

APPLYING FOR A VISA

Nationals of EU member countries :

If you are a national of a member state of the European Union (EU) or the European Economic Area (EEA), you may apply directly to the institution of interest to you. You are not required to follow any particular process to enter French higher education beyond the first year. You are not even required to obtain a visa.

Other students living in Europe

If you live in an EU countries but are not a citizen, you will have to apply for a student visa at the French consulate in the country in which you reside. You do not have to return to your country of origin in order to apply for admission to a French institution of higher education.

An Erasmus candidate who is not a national of EU will have to obtain a student visa before arriving at Polytech Lille. The international office of Lille 1 University will send him an official letter of acceptance.

Non-EU students

International students who are not nationals of the European Union, the European Economic Area (EEA) and the Swiss Confederation (Switzerland) who wish to study in France for longer than three months, obtain **an extended-stay student visa**. Apply at the French embassy or consulate in your country.

Extended-stay visa and residency permit (known as the VLS-TS), marked “student”, for stays exceeding 3 months

The visa itself serves as a residency permit for one year, provided it is validated by the French office of immigration and integration (OFII). Students must report to OFII for a medical screening within 3 months of their arrival in France.

Upon arrival in France, students will have to complete several administrative formalities.

They will have to fill in the “Demande d’attestation OFII” form issued by the French Consulate in their countries and make a copy of their passports, then give these documents to the international welcome desk of Lille 1 University (on appointment by sending an e-mail to : titres-sejour@univ-lille1.fr) which will forward them to the OFII agency in Lille.

In parallel, students will be called upon by the prefecture to take their fingerprints.

Upon receipt of these documents, the local office of the OFII in Lille will send the visa holder, by regular mail to the address provided by the visa holder, a letter acknowledging receipt of the form and possibly asking the holder to report for a medical examination.

In all cases, a tax of €58 must be paid by purchasing a tax stamp marked "OMI" or "ANAEM."

Under no circumstances may a tourist visa be converted into a student visa anywhere in the European Union.

Special case :

Algerian students are covered by a specific agreement and are not eligible for the VLS-TS. They must apply for an extended-stay visa marked "student" and, once in France, visit the prefecture of Lille to apply for a 1-year renewable residency permit.

Algerian students are also subject to the tax stamp. However, because they do not obtain an extended-stay visa with residency permit, they may not use the virtual stamp purchased online. Instead, they must purchase the paper version.

Renewal of the residence permit or VLS-TS

The residence permit or the VLS-TS, valid for one year, is renewable annually for the duration of studies in France. The renewal application must be filed in the two months preceding the date of expiry of the permit. After this period, you will be charged a fine of 180 €.