

# PRÉPARER SON DÉPART

Getting ready to leave



## UNDERSTANDING THE FRENCH HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM

### ● General introduction

The French higher education system consists of several types of establishments, which can be public or private:

- > Universities
- > *Grandes écoles* (competitive-entrance higher education establishments) and other specialist higher education establishments
- > Higher technical education establishments for short vocational training courses: *Brevet de Technicien Supérieur* (BTS – vocational training certificate taken after the age of 18) departments in secondary schools, and *Instituts Universitaires de Technologie* (IUT – university institutes of technology) in universities.



### ● The Bachelor-Master-Doctorate (BMD) system

France, like more than 50 other European countries, is a signatory of the Bologna Declaration (1999), which really started the construction of the European higher education area.

The system is based on the 3 degrees of Bachelor, Master, and Doctorate. To each degree is linked a number of European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) credits: a Bachelor's degree (6 semesters) corresponds to 180 credits and the Master (4 semesters) to 120 credits. The ECTS credits represent the amount of work done or to be done by a student. This amount includes lectures, tutorials, practical work, internships, professional experience, seminars, and the student's personal work as well as exams. A credit represents 30 to 35 hours of work, depending on the case.

The BMD reform aims to promote student mobility in Europe. A Bachelor's degree, indeed even a semester, obtained in France can be validated in Germany, Italy, Poland, or in any other country in the European Union within the framework of an individual's study path in higher education.

#### For further information

[onisep.fr](http://onisep.fr) (English and Spanish versions available)

[egide.asso.fr](http://egide.asso.fr) (English version available)

[campusfrance.org](http://campusfrance.org) (available in French, English, and Spanish)

## GETTING TO KNOW RENNES AND BRITTANY



### ● Brittany

Situated in the extreme west of the European mainland, and enjoying 2,730km of coastline, Brittany covers 27,209km<sup>2</sup>, i.e. 5% of France's surface area. Extending 300km from east to west and 150km from north to south, this point of land, which projects out so distinctively into the sea, is easily identifiable on a map of France. The interpenetration of land and sea gives Brittany its diverse landscapes and interplays of light. The region's climate combines the invigorating effects of the seaside and the mildness of the seasons.



With a population of almost 3.3 million, Brittany has experienced deep-seated demographic, social, and economic changes. Agriculture and fishing are both important activities within the Breton economy. However, industrial activity, which has developed around food-processing, telecommunications, car manufacturing, and services, has experienced significant and rapid development. Brittany has four *pôles de compétitivité* (competitive clusters): the Image & Réseaux information technology *pôle* (Brest, Rennes, and Lannion), the Mer Bretagne Atlantique *pôle* (Brest), the Valorial food-processing *pôle*, and the iDforCAR *pôle*, which promotes innovation in the vehicle manufacturing industry. These *pôles* depend on collaboration between businesses, research units, and education and training establishments to stimulate innovation so as to boost economic development.

Tourism is also a very important sector of the Breton economy. Over 12 million visitors come to Brittany each year, making it France's second most important tourist region.

**“Degemer mat!”**

**Welcome to Brittany - land of legends  
and traditions**

For further information  
[bretagne.bzh](http://bretagne.bzh)  
[bretagne35.com](http://bretagne35.com)  
[metropole.rennes.fr](http://metropole.rennes.fr)  
[photosderennes.fr](http://photosderennes.fr)

### ● The city of Rennes

Rennes is the 11th largest city in France with a population of almost 214,000, which rises to 445,000 if the other 43 towns and villages of the Rennes Métropole area are included. It is a human-sized city and is a pleasant place in which to live.

The high standard of living in Rennes, the wide range of activities on offer, its cultural life, its historical and architectural heritage, and its economic and social dynamism all make it a city that is greatly appreciated both by its residents and its visitors.

Rennes is one of Brittany's unmissable tourist destinations because of its historical and cultural wealth, its status as the capital of Brittany, and its central position at the heart of the Grand Ouest region of France. It is only 1 hour 26 minutes away from Paris by TGV (high-speed train), and is not far from many world-famous destinations, such as Saint-Malo, the bay of Mont-Saint-Michel, and the Côte d'Émeraude (the Emerald Coast – between the bays of Mont-Saint-Michel and Saint-Brieuc).

It also has the largest student population of any city in the west of France. Its two universities and numerous other higher education establishments and institutes make it a major university and research centre.

For further information

[metropole.rennes.fr](http://metropole.rennes.fr)

[photosderennes.fr](http://photosderennes.fr)



### ● Some important dates in Rennes' history

**57 B.C.** Conquest of the city by Julius Cæsar. Rennes, which was called Condate during the Gaulish period, became Civitas Riedonum (city of the Riedones).

**1491** Duchess Anne of Brittany married King Charles VIII of France.

**1532** The incorporation of Brittany into the kingdom of France, following the marriages of Anne of Brittany to Charles VIII and then Louis XII of France.

**1720** On 22 December, a fire, which lasted for six days, destroyed most of the city centre of Rennes. Almost 900 half-timbered houses were reduced to ashes and thousands of people lost their homes.

**1789** In January, riots, which brought into conflict students and members of the aristocracy, broke out in the Place du Parlement. These were the first signs of the French Revolution.

**1899** The retrial of Captain Alfred Dreyfus, who was of Jewish origin, and who had been found guilty of spying for the Germans at a first trial in 1894. The world's press descended on Rennes to follow the trial.

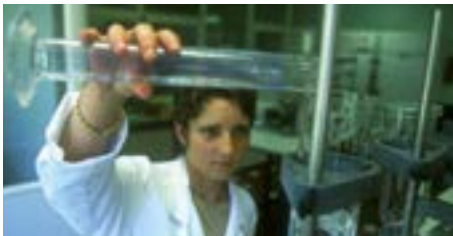
**1944** On 4 August, Rennes was the first major French city to be liberated by American troops, under the command of General Patton.

**1994** During the night of 4 and 5 February, a fire destroyed two-thirds of the Parlement de Bretagne (Brittany Parliament). It has since been reconstructed, and is one of the most visited buildings in Rennes.

### ● Economic dynamism

Rennes is a particularly attractive city in terms of both job creation and the continuing increase of its population. The Rennes region has gained 60,000 new inhabitants in 10 years; a figure which corresponds to a growth rate that is three times higher than the national average.

The tertiary sector is by far the most dynamic since service industries represent 65% of the workforce. However, Rennes' traditional industries are by no means being outdone, with France's leading daily newspaper, Ouest-France, and the Oberthür printing works being at the forefront. Finally, the presence of the PSA Peugeot Citroën car factory makes Rennes Métropole one of the leading car manufacturing regions in France.



In addition, Brittany is also the most important food-processing region in France, and the department of Ille-et-Vilaine is France's leading dairy farming area. Four important food-processing groups, Brient, Bridel, Coralis, and Le Duff, are located in Rennes, and it is important to note that the food-processing industries within the Rennes Métropole region enjoy very strong links with higher education establishments.

The information and communication technology sector is one of the most thriving and successful as far as employment, research, and training are concerned. The Rennes Atalante science and technology park has attracted to Rennes a large number of research and development centres, components manufacturers, and telecommunications companies such as Orange Labs, Thomson, Canon, and Texas Instruments. Today, Rennes Atalante is one of Europe's leading telecommunications centres thanks to the collaboration that has been developed between higher education, research laboratories, and businesses. The Images & Réseaux sector is one of 17 internationally-oriented competitive clusters in France.

### ● Open to Europe and the world

Rennes, the capital of Brittany, is a city that is open to the world, and as such is active in establishing initiatives and partnerships at both European and international levels.

It has a partnership agreement with Hue (Vietnam), and is twinned with Exeter (Great Britain), Rochester (USA), Erlangen (Germany), Brno (Czech Republic), Sendai (Japan), Leuven (Belgium), Setif (Algeria), Cork (Ireland), Almaty (Kazakhstan), Poznan (Poland), Sibiu (Romania), and Jinan (China).

Moreover, the presence of many associations, such as the Maison de l'Europe, provide an excellent means of increasing the people of Rennes Métropole's awareness of Rennes' commitment not only to Europe but also to a whole range of international relations. It is the job of the Maison Internationale de Rennes (Rennes International House) to make the general public aware of what is happening in the world today and to support private individuals and associations in the carrying out of projects based on cooperation, solidarity, and cultural exchanges.

Rennes also has first-class resource and information centres, such as the regional Chamber of Commerce's Entreprise Europe Network, and the Centre de Documentation Européenne (European Documentation Centre) at the University of Rennes 1's Faculty of Law and Political Science.

Rennes' Institut Franco-Américain, a binational linguistic and cultural information and training centre that is unique in France, was founded in 1961 by the United States Embassy and Rennes City Council.

Finally, the Breton capital is a city which is heavily involved in Europe. Rennes actively participates in many EU programmes, organisations, and networks, such as the Council of European Municipalities and Regions, the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions, and the Conference of Atlantic Arc Cities. The head offices of both the CPMR and the CAAC are in Rennes.

#### For further information

The Maison Internationale de Rennes (MIR)'s role is to make the general public aware of what is happening in the world today, and to support individuals and associations in the implementation of projects based on cooperation, solidarity, and cultural exchanges.

#### MIR

7 quai Chateaubriand - 35000 Rennes

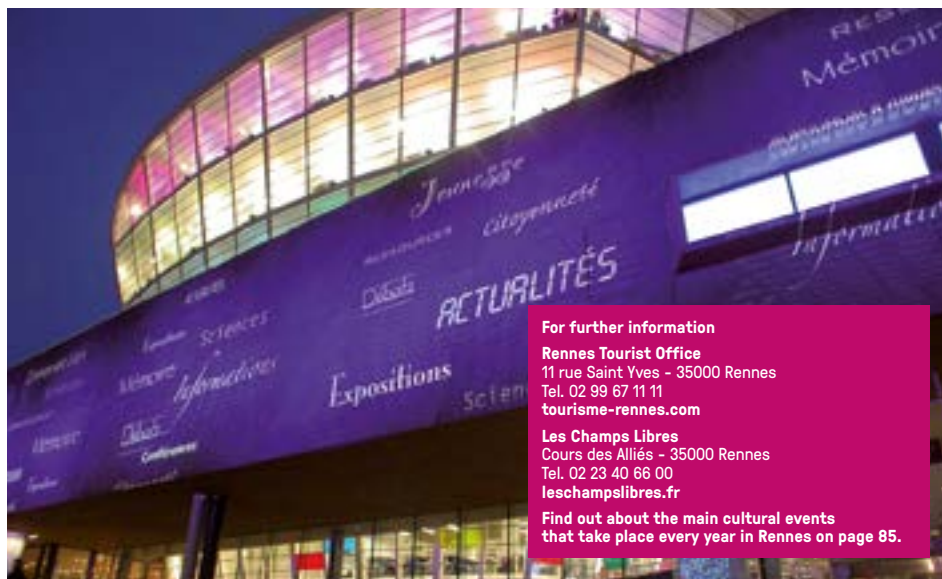
Tel. 02 99 78 22 66

[mir-rennes.fr](http://mir-rennes.fr)

● **Culture**

Rennes is an officially designated Métropole d'Art et d'Histoire (City of Art and History), and has many historic buildings, such as the Parlement de Bretagne (Brittany Parliament), the Hôtel de Ville (town/city Hall), the Opéra (opera house), the Palais Saint-Georges, and the Cathédrale Saint-Pierre (St Peter's Cathedral). The great variety of architectural styles and periods which stand together in the very heart of the city make up the wealth of historical and architectural heritage that gives Rennes such a distinctive character.

This wealth of culture can also be found in Rennes' museums and art galleries, as well as in its theatres, concert halls, cinemas, and many other cultural venues. Several important annual festivals make Rennes a prominent player on both the national and international cultural scene – but with a distinctive Breton character. Such festivals include the Trans Musicales (festival of today's new music), Travelling (film festival), Les Tombées de la Nuit (a festival celebrating new sound creations and street theatre productions), and Mettre en Scène (drama and dance festival).



**For further information**  
**Rennes Tourist Office**  
 11 rue Saint Yves - 35000 Rennes  
 Tel. 02 99 67 11 11  
[tourisme-rennes.com](http://tourisme-rennes.com)  
**Les Champs Libres**  
 Cours des Alliés - 35000 Rennes  
 Tel. 02 23 40 66 00  
[leschampslibres.fr](http://leschampslibres.fr)  
**Find out about the main cultural events that take place every year in Rennes on page 85.**

### ● Rennes : A university and research cluster

Rennes has had a university since the 18th century, and has become one of the most important French university cities with almost 68,000 students at the Universities of Rennes 1 and 2, 28 *grandes écoles* (prestigious competitive-entrance higher education establishments), and other higher education institutions. Rennes is also a major centre for scientific and technological research, with 4,500 researchers working in both public and private research establishments, with the main sectors being electronics, image and communication, food-processing, biotechnology, fine chemistry, health, and the environment.

### ● An open and international outlook

Higher education in Rennes is constantly becoming more international in outlook, and 7,300 international students come to study there every year. CMI Rennes, which is attached to the Université Bretagne Loire, is a service that is common to the 2 universities, 10 *grandes écoles*, and 4 research bodies in Rennes. It is also supported by Rennes Métropole in its mission of promoting the international mobility of students, PhD students, and researchers, and of developing welcome and reception services for them in Rennes.

### ● The *Cité internationale Paul Ricoeur*

Right in the city centre is the Cité Internationale Paul Ricoeur, which is the head office of the Université Bretagne Loire and the CMI Rennes. The building also has 79 flats for international researchers, a cafeteria, and a sports complex.

The Université Bretagne Loire brings together 7 universities, 14 *grandes écoles*, and 4 research organisations in Brittany and the Pays de la Loire.

This Communauté d'universités et établissements (ComUE - community of universities and establishments) aims to develop the scientific and academic potential of this region at national and international levels.

More information at [u-bretagne Loire.fr](http://u-bretagne Loire.fr).

### ○ Centre de mobilité internationale de Rennes (CMI Rennes - Rennes International Mobility Centre)

CMI Rennes offers advice and assistance services:

#### FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

- > Welcome events
- > Reception desks and help desks to help with the preparation of residence permit applications
- > Help with administrative procedures, e.g. CAF, CPAM, and CVEC
- > Cultural programme and trips in Brittany
- > Football world cup

#### FOR INTERNATIONAL PHD STUDENTS AND RESEARCHERS

- > Help with visa procedures, including help for family members
- > Help with the finding of accommodation
- > French lessons at the CIREFE Language Centre at Rennes 2 University
- > Help with income tax returns
- > Help with administrative procedures, e.g. CAF, CPAM
- > Help with opening a bank account

#### FOR RENNES STUDENTS

- > Organisation of the IELTS English test in partnership with the British Council.

#### CONTACT US

Centre de mobilité internationale de Rennes  
Cité Internationale  
1, place Paul Ricoeur - CS 54417  
35044 Rennes CEDEX  
Tel. 02 57 87 02 02  
[cmirennnes@u-bretagne Loire.fr](mailto:cmirennnes@u-bretagne Loire.fr)  
[cmirennnes.u-bretagne Loire.fr](http://cmirennnes.u-bretagne Loire.fr)  
[facebook.com/CMIRennes](https://facebook.com/CMIRennes)  
[twitter.com/CMIRennes](https://twitter.com/CMIRennes)

## APPLYING TO STUDY AT A HIGHER EDUCATION ESTABLISHMENT

### Two steps are essential:

- > Apply for admission to the establishment(s) in which you are interested,
- > Then, if the reply is positive, apply for a student visa. (This only applies to students who are not citizens of member states of the European Economic Area).

### ● Application for admission

Applications for admission vary according to whether you intend to study within the framework of an exchange programme or on an individual basis as a so-called 'free mover'.

#### ADMISSION TO UNIVERSITY FOR STUDENTS PARTICIPATING IN AN EXCHANGE PROGRAMME, E.G. ERASMUS, ISEP, CREPUQ, AND BILATERAL AGREEMENTS

Admission to a higher education establishment takes place as follows:

- > Selection of your application by your home establishment.
- > Finalisation of your study programme in consultation with the academic supervisor of your home establishment.
- > Application for admission made by your home establishment to the French exchange partner.
- > Registration and payment of tuition fees in your home establishment.

#### UNIVERSITY ADMISSION FOR STUDENTS WHO ORGANISE THEIR STAY ON AN INDIVIDUAL BASIS (NOT PART OF AN EXCHANGE PROGRAMME)

##### Admission to the 1st year of a Bachelor's degree

- **If you are a student from an EU country, the European Economic Area, Switzerland, Monaco, or Andorra**

The pre-registration procedure for whatever course you are interested in is done online on the [parcoursup.fr](http://parcoursup.fr) website.

This website groups together all the higher education courses on offer. It enables you to look for courses and to get information about the universities and other establishments. The

applicant registers what courses they want to study, and can then follow the progress of their application.

**N.B. A French language assessment test (TCF) may be required (see p. 23).**

### • In all other cases

The registration procedures depend on the country of residence, the degree or qualification obtained, and the intended studies.

For information on the procedure to follow, consult the [enseignementsup-recherche.gouv.fr](http://enseignementsup-recherche.gouv.fr) website (headings: Europe et international, then Venir étudier en France (Coming to study in France)).

#### Admission to the 2nd and 3rd years of a Bachelor's degree, Master's, and Grandes Écoles

Candidates who live in a country which has a dedicated Campus France site and Études en France procedure must enrol through the [pastel.diplomatie.gouv.fr/etudesenfrance](http://pastel.diplomatie.gouv.fr/etudesenfrance) website.

List of those countries concerned: Algeria, Argentina, Benin, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo-Brazzaville, South Korea, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, USA, Gabon, Guinea, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Madagascar, Mali, Morocco, Mauritius, Mauritania, Mexico, Peru, Democratic Republic of Congo, Russia, Senegal, Singapore, Taiwan, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Vietnam.

For other countries, register directly with the establishment concerned. See the 'Useful contacts' heading on pages 100 and 101.

For more information: [diplomatie.gouv.fr/en](http://diplomatie.gouv.fr/en)  
(heading: studying in France)

### PhD admission

Consult the [u-bretagne.fr](http://u-bretagne.fr) website for more information.



## ● Language assessment tests

Your admission to a French higher education establishment finally depends, among other conditions, on the quality of your fluency in the French language. A minimum level of B2 is usually required.

In order to assess the level of their French, candidates who are not native French-speakers have to take a *Test de Connaissance du Français* (TCF – knowledge of French test). A charge of about €110 is made for this test, which can be taken in numerous TCF-approved centres throughout the world. The list of approved TCF centres is available online: [ciep.fr/tcf](http://ciep.fr/tcf)

### Who has to take a language assessment test?

- > **1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> years of a Bachelor's degree:** the TCF is compulsory.
- > **3<sup>d</sup> year of a Bachelor's degree, and Master's degree:** the TCF is not compulsory. However, so as to enable the French establishment to check the level of your French, your application form will often include a request for proof, such as the TCF, of your knowledge of French. In order to know the precise language requirements of your chosen establishment, contact its international office or the registrar's department (*scolarité*) directly. (Their addresses and telephone numbers are listed in 'Useful contacts', p.100/101).

### You are exempt from taking the TCF if:

- > French is the official language in your home country.
- > You have attended a school with a bilingual French section (a school where special emphasis is given to the teaching of the French language, and in which at least one non-language subject is taught in French).
- > You are the holder of the *Diplôme Approfondi de Langue Française* (DALF).

## ● Financial help

**There are several types of grant for students and PhD students who want to come to study in France:**

- > French government grants, which are only awarded by the French embassies' cultural and cooperation service.

**For further information:** [diplomatie.gouv.fr/en](http://diplomatie.gouv.fr/en).

**N.B.** No grant for the current academic year can be applied for once the student has arrived in France.

- > Grants awarded by the government of your home country. Ask the government department responsible for the awarding of grants for information.
- > Grants awarded by international institutions and non-governmental organisations (charitable trusts and non-profit-making associations).
- > Some of Rennes' higher education establishments sometimes award grants to their international students. Contact them for information.
- > Mobility grants for PhD students. Rennes Métropole supports Rennes' higher education establishments and their research teams in the development of their scientific cooperation and international recognition. It offers mobility grants (incoming and outgoing) for PhD students. Further information can be found at: [metropole.rennes.fr](http://metropole.rennes.fr).

- > Funding for PhD students : Consult the Université Bretagne Loire website [u-bretagne Loire.fr](http://u-bretagne Loire.fr) and the Euraxess Jobs website [euraxess.ec.europa.eu/jobs](http://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/jobs).

## THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF VISA

### ● CMI Rennes help and support

#### UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

There is a special help desk in the CMI Rennes offices at the beginning of the academic year (late August to early December). Students wishing to use the help desk's services must make an appointment online on the CMI Rennes website.

When this help desk is not there, you can ask for an appointment to hand in your residence permit application by writing to the following address:

[cmirennes@u-bretagneleire.fr](mailto:cmirennes@u-bretagneleire.fr).

#### PHD STUDENTS AND RESEARCHERS

Throughout the year PhD students and researchers, as well as their spouses, can make an appointment online on the CMI Rennes website to see a member of the CMI Rennes staff in order to hand in a residence permit application.

For further information contact us by email at:

[cmirennes.euraxess@u-bretagneleire.fr](mailto:cmirennes.euraxess@u-bretagneleire.fr).

### ● Student visas

This type of visa concerns people who have been formally accepted for French language courses, an undergraduate degree, a master's degree, a *cycle ingénieur* engineering degree, or a doctorate, and who do not have an employment contract, or who are in receipt of a grant, or who are self-financing.

Only a positive response to an application to a French higher education establishment enables you to apply for a visa.

To do this, you must get information from the French consulate that is the nearest to your place of residence.

There are several types of student visa:

#### 1. The student long-stay visa (*visa long séjour valant titre de séjour*) (VLS/TS)

This is issued to students, with the exception of Algerian citizens, for a stay in France of between 3 months and a year. Students must have their visa validated by the OFII (Office Français de l'Immigration et de l'Intégration) within 3 months of arriving in France: [ofii.fr](http://ofii.fr). **This procedure can be carried out at the CMI Rennes.** This visa acts as a residence permit once it is validated by the OFII.

#### 2. The long-stay 'minor at school' (*mineur scolarisé*) visa

Holders of this visa must apply for a residence permit as soon as they reach the age of 18.

**Contact the CMI Rennes for more information.**

#### 3. Other types of visa

> Short-stay study visa (*visa court séjour pour études*)

> Temporary long-stay study visa noted 'temporary residence permit exemption' (*visa de long séjour temporaire pour études avec mention 'dispense temporaire de titre de séjour'*)

**N.B. These types of visa are neither renewable nor extendable.**

**The following are exempt from having to get a visa:**

> Citizens of the European Economic Area (the countries of the European Union, Iceland, Lichtenstein, and Norway), Switzerland, Andorra, Monaco, the Vatican, and San Marino.

> Holders of diplomatic passports, provided that they present a letter of introduction from the French Foreign Ministry.

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION

To know which type of visa you require and which supporting documents you need for your application, consult the CMI Rennes website. [cmirennes.u-bretagneleire.fr](http://cmirennes.u-bretagneleire.fr) (heading: practical information sheets)

## ● Visa for PhD students & researchers

Non-European researchers and PhD students who are considering doing research or teaching, with or without an employment contract or grant, must prove that they have a hosting agreement (*convention d'accueil*). This agreement acts as a work permit, and it enables a *passport talent chercheur scientifique/chercheur* visa to be quickly obtained.

The hosting agreement is issued by the Ile-et-Vilaine prefecture and signed by your host establishment.

> The *passport talent chercheur* visa or *chercheur en activité scientifique* residence permit enables its holder to work in France only as a researcher or teacher within the framework of the hosting agreement.

> It enables a *passport talent chercheur* and *passport talent famille* visa to be obtained.

Eligibility criteria:

> Be the holder of a degree that is equivalent to at least a Master's degree, whether obtained in France or another country

> Be invited by an accredited French host establishment to work in research or teaching at university level

> PhD students registered at a French higher education establishment must provide proof of an employment contract that is connected with the subject of their thesis.

There are several types of *passport talent chercheur* visa :

### 1. Short-stay visa

This is granted to PhD students/researchers who come to France for a stay of under 90 days. A *Visa C de court séjour 'Passport talent chercheur'* should be applied for at the French Consulate of the home country or of the place of residence.

This visa is valid for all the Schengen states (noted 'États Schengen' on the visa) and includes the dates indicated on the hosting agreement.

It is highly recommended that a multiple entry visa (noted 'MULT' on the visa) be requested as this facilitates any potential trips, e.g. conferences, work with a foreign team, or tourism, outside the Schengen area.

This visa specifies the number of days (between 6 and 90) that the holder is authorised to stay within the Schengen area.

This can be a single stay or the accumulation of several stays. In the latter case, however, the total number of days cannot exceed the period specified on the visa.

This is a non-extendable and non-renewable visa. Its holder cannot remain on French territory after its expiry date.

### 2. Long-stay visa constituting a residence permit (*visa long séjour valant titre de séjour*) (VLS/TS)

This is granted to PhD students and researchers who come to France for a stay of between 3 months and 1 year.

VLS-TS visas noted '*Passport talent chercheur*' must be applied for at the French Consulate of the home country or of the place of residence.

The visa must be validated by the OFII within 3 months of the date of arrival in France: [ofii.fr](http://ofii.fr).

A visitor's tax of €250 will be required for the validation of the *Passport talent chercheur* VLS-TS.

This tax is in addition to the payment of the required visa fees.

This visa acts as as a residence permit once it is validated by the OFII.

A VLS-TS that has not been validated by the OFII is not considered to be a residence permit and therefore it is not possible to renew it in France.

### 3. Long-stay visa (*visa long séjour*) (VLS)

This is granted to PhD students or researchers who come to France for a stay of over 1 year.

A multi-year residence permit must be applied for at the prefecture of the place of residence within 2 months of arriving in France.

The fiscal stamp for *Passport talent chercheur* status costs €269.

This tax is in addition to the payment of the required visa fees.

## ● Visas for the family

### COMING WITH YOUR SPOUSE

'Spouses' are considered to be people united by marriage.

N.B. Polygamy is not authorised in France.

#### 1. If you are a non-EU citizen

If your partner is not an EU citizen depending to the visa they have obtained, they must either apply for validation of their visa or apply for a residence permit to enable them to live legally in France.

If they are the holder of a residence permit marked *Résident de longue durée-UE* (long-term resident-EU), they will only have to apply for a French residence permit. This must be done within the 3 months following their arrival.

#### > If you have a residence permit marked 'Étudiant'

There is no specific procedure to enable their family to accompany the student or PhD student with a student visa.

You must therefore wait 18 months before being able to start the so-called *Regroupement familial* (family reunification) administrative procedure to allow you to be joined by your spouse and children. (This waiting period is reduced to 12 months for Algerian citizens). The spouse will then get a *visa long séjour valent titre de séjour* (long-stay visa constituting a residence permit) marked '*Vie Privée Familiale*'.

See the *Regroupement Familial* terms and conditions on the [service-public.fr](https://service-public.fr) website.

However, your spouse can make an independent application to the French consular authorities of your home country in order to come to join you in Rennes as a '*Visiteur*' to France. Your spouse must pay an OFIL tax of €250, which they will have to pay in the form of fiscal stamps. These stamps can be bought online on the OFIL website.

***N.B. This visa does not permit a person to work in France and does not entitle them to the French social security system nor to benefits paid by the CAF. You will therefore have to take out private healthcare insurance for your spouse. This must provide cover that is at least equivalent to that of the French Sécurité Sociale.***

#### > If you have a residence permit marked 'Passeport Talent Chercheur'

Whether you are a PhD student or a researcher, your spouse, as well as your underage children, can come and be with you during your stay. In order to do this, they will have to start the *Famille accompagnante* (accompanying family) procedure with the French consular authorities in their home country and apply for a visa marked '*Passeport Talent Famille*'. The hosting agreement of the PhD student or researcher invited to France will be required.

Unlike a spouse with '*Visiteur*' status, those who hold a '*Passeport Talent Famille*' visa have the right to work in France without having to apply for a work permit. They can also register with the French social security system, and get CAF benefits.

Whatever your situation, once you are in France you are invited to make contact with the CMI Rennes [cmireennes.euraxess@u-bretagne-normandie.fr](mailto:cmireennes.euraxess@u-bretagne-normandie.fr). The CMI Rennes can assist you and your family in those procedures linked to your stay in France.

#### 2. If you are a European Union citizen

If your spouse and your children are also EU citizens, they can come and join you in France, and, in line with the Schengen Agreement, no specific formalities are required.

Your spouse will be able to work in France and be covered by the French social welfare system under the same conditions as you.

### COMING WITH YOUR MINOR CHILD TIR / DCEM (VALID FOR 5 YEARS)

Minor children accompanying their parents must also obtain a visa and have their own passport in order to come to France.

Once in France they do not need to apply for a residence permit in order to live legally in France. They only need to do this from the age of 18.

On the other hand, so as to facilitate travelling outside France, we advise you to apply for a *Document de Circulation pour Enfant Mineur* (DCEM – minor child movement document)

If your child was born in France you will have to apply for a *Titre d'Identité Républicain* (TIR – republican identity card).

***N.B. PhD students and researchers at member establishments can make their DCEM or TIR applications with Prefecture officers at the CMI Rennes. Contact us to make an appointment.***

## ● Organising your arrival

### LIST OF ESSENTIAL DOCUMENTS WHICH MUST NOT BE FORGOTTEN!

#### Students who are citizens of a non-European Union country

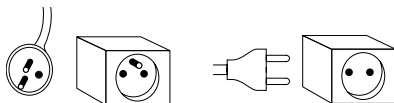
- > Original diplomas/certificates: most recent diploma/certificate (baccalauréat/A Level/high school diploma or equivalent). Certificates must be translated into French
- > Health record or vaccination certificate
- > Proof of parental income
- > Currency outflow authorisation
- > Sworn translation of birth certificate. Get information as to which birth certificates must have an apostille (legal certification). This depends on a person's nationality
- > Passport
- > Proof of health insurance (if you are registered with such a scheme in your home country)

#### Erasmus students who are citizens of a European Union country

- > Student card from your home university
- > Written confirmation from your home university that it has authorised your period of study in Rennes.
- > Proof of your social security cover (form E 128, or European Health Insurance Card)
- > Identity card or passport
- > Birth certificate translated into French

#### If you are coming with your car, 3 documents are absolutely essential:

- > driving licence, in French or officially translated (for more information, contact the Préfecture de Rennes or [vosdroits.service-public.fr](http://vosdroits.service-public.fr))
- > international insurance card
- > car registration book/papers.



## AUTHENTICATION APOSTILLATION

When you come to France, you must bring your birth certificate and, if you are married, your marriage certificate.

You will need these documents for the administrative procedures concerning your residence permit, social security, etc.

Depending on your home country, your civil status documents must be either authenticated or apostilled.

The authentication of a foreign legal document is a formality which enables the authenticity of a foreign civil status document to be certified in France.

Before being authenticated, the document must be translated into French by a *traducteur assermenté* (sworn translator).

The authentication of foreign certificates is the responsibility of French ambassadors and heads of consular posts based in the certificate's issuing country.

By way of exception, the French Foreign Minister is empowered to authenticate certificates issued by embassies or consulates based in France and intended to be produced before other diplomatic and consular officers based in France.

N.B. To know whether birth certificates issued in particular countries need to be authenticated or apostilled, consult the Préfecture de Police website [prefecturedepolice.interieur.gouv.fr](http://prefecturedepolice.interieur.gouv.fr).

## DAILY LIFE IN FRANCE

### Sundays and public holidays

Most shops and services are closed on Sundays and public holidays. For information on public holidays in France, see p.85.

### Opening hours

**Shops:** open between 10a.m. and 7p.m. from Monday to Saturday.

**Supermarkets:** open until 9p.m. from Monday to Saturday.

**Banks:** open between 9a.m. and 5p.m. (6p.m. in some cases) from Tuesday to Saturday. Most banks are open on Saturday mornings or all day Saturday and are closed on Monday.

## ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES

The voltage in France is 220V (volts). If this differs from the voltage in your own country, adaptors, which can be bought in supermarkets, enable you to use your electrical appliances.

## GETTING TO RENNES

### ● By plane

#### > Rennes Airport

Daily international flights from several cities.  
[rennes.aeroport.fr](http://rennes.aeroport.fr)

#### > Dinard-Pleurtuit Airport

Daily flights from London and other major cities in Great Britain.

Journey to Rennes: 45 minutes by car  
[dinard.aeroport.fr](http://dinard.aeroport.fr)

#### > Nantes Airport

Regular flights from London, Geneva, and Milan.  
Journey to Rennes: 1 hour by car or by train

[nantes.aeroport.fr](http://nantes.aeroport.fr)

#### > Paris airports

##### Roissy-Charles de Gaulle and Orly

About 6 Paris-Rennes flights a day.

For information on all Paris-Rennes flights:

[aeroportsdeparis.fr](http://aeroportsdeparis.fr)

#### Getting to Rennes from Roissy-Charles de Gaulle Airport

It is possible to catch a direct train from Roissy to Rennes. Roissy's railway station is near terminal 2. Tickets (about €70) can be bought at the ticket office. Do not forget to *composter* (to punch = to validate) your ticket before getting onto the train (Use the special yellow machines located on the station platforms).

If the timetables of this direct line do not suit you, take the Air France 'Roissy-Montparnasse' coach (a 45-minute journey) to the Gare Montparnasse railway station in Paris. At the Gare Montparnasse, take the TGV high-speed train from Paris to Rennes.

#### Getting to Rennes from Orly Airport

There is no direct train from Orly to Rennes. You therefore have to get to the Gare Montparnasse in Paris in order to take the TGV high-speed train to Rennes:

> either by Bus Direct - Line 1. Get off the coach at the 'Gare Montparnasse' stop.

> or by travelling on the RER (*Réseau Express Régional*) rapid-transit train and metro service between Paris and the suburbs. In the airport, go to the 'Gare Orlyval', and then take the RER B to Denfert-Rochereau metro station. The journey takes around 50 minutes. RER tickets cost €12.10, and metro tickets €1.90. From there, you will then need to take metro line 4 (towards 'Porte de Clignancourt') or 6 (towards 'Étoile') to get

to the Gare Montparnasse. For information on the metro timetables and for a map of the Paris metro, consult the [ratp.fr](http://ratp.fr) website. At the Gare Montparnasse, take the TGV high-speed train to Rennes.

> or by coach. Consult the [ouibus.com](http://ouibus.com) website.

### ● By high-speed train (TGV)

Paris has 6 different railway stations. To travel to Rennes by train, you have to leave from the Gare Montparnasse, which serves the west and south-west of France. 21 trains a day run between Paris and Rennes, with the journey taking about 1 hour 26 minutes. A single ticket costs from about €35 to €65.

To get to the Gare Montparnasse by metro, consult the [ratp.fr](http://ratp.fr) website (map and timetables of all Paris' metro lines).

To book a seat on a Paris-Rennes train, consult SNCF's website: [oui.sncf](http://oui.sncf) (website in French, English, German, Spanish, Italian, and Russian).

### ● By boat

If you are travelling from Great Britain or Ireland, you can get to Rennes via the ports of Saint-Malo and Roscoff. Between 6a.m. and 8p.m. there is a regular service of 17 trains a day from Saint-Malo to Rennes. The hour-long journey costs about €15.

### ● By coach

Coach companies that serve Rennes are:

**Eurolines:** [eurolines.fr](http://eurolines.fr)

**Atlassib:** [atlassib.ro](http://atlassib.ro)

**OUIBUS:** [ouibus.com](http://ouibus.com)

**Flixbus:** [flixbus.fr](http://flixbus.fr)

**Megabus:** [megabus.com](http://megabus.com)

### ● By car

France's motorways and major trunk roads provide easy access to Rennes. These two websites can help you to plan the best route:

**Mappy:** [mappy.com](http://mappy.com)

**Michelin:** [viamichelin.com](http://viamichelin.com)

#### For further information

For information on getting around Rennes and Rennes Métropole, see page 61.