International Student HANDBOOK
YOUR CONTACTS at AMGSM-IAE

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# IAE Aix-Marseille General Information

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INTRODUCTION TO IAE AIX-MARSEILLE

IAE Aix-Marseille Graduate School of Management is part of the public Aix-Marseille Université, founded in 1409.

- 72 000 students
- The largest French University

Dedicated to education and research since 1955, IAE Aix-Marseille offers programs (Masters, MSc, MBA, PhD) specializing in different management disciplines that are constantly in alignment with the needs of the business world.

IAE Aix-Marseille was the first business school in the French university system.

It was the first public institution in France to be awarded dual accreditation, with EQUIS since 1999, an MBA for its MBA Change & Innovation since 2004, its Masters in Management since 2005, its Executive Part-time MBA and Euro * MBA since 2007.

IAE Aix-Marseille is also a member of the IAE Network, IAE France, which currently has 31 members.

DEGREES AWARDED:

- 2 years specialized MSc and Masters: M1/M2 for pre-experience students
- 1 year MSc and Master in General Management for pre-experience students
- MBAs for participants with 3 to 5 years of experience
- Doctorate
- Executive Education for participants with over 10 years of experience

KEY FIGURES:

- 40 permanent professors (PhDs)
- 800 participants per year
- 25% foreign students > 50 nationalities on campus
IAE Aix-Marseille offers graduate and postgraduate programmes in Management: MSc and Masters in 2 years, MBAs, PhD and Doctoral programme.
IAE AIX-MARSEILLE STUDENT BODY

Degree Students:

Students seeking to obtain a degree from our institution

Students apply directly to the IAE Aix-Marseille MSc of their choice through IAE admissions via Top Apply and obtain admission according to strict selection criteria: application, test results, individual interviews, work experience and recommendations. Degree students agree to follow the IAE MSc programme and courses under IAE and University conditions.

Degree students must follow the course pre-determined by their degree programme.

Incoming Exchange Students:

Students seeking credits and enrolled in a partner institution

Incoming exchange students are selected by our partner universities with their admissions criteria. After wards the partner university nominates students by e-mail directly to the International Relations Exchange Programme. Students are then invited to apply the IAE Aix-Marseille on Top Apply via our website www.iae-aix.com. They must follow the on-line Incoming Exchange Programme procedure. This entails filling in the on-line form and downloading specific document as requested.

Once the Top Apply application is complete an invitation letter is issued accompanied with a welcome package.
ADMISSION TO ENROLMENT

CONFIRMING ADMISSION

Degree Students – As soon as an applicant is selected for admission, the programme coordination sends a “Notification of Admission” and “Condition & Confirmation of Intent” documents directly with other enrolment documents and the “International Student Pack”. The candidate reads, signs and sends the “Confirmation of Enrolment” form accompanied with a deposit to secure the seat in the programme. The IAE Aix-Marseille Admissions and Orientation Service accompanies students in the visa process, by providing official documents (specific accommodation needs, arrival details...).

Incoming Exchange Students Once the Top Apply application is complete, an invitation letter accompanied with a welcome package is issued by the school International Relations Office.

UNIVERSITY ENROLMENT

All Students (degree and incoming exchange) must enrol at the Aix-Marseille University in order to acquire legal student status in France, to obtain the official enrolment certificate and a student card.

Enrolment Form
Since the enrolment form exists in French only, administrative French, International Centre holds a number of sessions at the beginning of each semester to accompany student with this administrative task. We explain the obligations and advantages of enrolment. It is important to fill in the form correctly and exhaustively. The information is required for AMU and for the French Education Ministry.

Civil Liability
Degree students have the absolute obligation to provide proof of civil liability insurance underwritten on a French company for the period of enrolment (October 1 – September 30). This is called “Responsabilité Civile” in French. Most housing insurances use this clause. The easiest is to purchase it through the LMDE and MEP at IAE Aix-Marseille on Orientation day.

French insurance: “sécurité sociale”
The “sécurité sociale” is the French national social system, it ensures basic social coverage and everyone has access to medical care in France under this system. The University is legally responsible for enrolling the students in the system. Students under 28 are required to pay the fee at the time of university enrolment, and are covered for one year from October 1 – September 30.

Students under 28 must pay for the French Student Insurance upon enrolment (around €240).

Students over 28 must provide proof of private affiliation (underwritten on a French insurance company for the year or at least until December 31 if they would like to apply for the French CMU. It can be purchased in France; the International Centre provides a list of possibilities. Please note: travel insurance is insufficient end cannot be used for enrolment purposes.

European Health Card
Europeans must provide a valid copy of the European Health Card
Students from Quebec provide the SE 401-Q-106 Certificate
COURSES AND CREDITS
All IAE Aix-Marseille courses, whether delivered either in French or in English, are designed to deliver credits based on the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS). Validation of credits depends on the French grading system.

ATTENDANCE
Regular attendance and punctuality are an important part of the student life. Once you are registered in a course, attendance and class participation is mandatory. Make sure you sign the presence sheet at each session. You must also attend group work and exam sessions in order to earn ECTS credits.

ABSENCES
Tolerance of absences and tardiness is exceptional and taken into consideration for the overall assessment. A student may be absent for medical or family reason. The administration must be informed, and provided with a medical certificate or a document justifying the absence.

GENERAL BEHAVIOR IN CLASS
Eating and drinking in class is strictly forbidden. Walking in and out during the class is disruptive and is forbidden. All mobile phones must be switched off during class. Authorization of laptops during class is at the discretion of the teacher.

INCOMING EXCHANGE PROGRAMME
- Incoming exchange students can choose to follow either first or second year programme
- All courses, whether in French or in English, enable students to obtain a number of credits based on the French grading system on the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS).
ECTS CREDIT AND GRADING

The European Credit Transfer System is a student-centered system (ECTS) based on the student workload required to achieve a degree’s objectives, objectives preferably specified in terms of learning outcomes and competences to be acquired.

The ECTS is based on the convention that 60 credits measure the workload of a full-time student during one academic year.

Courses are not necessarily organized on a weekly system, but sometimes intensive and sometimes all over the semester.

1 course - 24 contact hours = 3 ECTS

Grades: at IAE Aix-Marseille we use a 0-20 scale to express all assessment scores. The top grade, 19-20 points, distinguishes an outstanding performance and is rarely awarded. The bottom grade, 0 points is awarded to extremely disastrous performances. In order to earn the ECTS credit a student must get a mark between 10 to 20.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IAE Aix scale 0-20</th>
<th>Result</th>
<th>Corresponding Letter grade</th>
<th>ECTS</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>17 to 20</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>A+</td>
<td>Credit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 to &gt;16</td>
<td>Very Good</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>Credit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 to &gt;15</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>Credit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 to &gt;12</td>
<td>Sufficient</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>Credit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;10</td>
<td>Fail</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>No credit</td>
</tr>
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FRENCH CLASSES

IAE Aix-Marseille proposes two weeks of intensive French for Management before the fall semester begins: 3 hours per day for 10 days. This is a non-credit course free of charge for incoming exchange students. In addition, a 24 hour course (3 ECTS) is delivered each semester. Students are evaluated and put into the groups according to their level of French.

In addition to IAE courses Aix-Marseille University (through the Aix-Marseille Central University DRI-SUFLE) offer French refresher courses, exclusively for incoming exchange students.

CAMPUS RESTAURANT

The cafeteria is open daily Monday - Friday from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Given the lovely weather here in the south of France, students also take great advantage of dining outside on the large terraces.
INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

At IAE Aix-Marseille you will discover a truly unique international environment with students and professors from over 50 different countries. The International Festival is an annual event that is organised by and for the IAE Aix international community to prepare culinary delights as well as to share the specific cultures, and traditions with fellow students. A team composed of French students and our staff is dedicated to help the International Students to make this party a success year after year.

Before leaving your country remember to pack your luggage with recipes and specific spices that may be expensive in France. Also don’t forget to bring traditional costumes to wear.
STUDENT ASSOCIATION: BDE

The IAE Aix-Marseille enjoys a very dynamic student life. Thanks to a student union composed of a motivated and resourceful team, students (including International and Exchange Students) participate and carry out various projects and events on a daily basis. The student union successfully aims at: making student life more exciting, integrating students and enabling them to evolve with extracurricular activities, and more generally to provide unforgettable memories. Besides the numerous parties - some memorable projects: the wine trip, the international lunches, the M&Ms sales and the collect for humanitarian projects, a flashmob which took place downtown and the shooting of the school’s Lipdub.

To view the exhaustive list, check out the student union website: facebook.com/bdeiaeax

SOCIAL NETWORKING

IAE Aix-Marseille students and alumni are visible on diverse internet networks. All links are on our website. The basis of student life relies on connection. Parties, accommodation, language sharing, student volunteer organizations exist within the network system.

CORPORATE & CAREER SERVICES CENTRE

In constant contact with the corporate world, the Career Services Center offers different services adapted to corporate needs, as well as to our MSc and MBA participants.

The Career Services Center is the main resource for internship hunting:

- IAE Aix-Marseille career platform powered by Jobteaser: internship and apprenticeship offers are available on the platform (http://iae-aix.jobteaser.com/fr/users/sign_in), only accessible with your IAE Aix-Marseille e-mail address. Check it out regularly, as companies post offers every day!
- Valérie Baume, career coaching manager, is available by appointment: she will provide you with advices on your CV/Cover letter, corporate contacts, CV/cover letter examples, for instance.
- The CCSC works closely with IAE Aix-Marseille associations to organize main career events (career forum, career days): Junior Consulting, Start’ Aix or BDE as well as the IAE Aix Alumni Association
- Moreover, IAE is founding member of CARNET (CAREer NETwork, an international network of meeting and professional exchanges) that you can connect through Linkedin (Carnet Alliance)
**STUDENTS FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION**

A visa and residence permit is no longer compulsory, but a valid identity card is needed.

Also, an official birth certificate is needed, if you are planning to apply for student housing subsidies from CAF. It is open for all the students both from European Union and Non-European countries. All the information available *(in French)* here: [http://www.caf.fr](http://www.caf.fr) *(to get to the application form find “Faire une demande en ligne: Les aides au logement”)*.

**STUDENTS FROM NON-EUROPEAN COUNTRIES**

**Visas**

All foreign nationals seeking to come to France must be able to submit statutory documentary evidence at the border for the reasons of their stay, their means of financial support and accommodation arrangements*.

As a rule, unless you are exempt, you are required to have a visa. It must be applied for at the relevant French Embassy or Consulate in your country of residence.

For more information about getting a visa and the type of visa you will need for your stay, visit the following webpage: [http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/coming-to-france/getting-a-visa/](http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/coming-to-france/getting-a-visa/)

**CEF Procedure (Campus France)**

If you live in one of the 35 countries in the table below, a convenient online process is in place through our partner, Campus France, a national public institution that promotes higher education in France throughout the world.

Use of this procedure is required if you wish to obtain a student visa. If you live in a country not listed below, you may apply directly to the institutions of your choice.

Countries that require the Campus France (CEF) procedure:

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Algeria</td>
<td>Argentina</td>
<td>Benin</td>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>Burkina Faso</td>
<td>Cameroon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chile</td>
<td>China</td>
<td>Colombia</td>
<td>Comoros</td>
<td>Congo</td>
<td>Cote d’Ivoire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gabon</td>
<td>Guinea</td>
<td>India</td>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>Lebanon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madagascar</td>
<td>Mali</td>
<td>Maroccco</td>
<td>Mauritius</td>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>Peru</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senegal</td>
<td>Russia</td>
<td>South Korea</td>
<td>Syria</td>
<td>Taiwan</td>
<td>Tunisia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Egypt</td>
<td>USA</td>
<td>Vietnam</td>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td>Iran</td>
<td>Mauritania</td>
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For more information about the CEF procedure, please visit the following webpage: http://www.campusfrance.org/en/page/short-stay-visas-less-90-days

Documents provided by IAE Aix-Marseille for your visa:

Upon confirmation of your admission, you will receive a letter of invitation from the IAE Aix-Marseille, which will justify your enrolment and provide accommodation information that will allow you to obtain your visa.

*Please note: accommodation is not available on the IAE Aix-Marseille campus. The address provided in the letter of invitation is a required formality in order to obtain your visa, but this is the address of the school, and is not in any way a housing invitation.

STUDENT RESIDENT PERMIT / CARTE DE SEJOUR ETUDIANT

You must send in the OFII form that the embassy provides when issuing the visa, as soon as you arrive in France

The address is on the form. You must go to the post office and send the form to the address indicated A/R. A/R is registered post that requires the receptor to sign reception - this provides proof to the sender.

First time request for a student residence permit:

To obtain a student resident permit (carte de séjour) in France:

- First step: send the OFII form A/R
- Second step: after this, you receive the medical visit convocation from the OFII officials. Purchase the “timbre fiscal” online you go with your passport to their offices to pass the medical exam, and the Medical clinic in Marseilles ANAEM provides the stamp thus authorising the “séjour” for newcomers.

PLEASE TAKE NOTE:
It takes at least 2 ½ months to obtain the student resident permit OFII. You must apply as soon as you arrive in France.
Renewal of a Student Residence Permit:

The French Authorities: the sous-prefecture now holds office called Guichet Unique, for students in the CROUS administrative centre “GAZELLES”.

Documents necessary to renew your carte de séjour

- Carte de Séjour application and signature sheet are provided at Gazelles when you drop off your file.
- Passport (valid for the entire training period)
- Birth Certificate translated into French (or English), the embassy in your country can assist you with this
- University Enrolment Certificate
- 4 passport standard photos
- Proof of accommodation in France
- Bank certificate proving enough financial resources for the entire period
- Self addressed stamped envelope
- For renewals you must also provide a transcript from the previous year’s studies in France, or a copy of the degree.
- Please note that Algerians Nationals apply directly to the “Guichet Unique” at the cite Gazelles in Aix.

Useful Addresses

Final step to obtain your final stamp for carte de séjour
ANAEM, Direction de Marseille
61 Bd Rabatau
13295 Marseille 08
Telephone: 04 91 32 53 60

Sous-Prefecture d’Aix
Services des Etrangers
12 Rue Mignet
13100 Aix-en-Provence
Hours for the public: Mornings only
APPRENTICESHIP

In France there is an excellent way to finance your studies with a monthly salary all the while gaining highly valuable professional experience. International students who have been present on French territory for at least one year, and enrolled in IAE Aix-Marseille Master’s Degree programme can benefit from either French Apprenticeship (-26 years old) or “Contract de professionalization” (+26 years old).

It is important to know that the “primo arrivant” (a student who just arrived for the first time to study in France) is not eligible for this dispositif.

The Company pays a large part of student tuition. The student obtains an employee legal status and is paid (at least 780€/month) for the whole period.

One example of the rhythm of the IAE Aix-Marseille work study:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sept - Dec</th>
<th>Jan - March</th>
<th>April - May</th>
<th>June - Aug</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IAE</td>
<td>Company</td>
<td>IAE</td>
<td>Company</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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At the School Mireille.Gemin@iae-aix.com is the person responsible for apprenticeship, and you can also get more in depth information from http://www.cfa-epure.com/
WORKING IN FRANCE

During your studies

It’s quite common for International and Exchange students to look for ways to supplement their income during their studies.

All foreign students have the right to work during their studies in France. If they are non-EU nationals they must be enrolled in an educational institution that entitles them to student coverage under the French national health insurance system (Sécurité Sociale) and they must have a valid student residence permit. French legislation authorizes foreign students to work a maximum of 964 hours per year. In France there is a guaranteed minimum wage, the SMIC, which is €9.43 gross per hour (this amount is revalued annually).

After your studies: For French Master’s Degree Holders

At the end of your studies, as a French Master’s degree holder it may be possible to be recruited by a company even if you are not an EU national. In this case you will then have to change your legal status (from student to employee) through a specific procedure. You will have to present an employment contract or an employment offer from a French company. The job offer must present a salary equal to or over 1.5 times the SMIC (French minimum wage or 2500 EUROS net per month) In evaluating your request, the authorities will consider various factors, such as the company’s reasons for making the offer, your profile and the number of years of study completed.
THE MANAGEMENT OATH

Future graduates share the AMGSM-IAE same deep-rooted Corporate Social Responsibility values. Throughout the experience the School conveys how to cultivate a more human leadership, with the precept «Empowering Humanistic Leadership». As an engagement to these values, AMGSM, as have other prestigious Schools who share this vision (Harvard, Duke, McGill, MIT, London Business School ...), offer their future graduates the opportunity to sign the “Management Oath” during the graduation ceremony.
Aix-en-Provence has a general population of 142,000 including 30% student population and is located 35 kilometres from Marseilles (population of 1.5 million).

**TRAVELLING TO AND IN AIX-EN-PROVENCE**

**Marseille Provence Airport**

Marseille Provence Airport (MRS) is conveniently located 40 minutes from IAE Aix-Marseille. Numerous flights, both national and international, are available daily. All the information you need is available here: [www.marseille.aeroport.fr](http://www.marseille.aeroport.fr)

The Marseille Provence Airport also benefits from a low-cost airline terminal: MP2. Additional information: [www.mp2.aeroport.fr](http://www.mp2.aeroport.fr)

**TGV-AIX Railway Station**

Located 25 minutes from the city of Aix-en-Provence, people can benefit from the High Speed Bullet Train (TGV: Train à Grande Vitesse). For instance, the trip from Paris to Aix takes about 3 hours.

You will find schedule and reservation information on the SNCF site: [www.voyages-sncf.com](http://www.voyages-sncf.com)

**Transport from Marseille Provence Airport / Aix TGV to Aix-en-Provence**

Take the bus number 40, which leaves in every 15 to 30 minutes until the midnight.

- **Price:** €8.20 (€2 with special carteirie bus card for young people under 26 yrs)
- **Length:** ~40 minutes from the Airport, ~25 minutes from the Aix TGV Station

A taxi ride from the Airport to Aix-en-Provence costs about €60 during the day.

Additional information: [lepilote.com](http://lepilote.com)

**From Marseille-Saint Charles Railway / Bus Station to Aix-en-Provence**

The easiest way is to take the bus number 50 (“navette”), which leaves in every 5 to 30 minutes from 5:25 AM until the midnight. The ride to the main bus station (Gare Routière) in the center of Aix-en-Provence takes about 30 minutes.

You can also take the train to the centre of Aix, but it departs less frequently and can be more expensive.

- **Price:** €5.80 (bus), €6/€8 (train ticket under 26yrs/regular), (€2 with special carteirie bus card for young people under 26 yrs)
- **Length:** ~30-50 minutes (depending on the traffic)

Additional information: [lepilote.com](http://lepilote.com) & [voyages-sncf.com](http://voyages-sncf.com)
PUBLIC TRANSPORT IN AIX-EN-PROVENCE

Aix-en-Provence bus service is called Aix En Bus. It’s main office is located in Tourism Office next to the Rotonde and Apple Store. Number: 04.42.26.37.28 and website: aixenbus.fr

Timetables of the various lines are available on request from IAE office.

- **Price:** €1.10 (single ticket), €2 (round trip), €8 (10 bus rides), €28 (monthly pass)
- **You can buy a single ticket and round trip from the bus driver (you need to have exact amount). The other tickets can be buying only in tourism office. To benefit from the monthly pass, you have to firstly obtain “Pass Provence” (1 photo+ form to fill in)

TRAVELLING FROM AIX-EN-PROVENCE TO IAE AIX-MARSEILLE

As IAE Aix-Marseille is situated in Puyricard, approximately 10 km north of Aix-en-Provence, you have to use public transport to go there.

In Aix, there is only one bus (number 11) from the centre, which takes you directly to IAE Aix-Marseille (stop “I.A.E.”). You can hop on the bus near the Bus Station and Rotonde in the stops called Gare Routière Belges and Rotonde Poste.

There are other buses (number 12, 13) going to Puyricard from Aix as well, but then you have to take an extra 10-minute walk from the centre of Puyricard to our university (check the map).

**Tip:** the best bus stops, that connect you to all the buses you need, are “Niollon” in Aix-en-Provence and Salle des Fêtes Puyricard in Puyricard. This is useful, if you don’t know the exact timetable and just want to take the next bus going to towards Aix or Puyricard.

- **Price:** €1.10 (single ticket), €2 (round trip)
- **Length:** ~30-50 minutes (depending on the traffic)

Additional information: aixenbus.fr
SETTLING IN

**CROUS: Degree Students**

International Students Candidates can apply for a room in a student dormitory. Applicants can apply directly to the CROUS by their website: http://www.crous-aix-marseille.fr/

Students must be under 28 years old.

Deadline to apply online: April 30th

**CROUS: Incoming Exchange Students**

IAE Aix-Marseille has the possibility to propose campus housing @ Cite Universitaire Les Gazelles, which is located in Aix-en-Provence, a 30 minute bus ride from IAE Aix-Marseille campus. These rooms are exclusively reserved for exchange students and are very plain individual rooms with toilets, showers, and kitchens on each floor.

The cost starts at €1300 per period, which is usually paid all on one day. One-month deposit up front is required. Exchange Students notify the incoming exchange coordinator by e-mail before the exchange application deadline to sign up for this solution.

**Hotel Accommodation**

You can find information about hotels in the town or surroundings on the Aix web site: www.aixenprovencetourism.com

**Housing Search Resources**

The IAE Aix-Marseille holds a regularly updated list of private home owners and private residence. This list is sent by e-mail upon request. In addition, the CROUS provides a list of private offers: www.crous.aix-marseille.com

The Aix-en-Provence Tourism Office also provides housing contacts: http://www.aixenprovencetourism.com and there is a site to find accommodation for the students called: http://www.adele.org/

Small apartments in and around Aix-en-Provence start at about € 450 / month. Please prepare to pay at least three times the monthly cost up front.

In addition, on Facebook, you can find many different groups for accommodation as well. One of them is called “Colocations sur Aix-en-Provence”, which is dedicated to finding a roommate to share an apartment with. It is a good way to share costs and find a affordable and nice place to live. The group is available on the link: https://www.facebook.com/groups/513598715333991/
**ATTENTION: SECURITY DEPOSIT**

Apartment landlords require a “security deposit”, generally equal to two months’ rent. The landlord must return the security deposit within a month after the tenant leaves, provided the apartment is in perfect condition. When renting, complete an “état des lieux” (Inspection checklist of the premises) that should indicate any existing damage in the apartment in full detail.

You may also contact estate agencies. But in addition to the security deposit, you will have to pay agency fees. Read the lease carefully before you sign. Keep a copy of the lease and any other documents about your flat.

**INTERPRETING THE FRENCH TECHNICAL HOUSING VOCABULARY**

- CC or Cc: charges comprises, operating costs included
- TCC: toutes charges comprises, all costs included
- T1 or F1: the number after the T or F indicates the number of rooms in the apartment (except bathroom & kitchen)
- RDC : rez-de-chaussée, ground floor
- SDB: salle de bain, bathroom
- SDE: douche, shower

**FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR HOUSING - CAF**

All students regardless of age or nationality can benefit from housing assistance. You must apply to the CAF, and have a bank account in France. Although getting this help is not automatic, because it is based on previous revenues, it is strongly advised that all students apply. Visit: [www.caf.fr](http://www.caf.fr)

*Caisse d’Allocations Familiales CAF*

135, chemin Roger-Martin - 13 088 AIX-EN-PROVENCE Cedex 2

**WEATHER IN AIX-EN-PROVENCE**

Aix-en-Provence benefits from a mild Mediterranean climate. People living here are lucky enough to enjoy 300 days of sunshine per year.

Summers are relatively hot and dry, with temperatures going up to 35° Celsius. Autumn and spring are very mild. Winters are generally mild and sunny, but temperatures can sometimes drop to slightly below 0° Celsius. Nevertheless, snowy days are fairly rare around Aix.

The Mistral (fabled wind that sweeps off the Alps down the Rhône valley and which is said to chase away clouds and bad spirits!) will cut straight through you in winter. Traditionally it lasts 1, 3, or 6 days, and clears the skies.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fahrenheit</th>
<th>32</th>
<th>40</th>
<th>50</th>
<th>60</th>
<th>70</th>
<th>75</th>
<th>85</th>
<th>95</th>
<th>105</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Centigrade</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SOCIAL SYSTEM

Affiliation to the social system (sécurité sociale) is compulsory in France. This gives access to medical care hospitalisation, doctors and medicine. Final registration into the French student healthcare system takes place directly at one of the two organisations’ offices.

- LMDE
  Residence de l’Arche
  5 Rue Des Allumettes
  Aix-en Provence

- MEP
  Rue Reine Jeanne
  Aix-en-Provence

Necessary documents:
- A copy of your passport, and validated OFII visa
- Copy of Birth certificate translated
- Student card and enrolment certificate which mentions payment
- Bank information slip (RIB)
- Proof of address

**Please remember to request to choose your “Medecin traitant” (Personal General Doctor) in order that you can get the maximum amount reimbursed.**

Reimbursements are made directly to your French bank account:
- Doctor appointments 50-70%
- Emergency services and hospital reimbursements start at 50%
- Medicines 50-70% on specific prescription drugs

In order to meet unexpected expenses it is also recommended to take a complementary health care policy, another fee paid directly to one of the two organisations.

MONEY MANAGEMENT

Before leaving your home country, make sure that your financial resources will cover the costs of living and studying in France.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuition</td>
<td>Depends on the programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National enrolment fee</td>
<td>260€ / year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student health insurance (sécurité-sociale)</td>
<td>240€ / year (for students under 28)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residence permit (if needed)</td>
<td>58€ (once)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accommodation</td>
<td>From 300€ to 550€ / month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>150€ / year (for students under 26)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food</td>
<td>200€ / month minimum</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Budget for 9 months** From 5000€ to 10 000€
MANAGING DIFFERENCES

Studying abroad can be one of the most exciting experiences of your life but it can start as a series of unexpected and frustrating incidents that leave you longing for home.

EMOTIONS & CULTURE SHOCK

Everybody, regardless of maturity, disposition, previous experience abroad, or knowledge of the country in which they will be living, has some degree of stress in adjusting to a new cultural environment.

During the « Troubles phase », you may experience different un-comfortable emotions: feeling anxious because you don’t know if your behaviour is appropriate, confronted with situations where you are not sure what is the right thing to do, being upset because the situation is not what you have expected, or feeling excluded, like an « outsider » because you are not part of the « in-group ». Then, you may be confronted with one’s stereotypes and prejudices. Put the experience into perspective, try to not to become isolated and remember that it’s normal and that time you will enable you to learn and adapt naturally. Don’t hesitate to seek help from friends, or other students that are from your country who have already gone through the first steps. Also the International Affairs office is here to help: please come and share your experiences with us. There will be difficult and even frustrating times, but bad moments (even days) are quickly forgotten with time and patience.

When you return, you’ll realize that even the bad experiences are priceless.