



**INTERNATIONAL  
STUDENT HANDBOOK  
2025 - 2026**

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# Welcome to Esisar!

“ Welcome to Esisar!

*We are very pleased to welcome you in our school and I hope you will enjoy both the school and this pretty city of Valence!*

*Esisar aims to develop even more internationally, by integrating international into the curriculum of its students: mandatory mobility abroad for all French students, development of the reception of international students in the school specialisations and in the IMESS Master.*

*In a globalised society and research, I am convinced that the diversity of students trained in our school is part of its richness, and you, as foreign students, help us to open ourselves to other cultures and other languages!*

*I wish you an excellent year in Esisar!*

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Director of  
Grenoble INP – Esisar, UGA

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**Dear International Students,**

*Welcome to Esisar!*

*Congratulations for your admission in our school! We are glad to welcome you in Valence! By joining Grenoble INP – Esisar, UGA, you will benefit from a solid training and from close links with research and industry!*

*Coming to Valence is a new step in your life: take advantage of this, gain experience, make new friends and discover a new culture. You will also enjoy an international environment in our human-scale school!*

*This handbook will help you to adapt to a new environnement, to France and will help you in all procedures. It will give you interesting information about the school and your studies, about the city and all you can need to prepare and enjoy your stay here!*

*So please, read this booklet carefully and ask us if you have other questions!*

*We wish you the very best in your study! May your stay be enjoyable and successful!*

*We look forward to seeing you at Esisar next year!*

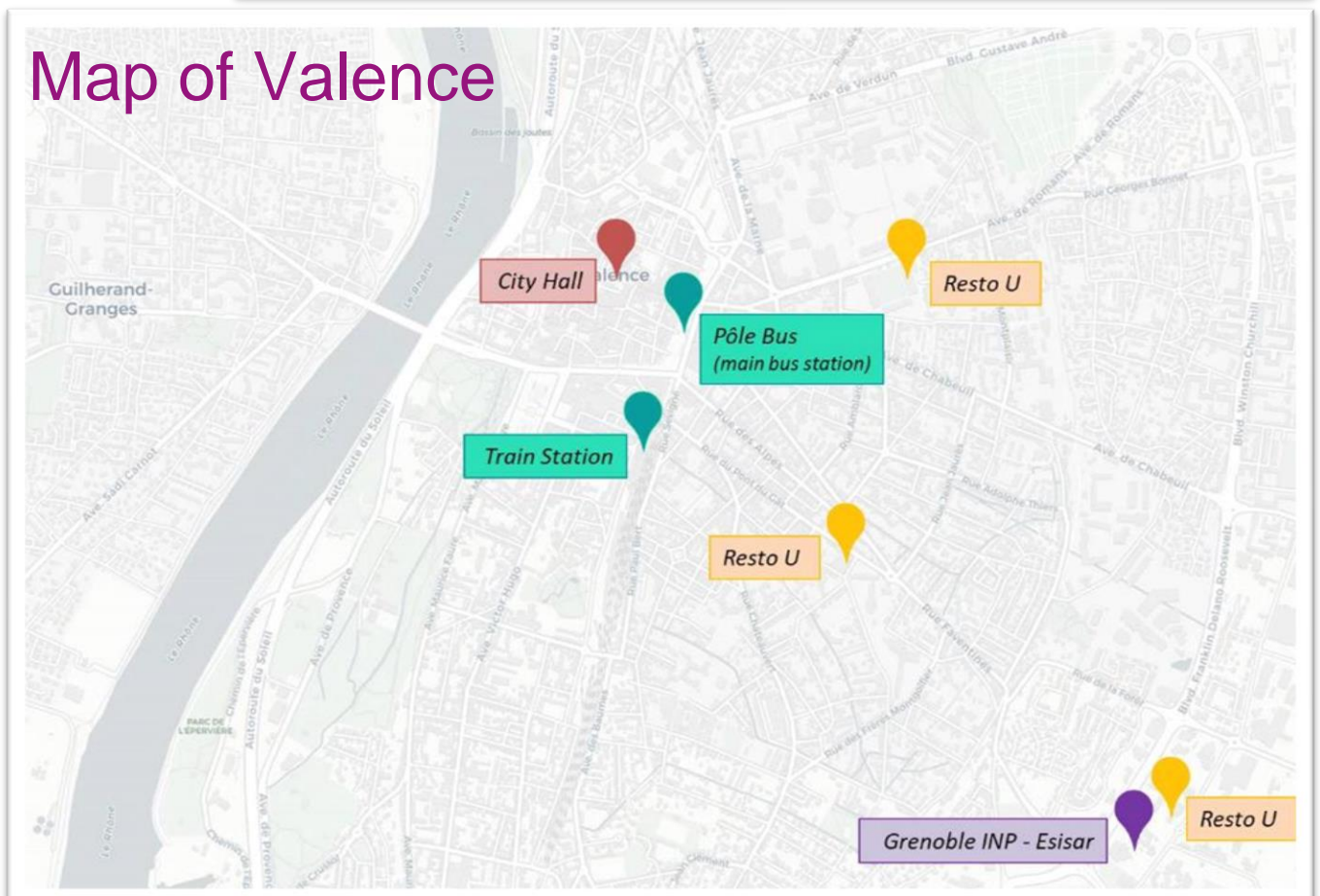
**The International Relations team**



# A bit of Geography!



## Map of Valence





# BEFORE DEPARTURE

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## GRENOBLE INP – ESISAR, UGA

### Grenoble INP: the group

Esisar is part of the Grenoble Institute of Engineering and Management (Grenoble INP), Université Grenoble Alpes, which brings together 8 renowned engineering and management schools, close to the industrial world and open to international collaboration. Grenoble INP gathers 9000 students and 70 000 alumnis, and hosts 40 research labs.

The other schools of Grenoble INP are:



### **Ense3, "Energy, Water and Environmental Sciences":**

Grenoble INP-Ense3 is an engineering school specialized in the fields of energy (production, transport, distribution...), water (hydraulic, civil engineering) and environment (renewable energy, soil pollution).



### **Ensimag, "Informatics, Applied Mathematics, Telecommunications":**

Grenoble INP - Ensimag is an engineering school in mathematics and computing. It is dedicated to finance, information system, mathematics modeling, embedded systems and telecommunication.



### **Génie Industriel, "Industrial Engineering":**

Grenoble INP - Génie Industriel (GI) is an engineering school developing two axes: management in industry and conception.





### **Pagora, "Paper science, Print Media and Biomaterials":**

Grenoble INP - Pagora is specialized in paper, print media and biomaterials sciences. It has a world-class research laboratory with 35 PHD students in wood and fiber chemistry, biomaterials, fiber properties and process engineering.



### **Phelma, "Physics, Applied Physics, Electronics and Materials Science":**

Grenoble INP - Phelma provides a wide range of training programmes. The core subjects of Phelma are fundamental and applied physics, materials, science-oriented chemistry, instrumentation, electronics and information processing.



### **Grenoble IAE, Graduate School of Management**







As the Graduate School of Management at the Université Grenoble Alpes (UGA), Grenoble IAE's mission is to train and develop both specialized managers and dual-competence managers. To fulfill its mission, IAE draws from hands-on practical expertise and world-class management researchers.



### **Polytech Grenoble, Graduate School of Science and Engineering**

Member of the Polytech Group, a network of 15 engineering schools in France, the School trains engineers in 7 specialties which lead to an engineering degree after 5 years of studies.

### **Grenoble INP, UGA – Key figures**

	<b>8,500 Students</b>	<b>23% Foreign Students</b>	
	<b>120 Years old</b>	<b>Around 100 nationalities</b>	
	<b>46 dual degrees with foreign universities</b>	<b>+350 exchange programmes with universities in more than 50 countries</b>	

#### **QS World Universities Rankings (2025):**

**#8 France**  
**#294 World**

Engineering and Technology:  
**#4 France**  
**#162 World**

#### **Shanghai Ranking (ARWU)**

**#5 France**  
**#101-150 World**

Electrical & Electronic Engineering: **#51-75 World**  
Computer Science & Engineering: **#101-150 World**

## Esisar

Founded in 1995 in Valence (1 hour away from Grenoble), Grenoble INP - Esisar is an **engineering school in advanced systems and networks**.

Our engineers are trained in smart and communicating systems, with a cutting-edge curriculum spanning Electronics, Computer Sciences/IT, Control and Networks. Our engineering degree programme is certified by the EUR-ACE (EUROpean ACcredited Engineer) label, with the European-accredited engineering master degree programme certificate.

Grenoble INP – Esisar trains engineers able to integrate into complex formations, to animate them and to make them evolve.

High-level scientific education, knowledge base in humanities and social sciences combined with practical experiences in a professional environment make the Esisar engineer a player able to respond to the technical and economic challenges of today and tomorrow's society.

Esisar welcomes around 500 students each year, among which 20 % of international students. Our five-year-studies engineering school has developed its courses and programs in close contact with industry, and has a well-developed business promotion policy.

Esisar has developed cooperation programs alongside renowned technology universities worldwide. The school is proud to host students from right across the world, and to encourage its students and staff to travel abroad to work with partner universities or to do internships in foreign companies, so as to enhance career possibilities.







Esisar hosts a research lab in the field of conception of integrated systems, the LCIS, which develops high-level research in strong connection with many international labs: <http://lcis.grenoble-inp.fr/le-laboratoire/>. The LCIS is a French public research lab where professors and assistant professors of Grenoble INP – Esisar carry their academic researches with master students, Ph.D. students and post-docs on four major research thematics: Radiofrequency, Control and automation, Cooperating complex systems and Conception and test of embedded systems.

Esisar also hosts Esynov (<http://www.esynov.fr/>). It is an Auvergne Rhône-Alpes technological platform, that makes available state-of-the-art equipments for students and for technology transfert at the benefit of companies. There are 3 axes of specialization: embedded systems, radiofrequency and electromagnetic compatibility.



## **Key figures (2024)**

	<b>500 Students</b>	<b>117 Foreign Students</b>	
	<b>1 month to find a job after graduation</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Master program in English in Valence</b>	



## STUDY AT ESISAR

### Studying in France

Studies in European universities are organized around three degrees: Bachelor's, Master's and Doctorate. This structure, which is called "LMD" (for *Licence, Master, Doctorat*) in France, aims to harmonize higher education programmes throughout Europe and thus make student exchanges and recognition of diplomas easier.

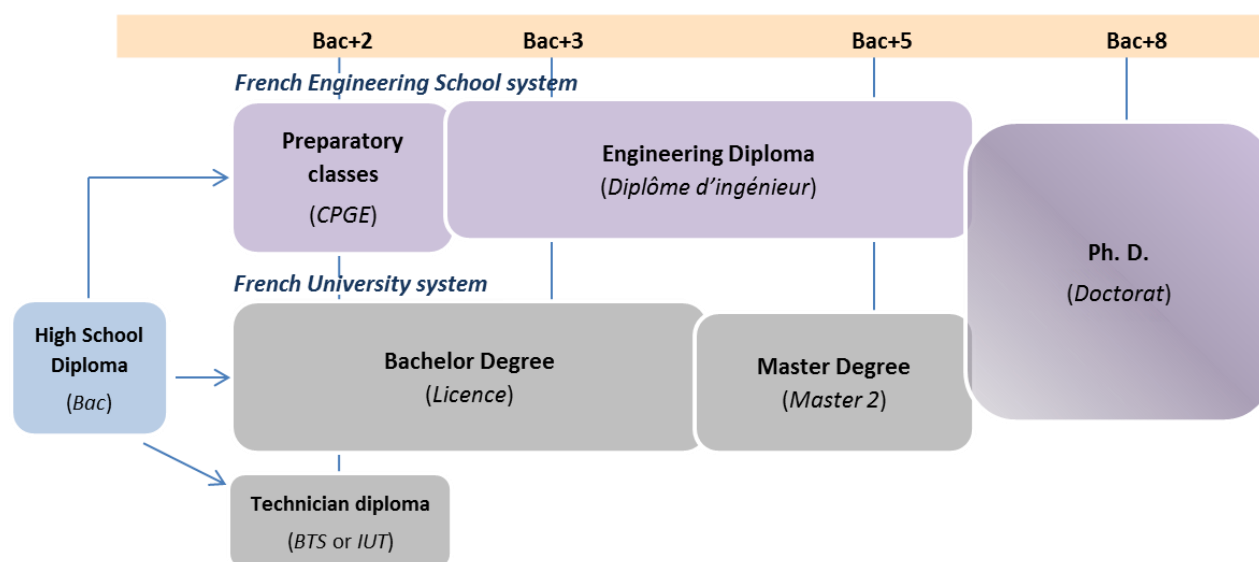
In France, "Bac" (*Baccalauréat*) is the diploma obtained after Junior High School. This diploma opens the doors of university studies for French students.

### Degrees equivalence

American denomination	French denomination
<b>Bachelor of Science (BS)</b>	Bachelor Degree ( <i>Licence</i> – Bac+3)
<b>Master of Science (MS)</b>	Engineering Diploma ( <i>Diplôme d'ingénieur</i> – Bac+5) OR Master degree (Bac+5)
<b>Ph.D.</b>	Doctor diploma ( <i>Doctorat</i> – Bac+8)

### French engineering schools ("Grandes Ecoles")

In France, there is a distinction between university and Engineering School. The latter are open to very good students who are selected in entry and the diploma obtained is a prestigious one. It gives the equivalence of a Master degree and students can directly start Ph.D. studies after that. Before entering an Engineering School, most students carry out preparatory classes, where they receive a significant training in mathematics and physics. The following figure presents the global scheme of study.



### ECTS (European Credit Transfer System)

The ECTS system enables you to earn credits for your degree during your studies abroad. Each course corresponds to a certain number of ECTS. Generally, a student must earn a total of 30 ECTS each semester. If you succeed a course at Esisar, the credits associated with the latter should then be validated by your home university.

For students enrolled in the **Erasmus+ program** and many bilateral agreements, the “*Learning Agreement*” provides the list of courses you have to follow. This list is a formal agreement between you, your home university and us. Modifications on the first days of courses are allowed, and these changes have to be written in the “*Modification of the learning agreement*” part signed by you, us and your home university.

Once the exchange semester or the exchange year is over, each exchange student receives an English “Transcript of Records”. It includes: the list of courses taken, the grade obtained and the number of ECTS credits earned. An electronic version will be sent to you and to your home university. An official paper version will also be given to you. If you are still in Valence when it is ready, we will give it directly to you, otherwise we will mail it out at the postal address you will give us.

### **French grading system and ECTS grading equivalence**

In France, courses are evaluated on a scale out of 20. 20 is the best result possible (very exceptional in France) while 0 is the worst result possible. 10 or more is generally required for a course to be validated.

Now, an ECTS grading is associated to the classical French grading systems. The equivalence is the following:

Grade	Cumulative (%)	French Grade	Definition
<b>A</b>	10	16-20	Outstanding performance
<b>B</b>	35	14-16	Above the average standard
<b>C</b>	65	12-14	Generally sound work
<b>D</b>	90	11-12	Fair but with significant shortcomings
<b>E</b>	~100	10-11	Performance meets the minimum criteria
<b>Fail</b>		< 10	Failed

### **Second chance exams**

If a course is not validated after completion of the semester, a second exam can be taken by the student approximately one or two months after the end of the course, or at the end of the year. In case of need, you may do the retake exam in your home university if the latter is open at this moment. If the second exam is a success, the course will be validated and the ECTS earned.

### **Schedule of Studies**

The study design in Esisar consists in two cycles:

- **The preparatory cycle** (2 years): theoretical courses and labs, to learn basic scientific knowledge and discover engineering sciences.
- **The Engineer cycle** (3 years). The first year consists of common core courses, allowing the student to reach a “bachelor” level in engineering sciences. Then he chooses a specialization for the final two years.

During the first year of the Engineer cycle, the Students must undertake a 6-weeks technician internship. In second year, they lead a 6-months Industrial Project in direct relationship with Companies. In third year, they carry out the Final Year Project: a 5-months internship in a company that ends the curriculum.

Preparatory Cycle				Engineer Cycle					
1 <sup>st</sup> Year		2 <sup>nd</sup> Year		3 <sup>rd</sup> Year		4 <sup>th</sup> Year		5 <sup>th</sup> Year	
S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	S6	S7	S8	S9	S10

The first two years of the engineering cycle enable students to acquire a broad base of fundamental knowledge in Computer Science, Networking, Electronics, Embedded Systems, Automation, Cybersecurity and Artificial Intelligence, with elective modules preparing them for the specialisations in the final year.

From the second year of the engineering cycle, students begin to specialise (at least 50% of the courses are electives).

In the fifth year, they choose one of the four specialities on offer. They also take elective modules to deepen their knowledge in one of the areas of expertise offered or to broaden their knowledge in other areas.

### Training courses for international students

As an international student, you can come to Esisar as an exchange student, a graduating student or a master's student.

#### *Exchange*

For students from our 80 partners (Universities and schools), we propose one or two semesters in Esisar. The students can choose all courses they are interested in, including the IMESS Master.

#### *Graduating student*

Non-French students can join the Esisar as regular students and get the Esisar diploma at the end of their studies. They can integrate the school in the first year, or, for the engineering program in Year 3 or 4. In French, a level B2 is required.

#### *IMESS Master*

Created in 2018, the International Master in Embedded Systems Security (IMESS, formerly MISTRE Valence) is the first international Master's program opened in Valence. It focuses on the embedded systems involved in critical and secure distributed systems: smart systems, connected objects, etc. It is a Master 2 degree, including 300 hours of class, project works, and a 5-month internship. All courses are taught in English.

### French courses' system

- The **CM** (*Cours Magistral*) is a lecture course, with all the year's students (up to 100 students)
- The **TD** (*Travaux Dirigés*) is a tutorial class. In groups of around 30-35 students, you train on the implementation of the course
- The **TP** (*Travaux Pratiques*) is practical exercises in labs. In groups of a maximum of 18 students, you do hands-on training in laboratory rooms with equipment.

### Education

IMESS students can see the course organisation online: <https://esisar.grenoble-inp.fr/en/academics/master-program#page-presentation>. For exchange students, you will have to fill out a learning agreement.

### Learning agreement

If you are not enrolled in the IMESS Master, a learning agreement has to be signed between you, your home university and us. You can find our teaching offer here: <http://esisar.grenoble-inp.fr/en/academics/engineering-programs>. If you have problems or doubts while preparing your study program, you can contact the International Service of Esisar: [relations.internationales@esisar.grenoble-inp.fr](mailto:relations.internationales@esisar.grenoble-inp.fr).

If you follow the organisation of courses we propose to our students, don't worry, you will not experience any issues with your schedule. However, if you choose courses from different years or different fields, we cannot ensure that you won't encounter conflicts in your timetable from time to time. While this is not a concern for us, it will need to be discussed with the Head of International Relations upon your arrival at Esisar.

### French courses

Throughout the first year, Esisar provides French courses for non-French-speaking international students. These courses, entitled "*Français Langue Étrangère*" (FLE – Foreign Language Courses), are given by the "Centre d'études de langues" within the Esisar Languages laboratory.

### Course objectives

Since 2001, France has used the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR), established by the Council of Europe. Within this framework, students should have a level of French of at least B1 before coming to France (level C2 being the top level). Aim of the FLE Courses: to help you progress and give you the B2 level after a whole year with us. That means you have to know enough French to make yourself understood, understand what your professors are saying, and take exams.

### French level test

The French courses will begin with a test of your French level. This test is not an exam, it only allows you to know your language level and choose the right group for you. At the end of the year, you will take the TCF exam (*test de connaissance du français*) to validate your results.

## THE INTERNATIONAL OFFICE

### Who are we?

The International Office is in charge of managing the international relations of the school. We welcome international students, providing them support in their administrative and pedagogical procedures. We also manage the international experience abroad for Esisar students (mandatory to get the Engineering diploma). Our Office finally negotiates partnership agreements, welcomes partners for visits.

### International office team:

**Do not hesitate to contact us!**



Mrs Darine KADDOUR: Head of International Relations - Room A200  
04 75 75 94 78 – [darine.kaddour@esisar.grenoble-inp.fr](mailto:darine.kaddour@esisar.grenoble-inp.fr)



Mrs Emmanuelle BETON (PALKA): Administrator - Room B013  
04 75 75 93 85 – [emmanuelle.beton@esisar.grenoble-inp.fr](mailto:emmanuelle.beton@esisar.grenoble-inp.fr)



Mrs Emmanuelle GATIEN: International Relations Officer – Remote working  
04 75 75 93 81 – [emmanuelle.gatien@esisar.grenoble-inp.fr](mailto:emmanuelle.gatien@esisar.grenoble-inp.fr)



**The International Office is open on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays  
(9:00-12:15 and 13:00-17:00).  
You can find us in rooms B012 and B013 (ground floor).**

For any other non-vital emergency or any situation needing specific help, please contact and inform the school staff: [relations.internationales@esisar.grenoble-inp.fr](mailto:relations.internationales@esisar.grenoble-inp.fr).

***Staff/students relationship:***

Esisar is a relatively small school, so it is easy to meet teachers or the staff. Do not hesitate: Esisar academic and administrative staff will help you! You can ask for assistance either concerning academic advice, or concerning admissions, administration, daily life or any questions you may have!

Our team is truly committed to helping you achieve your goals. Its closeness with students allows you many opportunities to receive individualised attention and feedback on your progress.

**ISSO: International Students and Scholars Office:**

ISSO is the support service of Grenoble Alpes University for International Students in Grenoble and Valence. Nicolas COURSDON is available to help and inform you in all Visa and residence permit procedures, and all practical matters (accommodation, bank, health insurance, CAF, taxes, etc.)

You can meet him at the following times and places:

**ISSO Valence welcomes you:**

**Without appointment**

Tuesday 9:00 am-12:30 pm/1:30pm-5:00pm

Friday 9:00 am-12:30 pm

► **Site Briffaut**

Département des Sciences Drôme-Ardèche

Building 2-2st floor to the left of the library – Room 103

38 Rue Barthélémy de Laffemas 26000 Valence

**By appointment only**

Monday 9:00 am-12:30 pm/1:30pm-5:00pm

Thursday 9:00 am-12:30 pm

► **Maison de l'Etudiant Drôme-Ardèche**

9 place Latour-Maubourg 26000 Valence

**Contact:** [isso-valence@univ-grenoble-alpes.fr](mailto:isso-valence@univ-grenoble-alpes.fr).

Do not forget to visit the ISSO Website, regularly updated: <https://international.univ-grenoble-alpes.fr/internationalization/>

**Events**

The International Office also organises special events for international students, such as a welcome day, Christmas dinner, year-end picnic, etc. Other activities are proposed, like the international Student meeting in Lyon, or the “[Jeunes Ambassadeurs](#)” (Young Ambassadors) Program, a coaching program between students and local decision-makers.

Here are some of the significant events (among many others!) that take place at Esisar (please note that these are the approximate dates, when the events usually take place):

Event	What	When
<b>Incoming Freshman Week</b>	Your friendly integration with the people of the school.	In early September
<b>Science Fair</b>	A yearly national French event to promote through animations, workshops, theatre...	Mid-October
<b>Companies Forum</b>	Meet the companies to learn more about their activities and job sectors	Mid-October
<b>CSAW (Cybersecurity Awareness Week)</b>	Worldwide Competition on Cybersecurity. European finals are in Esisar	November
<b>Students' gala</b>	Prestigious reception with students, graduates and even some teachers	November
<b>Ski Cup</b>	Friendly winter sporting day	Mid-January
<b>Esisar open day</b>	Visitors' day to discover the School	February
<b>Student's Challenge</b>	Funny sporting day gathering students from universities and high schools	March
<b>Esisar's Gala</b>	Traditional prestigious reception of the School	May or June

## STUDIES

### Student Office

The Student Office (*Scolarité*) is the support centre that manages both students and teachers at the school. The team ensures the smooth execution of academic activities, including administrative tasks. They also strive to create the best working conditions for students and teachers.

**Opening hours:** Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday: from 7:45 to 12:15 and from 12:45 to 17:00. On Wednesday, the office is closed.  
The schooling office is located in the same area as the International office.

### Registration

#### ***Documents requested for your registration***

To complete your registration at Esisar, you shall provide the following documents:

- the original and a copy of your passport or ID document;
- an ID photo, small size;
- an original birth certificate translated by a sworn translator in France or in your home country (you can address the French embassy or consulate to get contacts);
- your last diploma.

Please, make sure to collect those documents **before you leave home** and bring them with you.

On your arrival at Esisar, we will assist you in registering in our school, which will entitle you to obtain your French student card. Exchange students do not pay registration fees in Esisar. Double-degree students are required to pay a small fee for student life (CVEC: €103 in 2024). For IMESS Master, national tuition fees were €5109 for the year (non-EU students) or €1480 (EU students) in 2024-2025. You can pay the fees by card (excluding Mastercard), bank transfer or eventually in cash (only for amounts < €300). There is a possibility of payment in 3 instalments.

### **Getting your Esisar computer account**

Your Esisar computer account will be provided by the IT staff of Esisar during the first week. For this, the International Relations staff will inform you of your meeting with the IT staff. Do not miss it; a personal computer account is mandatory for several teaching activities and for getting your email account. **It is the official way the administrative or teaching staff of Esisar can communicate with you. Take the habit of reading it regularly and relatively often.** Also, do not let your account overflow: empty it from time to time when needed.

With your account, you will also get a Wifi access with the network “eduroam”.

This account will finally enable you to get access to the school intranet (intranet.esisar.grenoble-inp.fr/en), to your schedule, to your grades, and the content-sharing platform “Chamilo”, dedicated to students for e-learning: some teaching resources and courses are uploaded by teachers, and you can download them.

### **Your personal timetable**

You will receive a unique web link that will give you your personal timetable of courses during the fall semester. You have to know that the schedule is not constant from one week to another. Please ensure there are no clashes with your modules. Check this from the start and contact your dedicated School Advisors to inform them of any issues. (Please note that there can be some minor amendments up until the first week of the trimester, although this is highly unlikely).

It is sometimes possible to change your courses on arrival. To choose new courses, you shall read the course description and ensure that:

- your home institution is ok with your new selection;
- you are fully aware of the course content and have not covered this (or a majority of its content) in previous courses you have studied at home;
- the new course chosen is at the correct level for you.

Your new choices will be validated in the “learning agreement modifications” signed by both your home institution advisor and your dedicated Esisar advisor.

### **Student card**

At the beginning of the year, you will get a student card, that could be used as a mean of payment for the University canteens. Be careful: if you lose your card, you have to inform the administration quickly to block your account and prevent somebody from using your card. Creating a new card will cost €15.50. The student card also provides reduced prices in museums or cinemas, for instance.

This card will also allow you to print on the copy machine in Esisar (located in the hall, in front of the Student Office and International Office). You can also scan documents. The scanned documents will be directly sent to your mailbox.

### **Regulation, examinations and course requirements**

The school Regulations are available online (on the Intranet, Administration / Schooling office section, or [here](#)).

Attendance at all courses is **mandatory**. In case of absence, a justificative piece should be provided to the Student Office within 48 hours. Additionally, you need to inform your teacher and the responsible person for your Year or Master’s program.

In Esisar, the language of instruction is French, except for the IMESS master courses and some 5th-year courses, which are in English. We recognise that this may pose challenges for many international students whose native language is not French, particularly during exams. To alleviate these difficulties, international students benefit from extra time (one-third more) to complete their exams or from an adjustment for written and oral tests. Furthermore, bilingual paper dictionaries are always accepted during exams. For IMESS students, the exams are held in English, but they do not receive extra time.

## Calendar

You will find academic calendars at the following link:

<http://esisar.grenoble-inp.fr/en/academics/academic-calendar>

Academic calendars are uploaded on our website as soon as they are known. If the specific information is not published yet, you will find below useful general information.

### Semesters and exams

In France, the academic year is different from the calendar year. It starts in September.

<b>SEMESTERS</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> or Fall Semester.</b> From the beginning of September to the third week of January.
	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> or Spring Semester.</b> From the end of January to the end of June.
<b>EXAMS OR INTERNSHIP DEFENCE:</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Semester:</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> and 5 <sup>th</sup> year: during January. 4 <sup>th</sup> year: end of December.
	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Semester:</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> year: End of May – beginning of June 4 <sup>th</sup> year: Project defence: the last week of June/beginning of July. 5 <sup>th</sup> year: internship defence: the third week of June or at the end of August. Internship end: usually at the end of June or at the end of August.

### University Holidays

Period	Academic Calendar (Zone "A") *
<b>All Saints</b>	1 week off: End of October – Beginning of November
<b>Holidays Christmas</b>	2 weeks off: Beginning: between December 19 <sup>th</sup> /22 <sup>nd</sup> . End: January 2 <sup>nd</sup> /5 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Winter</b>	1 week off in February or first week of March
<b>Spring</b>	1 week off in April

\*For those holidays, France is divided into 3 groups. Esisar is part of group A.



### Official French Holidays:

Public holidays	Date	French name
All Saints' Day	November, 1 <sup>st</sup>	Toussaint
End of First World War	November, 11 <sup>th</sup>	Armistice 1918
Christmas	December, 25 <sup>th</sup>	Noël
New Year	January, 1 <sup>st</sup>	Nouvel an
Easter and the following Monday	Dates vary each year	Pâques <i>and</i> lundi de Pâques
Labor Day	May, 1 <sup>st</sup>	Fête du travail
End of the Second World War	May, 8 <sup>th</sup>	Armistice 1945
Ascension Day	Always a Thursday, 40 days after Easter. The following Friday is always off in Esisar.	Ascension
Pentecost	50 days after Easter. The following Monday is always off in Esisar.	Pentecôte
French National Day	July, 14 <sup>th</sup>	Fête nationale

### Career and internship department

During your training at Esisar, you may have to undertake an internship. The Career and Internship department will be your contact: [service-stages@esisar.grenoble-inp.fr](mailto:service-stages@esisar.grenoble-inp.fr).



Marine BOULANGER, administration department and internship department (signature of agreements): [marine.boulanger@esisar.grenoble-inp.fr](mailto:marine.boulanger@esisar.grenoble-inp.fr). Office: B011.

### Find your way in the school!



#### **AB Building (aka T1)**

Houses the reception, an amphitheatre, most classrooms, a language lab, Schooling and International offices, professors and laboratory offices.

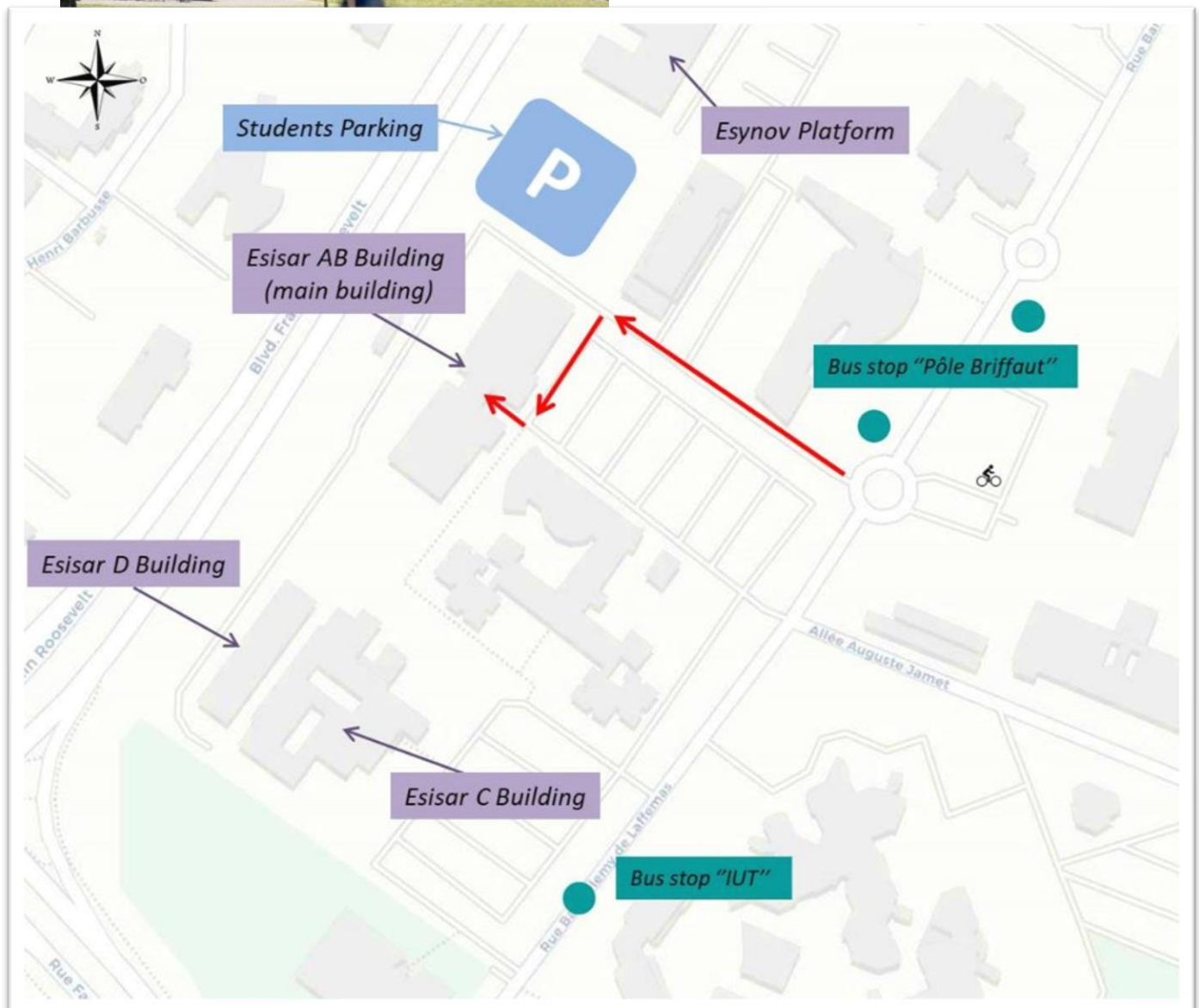


### C Building (aka T2 or even “South building”)

Houses classrooms, TP rooms, industrial projects rooms and part of the Esynov platform.

### D Building (aka T3)

Houses the direction and administration offices, an amphitheatre and TP rooms, as well as lab rooms.



## TO PREPARE YOUR STAY IN FRANCE

### Some useful links:

- Campusfrance: [www.campusfrance.org](http://www.campusfrance.org)
- Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs: [www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/](http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/)
- Ministry of National Education and Research, website for students: [www.etudiant.gouv.fr](http://www.etudiant.gouv.fr)
- Administrative procedures in France: [www.service-public.fr](http://www.service-public.fr) [FR]
- International Office of Grenoble Alpes University (Website of ISSO, many useful information): <https://international.univ-grenoble-alpes.fr/english/>

If you do not have a passport, you should ask for one as soon as possible, because the procedure could be long, depending on your home country. If you have one, be careful with the expiry date. Your passport must be valid for the whole duration of your stay in France. Students from the European Union do not need a Visa, nor a passport. Only a valid identity document is required to come to France.

### Visa and residence permit



You are concerned with this issue if you come from a non-European country. When applying to our school for an exchange, or before applying for the IMESS Master's program, you must contact the French Embassy or consulate in your home country ([www.diplomatie.gouv.fr](http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr)) or the Centre "Etudes en France", if you have one in your country. The countries concerned by the procedure "Etudes en France" are listed here <https://www.campusfrance.org/en/procedure-studying-in-France>

To obtain a Visa, you must *minimum* have proof of your admission to Grenoble INP – Esisar, an attestation of sufficient financial resources (a minimum of €615 per month), and a valid passport for the entire duration of your stay.

**CAUTION!!** The delay in obtaining a Visa is quite long! It is very long in some countries. Please begin the procedure as soon as you receive the formal proof of your admission to Esisar.

Most exchange program students are getting a long-term visa used as a residence permit, with a student (*étudiant*) label, allowing unlimited entries in France during the period of validity (ranging from 4 to 12 months). This visa used as a residence permit is called **VLS-TS** (*Visa Long Séjour Valant Titre de Séjour*). You will have to validate it (see below).

For the documents you must provide and formalities to complete, if you need help, please contact the International Office.

You could also get a **VLS-T** Visa: Temporary Long-stay Visa. This visa exempts you from any formalities, you do not need to go to the prefecture or the OFII. With this Visa, you can benefit from the Social Security (Health Insurance) but not from the CAF Housing allowance.



### **GOOD TO KNOW!**

A multiple-entry Visa allows you to **travel to Schengen countries** up to 90 days in a year!

Schengen countries are: Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland.

## Registering in your home university (for exchange students)

Students entering exchange programs validate credits abroad, which are recognised by their home university. Then they will graduate from their home university. It is thus compulsory to register in your home university as a student, as you will still be preparing your degree while attending classes in Esisar.

## Health insurance for European students or students from Quebec

If you come from a European country or the province of Quebec in Canada, please do the following before coming to France:

- **Students with European nationality:** Please check the validity date of your European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) or get one if you don't already have it. Bring it with you when you come to France.
- **Students from Quebec** need to visit the “*Assurance maladie*” office to ask for the RAMQ form (n° SE 401Q106). This will enable you to access French Social Security upon arrival in France.

## Preparing your arrival in Valence

Before your arrival, when your trip is all booked, we would like to be informed by mail ([relations.internationales@esisar.grenoble-inp.fr](mailto:relations.internationales@esisar.grenoble-inp.fr)) of your arrival date in Valence.

## Incoming Freshman Week

Your stay in Valence could begin with a welcoming freshman week in September: parties, games and activities are lined up and waiting for you. You will be able to discover all the students' clubs at a party at school.

For any details, see Esisar's student union, called the “*Cercle*” in French: [cercle.esisar@esisar.grenoble-inp.fr](mailto:cercle.esisar@esisar.grenoble-inp.fr) and stay tuned on the Facebook students' group.





# LIVE IN VALENCE

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Studying abroad could be a challenging experience! You leave your family, friends and country to come to France, the cultural gap may require an adjustment time! You could feel a “cultural shock”: realise that experiencing difficulties in coping with a new environment is normal! It is common to feel stressed, lost or disoriented. Keep an open mind, curiosity, tolerance, a sense of humour and do not fear to communicate with others: it will help your integration into your new environment! Do not forget to keep in touch with home and find a supplier of familiar food if possible! Join sports and cultural activities: do not isolate yourself.

Do not hesitate to come to the International Office to speak about your difficulties if you need it! And enjoy your stay to have a good time, and live an enriching experience!

## VALENCE

*What does Valence look like? Have a quick overview with this video made by Valence City:*  
<https://youtu.be/6al-k0ZiwQ!>

Esisar school, in Valence, enjoys an exceptional location in the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes region, at the gateway to the Mediterranean and the Alps. The Drôme is a touristic area with its pleasant weather, and is rich in natural and historical heritage.

Do not be surprised: Valence is a small town! With 62,000 inhabitants (and 180,000 with the agglomeration), it is considered a medium-sized town in France. Valence is the capital of the Drôme department.

Valence is ideally located in Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes (the second largest economic area after Paris) and in France: ca. 100 km away from Grenoble and Lyon, it is also only 2 hours away from Paris by train, one hour away from the Mediterranean Sea, and one hour away from ski resorts in the Alps. It is an excellent spot for hiking, climbing and cycling.

The city is often said to be the “door to the South of France”: *A Valence, le Midi commence!*

Higher education institutions in Valence count 6,900 students (*Université Grenoble Alpes – UGA, Institut d’administration des entreprises of Grenoble – IAE, Grenoble INP – Esisar* and other schools).

One of the largest student events in France is held in Valence: “The Challenge”. In the spring, during a full weekend, 6,000 students represent their school in a friendly competition, the occasion to meet people and to party. Esisar has won this fun competition many times.



## ACCOMMODATION

For your future French “home sweet home”, different kinds of residences are available. You can choose between private student residences, social housing, accommodation through a private individual or CROUS residences (i.e. French name for university residence): studios, one-room apartments or two-room apartments.

For your accommodation, **Esisar’s International Office highly recommends that you choose accommodation through a private individual.** The cost compared to public housing is not so different, but the quality and services offered are much better.

We do not provide any assistance for public university residences (CROUS) in Valence.

You can have temporary accommodation when arriving, and then find by yourself accommodation in town, alone or share a flat (less expensive and friendlier).

### **Accommodation through a private individual:**

Have a look at the classified ads available on:

Le Bon Coin : [www.leboncoin.fr](http://www.leboncoin.fr)

LoKaviZ: [www.lokaviz.fr](http://www.lokaviz.fr).

FNAIM: [www.fnaim2607.com](http://www.fnaim2607.com).

The Visitor Center (*Office du Tourisme*) : <https://www.valence-romans-tourisme.com/fr/> .

### **Private student residences:**

- Residence Faventines (<https://www.3faventines.com/>): school’s partner: contact us for this residence.
- Residence Le Valencey (<https://www.studylease.com/residence-etudiante-le-valency-a-valence/>): school’s partner.
- Residences Cap’Etudes ([www.cap-etudes.com](http://www.cap-etudes.com))
- Residences Studélites ([www.studelites.com](http://www.studelites.com))

### **Social Housing**

- Residence Rochecolombe: 97, Rue Faventines.
- Residence La Manu: 8 rue de la manutention.
- Valence Romans Habitat: Phone: 04 75 82 54 00. OPHLM: 3 rue Rossini – 26000 Valence.
- *Mutualité de l’Ardèche: Résidence Nouvelle Vague*: More than 120 furnished flats, located in Guilhaud-Granges: [www.residence-nouvellevague.fr](http://www.residence-nouvellevague.fr).

More information on: <https://international.univ-grenoble-alpes.fr/votre-sejour-a-l-uga/logement/>

You can also get recommendations and tips from associations and student unions:

- **The School's student union:** the "Cercle" (*Bureau des Etudiants*, BDE) and the "Grand Cercle" (student Union from Grenoble-INP): [www.esisariens.org](http://www.esisariens.org) and [www.grandcercle.org/bons-plans](http://www.grandcercle.org/bons-plans);
- **AVE (Association Valentinoise des Etudiants):** provides housing ads on its website: [www.ave-asso.fr](http://www.ave-asso.fr), on Facebook, or at the *Maison de l'étudiant Drôme-Ardèche* – Place Latour-Maubourg – 26000 Valence. Phone: 04 26 44 35 06. Email: [contact@ave-asso.fr](mailto:contact@ave-asso.fr).
- **Solidarité Habitats:** Intergenerational cohabitation: accommodation in exchange for a presence, occasional help or limited financial participation. Ecosite du Val de Drôme – 26400 Eurre. Phone : 04 75 55 34 42 / 06 31 74 48 88. Website : <http://solidaritehabitats.eu/>
- **ADIL 26:** Information agency for housing and rented accommodations in Valence: 44 rue Faventines – BP 1022 26010 Valence. Phone: 04 75 79 04 04. Website: [www.adil.dromenet.org](http://www.adil.dromenet.org).

### **Flat Sharing (in French: colocation)**

To share a flat, you can have a look to the ads available on [www.appartager.com](http://www.appartager.com), or discuss with Esisar students.

### **CROUS residences (public French university residences)**

CROUS accommodations are equipped with telephone jacks and TV jacks, and individual electric heating. A wireless Internet connection is possible in all CROUS residences.

Complete list of residences with details and rents on:

[www.crous-grenoble.fr/demanderunlogement/nos-residences](http://www.crous-grenoble.fr/demanderunlogement/nos-residences).

Unfortunately, at present, we do not advise you to choose a CROUS accommodation, because of the deterioration of the flats. It will maybe change in the coming years.

### **Accommodation on arrival in case of need**

If your accommodation is not available when you arrive, here are tips for possible temporary addresses:

Youth hostel (*Auberge de jeunesse*): Résidence Rochecolombe, 48-54 rue Amblard – 26000 Valence. €18/night. Phone: 04 75 78 29 00. Email: [residence-rochecolombe@diaconat-valence.org](mailto:residence-rochecolombe@diaconat-valence.org). Website: <https://www.diaconat26-07.org/>.

Hotels: list available at the Visitor Center: 11 boulevard Bancel – 26000 Valence. <https://www.valence-romans-tourisme.com/fr/>. Phone: 04 75 44 90 40.

### **The garant**

The "garant" is a person who personally guarantees through a signature to pay on behalf of the student tenant in the case of the latter's insolvency or defaulting on payments.

As an international student without a French guarantor, you can use the "Visale" procedure. You must [register online](#). Help with the [procedure in English here](#).



## BANK ACCOUNT

### Opening a bank account

It is essential to have a French bank account or a postal account (account with “*La Poste*”) in France to get through all the financial transactions (CAF housing aid, paying your rent...). The following documents are required to open a bank account: ID card (passport, visa, residence permit...); proof of address (rental agreement or electricity bill...); student card or proof of enrollment in a university.

After opening your account, you will obtain a **RIB**. The RIB (*relevé d'identité bancaire*) or IBAN is the document with the references of your account. You will need it to receive a salary or allowance by transfer payment, or to give direct debit authorisations (to pay your rent, for instance).

### *Managing your account: keep an eye on the balance, don't go overdrawn*

If you spend more than you have in your account, it will go overdrawn and you will have to pay bank charges (*Agios* in French), which are usually quite high! Make sure you keep enough money in your bank account.



## ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

### Need Help?

Procedures with the French administration are long and could be difficult. Do not hesitate to ask for help if you need it!

- **International Office:** For any situation needing specific help, please contact and inform the school staff (see p.11).
- **ISSO** – See p.12
- **CROUS:** Mrs Odile MERY, Social Worker (in case of financial difficulties). CROUS Grenoble Alpes, antenne de Valence : 6 rue Derodon - 26000 VALENCE 04 75 42 23 00 [odile.mery@crous-grenoble.fr](mailto:odile.mery@crous-grenoble.fr)

### Immigration

#### **OFII**

When you arrive with a VLS-TS visa, you must start OFII (French Office of Immigration and Integration) proceedings **within the first 3 months** after your entry date in France. This step will allow you to validate the duration of your VLS-TS visa for one year. Validation is online: connect to: <https://administration-etrangers-en-france.interieur.gouv.fr/particuliers>

You will need the following documents:

- a valid email address,
- your passport and your visa;
- a proof of residence in France (rent receipt, lease, utility bill, attestation of residence, etc.);
- a payment card to pay a dematerialised fiscal stamp for the amount of €50.

For any questions concerning the OFII, you should address Nicolas Coursodon from ISSO. You may be asked to do a chest x-ray in the context of prevention against tuberculosis. In this case, you will have more information during the validation of your visa.



### **Extend your residence permit**

If you need to renew your residence permit or VLS-TS visa (Long-Stay Visa) already validated by OFII, you should apply **minimum two months** before your residence permit or VLS-TS visa expires.

First, you have to fill in the appointment form on: <https://international.univ-grenoble-alpes.fr/getting-organized/visas-and-residence-permits/residence-permits-procedures/residence-permits-procedures-783741.kjsp>. You will receive a list of the required documents for your application file.

Then **check your documents with ISSO** (International Students and Scholars Office): send all scanned documents (PDF files) to [isso-valence@univ-grenoble-alpes.fr](mailto:isso-valence@univ-grenoble-alpes.fr). Once your application has been checked and completed, you will receive an email containing the date of your appointment at the Drôme Prefecture.

Submit your application at the Drôme Prefecture: go to your appointment with all the requested documents and their photocopies (especially passport and residence permit if you have one). If the application is complete, you will receive a temporary residence document called “*Récépissé*” on the same day.

Once your residence permit is ready, you will receive a notification from the Drôme Prefecture to pick it up. You will need to pay for it with fiscal stamps. You can buy them at the post office and all Tobacco shops (*bureau de tabac*). The fee will be communicated to you during the first appointment at the prefecture, it depends on the nature of your residence permit and its duration.

For any questions concerning the resident permit, ISSO can help you: [isso-valence@univ-grenoble-alpes.fr](mailto:isso-valence@univ-grenoble-alpes.fr)

### **Insurances**

**Civil liability insurance** (*Assurance responsabilité civile*): To register in Esisar, you will have to present proof of liability insurance (it covers damages to a third party in case of accident). If you don't have one, complementary health insurance agencies can provide you with one for around €16 (this sum is already included in the “complementary health cover” cost). The Bank can also provide one in the same package as the home insurance. Ask your counsellor when you open your account.

**Home insurance:** (multi-risk accommodation insurance, in French: *assurance habitation*). It is a mandatory insurance covering possible damage risk (water damage, fire, etc.) in the accommodation or adjacent accommodations. This is compulsory for all types of accommodation. It is possible to take out such an insurance policy with an insurance company, with a bank or with the student mutual organisations. The cost is around €40/ year (with liability).



## HEALTHCARE

### Health Insurance

In France, Health Insurance is mandatory. Whatever your nationality is, you are entitled to register to the Social Security Coverage (French general regime *Sécurité sociale*, commonly named “*Sécu*”).

For your administrative registration, you must register to the French Social Security, except in the following cases:

- **Students with European nationality.** You are covered by your European Health Insurance Card (EHIC). Reimbursement claims are to be addressed to the “Service International de la Caisse Primaire d’Assurance Maladie (CPAM)”.
- **Students from Quebec** simply present their RAMQ form (n° SE 401Q106) to freely get the French Social Security.

### **For all other students: you must register to the French Social Security.**

At your arrival, you will do it online: [www.etudiant-etranger.ameli.fr](http://www.etudiant-etranger.ameli.fr). It is free. With all the supporting documents, you should obtain a "provisional social security number" allowing you to be reimbursed of your health expenditures. Keep the certificate safe! It will be required if you have to go to a hospital or to a practitioner.

Once you are affiliated to the Social Security system, the **Carte Vitale** with your definitive social security number is issued. It can take some months. It is the national insurance card giving evidence of membership and rights to French health insurance. The Carte Vitale should be handed over at every health appointment (doctor, clinic, hospital, pharmacy). The patient will generally receive reimbursement for treatment or medicines directly into their bank account within a few days.

NB: The French Social Security will cover around 70% of your medical fees, and no medical evacuation. This means we advise you to take a complementary insurance (different fixed rates are proposed) or take out an insurance in your country of origin to complement your reimbursements. You will find more information below.

In some specific cases it is possible to benefit from the social coverage CMU (*Couverture Maladie Universelle*). Please contact the Health Centre of Valence, or ISSO for information.

### **CPAM (Caisse primaire d’assurance maladie)**

6 Avenue du Edouard Herriot, 26000 Valence  
Open from Monday to Friday, from 8:30 to 12:15 and from 13:30 to 17:00  
Tel: 36 46

### **Complementary health insurance:**

National Health Insurance (*Sécurité Sociale*) only covers part of your medical costs and the reimbursement rate varies depending on the type of treatment and its seriousness. For the part that is not covered, we **strongly recommend** that you take an additional insurance, known as *complementary* (complémentaire) or *mutual* (mutuelle) insurance. For instance, in case of hospitalisation, the National Health insurance will cover 80% of the -very high- costs, the mutual will reimburse the remaining 20% (minimum €230 remaining for one day of hospitalisation). Compare the contracts according to your specific needs (optical or dental care).

There are few *mutuelles* for students. Do not hesitate to contact them to find the most appropriate package for you. The best known are:

**SMERRA** (*La Mutuelle des étudiants de la Région Rhône Alpes Auvergne*) – Esisar international students recommendation.

34, avenue du président Herriot

26 000 Valence

Tél. : 04 75 56 48 76

Site : <https://smerra.fr/> (*complémentaires santé* section).

**LMDE** (*La Mutuelle des Etudiant*)

23 rue Bouffier

26 000 Valence

Tél. : 09 69 36 96 01

Site : <https://www.lmde.fr/>

### **If you are ill:**

You can have an appointment with a general practitioner (GP, French: *médecin généraliste*) of your choice at his office. The GP can help you with any health problem. He will provide a diagnosis and deliver a prescription for medicines. If you wish to see a specialist, ask your GP for a referral. You can address the Centre Santé Jeunes (see below) or find a doctor on the ameli directory: <http://annuaire.sante.ameli.fr/>. You can also find an appointment online on [www.doctolib.fr](http://www.doctolib.fr) (you can select the language spoken in the results list).

It costs around €30 to visit a GP. This amount will be partly reimbursed afterwards by Social Security or by your insurance provider. The social security will reimburse €19.50. The complementary insurance, if you have one, will reimburse €8.50, and you will pay €2. Currently, GPs have card machines that scan the “Carte Vitale” and electronically register your reimbursement claim with the Social Security, without you having to do anything else.

**If you are taken ill on a Sunday, Public Holiday or at night**, or if you cannot move, call the Samu (dial 15) or the Police (dial 17) to get details of the doctor on duty. You could also call the “maison médicale de garde”, located next to the hospital, which is open on nights, Saturday afternoons and Sundays. Tel: 04 75 75 75 75.

**To purchase medicine**, you have to go in a pharmacy (recognisable by the large green cross). A large part of medicine requires a doctor's prescription to be obtained and reimbursed by your insurance. Certain common medicines (such as anti-inflammatory or analgesic medication) are on free sale but without prescription and therefore not reimbursed by Health Insurance. Pharmacies are open from Monday to Saturday, generally from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Outside these times (nights and weekends), there are 'on-call' or 'duty' pharmacies which stay open: the details of these out-of-regular-hours pharmacies are posted on the door of all pharmacies.

If you need to buy medicine on a Sunday, Public Holiday or at night, you can get details of the pharmacy on duty from the police too (Commissariat of Valence: 04 75 82 22 22 – 21 rue Farnerie). But before going to the pharmacy on duty, you have to go to the police station with your ID document. The police will then inform the pharmacy on duty of your arrival.

### **Youth Health Centre**

Located in the Maison de l'étudiant Drôme Ardèche, the Youth Health Centre (*Centre Santé Jeunes*) is a medical service for students and young people between 16 and 25. There is a team of general practitioners, nurses, psychologists, dietitians, a relaxologist, a sophrologist, as well as a specialist in addictology and the CROUS social worker at your service. The services proposed also concern sports medicine and gynecological consultations.

For all medical consultations, the vital card and the certificate of mutual insurance are necessary. No advance fee will be requested.

**Centre Santé Jeunes** (free and confidential): 13/15 place Latour Maubourg – 26000 Valence. Tél. 04 75 56 62 11. Email: [espace.sante.jeunes@mairie-valence.fr](mailto:espace.sante.jeunes@mairie-valence.fr). Opening hours: Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday: 8:30-12:30 and 13:30-17:30; Thursday: 8:30-17:30, and Friday: 8:30-16:30.

More information on: <https://etudiant.univ-grenoble-alpes.fr/le-centre-sante-jeunes-de-valence-1379994.kjsp?RH=1709655691848>


## Hospital

**CHU de Valence:** 179 boulevard du Maréchal Juin, 26 000 Valence. Tel: 04 75 75 75 75

### IN CASE OF EMERGENCY:

 the Police: **17**

 the Fire Brigade: **18**

 the SAMU (Ambulance service): **15**

 European emergency number from mobil phones: **112**.

The **emergency services** are located in the hospital: CHU de Valence: 179 boulevard du Maréchal Juin, 26 000 Valence. Tel: 04 75 75 75 75

## CAF

### *Financial aids for housing*

Whether you rent a private accommodation or a University accommodation, the CAF (*see below for its definition*) can help with your rent via different means. Yes, help is available for foreign students! The amount of assistance varies, depending on the amount of your rent, your personal income and the kind of housing:



### *L'Aide Personnalisée au Logement (APL) – Housing Benefit*

To qualify for APL, your housing must be covered by an agreement between the State and the owner (to find out if this is the case, ask your landlord). This money is paid directly to the owner, who then deducts the amount from your rent. Students in CROUS residences can also claim APL.



Download the Campus UGA app to get information about health care, events, course locations, canteens, transportation, library, etc.



### **Caisse d'Allocations Familiales (CAF) – Family Welfare Benefit Fund**

CAF is the referring agency allocating financial aids for housing. Once you obtain your housing contract, you can apply and fill out the form at the following address: [www.caf.fr](http://www.caf.fr), scroll to section: “Les services en ligne” > “Faire une demande de prestation” > “Vous n’êtes pas allocataire” > “le logement” > “aide au logement”.

For any advice on housing aid formalities, don’t hesitate to ask the School’s International Office. Note that the first payments will come after 1 or 2 months.

#### **CAF: Caisse d’allocations familiales**

10 rue Marcel Barbu – 26023 Valence Cedex 9.

Phone: 08 10 25 26 10 (same cost as a local call from a landline).

Opening hours: Monday to Thursday: 8:30 -12:30 & 13:30-16:30

On Fridays: from 10:30 -12:30 & 13:30-16:30

Website: [www.caf.fr](http://www.caf.fr)

## **ENERGY**

### **Running Water**



In France, you pay for the water that you use. There is a counter at the water arrival of each apartment or each building. In most cases, you have nothing to do (the residence manages the contract). If you need to get connected, contact the water supplier upon arrival. Most of the time, name, address, and bank account details are sufficient to transfer or to set up a new contract.

**Eau de Valence** (Valence Water Board): 62 avenue Sadi Carnot – 26000 Valence. Phone: 04 75 57 86 20. Email: [contact@eaudevalence.fr](mailto:contact@eaudevalence.fr).

### **Electricity and Gas**

Heating and/or water might be individualized or for the building. If it is collective, you will be charged according to the size of your apartment. If it is individualized, you rent a meter from an electricity or gas company and pay for the energy consumed. Then, two scenarios are possible. Either way, you have to contact the electricity and/or gaz supplier of your choice (electricity in France is generally provided by EDF – “*Electricité de France*” –, which is state owned, but you are free to choose your own supplier):

If the previous tenant has closed the meter: then you will have to draw up a new contract for your meter to be connected again. Ask the residence for the former renter’s name with the numbers from the meter (in French: “*Compteur*”). The supplier’s agent will have to visit you to put it into service. A re-connection fee will be charged if the supply has been cut off.

If the previous tenant has not closed the meter: upon arrival, you will automatically benefit from “immediate energy”. Even so, you have to contact as soon as possible the supplier of your choice to tell you have moved in and ask for a new contract.



## Electricity and gas suppliers:

**EDF:** 24 avenue de la Marne – 26000 Valence. Phone: 08 10 47 69 34.  
Website: <https://particulier.edf.fr/fr/accueil.html>. (English version available).



**ENGIE:** Website: <https://particuliers.engie.fr/>. (English version available)



EDF and ENGIE were the historical state-owned energy suppliers. For alternative electricity and gas suppliers, check with the website Energie-Info: it has a comparison service so that you can find and compare gas and electricity suppliers in the region: <http://calculettes.energie-info.fr/pratique/liste-des-fournisseurs>.



## FOOD

French cuisine is known for its refinement and sophistication. Each region has its own culinary specialties, which are part of the French cultural heritage. Meal time is sacred, you eat in good company with lively conversation: it is the French way of life!

In the Rhone-Alpes region, you can try a great variety of dishes: gratin dauphinois (a special easy-to-make potato dish), diots (sausages from Savoie) or quenelles (fluffy dumplings from Lyon).

Valence is well-known as a gastronomic capital! The Drôme is the first French département in organic farming, and has many vegetable gardens and orchards. Local specialties are the *ravioles* (a local form of ravioli pasta with cheese filling), wines (grown up along the Rhone river), cheeses (*Picodon* or *Saint Marcellin* for instance), brioche (*Suisse*, *Saint Genix*, *Pogne*), Valrhona chocolate, Montelimar *Nougat* etc. Many renewed Chefs are coming from Valence and the surrounding area. Take the opportunity to taste all these French specialties!

French people generally eat three times a day: breakfast, lunch between noon and 2pm, and dinner around 7 or 8 pm.



### GOOD TO KNOW!

More and more food is the produce of 'biological' agriculture, often called **organic food** in English, and known in French as "bio".

This food has been produced without using pesticides or chemical fertilisers. The Drôme is the first French *département* for organic cultures.

Such products are generally more expensive than others. You can buy it in supermarkets or directly from the producers in open-air markets.

## University Restaurants (see on the map p.4)

University canteens, aka "RU" ("*Restaurant Universitaire*") are managed by the CROUS. Cafeterias and canteens are situated nearby your school and the main student life's places.



### BriffO':

Restaurant and cafeteria: pasta, French fries or vegetables, pizzas, salads, desserts.  
This University canteen is the closest to Esisar: 32 rue Barthélémy de Laffemas.

Opening hours: Monday to Friday from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm. Payment: Credit card or Izly Card (see below).



### Le Point du RU:

Cafeteria: sandwiches, salads, pasta, pizzas. Site universitaire Rabelais, Université Joseph Fourier, 23 chemin des huguenots. To get there: Bus line 7, bus stop "Rabelais". Opening hours: Monday to Friday from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm. Payment: Izly card.



### Le RU Derodon:

University canteen with a self-service menu: starter, meat with vegetables and/or starchy food, cheese or dessert. 6 Rue Derodon. To get there: bus lines Cité 2, 13 and 23, bus stop "Camille Vernet". Opening hours: Monday to Friday from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm. Payment: Credit Card or Izly Card.



### La brasserie Latour-Maubourg :

Maison de l'étudiant Drôme-Ardèche. 3 place Latour-Maubourg. To get there: bus lines Cité 1, 13, bus stop "Latour Maubourg". Opening hours: 7:45 am to 2 pm. Payment: Credit Card, cash or Izly card.

### How much? Cost of the lunch:

Minimum €3.25 in each of the 4 above-mentioned restaurants, if you choose a 6-point lunch. The main dish costs 4 to 6 points, a starter or a dessert 1 to 3 points. After 6 points, each extra point costs €0.54.

### How to pay?

Depending on the restaurant, you can pay either by card, cash, or with the IZLY system. IZLY is a contactless payment system allowing you to pay for your meal very easily and quickly in all university canteens with your student card or mobile phone. You can recharge your IZLY account with a few clicks. Your money stays online, so don't worry if you lose your student card.

More information (in French): <http://www.izly.fr/>. You will receive an email for the activation of your Izly account at the beginning of the year.

### CROUS (Centre régional des œuvres universitaires et scolaires)

6 rue Derodon – 26000 Valence. Phone: 04 75 42 17 96.

Email: [cite-valence@crous-grenoble.fr](mailto:cite-valence@crous-grenoble.fr).

## Food in France

To buy food in France you can go to **supermarkets** (*grandes surfaces*), mainly peripheral to the cities. In Valence you have malls in Bourg-les-Valence (bus Cité 5), Plateau des Couleurs (bus 14 or 15) and Guilherand-Granges (bus Cité 4). There is also an *Intermarché* supermarket next to Esisar and a Carrefour Express rue Faventines near ESISAR and CROUS. A discount supermarket (Lidl) is located near the city centre (bus stop "Basses Crozettes"). In the city, you will find small shops like *Franprix*, *Carrefour City* or *Casino* (a bit more expensive than supermarkets). Most of the grocery stores are closed on Sundays.

Note that in France, tap water is drinkable.

In Valence, you can also buy food in **open-air Markets**: typical of the south of France, you will find there mostly high-quality fresh produce from local producers: fruits and vegetables, cheese, meat and other artisanal products. Prices could be higher than in supermarkets (for meat for example, but the quality is better too!) or sometimes lower (for season vegetables).

**Market of local producers:**  
on Tuesdays, place Saint Jean, under the hall: 4 pm to 7 pm between November and March, 5 pm to 8 pm between April and October.

**Other food markets:** 7:30 am to 12:30:

Monday: place Danton,  
Tuesday: place de l'Europe,  
Wednesday: place de la Paix,  
Thursday: place des Clercs,  
Friday: place Faventines

The biggest one on Saturdays: place des Clercs, place de l'Université and place des Ormeaux (city center).



## Your First Shopping List

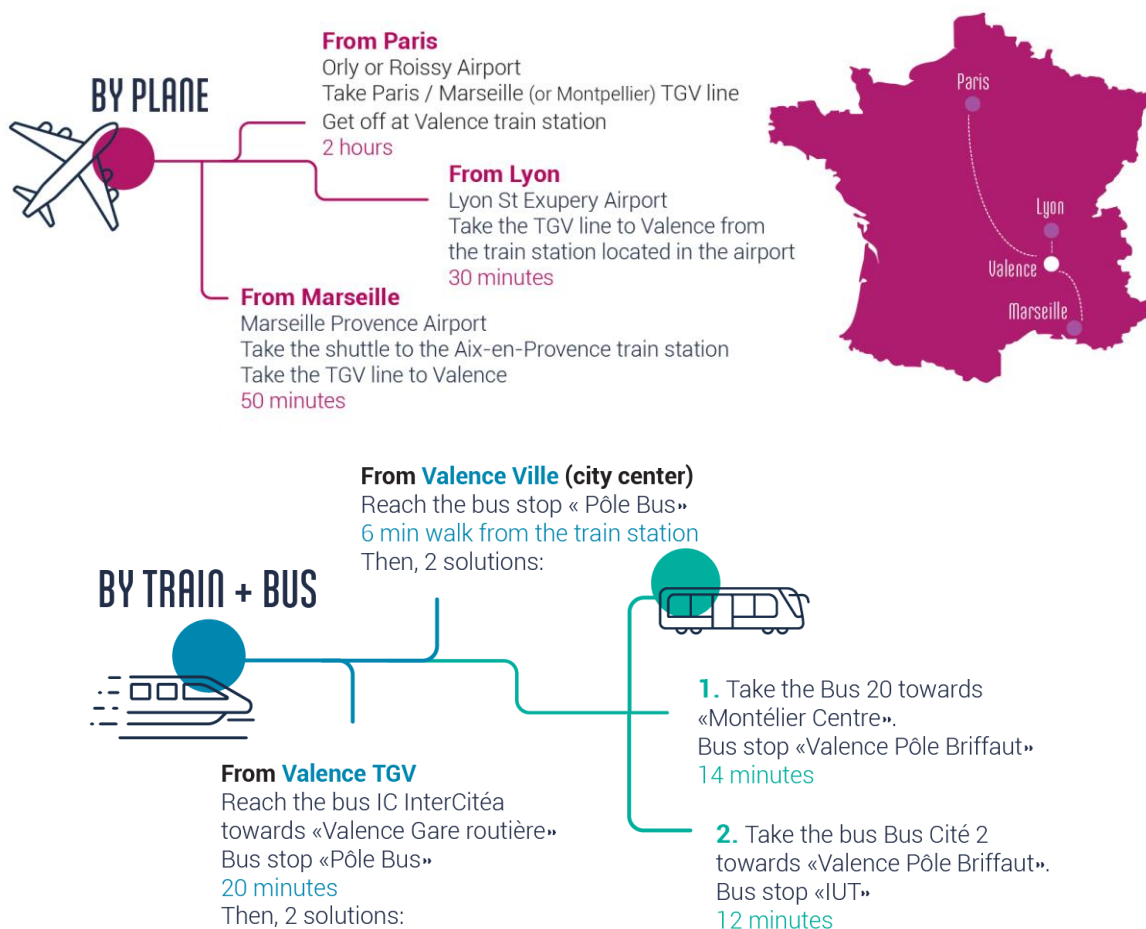
ENGLISH	FRENCH
<b>Butcher shop</b>	Boucherie
<b>Bakery</b>	Boulangerie
<b>Cheese store</b>	Fromagerie
<b>Fish shop</b>	Poissonnerie
<b>Fruits</b>	Fruits
<b>Vegetables</b>	Légumes
<b>Fish</b>	Poisson
<b>Meat</b>	Viande
<b>Pork</b>	Porc
<b>Beverages</b>	Boissons
<b>Bread</b>	Pain
<b>Eggs</b>	Oeufs
<b>Pasta</b>	Pâtes
<b>Cans</b>	Conserves
<b>Potatoes</b>	Pommes de terre
<b>Coffee</b>	Café
<b>Tea</b>	Thé
<b>Ham</b>	Jambon
<b>Milk</b>	Lait
<b>Ice Cream</b>	Glace
<b>Price</b>	Prix
<b>Sales</b>	Soldes





## TRANSPORT

### How to go to Valence?



**CAUTION!** There are two different train stations in Valence:

- **Valence Ville**, in the City Centre is near the bus lines that reach Esisar;
- **Valence TGV** is located outside the city and welcomes the majority of mainline trains.

To reach the City Centre from Valence TGV, take a regional train (TER) to Valence Ville (9 minutes – €3.10) or the Intercitea bus line (20 minutes – €1.40).

Note that the TER or bus can be rare on weekends and evenings.

### Public Transportation



#### **Bus**

Bus maps and bus times leaflets are available in all Citéa agencies and city halls of the department, and on the website: <https://www.vrd-mobilites.fr/>. Citéa agency in Valence: 11 bis boulevard d'Alsace – 26000 Valence. Bus stop: Pôle Bus. Tel: 04 75 60 06 26. Opening hours: Monday to Friday: from 7 am to 6:30 pm. Saturday and summer: from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm and from 1:30 pm to 6 pm.

You can pay your travel on board: you will have to pay €1.40 (cash) to the driver. If you need to take the bus regularly, you should buy a transport card: for young people under 26 years old, it costs only €100 for the year (€200 over 26 years old). You can buy this card in the Citea agency, bring an identity photo, your identity document and a proof of address in Valence (rent receipt or electricity bill, for instance).

### To come to Esisar with the Bus Bus Stop “Pôle Briffaut”

From the city centre, you can take the bus lines: Cité 2 (more direct), Cité 5, Cité 1, or 20. You can take it at the bus stop “pôle bus”, avenue Félix Faure.

[Interactive bus map](#)



#### GOOD TO KNOW!

Most buses **do not circulate after 8 pm!**



#### **Bicycle**

You can rent a bike to cycle around the city. Once a subscription is purchased, you can hire and return a “Libélo” bike at any of the 31 stations available across Valence and its surroundings. It is available 24 hours a day and seven days a week. The subscription is gratis if you have the Citea bus card; you only pay after 30 minutes of rent. Visit the website to explore stations, pricing and how bike-sharing in Valence works:

<https://www.vrd-mobilites.fr/velo/>

The association “Roulons en Ville à Vélo” (*Let’s cycle in town*) also sells second-hand bicycles available at a discount rate: [www.revv-valence.org/](http://www.revv-valence.org/).

## Travelling from Valence

### **Carpool:**

Thanks to car-sharing, you can get around safely while meeting people and save money. If you are interested in carpooling, find a match and contact drivers or passengers to arrange the details of the journey on the famous <https://www.blablacar.fr/>



### **Train:**

The Valence-TGV station allows you to reach very quickly the largest towns in France. With the TGV (“Train à Grande Vitesse”), Valence is only 2 hours and 15 minutes from Paris. If you travel quite often, you could be interested in the discount SNCF card “12-27”, which allows you to travel at a reduced price on the French train network: 25 % to 50% off, depending of the period, for one year. It costs €49.

To book your train tickets, find information on train departures and arrival times and get real-time updates on train status across the network: <https://www.sncf-connect.com/>

## COMMUNICATIONS

### Telephone

Getting a French phone number should be one of your first steps in Valence, as you will need it for other procedures.



There are four main mobile phone networks in France: SFR, Bouygues Télécom, Orange and Free. But numerous operators are now on the mobile phone market with good deals and a wide choice of different services such as Virgin (<https://www.virginmedia.com/mobile/deals>), Sosh ([www.sosh.fr](http://www.sosh.fr)), ...

Contracts vary in price, duration and services offered. International calls are often at an extra charge. It is worth comparing the offers (here for instance: <https://www.meilleurmobilite.com/forfaits/liste-tarifs.do>)! Take heed to the duration of your telephone rental contract!

Esisar's international students recommend Free (from €9/month) or Red by SFR (low-cost offer from SFR). You should find a package between €9 and €20/month!

Do not forget Skype or WhatsApp for your international calls, it's free!

To call from France, dial exit code: (00) (country code) (phone number).

To call France, dial entry code: (00)(33) (phone number excluding the first 0). Beware, from the United States and Canada, dial (011) instead of (00).

You can also buy phone cards for long-distance calls in specialised phone shops at very low rates.



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#### **GOOD TO KNOW!**

**The French phonebook's website.** Useful to find professionals' telephone numbers: <http://www.pagesjaunes.fr>

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### Internet

If you are renting a private accommodation, you will need a phone landline to connect to the Internet. Often, phone companies offer packages (Internet, unlimited phone calls, TV) for a monthly rate of around €20 to €30. If you are in a University residence, WiFi is available (costs vary according to your needs). Also, think about connection sharing with your mobile phone if you have unlimited internet data.

Some public places also have free WiFi, like libraries, cafés or fast food restaurants. There is also a Wifi hotspot network in the city centre: <http://map.cigale-hotspot.fr/>.

### Poste Office

A postcard or a letter to send? Simply drop them in one of the yellow letter boxes, which you will find on street corners. The nearest letterbox to Esisar is located on the same street, rue Barthélémy de Laffemas.



**La Poste** is the French national postal service. Post offices sell stamps, send and receive mail and packages from France and abroad. Many post offices have a self-service coin-operated machine, which weighs letters and issues postage labels (*vignettes d'affranchissement*) which can be used instead of stamps. These machines usually have an English-language format.

Post offices can also offer currency exchange and photocopy/fax services. They are generally open from Monday to Friday from 8:30 am to 12 pm and from 2 pm to 6 pm and on Saturdays from 8:30 am to 12 pm (be careful, opening hours can vary depending on the offices). For more information: [www.laposte.fr](http://www.laposte.fr).

Post offices also offer other services: selling stamps and telephone cards, sending parcels, making money transfers, recharging mobile telephones; you can also open a bank account and use La Poste for normal banking operations.

**Cost of sending a letter of up to 20 grams:** €1.16 (France) and €1.65 (International).

## BUDGET

Here are a few indicative references to spend your money without breaking your piggy bank: (Please note that the fees are subject to change. The costs given here have been updated in February 2022).

The currency in France is the Euro (€) the single currency used in many European countries. Currency exchange offices are open in big airports and in Valence (in Banks). You can also withdraw euros from any cash dispensing machine.

### Means of payment:

- **Credit Card:** very commonly used in France (Mastercard, Visa or American Express).
- **Cash:** there are €500, €200, €100, €50, €20, €10 and €5 banknotes, and €2, €1, 50 cts, 20 cts, 10 cts, 5 cts, 2 cts and 1ct coins.
- A **cheque book** (*Chéquier*): less and less used, but you may need it for a deposit, for instance.

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**Emergency numbers if your credit card is lost or stolen (to cancel it): for Visa: 0 892 705 705; Mastercard: 0 800 90 1387; American Express: +33 (0)1 47 77 72 00.**

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### Expenses on arrival

**Registration fees:** no registration fees for exchange students; for Master students: €5109 (non-EU) or €1480 (EU) (2024-2025 rates).

**CVEC** (Contribution to Student and Campus Life) €103 for regular, IMESS and double degree students (should not be paid by simple exchange students) (2024-2025 rates).

**The OFII fiscal stamp** to regularise your stay in France: €60 for students.

**Complementary health insurance:** from €66 to more than €415, depending on the package you choose. Different fixed rates are proposed, covering different kinds of medical fees. Contact the complementary agency of your choice for more details. (See the Healthcare section above for more explanations on the Social Security and Complementary health cover system).

**Liability insurance + Home Insurance:** between €40 and €60 a year.

**Housing guarantee deposit:** This is money that you have to give to your landlord. This money has to be given on your arrival in your apartment/room. It is usually the price of one month rent: from €350 to €500. This money is reimbursed to you when you leave. If damage is noticed and recorded at the time of the inventory inspection upon departure of the tenant, the costs are invoiced to the departing tenant and the sum is deductible from the guarantee deposit. You will have to pay the first month rent when you arrive as well.

Sometimes you can have costs for opening gas, water or electricity contracts or agency fees if you find accommodation through an agency.

### Ordinary monthly expenses: an overview

- **Housing rents:** in France, you pay rent and utilities (electricity and water bills, for instance). Indicative rents:
  - In a private residence: from €390 to €700 each month.
  - At a private individual: from €280 for a studio to €800 for a 4-bedroom flat each month.
  - For a room at a private individual's home: from around €230 to €400 each month.

- **Electricity (EDF):** around €40 or more each month (depending on the size of your accommodation and your consumption).
- **Food expenses:** one “RU” (*University canteen*) lunch: €3.25. Go to the “Where to have lunch” section for more information. → around €65 / month for lunches.  
For other food expenses (dinner, breakfast and weekend meals), €100 to €150.
- **Transport expenses:**  
Bus ticket: €1.40 (10 tickets for €8)  
Bus Monthly subscription: €20 (€10 if you are under 26 years old).  
Bus Annual subscription: €200 (€100 if you are under 26 years old).
- **Care and hygiene expenses:** approximately €25 per month.
- **Internet and telephone expenses:** from €10 to €60 each month.
- **Other expenses:** Leisure or clothes expenses: around €40.

#### Some common expenses

Soft drink: €3.50

Beer: €2.80

Coffee: €1.50

Meal at a restaurant: €10-€15

Meal at a university restaurant: €3.25

A baguette: €1

Cinema ticket for students: €10.5

## Funding your studies

### Part-time jobs and trainings

You can find job propositions which are regularly updated at the following links:

CROUS: [www.crous-grenoble.fr](http://www.crous-grenoble.fr)

CRIJ: <https://www.info-jeunes.fr/>

Mission Locale (for students under 25 years old): <https://www.missionlocalevalence.com/>

Other job-offer sites: [www.jobetudiant.net](http://www.jobetudiant.net), [www.jobdete.com](http://www.jobdete.com) or simply [www.emploi.org](http://www.emploi.org).

Also think of giving support classes in your language. You can also consult ads in free papers and in shops.

**Special Warning for IMESS Students:** We advise you against working besides your studies. You will have much work during the class months and not really extra time!

A foreign student with Student Visa may exercise a part time professional activity while studying. He can work up to 964 hours per year, or 60% of the statutory annual working hours in France.

### **Warning!**

A foreign student can not work more than **964 hours a year**. His temporary residence permit may be withdrawn by the prefecture if it exceeds this maximum!

**Be careful** when choosing your student job! Some offers, like 'bar hostess', can hide an incentive to illegal practices.

### **Worth knowing:**

For every mandatory and optional internship lasting more than two months, according to French law, students must earn a minimum wage of 15% of the social minima, which equals approximately 525 €/month.

For more details: CRIJ, CROUS, AFIJ, Pôle Emploi.

### **Tips to save money**

If you need to buy furniture, appliances, clothes, crockery, decoration, a bike or even clothes, think of the second-hand shops! Flea markets and garage sales are markets where individuals can sell all kinds of used objects. You will have to search and haggle to get a good deal. To know places and dates of such markets: [www.vide-greniers.org](http://www.vide-greniers.org)

There are also some charities collecting old things to sell them at low cost, like **Emmaüs** associations or the “ressourceries”.

Some sites to find second-hand products:

[Donnons.org](http://Donnons.org): donation and recycling website. Do not forget to include the locality in your research, as most donations must be collected directly by the donor.

[Coin](http://Coin): website where you can consult classifieds of individuals and professionals throughout France, whether you are looking for real estate rentals, job offers, furniture, electronic equipment or any other type of used products. You can also post ads for free.



## **SPORT**

### **The University Sports Center (“Service des sports universitaire” – SIUAPS):**

Join the SIUAPS and choose the one that will suit you among more than 20 sports and artistic activities: aikido, badminton, basketball, table tennis, modern dance... This activity can either be evaluated and included in your university curriculum or it can simply be for your own enjoyment. (Membership fees of €34 for the “sports card” or gratis if you paid the CVEC fee + a subscription per activity (€5 or €10 /semester). Registration is available during the first two weeks of September, either online or in the first class of the activity you choose.

All information on costs and activities and registration on: <https://suaps.univ-grenoble-alpes.fr/fr/> You can also inquire the SIUAPS, Route de Malissard - 26000 VALENCE. Email: [suaps-valence@univ-grenoble-alpes.fr](mailto:suaps-valence@univ-grenoble-alpes.fr)

### **The Valence University Club (“Valence Université Club”):**

Looking for a thrill, an escape and emotion? The “mountain and climbing” section of the Valence University Club offers a climbing wall of 420 m<sup>2</sup> and even access to the world championship’s wall in the Polygone Hall of Valence! If you want to keep in good health or train and develop your muscles, then you can access the bodybuilding section, comprising a

weights room, a power-lifting room and a cardio-training room with bikes, rowing machines and exercise mats.

More information: Valence University Club - Antenne STAPS de Valence, 23 Chemin des Huguenots - 26000 Valence. Website: <https://vucescalade.wixsite.com/vucescalade> or on Facebook: V.U.C Montagne & Escalade.

### Sports associations:

There are many sports associations in Valence. Here is a weblink to find the one which will fit you: <http://www.valence.fr/fr/vivre-a-valence/associations.html> (select "Sport" in "domaine d'activité" section).

### Swimming:

If you want to relax, three swimming-pools welcome you in Valence:

**Jean Pommier swimming-pool:** 40 avenue Georges Clémenceau – 26000 Valence. Phone: 04 75 56 51 07.

**Plein Ciel swimming-pool:** avenue Valensolles – 26000 Valence. Phone: 04 75 44 22 04.

Special fares for students: single ticket: €1.50; Subscription for 10 entrances: €13.00.

**Epervière Aqualudic Centre:** 77 chemin de l'Épervière à Valence. [www.centreaqualudique-eperviere.fr/](http://www.centreaqualudique-eperviere.fr/)

Information on opening hours are available (in French) here: <https://www.valenceromansagglo.fr/fr/sports-culture-et-sorties/equipements-sportifs/piscines.html>

### Ice-skating:

Enjoy the 1800 m<sup>2</sup> ice-rink for funny skidding moments on ice!

Special fares for students: single ticket: €3, ten tickets: €17. Ice skates' rental: €3. Opening hours: Wednesday and Saturday: from 2 pm to 6 pm, Sunday: from 9 am to 12 pm and from 2 pm to 6 pm. Open at night on Thursday: from 8 pm to 11 pm. Opening hours during holidays: Monday to Saturday: from 2 pm to 6 pm, Sunday: from 9 am to 12 pm and from 2 pm to 6 pm.

**Ice-Rink:** Allée Raymond Mias – 26000 Valence. Phone: 04 75 80 27 27.

Web : <https://www.valenceromansagglo.fr/fr/sports-culture-et-sorties/equipements-sportifs/patinoire.html>



## **LIBRARY**

The "*Bibliothèque Universitaire*" or "BU" gives you access to a whole collection of all disciplinary domains. It is located close to Esisar. Also, you have access to the "Médiathèque Publique et Universitaire" (Multimedia Library) and other documentation centres thanks to the fact that they are organised in a network within the university pole of Valence. After registering at the reception desk, you can use your "reader card" and borrow books regularly from any of the university libraries. Electronic resources are also available on computer workstations.

You can also access the online university library at <https://bibliotheques.univ-grenoble-alpes.fr/>. It has all the documents you need in store to prepare your reports and courses.

**Bibliothèque Universitaire :** Site Latour-Maubourg – Bibliothèque Universitaire Rodolphe Pesce, 19 place Latour-Maubourg 26000 Valence. Phone: 04 38 38 84 00 / 04 38 38 84 01. Free registration. The Médiathèque allows you to borrow up to ten books for a period of 28 days depending on the books.



Opening hours: Monday to Friday: from 9 am to 7 pm; Saturday and holidays: from 9 am to 5 pm.: <https://bibliotheques.univ-grenoble-alpes.fr/>

**Grenoble Alpes University-Grenoble INP Esisar – Bibliothèque Sciences et Technologies (Sciences and Technologies Library)** : 38 rue Barthélémy de Laffemas 26000 Valence. Phone: 04 56 52 11 07. You can borrow 6 books for 3 weeks.

Opening hours: Monday to Thursday: from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm / 13:30 pm to 17:30 pm; Friday: 9 am to 12.



# ENJOY YOUR STAY

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## LEISURE

### Cinema

**Pathé:** a twelve-screen cinema with over 2 340 seats. All information including film listings, movie times and trailers: [www.cinemasgaumontpathe.com/cinemas/cinema-pathe-valence](http://www.cinemasgaumontpathe.com/cinemas/cinema-pathe-valence).

Pathé Cinema: 53 avenue de Romans – 26000 Valence. Ticket price online for students: €10,50. Cinépass (unlimited) under 26: €16.90/ month.

**Le Navire:** independent cinema and art house. Film listings and movie times available at <https://www.lenavire.fr/valence/> or at the cinema located: 9 boulevard d'Alsace – 26000 Valence. Phone: 04 75 40 79 20. Ticket price for students: €5.

**Lux – “National scene of Valence” (*Scène nationale de Valence*):** Cinema ticket price for students: €6,5. Worth knowing: Lux offers movie screenings but also musical shows and exhibitions related to contemporary visual arts: enjoy! More information: [www.lux-valence.com](http://www.lux-valence.com). 36 boulevard du général de Gaulle – 26000 Valence. Phone: 04 75 82 44 15.



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### **GOOD TO KNOW!**

In March, for 3 days, there is the ***Printemps du Cinéma*** event:  
pay only €4 for one movie!

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## Theater and concert halls

**Comédie de Valence:** Dance and theater shows. Place Charles Huguenel – 26000 Valence. Ticket office: 04 75 78 41 70. Website: [www.comediedevalence.com](http://www.comediedevalence.com).

**Théâtre de la Ville:** concerts and spectacles. Place de la Liberté – 26000 Valence. Phone: 04 75 86 14 50. Website: <http://theatre.valence.fr/>.

**Mistral Palace Valence:** a concert hall offering an eclectic music programme (mainly rock). 12 rue Pasteur – 26000 Valence. Website: [www.mistralpalace.com](http://www.mistralpalace.com). Email: [info@mistralpalace.com](mailto:info@mistralpalace.com).

## Special events

**European Heritage days:** These are open days in monuments and beautiful buildings everywhere in Europe. They usually take place during the 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend of September. This is the occasion for you to discover Valence and its historical places, and to visit some places usually closed to the public.

**Fête de la gastronomie:** takes place on the last Week end of September. A good occasion to discover French cuisine: <https://www.valenceengastronomiefestival.fr/>

Féeries d'hiver : village de Noël et grande parade et feuwork <https://www.village-noel-valence.com/>

**Fête de la science** octobre: <http://www.fetedelascience-aura.com/drome/>

**Music Festival** (*Fête de la musique*): On June 21<sup>st</sup>, enjoy free concerts in all public places, streets, gardens, squares, etc. It is a musical start to summer everywhere in France and Valence.

## TOURISM

### Climate

The Climate in Valence is marked by the transition between the Mediterranean climate zone and the northern and eastern cold climate.

Summers are very hot and dry, winters are cold and often snowy (more outside of the city).

There is much wind in Valence: The *Mistral* is the violent north wind blowing through the Rhône Valley. In Winter, it can lower the temperature felt. It also favours a very sunny weather in Valence.



Average: 25°C in July

Maximum: 39°C



Average: 4°C in January

Minimum: -6°C

Note that **daylight saving time** starts on the last Sunday in March (clocks are set forward one hour) and ends on the last Sunday in October (clocks are set back one hour).

## Visit Valence



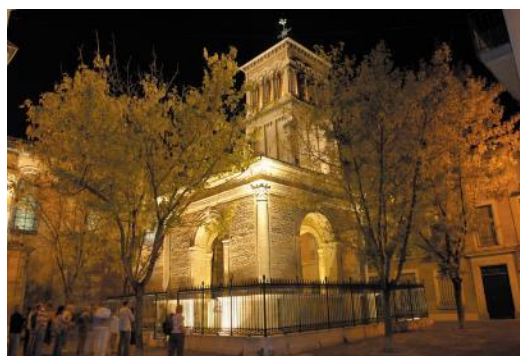
**Office du Tourisme/Visitor center:**

**11 boulevard Bancel – 26000 Valence.  
[www.valencetourisme.com](http://www.valencetourisme.com). 04 75 44 90 40.**

**Parks:** Discover the Parc Jouvet in the city centre or the Parc des Trinitaires. Walking along the Rhône on the ViaRhôna (a 500 km-long bicycle path along the Rhône river), you will arrive at the Epervière harbour.

There are also more than 17 km of canals in Valence! Find a map online or at the Visitors Centre and walk along these protected natural areas.

**Saint Apollinaire Cathedral:** The Romanesque-style Cathedral is one of the oldest monuments in Valence (consecrated in 1095). Heavily destroyed during religious wars, it was rebuilt during the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Near the cathedral, you will see the Pendentif: a beautiful monument built in the 16<sup>th</sup> century in the choir of the cathedral.



### **The Art and Archaeology Museum**

Come to the old bishop's palace, which is home to the Museum and admire hundreds of works, including paintings, drawings, sculptures, and decorative arts, from the 15<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. The Museum also invites you to discover the story of the very first inhabitants of Valence and Drôme through a collection of more than 1500 objects, from prehistoric to Roman and medieval times. Don't forget to go on top of the roof: it offers an amazing panoramic view of Valence and the surrounding landscape, from Vercors to Ardèche mountains.

4 place des Ormeaux – 26000 Valence. Phone: 04 75 79 20 80. [www.museedevalence.fr](http://www.museedevalence.fr). Opening hours: Wednesday to Sunday: from 10 am to 12 pm and from 2 pm to 6 pm. Open at night on the 3rd Tuesday of each month until 9 pm. Free entrance for students.

In **Valence City Centre**, you can admire old buildings like the House of Heads or the Moorish House.

Some visits of the old Valence are organized by the association "Pays d'art et d'histoire" (Maison des têtes, 57 grande Rue – 26 000 Valence. 04 75 79 20 86. <https://www.valenceromansagglo.fr/fr/sports-culture-et-sorties/equipements-culturels/pays-d-art-et-d-histoire.html>)

**The Armenian Heritage Centre**, devoted to the history of the Armenian civilisation, is particularly focused on the arrival of many Armenian people in Valence after the genocide in 1915. More than Armenian history, it presents exhibitions on exile, genocides, diasporas and cultural diversity. 14 Rue Louis Gallet, 26000 Valence - <https://www.le-cpa.com/en>



Do not miss the ruined **Castel of Crussol** in Saint-Peray (Ardèche, you can reach its foot by bus and then walk up on foot: around 45 minutes and a beautiful panorama over Valence, the Vercors and Ardèche).



### The département de la Drôme

The Drôme department extends from the Rhône Valley to the Vercors Massif to the East. Economic activity is concentrated around agriculture (fruits and vegetables, vine, aromatic and medicinal plants, farming...), industry (agri-food, sustainable development, aeronautics), handicraft and tourism.

From a touristic point of view, the Drome has much to offer, from the natural treasures of the Vercors Regional Natural Park to the Provençal Drome region in the South with lavender, olive trees and perched villages.

The Vercors is a landscape of low mountains, forming the western limit of the Alps. You will find their beautiful natural landscapes with deep gorges, forested hills and ridges of cliffs. It was also a major centre for Resistance against the occupation during the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War. You can visit a Memorial to the Resistance in Vassieux-en-Vercors.

Some attractions and curiosities in Drôme:

- Palais Ideal du Facteur Cheval at Hauterives ("palais" built by the village postman during 30 years)
- The shoe museum in Romans-sur-Isère. Discover also the old city and the Collegiate church. If you prefer shopping, you must know that there is an outlet mall in Romans called Marques Avenue.
- In Tain l'Hermitage, you can visit vineyards and taste the local production. You will find there the Valrhôna City of Chocolate, maybe the best French chocolate.
- Beautiful cities and villages like Mirmande (one of the "most beautiful villages in France), Crest (medieval donjon said to be the highest in France), Montélimar, la Garde-Adhemar, Le Poet-Laval, Nyons etc.
- Castles of Grignan (see photo p. 41) and Suze-la-Rousse
- And so on! Do not forget the neighbouring department of Ardèche, which also has amazing natural sites to offer!

### Visit France:



If you can, take advantage of your stay in France to visit other regions! Lyon, of course, only 1 hour away by train, is a beautiful city with the old town from the late medieval age, the basilica of Fourvière, the numerous museums and restaurants ("bouchons") or the new district of Confluence. Other important cities southerly worth the trip: the sunny cities of Marseille, Avignon, Aix-en-Provence, Montpellier... Turn East and discover the beautiful Annecy and the ski resorts of the Alps: Font d'Urle and Villard-de-Lans are the nearest to Valence.

If you take the TGV, you can go to Paris or other big cities in France. You can also travel to Switzerland or Italy, which are our closest neighbours!

## STUDENTS ASSOCIATIONS

### The “Cercle”:

Each engineering school in France has a student union (*Bureau des Etudiants*, BDE). Here in Valence, the “Cercle” is responsible for the community life of the school. The “Cercle” also handles parties, and your integration with the people of the school. For more information and news on events to come, see the Facebook group and the website: [www.esisariens.org](http://www.esisariens.org). Email: [cercle.esisar@gmail.com](mailto:cercle.esisar@gmail.com).

### School Clubs

Here is a short list of the different school clubs. You can check them and get more information from the Cercle!

- Sport Nature Association
- Robotics Club
- Computing Club
- Musisar: for musical activities
- Rock Club for dancers
- Esifoot: Football Club.
- EsiFly: Aeronautics Club.
- Esiastronomie
- Kr[HACK]en: Cybersecurity Club.
- Esiglisse: ski Club



### Association Valentinoise des Etudiants:

With the network of associations it gathers, the AVE organizes great events, like the Student's Challenge (“*Challenge de l'étudiant*”, a friendly track meet where students from high schools and universities are facing each other) or the Student's Party (“*Gala de l'étudiant*”). The AVE also offers many activities (bowling, Laser game...) and services (jobs, housing...) on its website.



Maison de l'étudiant Drôme-Ardèche – 7 place Latour-Maubourg – 26000 Valence. Phone: 04 26 44 35 06. Website: [www.ave-asso.fr](http://www.ave-asso.fr). Email: [contact@ave-asso.fr](mailto:contact@ave-asso.fr).

### Maison de l'étudiant Drôme-Ardèche

Managed by the Drôme-Ardèche University Development Agency (ADUDA), the Maison de l'étudiant gathers in one site 9 services and associations dedicated to students:

- ADUDA. Website: [www.etudierendromeardeche.fr](http://www.etudierendromeardeche.fr)
- Information and orientation in higher education (CIO'SUP)
- Centre Santé Jeune (cf. p. 27)
- Brasserie Latour-Maubourg: CROUS Restaurant with breakfast at 7:45, lunch until 14:00. Free WIFI.
- AVE: Association of the Students of Valence
- Inter'Val – Erasmus Student Network: the association dedicated to the welcome and integration of international students
- ISSO: cf. p. 12.
- Student Café “Le Partiel”, handled by the AVE and the ADUDA. Opening hours and events on: <https://www.facebook.com/lepartiel/>
- FOCUS: student cultural association in Valence

## AFTER YOUR STUDIES

### Upon departure

Do not forget to:

- Close your bank account.
- Inform the CAF of your move.
- Cancel your health insurance.
- Cancel all service providers (energy, insurances, additional health insurance etc.)
- Return library books!
- Clean your room or apartment, to get your deposit back!

### Grenoble INP Alumni:

Students who have graduated from a university are called alumni. As an Esisar student or a former one, you can join the Esisar Alumni Association, which organises festivities, lectures and other interesting events where you have the opportunity of meeting former fellow students.

Website: <http://alumni.grenoble-inp.fr/>. Also on LinkedIn.



### Working in France after graduation

If you want to work in France after your graduation, do not hesitate to contact ISSO. Nicolas Coursodon will help you with the different possibilities to get a Visa to stay in France.

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Please report your impressions and remarks on this handbook to  
[relations.internationales@esisar.grenoble-inp.fr](mailto:relations.internationales@esisar.grenoble-inp.fr).  
Inform us on what was missing, according to you!

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GRENOBLE INP - UGA  
INGÉNIERIE & MANAGEMENT

MEMBRE DU GROUPE INP