



## French Visas and Residence Cards

### Making Your Stay Official in France

**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 ([French consulate](#) nearest your residence in the U.S., or the nearest préfecture if you are currently in France). 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. French visa inquiries will not be answered by the U.S. Mission by email or phone. Please read information on the [Schengen Agreement](#) prior to planning your trip to France.

#### **Travel to France**

**Very Important:** Since it is not mandatory for Schengen border control officials to stamp incoming passports, upon your arrival in France you must make sure that the immigration officer at the port of arrival stamps your passport with the date of entry.

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.

#### **Tourism: Shorts stay (less than 90 days)**

A [valid passport](#) is required for all U.S. citizens and foreign national entering France. (Your U.S. passport must be valid for **at least three months beyond the applicant's last day of stay** in the Schengen states.) Visitors must have ready for presentation at the border documentary evidence of the purpose of the visit, means of support for the duration of the stay and accommodation arrangements.

**Note:** American passport holders are not required to obtain a visa prior to visiting France for up to 90 days in any 180-day period.

As of October 18th, 2013, the rules for calculating short stays within the Schengen area have changed.

More details and a calculator online on the [European Commission's website page](#).

General Information on visas for France is available on the [French Embassy's website page](#) and on <http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/coming-to-france/getting-a-visa/article/general-information-for-foreign>

## **Long stay (over 90 days) and Residing in France:**

Americans planning to stay in France for more than 3 months, or for purposes other than tourism, must obtain a **long stay visa prior to departure from the United States**. U.S. citizens **must** apply at the **French Consulate** having jurisdiction where they reside in the United States. Where a long-stay visa is issued, you must, on arriving in France, register with the French Immigration and Integration Office (OFII) or, in some cases, apply to the relevant préfecture for a residence permit.

Once the visa holder has entered the French territory, no visa modification or change of status may be obtained. In addition, exercising a salaried occupation is subject to specific procedures that require getting a work permit prior to applying for a visa.

General Information on visas for France is available on the [French Embassy's website page](#) and on <http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/coming-to-france/getting-a-visa/article/general-information-for-foreign>

## **Visas in order to marry in France with a French citizen**

The specific visa in order to marry in France with a French citizen no longer exists. If you plan to marry in France with a French citizen but do not intend to settle in France after the marriage, you should apply for a short stay visa for private visit in France (marriage). This visa, if granted, will not allow you to settle in France nor will be transformed there.

[Please check the "Short stay visa section" for further information.](#)

If you plan to marry in France with a French citizen and plan to settle there as well, you should apply for a "Long stay visitor" visa. When the marriage has been celebrated, your visa will be transformed afterwards into "a Spouse of French citizen" resident card at the French local government (prefecture).

[Please check the "Long stay visa section" for more information.](#)

General Information on visas for France is available on the [French Embassy's website page](#).

## **French Administrative Forms and Schengen Area Information**

More information for many of the documents that you may need to request from the French administration may be available online at:

- <http://www.service-public.fr/> (Service-Public.fr)
- <http://vosdroits.service-public.fr/particuliers/N20306.xhtml>).

Details on Schengen Visas may be found at ([http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-we-do/policies/borders-and-visas/border-crossing/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-we-do/policies/borders-and-visas/border-crossing/index_en.htm)).

### **Working in France:**

**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.

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

### **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, must have obtained a [work visa](#) before entering France, and must have [arranged employment approved in advance by the French Ministry of Labor](#). Note: the U.S. Embassy cannot 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:**

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 third quarter of 2013 reached about 10.9% (<http://www.insee.fr/fr/themes/info-rapide.asp?id=14>). 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 offers 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.

### **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](mailto: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>

**Exchange programs:** (*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?article400>

**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/en/>

Contact: <http://www.amchamfrance.org/en/contact>

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 visit our website page <http://export.gov/france/> or 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 visit our website pages under [Employment Opportunities](#).

**Employment as a Foreign Service Officer:**

The Foreign Service examination brochures and application forms are available online at: <http://careers.state.gov/officer/employment.html>. Those interested in becoming Foreign Service Officers may consult the following website: (<http://www.careers.state.gov> and <http://careers.state.gov/officer/index.html>) or should write to the:

**U.S. Department of State**

(Foreign Service positions)

PO Box 9317

Rosslyn Station, Arlington VA 22219

USA

## **French Embassy in The United States**

<http://ambafrance-us.org>

### **Consulates General of France in the United States**

[Atlanta](#) | [Boston](#) | [Chicago](#) | [Houston](#) | [Los Angeles](#) | [Miami](#) | [New Orleans](#)  
[New York](#) | [San Francisco](#) | [Washington](#)

#### **WASHINGTON, D.C.**

##### **French Embassy, Consular Services**

4101 Reservoir Road NW - Washington DC 20007

Tel: (202) 944 61 95 – Consular Section: (202) 944 62 00

Fax: (202) 944 62 12 – Consular Section: (202) 944 6212

Embassy website: <http://www.ambafrance-us.org> – E-mail: [info@ambafrance-us.org](mailto:info@ambafrance-us.org)

Consular Section: <http://www.consulfrance-washington.org>

E-mail: [info.washington-fslt@diplomatie.gouv.fr](mailto:info.washington-fslt@diplomatie.gouv.fr)

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

#### **ATLANTA French Consulate General**

Buckhead Tower at Lenox Square, 3399 Peachtree Rd NE, Ste 500, Atlanta, GA 30326

Tel: (404) 495 1660

Fax: (404) 495 1661

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

E-mail: [nfo.atlanta-fslt@diplomatie.gouv.fr](mailto:nfo.atlanta-fslt@diplomatie.gouv.fr) (see website for visa contact information)

***Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina & 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](mailto:consulat@consulfrance-boston.org)

Visas: [visas.boston-fslt@diplomatie.gouv.fr](mailto:visas.boston-fslt@diplomatie.gouv.fr)

***Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island & Vermont***

#### **CHICAGO French Consulate General**

205 North Michigan Avenue - Suite 3700 – Chicago, IL 60601-5970

Tel: (312) 327 5200

Fax: (312) 327 5201

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

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

***Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota & 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: [infos.houston-fslt@diplomatie.gouv.fr](mailto:infos.houston-fslt@diplomatie.gouv.fr)

**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>

Email visas: [visa-info@consulfrance-losangeles.org](mailto:visa-info@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>

Email Visas: [visas.miami-fslt@diplomatie.gouv.fr](mailto:visas.miami-fslt@diplomatie.gouv.fr)

**Florida, Puerto Rico & the 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](mailto: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](mailto:chancellerie@consulfrance-newyork.org);

Visa Section E-mail: [visa@consulfrance-newyork.org](mailto:visa@consulfrance-newyork.org)

**Connecticut, New Jersey & New York**

**SAN FRANCISCO (French Consulate General)**

88 Kearny Street, San Francisco, CA 94108, USA

Tel: 415-397-4330

Fax: 415-397-0826

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

Email Visas: [admin-etrangers.san-francisco-fslt@diplomatie.gouv.fr](mailto:admin-etrangers.san-francisco-fslt@diplomatie.gouv.fr)

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

## French Residence Permits (*Cartes de séjour*)

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 Embassy and/or French Consulates in the United States or the government officials at the French prefecture nearest your residence in France. The Embassy is not in a position to intercede with French authorities on behalf of Americans seeking visas, visa exemptions and work permits.

**For forms and procedures, please visit the [website of the Office Français de l'Immigration et de l'Intégration OFII](#).**

- 1. Holders of French long-stay visas do not need to procure a French residence card during their first year of stay if this obligation is waived on the visa.** However, within three months after arriving in France they must contact the Office Français de l'Immigration et de l'Intégration (OFII) in order to obtain clearance of status in order to remain in France.

### **Office Français de l'Immigration et de l'Intégration (OFII)**

48 rue de la Roquette  
75011 Paris  
Métro : Bastille

### **Students :**

In the fall, newly arrived students may go from 15 September to 21 November 2014 to the OFII offices located at:

#### **Cité internationale universitaire de Paris**

Maison internationale  
17, boulevard Jourdan  
75014 Paris  
RER B / T3 : Cité Universitaire

- 2. Holders of French long-stay visas need to procure a French residence card during their first year of stay if this is mentioned on the visa (*carte de séjour à solliciter dans les deux mois suivant l'arrivée*).** You must apply for this residence card within two months after entering France.

Please go directly to the center corresponding to the Paris districts in [this file](#). Appointments are not necessary for first time applicants.

See [student locations](#)

Information is available at your local *préfecture*. In Paris the address is:

## **Préfecture de police**

Direction de la police générale  
Sous direction de l'administration des étrangers  
7e bureau  
9, boulevard du Palais  
75195 Paris cedex 04

### **Website information:**

<http://www.prefecturedepolice.interieur.gouv.fr/Demarches/Particulier/Ressortissants-etrangers/Titre-de-sejour>.

### **Phone information:**

Telephone : 01 58 80 80 58  
Monday through Friday from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.

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. <a href="http://www.yvelines.pref.gouv.fr">http://www.yvelines.pref.gouv.fr</a>
Préfecture de l'Essonne (Evry 91)	01.69.91.91.91. <a href="http://www.essonne.pref.gouv.fr">http://www.essonne.pref.gouv.fr</a>
Préfecture des Hauts-de-Seine (Nanterre 92)	01.40.97.20.00. <a href="http://www.hauts-de-seine.pref.gouv.fr">http://www.hauts-de-seine.pref.gouv.fr</a>
Préfecture de la Seine-Saint-Denis (Bobigny 93)	01.41.60.60.60. <a href="http://www.seine-saint-denis.pref.gouv.fr/">http://www.seine-saint-denis.pref.gouv.fr/</a>
Préfecture du Val de Marne (Créteil 94)	01.49.56.60.00. <a href="http://www.val-de-marne.pref.gouv.fr">http://www.val-de-marne.pref.gouv.fr</a>
Préfecture du Val-d'Oise (Cergy-Pontoise 95)	01.34.25.25.25. <a href="http://www.val-doise.pref.gouv.fr">http://www.val-doise.pref.gouv.fr</a>

## **American Students**

**Very Important: Since it is not mandatory for Schengen border control officials to stamp incoming passports, upon your arrival in France you must make sure that the immigration officer at the port of arrival stamps your passport with the date of entry.**

**If you intend to study in France for less than 90 days, no visa requested for American citizens.**

**American citizens intending to study in France for a period longer than 90 days must apply for a visa prior to leaving the United States. The visa cannot be issued once the applicant is in France. French visas are NOT issued in France.**

Please refer to the website of the French Embassy and the prefecture de police in Paris for more information:

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

<http://www.prefecturedepolice.interieur.gouv.fr/Demarches/Particulier/Ressortissants-etrangers/Titre-de-sejour/Etudiant>

**Students studying for 12 months or less in France:**

The student long stay visa, if granted, is a multiple entries visa and is valid from 4 to 12 months, depending on the length of your studies. With such a visa, you will not have to apply for a resident card (« carte de séjour »), as your visa will be valid as resident card during your whole stay.

**Before going to France**, you must obtain all visa information directly from the French Consulate nearest your residence since each case is specific and relates to French law. If your visa is approved, you will obtain an OFII registration form (OFII or *l'Office Français de l'Immigration et de l'Intégration*). You will complete the top section and the consulate will stamp it and return it to you, if your visa is granted. **Bring this stamped and partially completed form with you to France.** You will then fill in the last portion upon your arrival in France and send it to the closest local branch of the OFII. **You must send in your form within three months of your arrival date in France, and you will be contacted for an appointment. After three months, if you have not obtained the OFII authorization, you are no longer legally in status in France.**

Details on the procedure for completing this document and process to follow prior to your departure to France, as well as steps to take once you have arrived in France are on this document OFII registration form. Please visit the [website of the OFII](#) for forms and procedures.

A fee of 58 euros is required for your registration.

Upon reception of your file, the OFII will send you a receipt and will provide you with an appointment for **a medical examination. This is mandatory.**

**Paris address:**

Office Français de l'Immigration et de l'Intégration (OFII)  
48 rue de la Roquette  
75011 Paris  
Métro: Bastille

If you do not live in Paris you must follow the procedure indicated by the French consulate that issued your visa and send your complete file to the OFII nearest your residence in France. Your long-stay visa is valid for time period mentioned on the visa.

**New Students beginning term in September:**

Your file must be transmitted to the OFII (*l'Office Français de l'Immigration et de l'Intégration*) by either:

- **Going to the following center from September 15 to November 21, 2014, and giving the document to the office of the OFII at this address :**

Cité internationale universitaire de Paris  
Maison internationale  
17, boulevard Jourdan  
75014 Paris

Monday to Thursday from 9:00 am to 4:30 pm and Friday from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.  
Transportation: RER B / T3: Cité Universitaire

**OR**

- If your school has established an arrangement with the préfecture de police, [click here](#) your school in France will take care of the necessary formalities for your residence card.
- If your request does not correspond to items one or two above, you must send your file to the OFII by registered mail.

**You will need the following documents to obtain your OFII validation at the time of your introductory meeting or *visite d'accueil*.**

**Students studying in France for longer than 12 months:**

Students who intend to study in France for more than one year and have the appropriate long-stay visa must obtain a first residence card (*titre de séjour*). You must contact the préfecture in your area for instructions. The prefecture de police in Paris may instruct you to go to the student reception center below:

**Student Reception Center: you may go to this center without an appointment only if you are obtaining a first residence card and submit your passport with the OFII sticker. (See procedure above.)**

**Centre de Réception des Etudiants Etrangers**

92, bd Ney  
75018 Paris  
Métro: Porte de Clignancourt - Ligne 4

Telephone: 01 58 80 80 58. Please [visit this website page for office hours](#).

## **Change of Student Status**

For a change of student status in Paris: renewal of a student resident card, copy of a student resident card, change of address, or civil status, etc., you must make an appointment by referring to the [website of the préfecture de police](#) in Paris.

If you would like to extend your stay after the validity of your one-year visa, you must contact the préfecture de police in Paris, or the local préfecture in other areas of France two months before the last day of validity of your visa

If you live in the vicinity 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. <a href="http://www.yvelines.pref.gouv.fr">http://www.yvelines.pref.gouv.fr</a>
Préfecture de l'Essonne (Evry 91)	01.69.91.91.91. <a href="http://www.essonne.pref.gouv.fr">http://www.essonne.pref.gouv.fr</a>
Préfecture des Hauts-de-Seine (Nanterre 92)	01.40.97.20.00. <a href="http://www.hauts-de-seine.pref.gouv.fr">http://www.hauts-de-seine.pref.gouv.fr</a>
Préfecture de la Seine-Saint-Denis (Bobigny 93)	01.41.60.60.60. <a href="http://www.seine-saint-denis.pref.gouv.fr/">http://www.seine-saint-denis.pref.gouv.fr/</a>
Préfecture du Val de Marne (Créteil 94)	01.49.56.60.00. <a href="http://www.val-de-marne.pref.gouv.fr">http://www.val-de-marne.pref.gouv.fr</a>
Préfecture du Val-d'Oise (Cergy-Pontoise 95)	01.34.25.25.25. <a href="http://www.val-doise.pref.gouv.fr">http://www.val-doise.pref.gouv.fr</a>

If you live outside of Paris and vicinity, please contact your local prefecture.

## **Student Part-Time Employment**

**For information on working in France during your studies** please visit the French Embassy website page: <http://www.ambafrance-us.org/spip.php?article362>

## **Au-Pair Employment**

**For information on working as an au-pair in France** please visit the French Embassy website page: <http://www.consulfrance-washington.org/spip.php?article405#tdm>

### **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>*

*March 2014*