

# Advice to international mathematics master's and PhD students



# Presentation summary

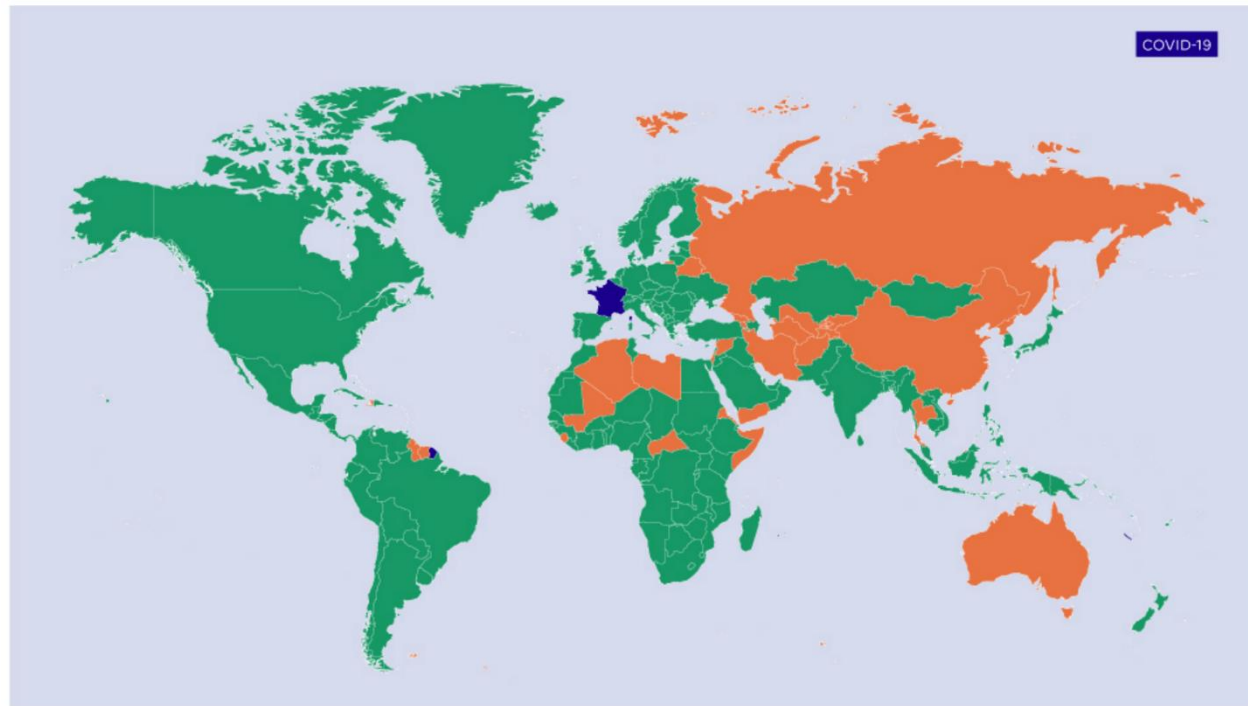
Before your arrival  
Settling in France  
Administrative procedures  
Transportation  
Housing  
Bank and telephone  
Health insurance  
Find the right contact  
Useful links and apps

# Before your arrival

# COVID situation in France

To know the latest news about travelling to France from abroad:

- Consult the [France Diplomacy website](#)
- Consult the [French government website](#)



Map of Covid-19 restrictions in June 2022

# At the airport

- Don't forget to bring into the cabin with you all important documents: **passport, visa, acceptance letter, proof of revenues, PCR test or proof of vaccination.**
- Both Orly and CDG (Paris-Charles de Gaulle) airports offer free WiFi.
- Several means of transportation are available to you from both airports:
  - **Public transportation**: buses (2-10€) and trains (10-15€).
  - **Airport taxis**: expect minimum 70€ for a trip from CDG to Evry or Versailles or Orsay, and 50€ for a trip from Orly. Uber prices are similar.



Be careful with non-official taxi services.  
**You can end up paying up to 200€ for your trip!**

# Settling in France

# Mathematics in Paris-Saclay

As a Paris-Saclay's master/PhD student you'll be joining one of the 3 Universities, 3 Écoles or one of the 12 Labs associated to the Graduate School Of Mathematics:

## Member universities:

- Université d'Evry Val d'Essonne
- Université Paris-Saclay
- Université de Versailles Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines

## Member "Écoles":

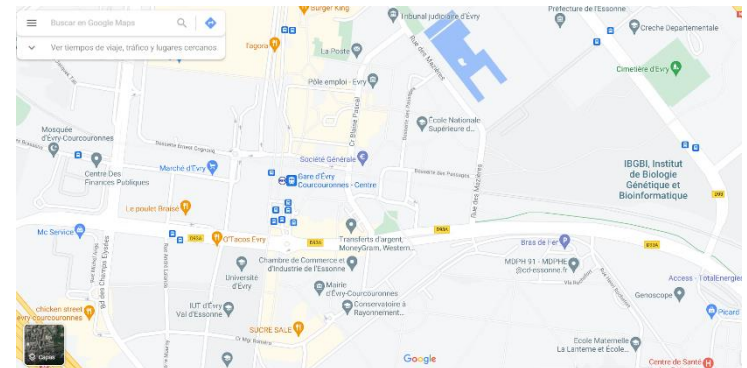
- École Normale Supérieure Paris-Saclay
- CentraleSupélec
- AgroParisTech

## Labs:

[Here](#) is an interactive map of all the math labs in Paris-Saclay with a small description of their research areas.

# Université d'Evry Val d'Essonne

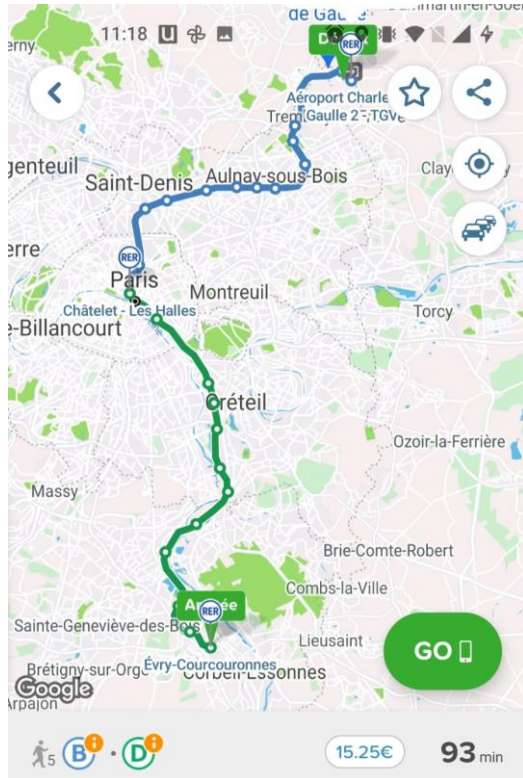
- L'Université d'Evry Val d'Essonne is located in the town of Évry, the capital of the Essonne department.
- It is located 25.0 km from the center of Paris.
- The train station is called Évry-Courcouronnes and belongs to line D.
- It's a town made for families and students.



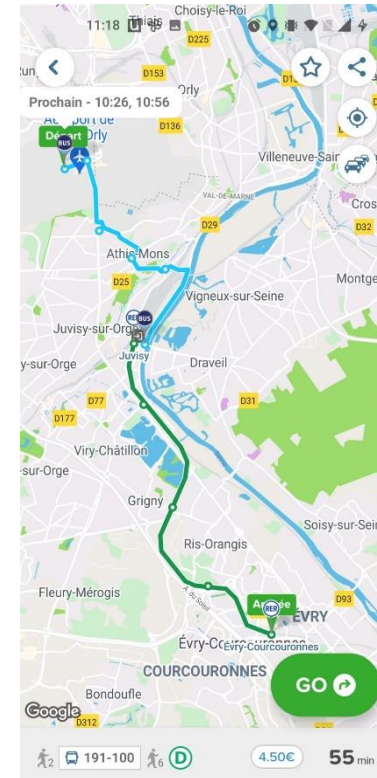


# How do we go to Évry from.....?

## ➤ CDG airport



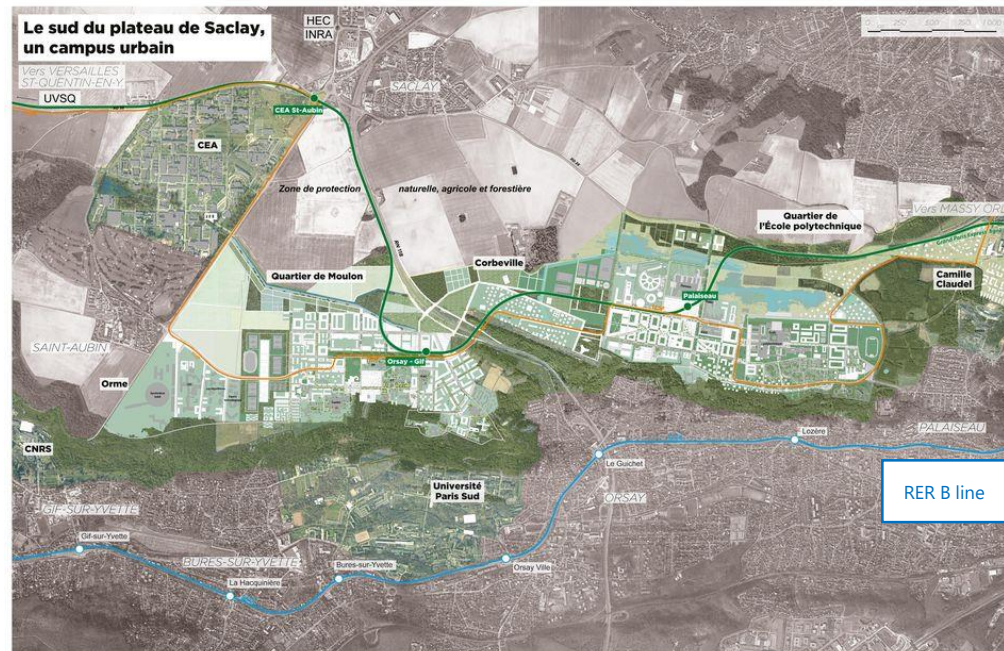
## ➤ Orly airport



Information from City mapper

# Université Paris-Saclay

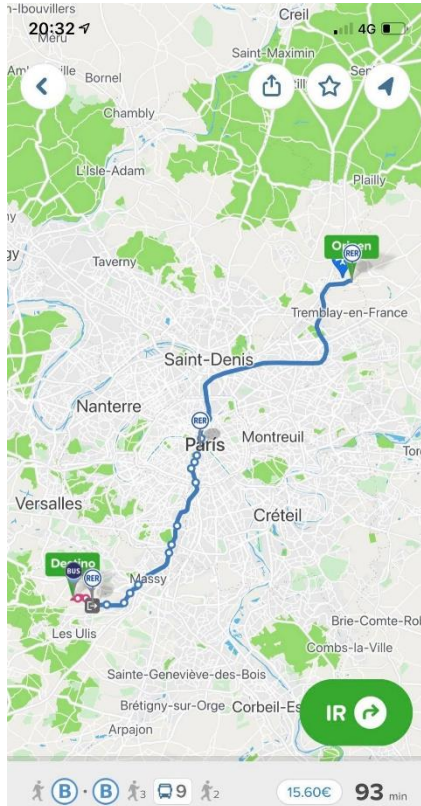
- L'Université Paris-Saclay is located in the Plateau de Saclay, which straddles several cities: Orsay, Gif-sur-Yvette, Bures-sur-Yvette, Palaiseau,...
- In current development, the Saclay Plateau is where most of the labs are situated.
- Also located around 25km from the center of Paris, it is mostly served by the RER B line and several local bus lines.



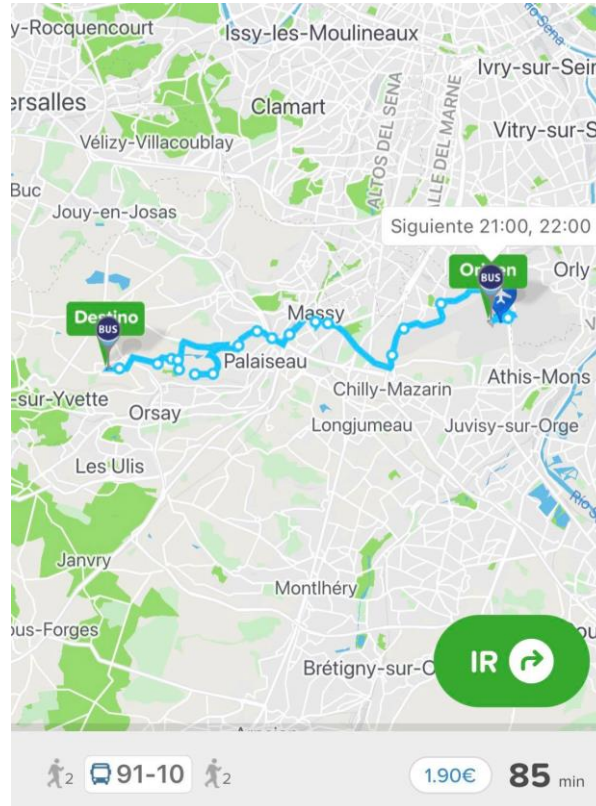


# How do we go to Plateau de Saclay from...?

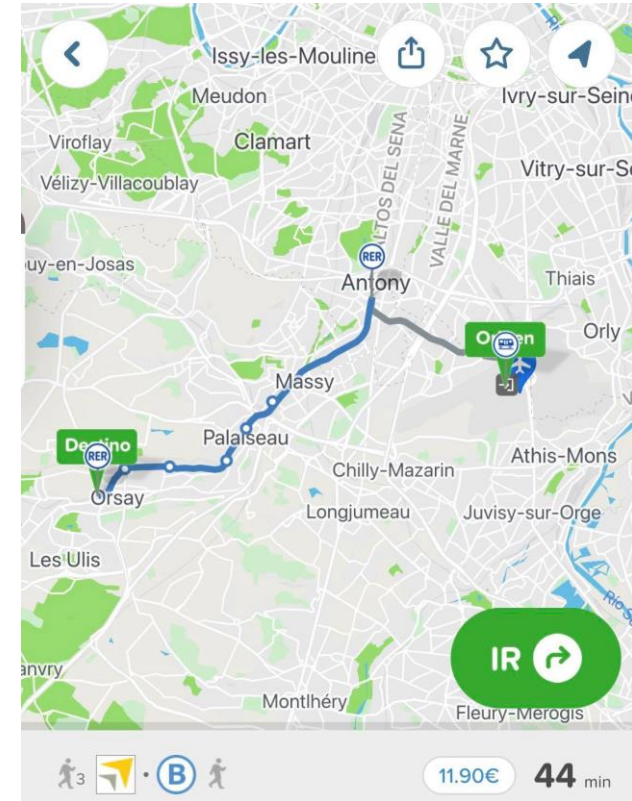
➤ CDG airport



➤ Orly airport (to Gif-sur-Yvette)



➤ Orly airport (to Orsay)



Information from City mapper

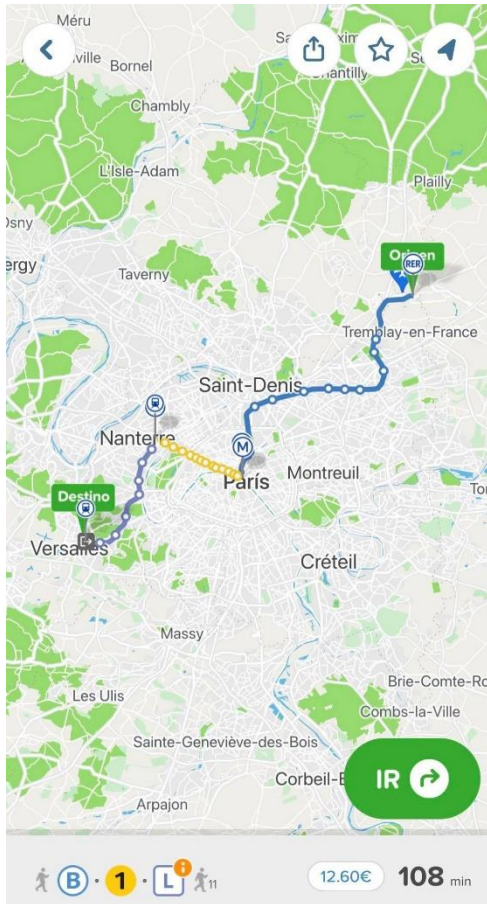
# Université de Versailles Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines

- L'Université de Versailles Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines is located in the city of Versailles, the capital of the Yvelines department.
- The city of Versailles is also well known for the beautiful castle and park.
- It's located at 20km from the center of Paris
- The city is served by many train lines like the RER C, L line, N line and many buses.

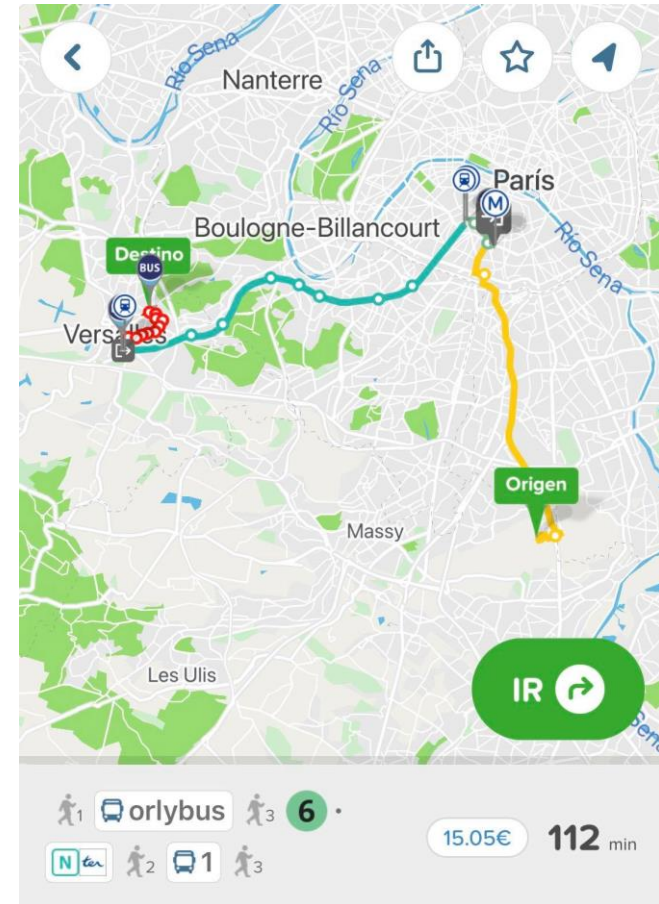


# How do we go to Versailles from...?

## ➤ CDG airport



## ➤ Orly airport



Information from City mapper



# Administrative Procedures

# Administrative Procedures

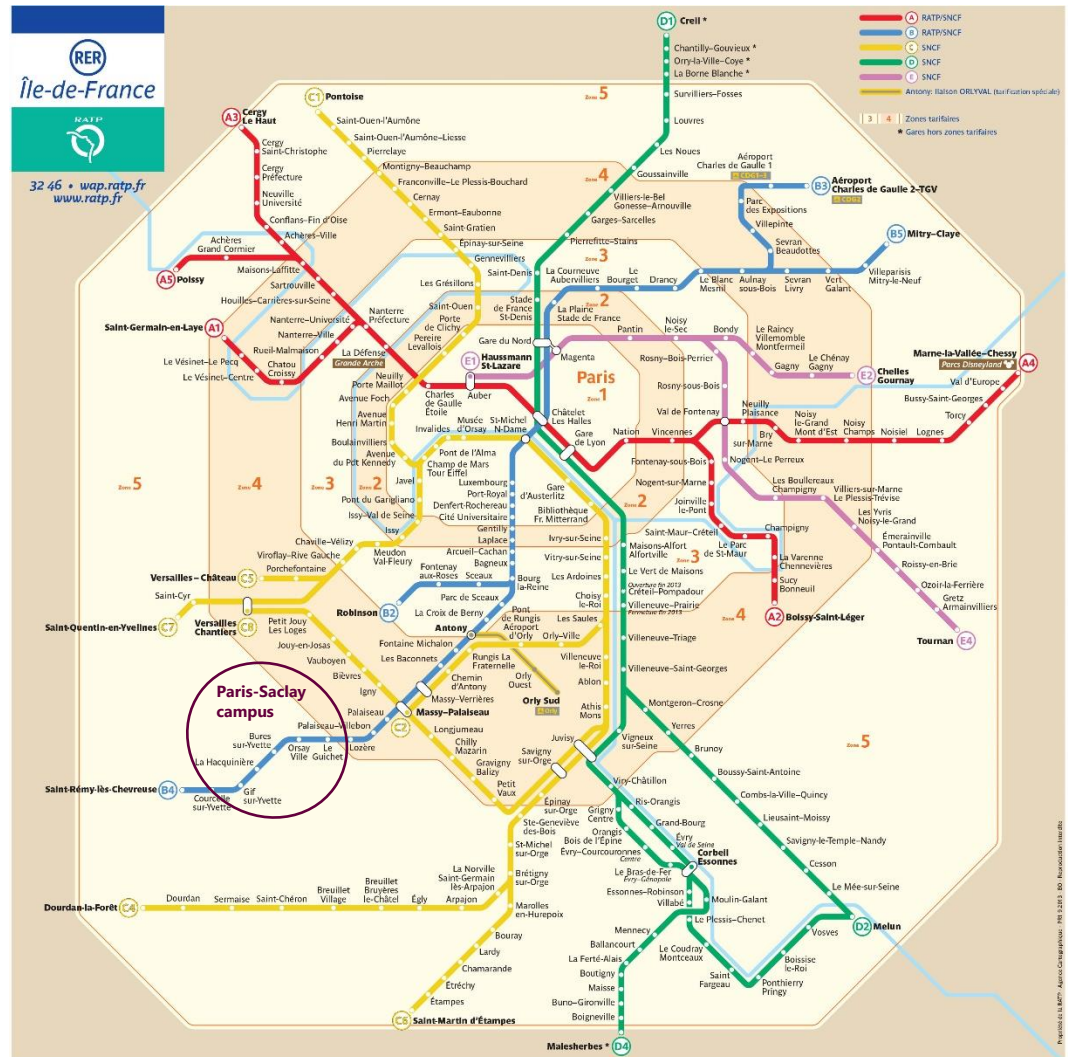
- Every study program has two managers: a professor who usually takes care of the math aspects of the program and a secretary who takes care of logistics. For PhD students, there are also Human Resources and Teaching managers.
- All contacts for Master's programs are [here](#). Click [here](#) for a PhD.
- **The fall semester is expected to be 100% in-person.**  
Please contact your advisor/professor responsible for your study program if you suspect that you won't be able to make it in time due to visa procedures.
- Make sure to pack your last diploma (either Bachelor's or Master's degree) and a French translation. It's usually cheaper to do it in your home country!
- A year of master's costs 243€ and 380€ for a PhD.  
Both are subject to the CVEC fee of 92€.
- You also have to subscribe to **Civil Liability Insurance**. It protects you and others in case of an accident occurring in any activity related to your studies.  
Normally they go for 20-30€ per year.

# Transportation



# Public transportation

- Transportation infrastructure is managed by the RATP.
- The region is divided into 5 zones and the price of a ticket depends on the distance between zones. The University campus is scattered in the 4th and 5th zones.



# Public transportation

- The RATP offers different types of subscriptions: daily, monthly and annual. Their price also depends on the regions where you'll be moving within.
- All these passes allow you to move freely between regions on Saturdays and Sundays, as well as holidays and vacation periods.
- All students under 25 have the option to subscribe to Imagine R, which is more affordable than any other option.
- To decide which option is best for you, take a look at the [\*\*RAPT website\*\*](#).



If you plan to subscribe to Imagine R, **we recommend getting a first month of normal RATP subscription** while you wait for your school certificate.

# Bicking

- Secondhand bikes are all over the internet: **LeBonCoin** (France's eBay) is an excellent place to start looking.
- If you want some advice don't hesitate to go to "**La recyclerie sportive**" in Massy-Palaiseau.
- There are many rental options for occasional users like **Zoov** (in Essonne) or **Velib'** (Paris).
- If you are interested in electric bikes, Île-de-France offers a monthly rental called **Veligo** (30€ a month for students).



# Housing

# Student Residences

- There are many options for accommodation around Paris-Saclay who range from 350€ up to 800€ a month for 15m<sup>2</sup> depending on whether is public or private housing:
  - CROUS residences: They are students residences subsidised by the government. Most of them consist of a studio with its own bathroom and kitchen, but there are some where these are shared. Make sure to choose the right one for you. Rent goes from 350-500€ a month.
  - Private residences: There are many private student residences around the campus. They offer many more amenities but rent can go as far as 800€ a month for a 20m<sup>2</sup> studio.



**Here** is a map with many housing options around the Paris-Saclay area. It includes the positions of all of the campuses and important train/bus stations.

You can also consult the **Guide to student accommodation** of Université Paris-Saclay.

# Student Residences

- **Cité Universitaire**: This is an international student residence complex at the border of Paris which is managed separately from the CROUS.





# Apartments

- If you want to get an apartment outside of a student residence we recommend to contact **Sciences Accueil** or **Heberjeunes** which are associations that help students and researchers to settle in the Paris-Saclay area.
- **LeBonCoin** (France's eBay), **SeLoger**, **StudApart**, **Roomlala** are some examples of websites where you can look for private accommodation.
- Here is a list of documents that you might need if you decide to rent a private accommodation :
  - An ID card (your passport and visa)
  - Your letter of acceptance or school certificate
  - Proof of revenue (Scholarship, Doctoral contract or bank statements)
  - Your guarantor documents. Non-European guarantors aren't always accepted.  
**Visale** is a state guarantor that allows you to bypass this constraint.

# CAF and APL

- The French government offers support to low-income residents to afford their rent. **International students are eligible.**
- Once you've found your accommodation, you can calculate the approximate amount of support you'll be eligible for [here](#).
- The website for this procedure is completely in French, however:
  - it exists an explanation in English (in the 2nd part of the page) [here](#)
  - and a English tutorial [here](#).



Don't forget to bring with you your birth certificate as well as an official french translation. It will be essential for this procedure.



# Bank and telephone

# Telephone

- A french phone number will be essential for anything from opening a bank account to accommodation.
- There exist many providers with offers that go from 2€ to 20€ a month.
- You can also get a prepaid card for your first couple of days, but we recommend to get a subscription as soon as possible.



Try to get your SIM card at an automatic machine, it usually allows you to subscribe with any international credit card.

# Banking

- Most of the transactions in France happen via online transfer, we recommend opening your bank account as soon as you arrive in France.
- You will need:
  - An ID card like your passport and visa
  - Proof of address
  - An acceptance letter or school certificate (to check eligibility for student deals)
  - **A French/European phone number**
  - Proof of scholarship
  - Your fiscal number
  - An initial deposit.



Try to choose from the banks closest to your accommodation or campus. **Many banks have agreements with Paris-Saclay and offer nice deals for students.**

# Banking

Here is a rough timeline of the opening of a French bank account :

- Day 1: You drop by at the bank of choice and learn exactly what documents you'll be needing to open a bank account and make an appointment to do so.
- Day 3-4: It's the day of your appointment, you open your bank account and obtain your RIB (Relevé d'Identité Bancaire). **This is enough to start making transactions such as phone, housing, and transportation.**
- Day 7-10: You receive your debit card at your accommodation as well as your PIN.
- Day 8-11: You finally activate your card at an ATM of your bank of choice.



**Credit cards do not exist in France.** However, you get to chose between "débit immédiat" or "débit différé". The latter allows you to pay the transactions made with your card at the end of the month rather than immediately

# Health insurance

# Health insurance

- All international students are covered by the french social security.  
**If you are European you can use your European health card.**
- For master's students and PhD students with a non-French scholarship:  
Once you've got your school certificate you'll be able to subscribe [here](#).
- For PhD students with a french scholarship: Talk to human resources, you are also eligible but the procedure might be different.



About a month after you've registered you'll receive a provisional social security number, the final one can take up several months. They strongly recommend to get an international health insurance from your country for at least 1 or 2 months of your stay in France.

# **Find the right contact**

# Who do I contact?

- For visa-related questions before traveling, your local **Campus France** is your best shot.
- Once in France, Paris-Saclay offers advice and guidance via **the GATE**.
- You can also contact **Sciences Accueil**. Both offer also guidance for many more subjects like accommodation, integration and even French classes!
- Do not hesitate to join the **Buddy Program**, it's a program that pairs up local students with international ones.
- We are also constructing an online community of mathematics international students of Paris-Saclay in discord. **Join us!**



# Useful links and apps

# Useful links and apps

- International relationship of the UFR of Science of Université Paris-Saclay : [kalidiouma.sidibe@universite-paris-saclay.fr](mailto:kalidiouma.sidibe@universite-paris-saclay.fr)
- [French Me Up](#), a student association for Versailles's international students.
- Instructions for PhD students on [ADUM](#)
- [RATP subscriptions and prices](#)
- [Paris-Saclay international PhD student guide](#)
- [City mapper](#): The best transportation app for Île-de-France
- [Geovelo](#): For city bikers
- [Doctolib](#): To find a doctor, book PCR tests, vaccines...
- [Tous AntiCovid](#): To register your vaccines or PCR tests. It can also be used to show your "Pass Sanitaire" once you've got it.
- [Leboncoin](#)
- [Geev](#): To give and collect free items and food around you
- [TooGoodToGo](#): a movement against food waste, that allows everyone to recover unsold food

**BON VOYAGE !**