DC. There are no U.S. military installations in France.

French Visa Requirements

DISCLAIMER: The information below relating to French legal requirements is provided for general information only and may not be totally accurate in a particular case. Questions involving interpretations of specific provisions or application to a specific case should be addressed to French government officials. The Embassy is not in a position to intercede with French authorities on behalf of Americans seeking visas, visa exemptions and work permits.

U.S. citizens planning to enter and visit France as tourists are not required to have a visa, or a *carte de séjour*, and are permitted to remain in the country for a maximum of 3 months (90 days.)

A U.S. citizen intending to stay in France for more than 3 months (90 days,) to study, to work or to reside, must have the appropriate long stay visa (*visa de long séjour*) in his/her passport on arrival in France and, if applicable, apply for a *carte de séjour*.

For information on visa services at the French consulates in the U.S. please read the information on <http://www.consulfrance-washington.org/spip.php?rubrique83> or click on the entries provided by the Consulate General of the French Embassy in Washington D.C. pertaining to your status below:

- *Visas for France*
 - General information
 - Short stay visa for airport transit, tourism or business (Schengen (...))
 - Studies in France
 - Work in France
 - Reside in France or Monaco
 - Spouse of a French or EU citizen. Marry in France with a French citizen (...)
 - French overseas "Départements" or territories
 - Diplomats or International Organizations

The visa must be obtained from the French Consulate in the United States that has jurisdiction over the applicant's place of residence in the United States. Applications for long stay French visas cannot be made by Americans in third countries, e.g., England or Belgium, unless the American is a local resident of that country for one or more years.

It is not possible for an American to come to France without a long stay visa and then apply within the country for a residence permit. The French authorities will require such persons to return to the United States to apply for the appropriate visa.

Specific information and application forms are available from the French Consulates in the U.S. (See pages 11-13 for a list of French Consulates.) A visa applicant will be required to submit an application form accompanied by supporting documents: a valid passport, several passport type photographs and proof that the applicant can financially support himself and any dependents who may accompany him during his stay in France. Proof of medical insurance with coverage in France is often a prerequisite for issuance of a visa. In some cases, a police clearance record is required. Any applicant less than 18 years old will have to present a written authorization from his parents or guardian. Fees are charged for the issuance of all French visas.

Please refer to the following information for long stay visa reform for students, workers, visitors, spouses of EU nationals:

Since June 1, 2009 a new regulation modified the rules for residence permits for certain categories of long stay visa holders in France:

This regulation applies to **all long stay visas holders for** students, workers, spouses of French and EU nationals, and joining families that intend to live in France more than 3 months (90 days).

1. All persons intending to live, work or travel in France for more than 90 days must have an appropriate long stay visa issued by the French Embassy or Consulate in the United States prior to departure for France.
2. The appropriate long stay French visa will serve as a valid resident permit (*carte de séjour*) for the above-mentioned categories, but only **up to a person's first year of stay in France.**
3. French long stay visa holders will have to apply for a resident permit (*carte de séjour*) at the local French government office (*préfecture*) **only** if they intend to stay in France for more than one year. (In this case, the applicant must check his/her status with the *préfecture* during the last 3 months of validity of the long stay visa.) For full details you may refer to: <http://www.consulfrance-washington.org/spip.php?article536>.
4. Visa holders will have to register at the local branch of the *Office Français de l'Immigration et de l'Intégration* (OFII: <http://www.ofii.fr/>) and submit a form which will be provided with the visa application and that will be stamped by the consulate if your visa has been granted.

Proof of Financial Resources:

Proof of financial resources or support can take the form of: bank statements; formal letters of reference from the applicant's bank showing account numbers and balances or recent bank, savings or brokerage account statements; a notarized letter from the sponsor stating that he/she will be responsible for all expenses and proof of his/her financial means; letters from family or friends guaranteeing regular support or a *certificat d'hébergement* from a French family or friends with whom the applicant will be staying in France. For persons wishing to retire in France, please provide proof of sufficient income: pensions, dividends, savings, bank and brokerage account statements. Such letters and documents should be notarized. Students may submit a letter from a study abroad program guaranteeing board and lodging, evidence of a fellowship or scholarship or, if a veteran, a Certificate of Eligibility from the Veterans Administration.

Medical Insurance Requirement:

You have to apply for a visa with a letter from your insurance company (a copy of your card is not enough) stating that you will be covered in Europe for any medical and repatriation expenses, during your whole stay. (For details see: <http://www.consulfrance-washington.org/spip.php?article417>)

Exchange program: (*convention de stages*)

There is a reciprocal agreement between France and the United States on exchange programs. For more information on this program, please refer to the following website page:

http://www.consulfrance-washington.org/spip.php?article391&var_recherche=convention%20de%20stages

Au-pairs:

For information on working as an *au pair* please refer the website of the French Embassy in the United States: <http://www.consulfrance-washington.org/spip.php?article405>

Marriage:

As of June 1, 2009 a new visa procedure for marriage in France has taken effect:

If you plan to marry a French citizen in France, but do not intend to settle in France after the marriage, you should apply for a short stay visa for a private visit to France. If granted, this visa will **not** allow you to settle in France **nor** will you be able to change your visa status once in France. For more information please check the website of the French Embassy at: <http://www.consulfrance-washington.org/spip.php?article384> .

If you plan to marry a French citizen in France and plan to settle in France, you should apply for a long stay visitor visa. Once the marriage has been celebrated, your visa will be modified to a residence card for a "spouse of French citizen." This will be done by the French local government office, *préfecture* nearest your place of residence in France. For more information please check the website of the French Embassy at: <http://www.consulfrance-washington.org/spip.php?article401>.

(See information on marriage formalities for France on our separate information sheet: <http://france.usembassy.gov/root/pdfs/paris-marriage.pdf>).

For more information, please contact the French authorities directly.

Students:

American citizens intending to study in France have to apply for a visa before leaving the United States if they wish to stay more than 90 days. The visa cannot be issued once the applicant is in France. Please refer to the website of the French Embassy:

<http://www.consulfrance-washington.org/spip.php?article385>

Change of Student Status

In certain circumstances, a student may change his/her residence status in France. You may refer to the following websites for further information:

http://www.prefecture-police-paris.interieur.gouv.fr/module_rdv/etudiants/ or ,
http://www.prefecture-police-paris.interieur.gouv.fr/demarches/etrangers/paris/sejour/etudiant_nonce.htm.

If a student is in possession of a **signed conditional letter of employment** from a French company, or a **signed contract** to work in France he/she may apply for a change in of resident status.

For complete information on obtaining French visas, please consult the French Embassy's website: <http://www.consulfrance-washington.org> or, <http://www.ambafrance-us.org>.



Schengen Treaty Member Countries and Entry Requirements

Schengen Fact Sheet http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_4361.html#

Twenty-four European countries are party to the Schengen agreement. This agreement eliminates all internal border controls between them. To enter one Schengen country is to gain up to 90 days of continuous travel between the member states. American citizens traveling for business or tourism are not required to have a visa for this initial entry into the Schengen area, but must have a passport valid three months beyond the proposed stay. (For a two week business trip, the passport must be valid for four months, for a two month holiday the passport must be valid for five months, for example.)

Please note, that while business and tourism visits of less than 90 days to the Schengen countries are visa-free, if you are traveling to Europe for any other reason—employment, study, internship, etc., your host country may require a visa for that purpose, to be obtained before you leave the U.S. Please check with the Embassy or Consulate of the country(ies) you are going for their specific requirements.

Although European Union regulations require that non-EU visitors obtain a stamp in their passports upon initial entry to a Schengen country, many borders are not staffed with officers carrying out this function. If an American citizen wishes to ensure that his or her entry is properly documented, it may be necessary to request a stamp at an official point of entry. Under local law, travelers without a stamp in their passports may be questioned and asked to document the length of their stay in Schengen countries at the time of departure or at any other point during their visit, and could face possible fines or other repercussions if unable to do so.

Short stays (under 90 days in the Schengen area without a visa)

A short stay is a stay in the Schengen area (under 90 days) or, multiple stays totaling less than 90 days in a period of six months. Once your stay of 90 days is over, if you intend to leave the Schengen area to return to France, you must leave for a total of 90 days or apply for a visa at the French Consulate in the United States. You may refer to: http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/france_159/coming-to-france_2045/getting-visa_2046/do-you-need-visa_1559.html and http://www.consulfrance-washington.org/spip.php?article384&var_recherche=visa#1-Main-features

The member parties of the Schengen agreement are:

Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland.

The Embassy is not in a position to intercede with French authorities on behalf of Americans seeking visas, visa exemptions and work permits.

French Embassy and Consulates in the United States

Website pages:

<http://ambafrance-us.org>

<http://ambafrance-us.org/spip.php?article330>

WASHINGTON, D.C.

French Embassy, Consular Services

4101 Reservoir Road NW - Washington DC 20007

Tel: (202) 944 60 00 – Consular Section: (202) 944 62 00

Fax: (202) 944 60 72 – Consular Section: (202) 944 62 12

Embassy website: <http://www.ambafrance-us.org/> – E-mail: info@ambafrance-us.org

Consular Section: <http://www.consulfrance-washington.org> – E-mail: info@consulfrance-washington.org

District of Columbia, Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia & West Virginia

ATLANTA French Consulate General

Prominence in Buckhead - Suite 1840 - 3475 Piedmont Road, NE – Atlanta, GA 30305

Tel: (404) 495 1660

Fax: (404) 495 1661

Website: <http://www.consulfrance-atlanta.org>

E-mail: info@consulfrance-atlanta.org (see website for visa contact information)

Alabama, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia & Tennessee

BOSTON French Consulate General

Park Square Building, Suite 750, 31 Saint James Avenue, Boston, MA 02116

Tel: (617) 832 4400

Fax: (617) 542 8054

Website: <http://www.consulfrance-boston.org>

E-mail: consulat@consulfrance-boston.org (see website for visa contact information)

Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island & Vermont

CHICAGO French Consulate General

205 North Michigan Avenue - Suite 3700 – Chicago, IL 60601

Tel: (312) 327 5200

Fax: (312) 327 5201

Website: <http://www.consulfrance-chicago.org>

E-mail: contact@consulfrance-chicago.org (see website for visa contact information)

Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, Nebraska & Wisconsin

HOUSTON French Consulate General

777 Post Oak Boulevard - Suite 600 – Houston, TX 77056

Tel: (713) 572 2799

Fax: (713) 572 2911

Website: <http://www.consulfrance-houston.org> – E-mail: info@consulfrance-houston.org

Arkansas, Oklahoma & Texas

LOS ANGELES French Consulate General

10390 Santa Monica Blvd, Suite 410, Los Angeles, CA 90025

Tel: (310) 235 3200

Fax: (310) 479 4813

Website: <http://www.consulfrance-losangeles.org>

Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico. California counties of Imperial/Inyo/Kern/Kings/Los Angeles/Mono/Orange/Riverside/San Bernardino/San Diego/San Luis Obispo/Santa Barbara & Ventura. Nevada counties of Clark/Esmeralda/Lincoln/Mineral/ Nye

MIAMI French Consulate General

Espirito Santo Plaza, 1395 Brickell Avenue, Suite 1050, Miami FL 33131

Tel: (305) 403 4150

Fax: (305) 403 4151

Website: <http://www.consulfrance-miami.org>

E-mail: consulat@consulfrance-miami.org

Florida, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands

NEW ORLEANS French Consulate General

1340 Poydras Street - Suite 1710 - New Orleans, LA 70112

Tel: (504) 569 2870

Fax: (504) 569 2871

Website: <http://www.consulfrance-nouvelleorleans.org>

E-mail: info@consulfrance-nouvelleorleans.org

Louisiana

NEW-YORK French Consulate General

934 Fifth Avenue – New York, NY 10021

Tel: (212) 606 3600

Fax: (212) 606 3620/ 3614

Website: <http://www.consulfrance-newyork.org>

Consular Section E-mail: chancellerie@consulfrance-newyork.org;

Visa Section E-mail: visa@consulfrance-newyork.org

Connecticut, New Jersey & New York

SAN FRANCISCO French Consulate General

540 Bush Street - San Francisco CA 94108

Tel: (415) 397 4330

Fax: (415) 433 8357

Fax Visa Section (415) 591 4810

Website: <http://www.consulfrance-sanfrancisco.org>

Alaska, California & Nevada (except LA consular district), Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Utah, Washington & Wyoming, Hawaii & the Pacific Islands under the jurisdiction of the United States

OTHER FRENCH CONSULAR OFFICES IN THE UNITED STATES:

France also maintains a consular agent or an honorary consul in many cities in the United States. Their addresses can be obtained from the appropriate French Consulate. They can perform some consular services but do not issue visas. Complete information on the French Consulates in the U.S. may be found on the following website page: <http://ambafrance-us.org>

French Residence Permits (*Cartes de séjour*)

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Please refer to the following information for long stay visa reform for students, workers, visitors, spouses of EU nationals:

Since June 1, 2009 a new regulation modified the rules for residence permits for certain categories of long stay visa holders in France:

This regulation applies to **all long stay visas holders for** students, workers, spouses of French and EU nationals, and joining families that intend to live in France more than 3 months (90 days).

1. All persons intending to live, work or travel in France for more than 90 days must have an appropriate long stay visa issued by the French Embassy or Consulate in the United States prior to departure for France.
2. The appropriate long stay French visa will serve as a valid resident permit (*carte de séjour*) for the above-mentioned categories, but only **up to a person's first year of stay in France.**
3. French long stay visa holders will have to apply for a resident permit (*carte de séjour*) at the local French government office (*préfecture*) **only** if they intend to stay in France for more than one year. (In this case, the applicant must check his/her status with the *préfecture* during the last 3 months of validity of the long stay visa.) For full details you may refer to: <http://www.consulfrance-washington.org/spip.php?article536>.
4. Visa holders will have to register at the local branch of the *Office Français de l'Immigration et de l'Intégration* (OFII: <http://www.ofii.fr/>) and submit a form which will be provided with the visa application and that will be stamped by the consulate if your visa has been granted.

For information relating to French residence permits, please consult the *préfecture de police* website in Paris:

http://www.prefecture-police-paris.interieur.gouv.fr/demarches/etrangers/paris/sejour/autre_categorie/autre_categorie.htm.

If you live outside of Paris, you may refer to the préfecture or sous-préfecture in your area.

For information and authorization to work in France please see:

<http://www.ambafrance-us.org/spip.php?article360> and
http://www.consulfrance-washington.org/spip.php?article500&var_recherche=etudier%20en%20france

Students:

American citizens intending to study in France have to apply for a visa before leaving the United States, if they wish to stay more than 90 days. The visa cannot be issued once the applicant is in France. Please refer to the website of the French Embassy and the prefecture de police:

<http://www.consulfrance-washington.org/spip.php?article385> and <http://www.prefecture-police-paris.interieur.gouv.fr/>

Tourists:

U.S. citizens planning to enter and visit France as tourists are not required to have a visa, or a *carte de séjour*, and are permitted to remain in the country a maximum of 3 months (90 days.)

For the different types of “*Cartes de Séjour*” (residence permits) please refer to:

http://www.prefecture-police-paris.interieur.gouv.fr/demarches/etrangers/paris/sejour/autre_categorie/pieces.htm

Retiring in France:

In order to stay in France after you retire, you must prove three things:

- 1) You must prove that you have the financial means to live in France without working; i.e., your pension must be sufficient;
- 2) You must demonstrate that you have comprehensive health insurance coverage that is valid in France. (You may be able to continue your current health insurance or you may need to buy a new health insurance policy either in France or from the U.S.);
- 3) You must demonstrate that you have a place to live in France.

When you make your application at the French consulate in the U.S. to reside in France, you should explain your reasons for wanting to stay in France. If your application is approved, you will be granted a *carte de séjour* mention *visiteur*, which allows you to remain in France but not to work.

The *carte de séjour* can be renewed indefinitely, on an annual basis, as long as you present proof that you have adhered to the requirements.

Getting permission to work is more difficult. It depends on the type of work you want to do. The Government of France may not approve any request for a job paying less than 3,700 euro a month (gross) unless your specialty is in great demand in France. If your request is granted, you should get a *carte de séjour mention salarié*.

More information may be found on the long stay visa application process on <http://www.consulfrance-washington.org/spip.php?article401>

For further information please see refer to the following website page:

<http://www.prefecture-police-paris.interieur.gouv.fr/demarches/etrangers/paris/sejour/retraite.htm>

How to Apply for a *Carte de Séjour* in Paris

Americans arriving in France with the appropriate long stay visa with the mention “*Carte de séjour à solliciter dès l’arrivée,*” and planning to live in Paris, must go to the appropriate Centre de Réception des Etrangers (see page 18) with their passport and visa to apply for a *carte de séjour* within **two months of their arrival** in France.

Exception: as of June 1, 2009, most American students workers, spouses of French and EU nationals, and joining families do not need to obtain residence permits during their first year of stay in France, but must file for a visa prior to traveling to France.

Each applicant will proceed to the *Centre des Etrangers* that corresponds to his/her local address of residence. The applicant will be asked to fill out a questionnaire and provide a local address. The applicant will immediately be given an appointment notice (*convocation*) with the Préfecture de Police, stating the date, time and location of the office at which the applicant should appear. This date is usually fixed 2 to 12 weeks later, depending on the number of pending applications. Do not forget to bring the appointment notice to this meeting.

Documents required by the Prefecture for the first *carte de séjour*:

To apply for your first *carte de séjour*, the following basic documents must be submitted (**others may be required in individual cases**).

Please see the following website for more information:

(http://www.prefecture-police-paris.interieur.gouv.fr/demarches/etrangers/paris/sejour/autre_categorie/pieces.htm)

- Valid passport including long stay visa (with a photocopy of the title page-photo, name, date and place of birth, validity and French visa page);
- Birth certificate;
- Three (3) identity photographs (3.5 cm x 4.5 cm);
- Proof of financial resources (applicable in all cases);
- A medical certificate issued by the O.M.I. (*Office des Migrations Internationales*);
- Proof of residence in Paris.
- Proof of family relationship and/or professional status

Note: For first time applicants for residence permits for Americans, employed in France, and their spouse, whose original files were provided by the O.M.I. (*Office des Migrations Internationales*)

these applications may also be filed by mail. Please see page 19 for information on renewing residence permits.

For holders of a work permit and work visa the applicant must submit: the employment contract **approved by the Services de la main d'Oeuvre Etrangère, 127 boulevard de la Villette, Paris 75010 – Tel: 01 44 84 42 86 – Métro: Jaurès or Stalingrad open 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.**

If it is not possible to issue the *carte de séjour* immediately, the applicant will be given a temporary authorization *récipissé de demande de carte de séjour* which is valid for up to 3 months, and may be used as evidence that an application has been made for a residence permit. The applicant should carry it until he/she received his/her permanent *carte de séjour*.

Reception Centers for Foreigners – First Applications for Residence Cards in Paris (*Centres de Réception des Etrangers*)

These reception centers located at the **Hôtel de Police** at each location below are part of the Préfecture de Police of Paris and are open from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Thursday, and 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Friday; they are not open on French holidays.

- 1) If you live in the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 15th, 16th, 17th and 18th *arrondissements*:

Centre de Réception des Etrangers

Hôtel de Police

19/21, rue Truffaut

75017 Paris

Métro: Place Clichy or La Fourche

Tel: 0891 012 222

- 2) If you live in the 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 19th and 20th *arrondissements*:

Centre de Réception des Etrangers du 14e

Hôtel de Police

114/116 avenue du Maine

75014 Paris

Métro: Gaité or Montparnasse or buses 28, 58 or 91

Tel: 0891 012 222

How to apply for a Carte de Séjour outside of Paris:

Americans who live outside of Paris should inquire at their local *préfecture* or *sous-préfecture* or at the *mairie* (town hall) about procedures for obtaining a *carte de séjour*. In some departments, the *préfectures* have delegated the authority to process such applications to local officials. In others, the American may have to apply at the Direction de la Réglementation of the Préfecture or the nearest Sous-Préfecture.

Change of address:

If the holder of a residence permit moves within Paris, he/she must inform the police at the “*commissariat de quartier*” having jurisdiction over his/her new place of residence.

He/she must present: a photocopy of the passport; a copy of current residence card; three recent photos; an electricity bill or *quittance de loyer* (rental receipt). This is especially important if the resident is in the process of renewing his/her *carte de séjour* as the Préfecture de Police will not approve the application unless the change of address has been recorded by the local police in the appropriate space on the card. If one is moving from another area of France to Paris please call 01 53 21 25 50 to make an appointment to register a change of address.

Renewal, modifications or change of address of residence permits and obtaining copies:

To renew a *carte de séjour* or obtain a copy of a current card, the holder should call 01 53 21 25 50 to schedule an appointment or refer to the following website page: (http://www.prefecture-police-paris.interieur.gouv.fr/demarches/etrangers/paris/sejour/autre_categorie/guichet.htm)

No applications will be processed without an appointment.

Renewal of certain categories of Residence Permits for residents of Paris only, may now also be done by mail and e-mail:

- one-year residence permits for those who are visiting or working in France (*cartes de séjour temporaire* or *cartes de séjour temporaire salarié*);
- for renewal of a 10 year residence permit (*cartes de resident*);
- for renewal of first *carte de séjour* if one is employed in France and introduced by the Office des Migrations Internationales;

In order to obtain your renewal application request by E-mail, write to:

prefpol.dpg-7eb-cellule-postale@interieur.gouv.fr

or send a letter to:

Le Préfecture de Police - Police Générale

Sous-Direction de l'Administration des Etrangers
7ème bureau - Cellule postale
9, Boulevard du Palais
75195 Paris Cedex 04

Please indicate your name, your address, date of birth and your current residence permit number (you may also provide a photocopy of your permit.)

Upon receipt of your request, the Préfecture will send you the following:

1. an application form with a list of documents that you will need to provide;
2. an appointment slip needed to pick up your resident permit once it is ready;
3. before sending in your application form, please verify that it is signed and that you have included all the photocopies of the required documents;
4. **you will have to provide the original documents when you pick up your new residence permit.**

For further information on the renewal by mail process you may call tel. 0891 012 222 or 01 58 80 80 58 (Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.)

Some information about required documents:

The most acceptable proof of financial resources is a statement from the applicant's French bank showing account number and amount or a letter from the French bank certifying that the applicant's account is regularly credited with a specified amount from a U.S. or other external source.

For more information on residence permits (in French) contact:

The Central Office of the Préfecture de Police in Paris:

**Préfecture de Police,
Service des Etrangers,
1 rue de Lutèce
(Place Louis Lépine),
75195 Paris RP (4ème)
Métro: Cité**

Tel: 0891 012 222 or 01 58 80 80 58

Information line: 01 53 71 51 68 (Monday to Friday from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm)

Website: <http://www.prefecture-police-Paris.interieur.gouv.fr>

If you live just outside of Paris please see following addresses, phone numbers and websites where you may obtain information for resident permits.

Préfecture de la Seine et Marne (Melun 77)	01.64.71.77.77.	
Préfecture des Yvelines (Versailles 78)	01.39.49.78.00.	http://www.yvelines.pref.gouv.fr
Préfecture de l'Essonne (Evry 91)	01.69.91.91.91.	http://www.essonne.pref.gouv.fr
Préfecture des Hauts-de-Seine (Nanterre 92)	01.40.97.20.00.	http://www.hauts-de-seine.pref.gouv.fr
Préfecture de la Seine-Saint-Denis (Bobigny 93)	01.41.60.60.60.	http://www.seine-saint-denis.pref.gouv.fr/
Préfecture du Val de Marne (Créteil 94)	01.49.56.60.00.	http://www.val-de-marne.pref.gouv.fr
Préfecture du Val-d'Oise (Cergy-Pontoise 95)	01.34.25.25.25.	http://www.val-doise.pref.gouv.fr

Student Part-Time Employment

DISCLAIMER: The information below relating to French legal requirements is provided for general information only and may not be totally accurate in a particular case. Questions involving interpretations of specific provisions or application to a specific case should be addressed to French government officials. The Embassy is not in a position to intercede with French authorities on behalf of Americans seeking visas, visa exemptions and work permits.

Students who have completed one academic year in France, may work in France, but French law regulates work by international students of all nationalities in France. During the academic year, students may not work more than 17.5 hours per week. During vacations, students may work full time (35 hours per week). International students wishing to work in France must obtain prior authorization from the **French Ministry of Labor** (<http://www.travail-solidarite.gouv.fr/espaces/travail/>).

Students, over the age of 18, who are enrolled in courses at the University level in France, may work a **total of 964** hours during a one-year period on the basis of a 35 hour work week. .

Temporary work permits are usually given to students who do not have sufficient private resources to pursue their studies. Thus, recipients of student grants or scholarships and those who have sufficient financial means are not authorized to have temporary work permits.

Where to apply for a temporary work permit:

In Paris, students must make an application in order to work on a part-time basis at the: **Service de la Main d'Oeuvre Etrangère**, 127 Boulevard de la Villette, 75010 Paris - Métro: Jaurès or Stalingrad /
Tel: 01 44 84 42 86 / 16

Hours: 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

American students attending French universities outside of Paris should apply for their *autorisation provisoire de travail* at the Direction Départementale du Travail, Service de la Main d'Oeuvre Etrangère, of the area (*département*) in which they are a student.

Note: Certain types of students must follow rules of normal employment authorization procedures. Please consult the office of the Ministry of Labor, Service de la Main d'Oeuvre Etrangère if you are:

- are working on a Ph.d;
- carrying out research;
- a teaching or research assistant;
- are an doing an internship

Employers may send an E-mail to the following E-mail address for complete details.

PREFPOL.DPG-SDAE-6B-DECLAR-PREALABLE-ETUDIANT@interieur.gouv.fr

How to find part-time employment:

For those students who receive authorization to work part-time, it is up to the student to find his/her employment. Those attending a French university can consult the Centre Régional des Oeuvres Universitaires et Scolaires (CROUS) which will have job opportunities on file. Students can also consult the classified sections of local newspapers.

A good source of information about temporary employment in France is the **Centre d'Information et de Documentation Jeunesse** 101 Quai Branly, 75740 Paris Cédex 15, Tel: 0825 090 630. The CIDJ offers a useful information sheet: *Reglementation et Recherche d'Emploi pour les Edudiants Etrangers pendant les Vacances Universitaires* (No. 5.543.) There are several CIDJ in France.

The annual grape and other agricultural harvests in France offer opportunities for students for temporary jobs. Also, some summer camps (*colonies de vacances*) need foreign students because of their language qualifications. Such employment would not come under the 35 hours per week limitation; ask the CIDJ for their information sheet on *Travaux Saisonniers Agricoles*.

The **Council on International Educational Exchange** provides assistance for students seeking employment in accordance with the French Ministry of Labor's requirements. This program allows international higher education students to obtain the necessary documents to work legally in France. Students on the Work in France program need to have an intermediate, or advanced level of French. Students will be asked to find employment and are free to choose almost any position offered. Program participants typically work as waiters/Bartenders, salespersons, teachers, amusement park and hotel staff.

If you would like to know more about this C.I.E.E. program, or find out how to apply, contact:

Parenthèse

(official partner of the CIEE
(Council on International Educational Exchange) in France
39, rue de l'Arbalète
75005 Paris

Tel: 01 43 36 37 07

Fax: 01 43 36 54 48

Work Abroad

Council on International Exchange
<http://www.ciee.org/>

OTHER INFORMATION SOURCES:**Association Inter-Etudiants en Sciences
Economiques et Commerciales (AIESEC)**

14 rue Rouen
75019 Paris

Tel: 01 40 36 22 33

Fax: 01 42 05 94 77

**Services des Echanges et des Stages Agricoles dans le Monde
(SESAME)**

9 square Fabriel Fauré
75015 Paris

Tel: 01 40 54 07 08

Fax: 01 40 54 06 39

Centre d'Information et de Documentation Jeunesse (CIDJ)

101 Quai Branly
75740 Paris Cédex 15

Tel: 0825 090 630

Fax: 01 40 65 02 61

Club des Quatre Vents

1 rue Gozlin
75006 Paris

Tel: 01 43 29 60 20

Fax: 01 43 29 06 21

Inter Echanges

2 avenue Général Leclerc
75014 Paris

Tel: 01 40 47 54 54

Fax: 01 40 47 54 55

Maison Internationale de la Jeunesse et des Etudiants

11 rue Fauconnier
75004 Paris

Tel: 01 42 74 23 45

Au-Pair Employment

Au-pairs:

The *au-pair* applicant must apply for the visa and obtain it in his/her country of residence before arriving in France. You can only apply for this type of visa if you are between 17 and 30 years old. A long stay (D) visa is required for any stay in France that exceeds 90 days. Since June 1, 2009, the visa issued for an "au pair" stay is also valid as a resident if you stay in France from 3 to 12 months. You don't need to apply for a resident card with this visa and will only need to apply for a resident card if you stay more than a year in France. You will be required to register at the local branch of the *Office Français de l'Immigration et de l'Intégration* (OFII: <http://www.ofii.fr/>) within the first 3 months of your stay in France.

For complete information on working as an *au pair* please refer the website of the French Embassy in the United States: <http://www.consulfrance-washington.org/spip.php?article405>

Au-Pair organizations:

The organizations listed below assist students in finding *au-pair* employment. While the Embassy cannot assume any responsibility for the competence and integrity of these organizations, it has verified that all of those on this list are prepared to assist Americans. They usually charge a registration fee for their services.

- Accueil Familial des Jeunes, 23 rue du Cherche-Midi, 75006 Paris; Tel: 01 42 22 50 34
- L'Alliance Française, 101 Boulevard Raspail, 75006 Paris; Tel: 01 42 84 90 00
- Institut Catholique, 21 rue d'Assas, 75006 Paris; Tel: 01 45 48 31 70

Non Remunerated Employment

Semi-skilled or unskilled work on collective work projects:

Young men and women, including Americans and other foreigners, have the opportunity in France during the summer vacation months to obtain room and board in exchange for unskilled and semi-skilled labor on collective work projects. These projects include agriculture, environment, handicrafts, social welfare, restoration of buildings and monuments, archeology and others -- all in an international educational and cultural context **aimed** at the development of youth. Project sites are located in various regions of France.

Conditions of programs:

Participants do not have to be students, but most programs have a minimum age requirement (see list below.) Some require the participant to be less than 30 years old; others have no age limit. Most expect the participant to work from five to eight hours daily, five days a week. The programs vary in length from a few weeks to several months; some are available the year around. The foreign participant must pay his own transportation costs to and from France, as well as the costs of travel to and from the program site in France. The sponsoring organization usually charges registration and participation fees, including liability and health insurance.

Program Organizations:

At present there are ten associations in France sponsoring voluntary work programs (*chantiers de jeunes volontaires bénévoles*) under the overall administration of **Cotravaux** 11 rue de Clichy – 75009 Paris, Tel: 01 48 74 79 20. The ten associations are listed below. Interested persons should write directly to a specific association for detailed information about its program.

Sponsoring Associations for Non-Remunerated Employment:

Compagnons Batisseurs

Tel: 01 43 73 70 63

5 rue des Immeubles Industriels

75011 Paris

Minimum age: 16

Concordia U.N.A.R.E.C

Tel: 01 45 23 00 23

1 rue de Metz

75010 Paris

Minimum age: 15

Etudes et Chantiers

33 rue Campagne-Première
75014 Paris

Minimum age: 13

Tel: 01 45 38 96 26

Jeunesse & Reconstruction

10 rue de Trévisé
75009 Paris

Minimum age: 15

Tel: 01 47 70 15 88

Neige & Merveilles

La Minière de Vallauria
06430 Saint-Dalmas de Tende

Minimum age: 18

Tel: 04 93 04 62 40

Solidarites Jeunesses

38 rue du Faubourg Saint-Denis
75010 Paris

Minimum age: 15

Tel: 01 48 00 09 05

Union R.E.M.P.A.R.T.

1 rue des Guillemites
75004 Paris

Minimum age: 14

Tel: 01 42 71 96 55

Solidarites Jeunesses

38 rue du Faubourg Saint-Denis
75010 Paris

Minimum age: 17

Tel: 01 48 00 09 05

Service Civil International

8 rue Camille
75018 Paris

Tel: 01 42 54 62 43

Federation Auberges de Jeunesse

27 rue Pajol
75018 Paris

Tel: 01 44 89 87 27

United States Embassy
American Citizen Services
4, avenue Gabriel
75382 Paris Cedex 08
France
Telephone: 01 43 12 22 22
Website: <http://france.usembassy.gov>
E-mail: citizeninfo@state.gov

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