

WELCOME TO CESI!

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR ACCEPTANCE TO CESI GRADUATE SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING

**This guide will help you prepare for
life in France at CESI**

We are excited to accompany you
on your journey as a CESI student
towards a successful career in
engineering.

Your bright future is just ahead—
with our help and a little planning,
nothing can stop you!



About CESI École d'Ingénieurs

CERTIFIED SCHOOL OF HIGHER EDUCATION

- Certified by the Commission des Titres d'Ingénieur (CTI)
- Member of Conference des Directeurs des Ecoles Françaises d'Ingénieurs (CDEFI)
- Member of l'Union des Grandes Ecoles Indépendantes (UGEI)
- Member of CDIO international network
- Member of N+i network
- Member of Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie (AUF)
- Member of HESAM University
- Implemented in project-based learning and located on campuses that are closely tied with actors of the professional world.

KEY FIGURES

60 years of experience training engineers

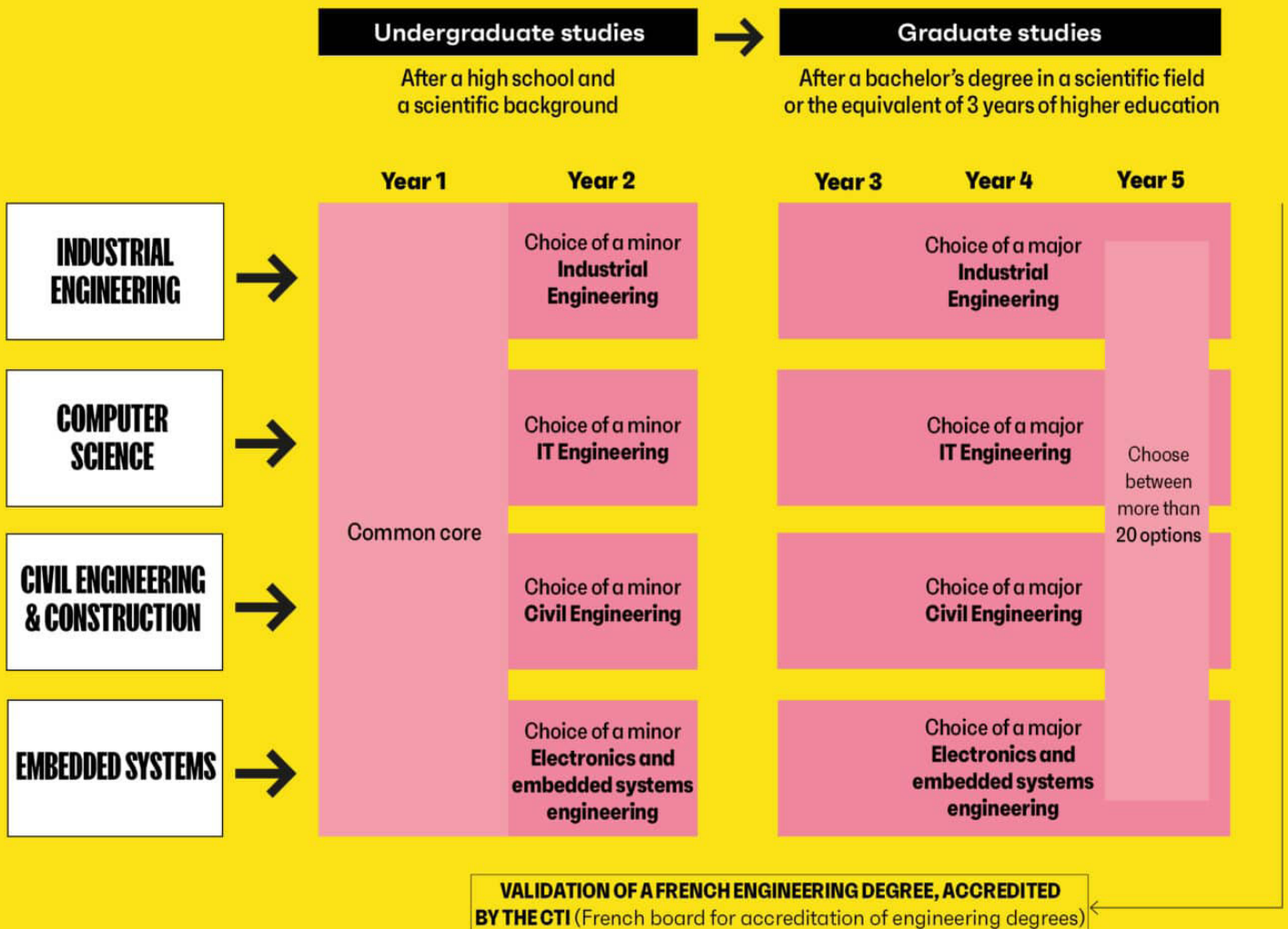
35,000 graduates

6,900 students enrolled in 2019

10,000 partner companies

Over **130** international partnerships

I WANT TO BECOME AN ENGINEER



↓ DEVELOP YOUR EXPERTISE

Go further after your graduation with a Executive Post-Graduate degree

9 Post certified by the Conférence des grandes écoles (CGE), Executive Post-Graduate programs are divided into four major areas of expertise : IT, Industry, Construction and Management

or continue with a Ph.D

VISA & RESIDENCE PERMIT

CITIZENS OF THE EUROPEAN UNION OR EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AREA (EEA)

- An identity card (or passport) that is valid for the duration of your stay is required. You will need an ID that is valid for the duration of your stay in France.

CITIZENS OUTSIDE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION OR EEA

1. Before Departure

- A valid passport and visa application is required for your stay.
Please see this link for more information on which visa you should apply for:
<https://france-visas.gouv.fr/>
- The 'long-stay' visa is equivalent to a residence permit, or VLS-TS.
It allows you to study in France for one year.
Please visit this link for more information on the 'student' VLS-TS
<https://www.campusfrance.org/en/student-long-stay-visa>
- How to obtain a 'student' VLS TS?
 - > If you have applied to CESI via the "Etudes en France" platform, then your dossier will be forwarded to the French consular offices in your country of residence upon acceptance.
 - > If you did not apply via "Etudes en France" because your country of residence is not in a country that uses this platform, then you should contact the French consular authorities directly to schedule an interview and apply for a student visa.
 - > If you have applied to CESI directly via our website and your country of residence uses the "Etudes en France" platform, then CESI will declare your admissions upon acceptance, allowing your dossier to be forwarded to the French consular offices.
- How do you know if you need a visa to study in France?
 - > Fill in your personal details on the site France Visas with the visa assistant option. Within a few minutes, you can know if you are required to apply for a visa based on your country of residence and purpose of studies.
 - > The list of countries that use the "Etudes en France" platform can be found here:
<https://www.campusfrance.org/en/faq/which-countries-are-affected-by-the-etudes-en-france-studying-in-france-procedure>
- If you live in a country that does not have an EEF office and are not an EU or EEA citizen, submit your application directly via our online form. Once admitted, schedule a visa interview at the French consulate nearest to you.

2. Upon Arrival

There are important steps to complete within the first few days of arrival.

- **Pay the student life and campus contribution (CVEC)**
 - > This is mandatory to enroll in CESI for all degree-seeking students

> Cost: 92€

> How to pay : **by internet** <https://cvec.etudiant.gouv.fr/> or **in cash** at the post office; REMEMBER to keep your certificate of payment/receipt
> ATTENTION: if you are an international student studying at CESI as a part of an exchange program with your home university, you do not need to pay the CVEC

> Consult this page for questions about the CVEC:

<https://www.campusfrance.org/en/10-things-you-need-to-know-about-the-student-and-campus-life-contribution-cvec>

- Open a bank account

Useful to pay bills, receive aid, reimbursements, and/or salary

- Validate your residence permit

Please visit this site: <https://administration-etrangers-en-france.interieur.gouv.fr/particuliers/#/>

Subscribe to student civil liability insurance. This covers liability for your private and student life. It provides coverage at your place of study and internship(s).

- Register for social security

For European Students

> If you have a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC), then you do NOT need to register for French social security. This card is requested in your home country. Make sure to request your European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) in your home country before you arrive in France!

> This includes: countries of the European Union, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland

For non-European Students

> You will need to register with the social security system. Register is completed online through the health insurance website dedicated to international students : <https://etudiant-etranger.ameli.fr/#/>
Registration is free and mandatory, and provides partial reimbursement for your medical expenses.

Provides partial reimbursement for medical expenses

- If you have a long-stay visa equivalent to a residence permit (VLS-TS), you will obtain an insurance card that is linked to your bank account called the "carte vitale" that health professionals will ask for in order to guarantee reimbursement.

<https://www.campusfrance.org/fr/sante-securite-sociale-etudiants>

> We recommend you to take a birth certificate in French in order to register for social security.

DOCTORS

In France, it costs about 25€ to see a general practitioner. Home or night visits, Sundays, and holidays are usually more expensive. A visit with a specialist costs more, and appointments should be made several months in advance. You can expect to pay the doctor's bill up front and get reimbursed by social security directly on your French bank account within a few days.

To find doctors near you and reserve an appointment follow this link: <http://www.doctolib.fr/>

PHARMACIES

You will need a prescription in order to get most medicines, and only prescription drugs are reimbursed through social security.

Most pharmacies have limited weekend hours. If you have an emergency or need to get something from a pharmacy during commonly closed hours, look for a "pharmacie de gard", which are open more often than regular pharmacies.

SOCIAL SERVICES AT CESI

If you need psychological, administrative, legal, social, financial, and/or professional support, contact the **CESI For Me service** to get help.

Call +33 0)1 75 00 48 35 - 24/7 to get personalized assistance from experienced professionals.

Private Student Residences

- Rent: 400-700€ per month
- Security deposit: one month's rent
- Guarantor: <https://www.visale.fr/>
- Temporary or short-term accommodation: based on availability
- Student accommodation assistance (ALE): available. ALE is called CAF in French. International students are eligible after 1 month in France.

Private Sector Rental

- Rent: Cost can vary depending on the quality of accommodation, location, and services
- Deposit: one month's rent
- It is obligatory to have a guarantor residing on French territory.
 - In some cases (i.e. student scholarship holders), the State can advance the security deposit and carry joint surety as a guarantee of rent and utility payments (www.messervices.etudiant.gouv.fr).
 - > If you do not have a guarantor that resides in you can apply for VISALE, a free service provided by French government.
 - Link for more information : <https://www.visale.fr/>.
- Signing a lease remotely is possible; on condition that the renter pays a certain sum to guarantee the reservation. This is difficult and not recommended because there is a risk of losing the deposit if you choose to withdraw from the rental.
- Student accommodation assistance (ALE) is available if the housing meets the standards required by regulations (at least 9m²)
- Roommates/flatsharing: sharing an apartment or house is often more economical and provides an opportunity to meet other students; these websites are dedicated to finding roommates: www.appartager.com/ and www.leboncoin.fr/
- You can also reserve a room via our partner studpart, which has student housing offers in France's largest cities www.studapart.com/fr/studapart/logement-etudiant

Housing insurance

Housing insurance is required for all types of accommodations. It is necessary to have an insurance policy that covers at least water damage.

+ MORE INFORMATION

Visit the Campus France website for more information:
<https://www.campusfrance.org/en/student-housing-france>

Housing assistance

As an international student in France, you can benefit from financial aid for housing (APL). Apply for housing allowance through the Family Allowances Fund (CAF): www.caf.fr/

The amount awarded varies according to the cost of rent and status of the student. Fill out an ALS or APL file as soon as possible – it is not necessary to have your final residence permit to submit an application. Submit your dossier as incomplete and add a copy of your residence permit to the website as soon as you receive it. After submitting the printand return the form with the rental certificate, provided by your landlord, and the supporting documents requested.

Websites for Rentals

www.pap.fr

www.seloger.com

<https://immobilier.lefigaro.fr/>

www.avendrealouer.fr

<https://logement.studyrama.com/>

www.logement-etudiant.com

www.nestpick.com

Websites with decent housing prices

www.leboncoin.fr/ (*ads site between individuals; more than just rental units are posted*)

Helpful Websites

For housing scholarships/aid :

<https://www.caf.fr/allocataires/caf-du-val-d-oise/actualites-departementales/votre-aide-au-logement-etudiant-2021>

<https://www.crous-lille.fr/international/demande-de-logement/>

For cosigners: <https://www.visale.fr/>

TRAVELING TO FRANCE

BY PLANE

France has nearly 26 international airports of different sizes. The most well known airports include Charles de Gaulle, Toulouse, Blagnac and Marseille. Ticket prices vary based on airport and airline. It is most economical to arrive in Paris via a low-cost company and then take the train to reach the city where you will be studying.

Air France is the main French airline, Easyjet and Ryanair are low-cost airlines that fly throughout France and Europe. Be aware of extra service charges through Easyjet and Ryanair. These charges include checked baggage, meals, insurances, and additional weight.

Flyers in the 19-24 age group are sometimes eligible for reduced prices. Ask the airline or book online to see if there is a ticket for young people at a lower cost.

CESI encourages you to consider your carbon footprint when you making your travel plans.

TRAVELING TO PARIS

International airports in Paris include Roissy Charles de Gaulle and Orly. Every 30 minutes, a shuttle provides connections between these two airports as well as transportation to Paris and Lyon. Taking the train is another option for traveling to these cities.

Websites to see: www.adp.fr (Paris airports); www.lebusdirect.com/ (shuttles)

Airport connections by bus or RER

At the airport, shuttle buses provide transportation between airports and to the city center. There is a reduced rate for young people. Another option is taking the RER B (commuter train line) to get to the city.

By bus

Traveling by bus is usually cheaper, but you can expect to spend extra time on the road. Buses are usually equipped with internet, free WiFi, and comfy seats.

Here are some bus lines:

- Eurolines : www.eurolines.fr
- Ouibus : fr.ouibus.com
- Megabus : www.megabus.com
- Flixbus : <https://www.flixbus.com/?noRedirect=true>
- Site comparateur de billets d'autocar : www.comparabus.com/en/

By car

Carpooling is another very common and cheap way to travel in France. Car owners post the trip online and you can pay to join them: <https://www.blablacar.co.uk/>

ESTIMATE AND MANAGE YOUR STUDENT BUDGET

International students are required to maintain sufficient financial capital to obtain a visa and residence permit. This is proved through French bank statements or certificates.

Housing	In private housing	In university housing
Rent	350-450€ (more in large cities)	200-300€
Utilities	60€	0
Electricity/gas	45€	0
Insurance	10€	0
Taxes	35€	0
Studies		
Supplies	60€	60€
Regular expenses		
Food	200-300€	200-300€
Health expenses/insurance	15€	0
Phone	30€	30€
Transportation	10-20€	10-20€
Fun activities	70€	70€
Total monthly expenses	885€	670€

This budget will vary based on your lifestyle and city. For instance, it is commonly cheaper to cook your own meals vs. going out to eat. It is expected that the first month of expenses will be almost double that of the following months because of extra arrival charges such as student social security fees (250€ for those under 28)

Tuition fees

Security deposit + rent

Other costs (i.e. buying transportation card, things for your apartment)

TIPS & TRICKS FOR BUDGETING

Get help financing your studies

APL (personalized housing assistance): see section 'finance your accommodation'

Use your student discounts

Discounts are available for many services (transport, theaters, cinemas, museums, bookstores)

Research book grants

- Borrow books from the university library
- Buy e-book versions

Research internet and electronic options

- Internet and electronics are large costs
- Research competitors in this business to find the lowest prices

Split the costs

- To reduce internet costs, share your WiFi with neighbors and split the bill by number of users
- Connect to free WiFi in public spaces such as university libraries

Plan ahead and be organized to prevent difficulties paying bills at the end of the month

- Keep records of your monthly expenses with one column for income and one for expenses
- Write things down to help visualize your payments
- Consider direct debit or direct deposit so companies (like insurance or employers) can directly debit or deposit into your account
- If you cannot pay a bill, notify the organizations sooner rather than later

OPEN A BANK ACCOUNT

It is advisable to open a bank account when you arrive in France. Money can be deposited in your account on arrival (with traveller's checks) or by bank-to-bank transfers. Ask your current bank about these procedures before you leave to avoid excessive fees or transfers.

- Documents necessary to open a bank account
 - > Copy of passport
 - > Proof of address
 - > Student card, pre-registration, or residence permit

Check with your bank to see if there are fees to use your credit card in France. Visa, Mastercard, and American Express are commonly accepted cards in Europe. Payment by credit card usually starts at 10€.

CHOOSING A PHONE PLAN

There are four major networks in France: SFR, Bouygues Telecom, Orange & Free. Others include: Simyo, Virgin Mobile, and Sosh.

Plans vary in terms of services, price, and package duration.

Some include international calls in their unlimited calling plan, but make sure to read the details before making an overseas call.

Want to travel outside of France?

- Most providers have phone plans with limited free internet, SMS, and phone calls within the European Union. If you regularly travel outside of the EU, check with your provider for a plan that suits your needs.

Common apps used to communicate in France: WhatsApp, Discord, Viber and Messenger.

DRIVER'S LICENSE

Conditions to be able to drive in France with a foreign license

- License valid for one year
- License is not expired
- License is issued by country where you had residence before moving to France
- License is written in French or accompanied by an official French translation

Driving history conditions to be met when driving in France with a foreign license

- No suspensions, withdrawals, or cancellations of your right to drive in your home country
- Respect of the medical information listed on your license (Example: wearing glasses)
- If you are an European national you must have passed the examination in your country of residence
- If you are a non-European national, you must have obtained your license before the start date of your first residence permit in France or the validation of your visa by the French Office of Immigration & Integration (Ofii)
- If you have a nationality different from the issuing country of your driver's license, you must have obtained the license during your time of residency in the issuing country

LEARN MORE ABOUT LIVING IN FRANCE: <https://www.campusfrance.org/en/come-to-france>

ACTIVITIES

Once you have transmitted all administrative documents to complete your dossier at CESI, you will receive a student card that gives you access to discounts at the gym, restaurants, libraries, cinemas, theaters, museums, concerts, stores, and even sporting events. There are sometimes cheaper options or discounts when purchasing computers, software, or subscriptions to articles.

Not all businesses will offer this discount, but make sure to ask and always carry your card with you!

Additionally, the ISIC card gives access to student discounts in 120 countries

- Discounts can be used for travel, shops, restaurants, insurance, or shows
- It costs 13€ and can be ordered online

More information about ISIC can be found here:

- www.isic.fr/en/
- www.isic.fr/en/benefits/

Every CESI campus has a student union ("Bureau des étudiants" or BDE) with various social clubs. There are no classes on Thursday afternoons in order to make sure that you have time to dedicate to student life on campus! On your arrival make sure to ask your classmates how you can get involved in one of your campus' sports, social, or humanitarian clubs.

SPORTS

Having a student card or being younger than 26 years means you are eligible for reduced prices in sport facilities

Look at SUAPS (University Sports & Physical Activities Service) to register for sports activities offered by universities

- Remember to use your student card for a discounted price!

For more information on the cultural and sports activities happening on your campus, please visit the local website and get in touch with the international student advisor.

INCLUSION & STUDENT SERVICES

CESI provides an inclusive and supportive learning environment with equitable treatment of all students, no matter their social identity or cultural background.

Social Services – For Me

If you need psychological, administrative, legal, social, financial, and/or professional support, contact the **CESI For Me** service to get help.
Call +33 (0)1 75 00 48 35 - 24/7 to get personalized assistance from experienced professionals.

Care Program

Brush up on your French language, learn about important administrative processes, and get a crash-course on French culture so you have all the essential information you need to start your academic career off right.

Buddy System

Sign up to be paired with a buddy to guide you through your first weeks in France and show you the ins and outs of student life at CESI.

Disability Services

Joining CESI means becoming a part of an institution that exceeds accessibility standards for people with disabilities. We take care to ensure that our campuses are accessible and are here to provide an atmosphere that propels all our students to success. Make sure to reach out to your local CESI Disability Coordinator to get the individualized support that you need.



Crédit photo : next-Op/W. Fernandes

CESI ACADEMICS:

SOME INSIDER TIPS ON HOW TO SUCCEED

PBL

You decided to come to CESI in part because our curriculum is based on active, problem-based learning. This means that you will be constantly working in groups, will have unstructured time to work on projects, and will have more oral presentations than written exams. You will be graded on participation as well as the deliverables for each project, so we recommend that you discipline yourself to work regularly and to be active in class.

Class schedule

Similar to the work day, you are expected to be present on campus working on projects or attending workshops from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm every day. If you have an exceptional obligation and cannot be present, make sure to notify your academic advisor and provide a valid document that attests your absence.

Grading System

You will receive grades on the letter scale of A to D, with A being the most excellent. If you receive a C or a D on a project, your academic advisor will ask you to redo parts of your work or give you supplementary tasks in order to improve your grade. Participation is graded, and attendance is a part of the participation grade. There are periodic timed exams on the computer—make sure to bring your laptop and charger with you to campus every day.

Resources

With a 100% digital network, you can find all academic and administrative resources on Moodle platform. You will have your own account that you can log in to with your CESI email and password.

Academic dishonesty & Behavior

Plagiarism, cheating, and harassment of any kind are not accepted at CESI and will result in disciplinary actions.

Complaints

If you have complaints concerning a grade, a class, a student, or another issue, we advise you to discuss the problem with your academic advisor or call the For Me number for psychological, social, financial, and legal advice +33 (0)1 75 00 48 35



A NETWORK OF 25 CAMPUSES IN FRANCE

- Aix-en-Provence** 04 42 54 06 02
- Angoulême** 05 45 64 91 95
- Arras** 03 21 51 14 16
- Bordeaux** 05 59 40 19 39
- Brest** 02 98 36 06 28
- Caen** 02 31 73 72 15
- Dijon** 03 80 36 30 60
- Grenoble** 04 38 37 01 13
- La Rochelle** 05 46 30 46 13
- Le Mans** 02 43 14 98 02
- Lille** 03 20 18 16 22
- Lyon** 04 78 43 49 01
- Montpellier** 04 67 15 01 55
- Nancy** 03 83 22 27 99
- Nantes** 02 28 16 10 11
- Nice** 04 93 63 66 78
- Orléans** 02 38 76 42 04
- Paris - Nanterre** 01 55 17 80 00
- Pau** 05 59 05 45 82
- Reims** 03 26 40 04 45
- Rouen** 02 32 87 06 57
- St-Nazaire** 02 40 15 20 17
- Strasbourg** 03 90 23 00 15
- Toulouse** 05 61 29 82 06
- Direction générale** 01 44 45 92 00

FOR ME

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CALLS FREE OF CHARGE

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La certification qualité a été délivrée au titre des catégories d'actions suivantes :
 - LES ACTIONS DE FORMATION
 - LES ACTIONS PERMETTANT DE FAIRE VALIDER LES ACQUIS DE L'EXPERIENCE (VAE)
 - LES ACTIONS DE FORMATION PAR APPRENTISSAGE