International students
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

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FAQ – New international students

COVID 19 / ARRIVAL DATE AT TELECOM PARIS
When should I arrive in France, at the latest?

Telecom Paris will provide you with remote access for online courses should you be unable to arrive in France due to travel restrictions. However, offering classroom courses remains our priority. We therefore expect you to be on the Telecom Paris campus within a month of the reopening date of external borders.

If you do not need a visa (if you are a European Union citizen) or if you are from a country where visa applications have been processed, you are expected to be on campus by September 1st, 2020. Should there be any proven restriction to visit France from your country, we expect you to be on campus within a month (30 days) of the borders’ reopening date.

Should you need a visa, we encourage you to apply as soon as possible on the platform Etudes en France or directly through your local French Consulate or Embassy. https://france-visas.gouv.fr/web/france-visas/accueil. Visa application procedures are currently suspended. However, international students’ visas are a priority for the French Government. Therefore, we expect you to join us within 30 days of resumption of visa issuing procedures.

We remind you that if you are coming from a "red zone" country, you should carry a Covid 19 negative test (less than 72-hour test) at the boarding gates. Thank you in advance for sending the Covid 19 test results to incoming@telecom-paris.fr. This document is required to be able to enter Telecom Paris’ building and to receive your student card.

For more information on visa applications, please see https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/coming-to-france/studying-in-france/administrative-steps or this FAQ’s Visa section.

ENROLMENT AND ADMITTED STUDENTS WEEKEND
Do we really have to be on campus by August 28th? Will the “weekend d’intégration” actually take place?

You are no longer expected to be on campus by August 28th. If you have been granted student housing as of September 1st, we now expect you to arrive on or after that date.

Telecom Paris has cancelled its admitted students weekend called "weekend d’intégration" originally scheduled from August 29th till September 2nd. We have replaced it with a “Welcome Week” or “Semaine d’activités d’intégration” organized from August 31st till September 4th. Many of the activities will be carried out online so you may access them from abroad or from student housing should you be required to be under lockdown due to COVID 19 health measures.

Administrative and course registration will be available online as well. (see enrolment section for details on required documents).
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14-DAY QUARANTINE

Depending on the country you have travelled from, you may be required to be under lockdown for 14 days. More information on this topic, later in August.

STUDENT HOUSING

I couldn’t find any place close to the campus through the Guichet Unique. What should I do?

Unfortunately, accommodation provided through Guichet Unique is now fully booked. Guichet Unique gathers many student residences located close or nearby the Telecom Paris campus. We therefore advise you to:

- Book a student room or flat in one the residences Telecom has a partnership with, especially:
  1. **Campus du Crous Cachan** - located close to Paris – Travel to School: from RER B Arcueil Cachan or RER B Bagneux station to RER B Massy Palaiseau station then bus 91.06 or 91.10 – approx. 45 min. commute time
  2. **Cité Universitaire de Paris** – located in Paris – Travel to School: from RER B Arcueil Cachan or RER B Bagneux station to RER B Massy Palaiseau station then bus 91.06 or 91.10 – approx. : 50 min. commute time
  3. **Résidence Ecla** – located in Palaiseau - Bus 91-062 - 20 min. commute time

  Book a place in these residences by contacting us at: logement@telecom-paris.fr

To better understand where housing is located, distance-wise, from the Telecom Paris campus; please have a look at our map on: https://www.telecom-paris.fr/housing

- Register on the Sciences Accueil website, a Telecom Paris partner dedicated to student assistance in finding housing (accommodation) and adjusting to life in France.
  - Fill out your housing request:
    - French form: https://www.science-accueil.org/demande-science-accueil/
  - Should you need more information on available housing, please contact: housing@science-accueil.org

I have not received any answer following my housing request. How can I follow up on my request?

Residence booking services are very busy during summer so there may be longer delays in getting back to you.

For any questions on accommodation: logement@telecom-paris.fr
Florence LE GAC - Tel.: 01.75.31.43.83 - E-mail: florence.legac@telecom-paris.fr
Details on student housing: https://www.telecom-paris.fr/housing
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VISAS

Do I need a visa to enter France? Which visa should I apply for? How may I renew it?

If you are a citizen from one of the 27 countries in the European Union (EU), Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway or Switzerland, you don’t need to apply for a French visa to study in France.

If you are not a citizen of one of the 27 countries in the UE, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway or Switzerland, you must apply for a long-term visa which is valid as a residence permit called “Visa étudiant Long Séjour valant Titre de Séjour “(VLS-TS) for a stay from 4 to 12 months in France (cost: 75 €).

This visa allows you to stay for a year in France without applying for a permit. It must be validated by the Immigration Office ‘l’Office Français d'Immigration et d'Intégration’ (OFII) within the first three months of your arrival in France directly on https://administration-etrangers-en-france (60 € tax). More information on the steps: how-to-validate-your-VLS-TS

You may have applied for a long-term visa with a residence permit marked ‘Carte de séjour à solliciter à l’arrivée en France’ for stays over 12 months. If you hold this visa, you must apply for a residence permit from the French prefecture (Palaiseau) within 2 months of your arrival.

NB: After the first year, you may apply for a temporary student permit ‘carte de séjour temporaire étudiant’ (1 year validity). If you intend to study longer than a year, you may apply for a ‘carte de séjour pluriannuelle étudiant’ (will be valid for the remaining years of your program). You must apply to renew your residence permit at the Prefecture located in Palaiseau 2 months before its validity expires. To receive a certificate of enrolment or “certificat de scolarité” from next school year and a “relevé de notes”: fi-scol@telecom-paris.fr .More details on the documents to provide: https://www.campusfrance.org/en/renew-residency-permit ;

How to apply for a visa to study at Telecom Paris?

Visa application procedures depend on your country of residence.

Option 1/ If you live in one of the 44 countries where ‘Etudes en France’ procedures apply, please register on Études en France, the French Higher Education portal and upload the required documents. The platform will check your visa application file before submitting it to the French consulate or Embassy in your home country.

To find your Campus France offices: https://www.campusfrance.org/en/espaces

Option 2/ Unless you live in one of the 44 countries, you should apply for a long-term visa (visa de long séjour) directly through the French embassy or consulate in your home country, before you can enter France. Find more details on visa applications through .https://france-evisas.gouv.fr/en and your Consulate contact on French embassies and consulates

How long does the visa procedure take?
We advise you to start applying for a visa at least 2 months before departure.

Who can assist us?
• Iris Lefebvre, International Relations Department Assistant
  Office nr: 2C61 - Phone: +33(0)1 75 31 94 22 - E-mail: iris.lefebvre@telecom-paris.fr

• Science Accueil (a Telecom Paris partner): Contact: procedures@science-accueil.org

Useful links:
Campus France: French national agency for higher education & international student services
Updated info: https://back-to-school-2020-visa-and-permits-faq
Etudes en France: formalities and visa application form required to study in France
OFII: Office Français de l'Immigration et de l'Intégration, the French immigration office.
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ONLINE COURSES
How will Telecom Paris be offering classes to adapt to the Covid 19 situation?

Telecom Paris will provide you with remote access for online courses should you be unable to arrive in France due to travel restrictions (i.e. visa, flight, local authorization issues). However, offering classroom courses remain our priority.

ADMISSION LETTER / ENROLMENT CERTIFICATE
Could you please provide us with a Telecom Paris enrolment certificate?

Your administrative enrolment will take place at the beginning of the term. You will be able to fully enroll online.

Before your enrolment date, the admission letter you received earlier this year is the official proof of your Telecom Paris admission. You must provide it for your visa and housing applications.

HEALTH INSURANCE DURING YOUR STUDIES
What medical care can I have access to?

For the first months of your stay in France, you must have valid travel insurance covering any possible costs for medical repatriation, emergency (i.e. lost luggage) and/or hospital treatment.

French public healthcare (Sécurité Sociale) registration is compulsory for all non-European students under the age of 28.

You should register for French social security upon your arrival in France, once enrolled at Telecom Paris on https://etudiant-etranger.ameli.fr/#/ (several languages).

Exceptions:
1/ European students don’t have to apply for French medical care. Students from the European Economic Area, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland are exempt if they hold a European health insurance card (EHIC or temporary certificate) valid for the entire academic year or have a private insurance policy covering all medical risks without limit. The European health insurance card is free and allows you to benefit during your stay in France from the same public healthcare you have in your own country.

2/ Students from Québec don’t have to apply for French public Healthcare provided they hold the #SE401Q106 form.

On average, Social Security reimburses 60% of medical costs. So, in addition to this mandatory system, you may apply for supplementary student health insurance schemes (mutuelles) to cover the additional costs:

- La Mutuelle des Étudiants (L.M.D.E.) 7 rue Danton  F-75006 Paris - Metro: Odéon station (lines 4 and 10) - Open from Monday to Friday - 8:30am to 5:30pm – T: +33(0)811 50 56 33
- SMEREP 54 bd Saint Michel  F-75006 Paris  RER: Luxembourg station (Line B) Open from Monday to Friday - 9am to 5:50pm - T: +33(0)1 56 54 36 34
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**COURSE ENROLMENT (FILIERES CHOICE)**

When will I be able to enrol for the courses (filières) I chose? Early September, you will proceed with your administrative and course enrolment.

1/ **Administrative enrolment:** By the end of August, you will receive a detailed email with guidelines on your online enrolment as well as a list of necessary documents and information.

The necessary documents to provide are:

- ID: scan and upload a copy of your passport
- ID photo (will be used for your student card)
- Payment of first year tuition fees. You may either wire the amount or pay by check, once you have opened a French Bank account. If you choose the pay by check, you can finalize your enrolment by giving a check to Mr. Frantz Cayol, once on campus.
- The ‘Contribution Vie Etudiante et Campus’ (CVEC) proof of payment. You must first pay these student life and campus fees online through [https://cvec.etudiant.gouv.fr](https://cvec.etudiant.gouv.fr)
  **Nota Bene:** Only students who pay tuition fees directly to Telecom Paris should pay the CVEC fees and pay them just before enrolment. Students on exchange programs (no double degrees) don’t have to pay for the CVEC fees.
- A valid travel insurance certificate covering any possible costs for medical repatriation, emergency and/or hospital treatment.

Contact: **Frantz CAYOL** Office 2C44 - Tel.: +33(0)1 75 31 93 73 - [frantz.cayol@telecom-paris.fr](mailto:frantz.cayol@telecom-paris.fr)

2/ **Course enrolment** You will enrol for the program /‘filière’ and courses of your choice at the beginning of the term.

Please be aware that some courses are only taught in French and therefore require a high level of proficiency in French. Therefore, prior to your enrolment, we advise you to assess your level with your French teacher during the Telecom Paris summer training session.

Finally, you will fill out or correct your study contract and have it signed by both Telecom Paris and your home university.

**STUDENT SERVICES (SOCIAL & FINANCIAL ISSUES, ETC.)**

A school social worker and welfare counselor is available to all students. **Corinne LALA** is available to help you if you need assistance with bursaries and financial issues, social issues, bureaucratic issues and paperwork, etc. Appointments can be made by sending an e-mail to [c.lala@socialinter.fr](mailto:c.lala@socialinter.fr) (first meetings on September 15, 2020) – Room nr. 2C46

**STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES**

Personal or study-related issues? Consultations on Mondays; appointments can be made by sending an email to [marie.matherat@telecom-paris.fr](mailto:marie.matherat@telecom-paris.fr) – T: +33 (0)1 75 31 42 49
Contact: **Marie MATHERAT,** Psychologist Room nr. 0A258.

**BANKING ACCOUNT**

You may need to open a banking account in France. Do not hesitate to contact a branch of your national bank in France (Paris) or any other banks located in Palaiseau, Massy or Orsay, which are the closest towns. For your information, here are the details of a Banking Partner: **LCL 2 r Charles de Gaulle, 91400 ORSAY.** Partners will be on campus at the beginning of the year to offer their services.
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FOREIGN LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS
Is it compulsory to prove my fluency in French or English before starting the courses?

Students are required to meet the entry language proficiency of minimum B1 level in French or minimum B2 level in English to access academic studies at Telecom Paris. Should you have any problems applying for a test due to the COVID 19 situation, we fully understand but please let us know as soon as possible.

French language
Should you choose a French track (filière), French language proficiency is necessary to study engineering at Telecom Paris: a B1 level before arriving on campus is required.

You have the opportunity to choose English tracks as well: five of the 14 study tracks are currently taught in English. More details are available on https://www.telecom-paris.fr/. In this case, no minimum level is required in French before entrance. However, we advise you to have an A2 entry level to help you during your studies in France.

If you followed the online French training session on e-campus with our French as a Foreign Language teachers, your level has been assessed end of August. For those of you who could not attend this online session, you had to take a written and oral test on August 25th.

English language
An English certification is mandatory before starting courses at Telecom Paris.

Please note that we also accept an English level assessment document from your University. Our English teachers will assess your level at the beginning of the Fall semester.

How do you verify my English / French language skills?

To verify your French language proficiency, we accept the following elements:
- Having French as your mother tongue
- Higher education degree from a French-speaking higher education institution (your degree should specify that the language of instruction was French or mainly French)
- A French Language certificate - with the minimum score required
  1. TCF: 350 pts
  2. TEF: 500 pts
  3. TFI: 500 pts
  4. DELF B1

To verify your English skills, we accept the following:
- Having English as your mother tongue,
- Higher education degree from a English-speaking higher education institution (your degree should specify that the language of instruction was English or mainly English),
- An English language certificate - with the minimum score required
  - Certificates delivered in the past 2 years
    1. TOEFL ITP (institutional): 564 pts
    2. TOEFL iBT (internet-based): 85 pts
    3. TOEIC: 870 pts
    4. IELTS: 6.5
    5. APTIS: B2 level in all four English skills
    6. Linguaskill: 160 pts
  - Certificates delivered up to 5 years ago
    1. Cambridge English First certificate: A grade
    2. Cambridge English Advanced or Proficiency Certificate: A, B or C grade
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Are French courses mandatory even when we already are fluent in French?

French courses are compulsory during your studies at Telecom Paris. In case you master perfectly the language, you may select a more culture oriented French course or be exempted.

How do you create level groups for the summer French training session?

We defined level groups based on your answers to our June questionnaire and on the certifications and documents provided at the time of your application. You will take a test on your French level skills at the beginning of the term to create the level groups.

What level is mandatory to be able to graduate from Telecom Paris?

The level required for your graduation is B2 in French tracks (filières). If you follow a filière taught in English, then the level required is B1. After your 1st year or at the end of your curriculum, you will take French and English tests organized by Telecom Paris (with a 45 € per test and per student participation from Telecom Paris). We will post the testing calendar on this blog. You are exempt from taking the test should you already have the required level before your studies at Telecom Paris (see the accepted certifications to verify it, on page 7).

What tests do we take by the end of our studies at Telecom Paris?

You will take the TFI exam directly on campus to assess your French level. And you will take the TOEIC exam to assess your English level.

No final language exam is required for students with
- a B2 entry level for tracks taught in French or French/English (see the accepted certifications to verify it, on page 7)
- a B1 level for tracks taught in English (see the accepted certifications to verify it, on page 7)

SHOULD YOU HAVE ANY FURTHER QUESTIONS

Please contact the International Relations Department: international@telecom-paris.fr