
Welcome guide exchange students

2025-2026





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Université Catholique de Leuven

1875 / 2025

ELSH

Informational text on a small signpost.



Dear International Students,

We are pleased to welcome you to the Faculty of Arts and Humanities !

International and intercultural education are among our priorities : each year more than 120 exchange students are welcomed and more than 100 FLSH's students study abroad ; we have 130 partner universities and 14 nationalities in our teaching team.

During your stay you will have the possibility to learn new topics in the main areas we work in (literature, culture and communication / history and politics / languages and international affairs / psychology). You will also discover new teaching and educational methods.

At the crossroads of Paris, London and Brussels, Lille is a major metropolis of the Euroregion : take the opportunity to discover the city, French culture and gastronomy and travel around Europe !

We are here to guide and support you during your time with us.

FLSH International Relations Team



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The warmth of the faculty, the diversity of the student body, and the richness of academic offerings have all contributed to an experience that exceeds my wildest expectations. Beyond the classroom, Lille has become my home away from home, with its charming streets, vibrant culture, and welcoming atmosphere.

Tako, from Caucasus University, Georgia

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PRACTICAL INFORMATION

HOW TO COME TO LILLE ?



By plane

Lille Lesquin Airport

A direct coach connects to central Lille (stops outside the main railway station) in 20 minutes, and runs once an hour.

<https://www.lille.aeroport.fr/mobile/navette.php>

Brussels Zaventem Airport

Trains regularly link the Airport to Brussels Midi Station. From there, you can take another train to Lille.

<https://www.brusselsairport.be/en/passengers/access-parking/train>

<https://www.sncf-connect.com/>

Brussels South Charleroi Airport

Located some 120 km (75 miles) from Lille, BSCA offers a wide range of European destinations through low-costs companies.

Flibco offers a regular service from the airport to Lille (1h40). <https://www.flibco.com/fr>

Paris Charles de Gaulle Airport

Trains regularly link Lille-Europe and Paris Charles de Gaulle Airport (1 hour and 15 minutes).

<https://www.sncf-connect.com/>



By train

There are two train stations in Lille. If you travel by train, you will arrive in one of Lille's two train stations. They are within walking distance from each other (400 meters).

If you want to buy a train ticket: <https://www.sncf-connect.com/>



- Gare Lille Flandres
- 1 place de la Gare, 59000 Lille



- Gare Lille Europe
- 1 place François Mitterand, 59000 Lille



ACCOMMODATION

It may be very difficult to find housing upon arrival in Lille, so we kindly ask students to make sure that they have housing before arrival in France. Students should start looking into accommodation options while applying and proceed with booking as soon as they receive their acceptance letter.

2 options :

To stay in a university dorm
<https://www.all-lacatho.fr/en/>

to find housing by yourself
<https://livin-france.com/lesfacultes.univ-catholille/register>



You will find here the housing guide
of Université Catholique de Lille
https://www.flsh-lille.com/ri-guide-du-logement-en-2025_version-web/

VISA INFORMATION

BEFORE YOUR ARRIVAL IN FRANCE :

• **Visa exemption for students from the following countries :**

• Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Greece, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Island, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Norway, Poland, Spain, Sweden, The Netherlands, Portugal, San Marino and the Vatican, Slovakia, Switzerland.

• **Students from the following countries MUST comply with the visa procedure :**

• Algeria, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Benin, Bolivia, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Gabon, Georgia, Ghana, Guinea, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Iran, Israel, Ivory Coast, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Laos, Lebanon, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Peru, Qatar, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, South Africa, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States and Vietnam.



• More information : please contact Campus France in your home country
• <https://www.campusfrance.org/en/student-visa-for-france-login-to-france-visas>

• **For students from any other nationalities :** Please check with your nearest French Consulate. You will be explained the process and the list of required documents to get a visa.

• Please check :

• Ambassades et consulats français à l'étranger: this website was created by our Ministry of Foreign Affairs and gives the contacts of French embassies and consulates abroad.

• <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/fr/le-ministere-et-son-reseau/organisation-et-annuaires/ambassades-et-consulats-francais-a-l-etranger/>



The official website for visa application to France : https://france-visas.gouv.fr/en_US/web/france-visas

Please note :

A tourist visa is not sufficient: students will face being expelled from France after 3 months and any diplomas or credits obtained will not be recognised.

Students coming without a student visa will not be accepted.

UPON YOUR ARRIVAL IN FRANCE :

For students with visa **CESEDA R.311-3 6° (VLS-TS - Visa Long Séjour Valant Titre de Séjour)** :

Upon your arrival in France, you must validate your VLS-TS long stay visa on line on this link : <https://administration-etrangers-en-france.interieur.gouv.fr/particuliers/#/>

Please note :

You must validate your visa within 3 months of arriving in France at the very latest.



PRACTICAL INFORMATION

FRENCH HEALTH INSURANCE AND HEALTH SERVICES



In France, even for a basic visit to your general practitioner, you will first have to pay a 26€50 fee before being reimbursed.

● FOR EUROPEAN UNION STUDENTS

If you are coming from the EU, you should ask for the **European Health Insurance Card** in your country, before your departure.

To be reimbursed from health care expenses in France, keep your treatment forms and contact your home country health system.

● FOR NON-EUROPEAN UNION STUDENTS

BEFORE YOUR ARRIVAL IN FRANCE :

Get a certified copy of your birth certificate translated by a sworn translator with an official apostil if it is not written in a [European Union language](#).

UPON YOUR ARRIVAL IN FRANCE :

During the Welcome Session we will explain how to register with French Social Security «Sécurité sociale».

Even if students come to France with their own health insurance, **the French Government requires non-European Union students (EU) spending more than 3 months in France to register with the French health insurance, called “Sécurité Sociale”. It’s free of charge.**

Only after your registration is complete you will be able to receive the reimbursements of your health care expenses.



**Sécurité Sociale refunds about 70 % of medical costs.
Sécurité Sociale doesn't cover you if you travel outside of France, in case of repatriation or for civil liability.**

Students have the option of getting complementary student insurance to obtain better refunds. **It is highly recommended that students take a complementary health and travel insurance for the duration of their stay in France.**

..... There are 2 main insurance companies in France :

SMENO

see the section “Mutuelles”
<https://www.smeno.com/welcome/>

LMDE

see the section “Mutuelle complémentaire”
<https://www.lmde.fr/>

PRACTICAL INFORMATION



All Santé - The CPSU



• **The CPSU, a university health centre** is at your disposal at 47 bis rue du Port for all consultations
• of general medicine, psychological and social support as well as for the update of vaccinations.
• <https://www.all-lacatho.fr/en/content/22-health>
•

OTHER SERVICES OF « ALL »



[Learn more](#)

LIFE COSTS

Expenses per month

Transport (bus/metro)	31€/month
Food (university restaurant)	57.75€/month
Food (outside university restaurant)	Average 240€/month
Phone	Average 20€/month
Insurance	Average 65€/month
Personal expenses	Average 100€/month
Rent in university dorm (+ charges and services)	Average 500€/month

Total : Average cost 1000€/month*

**Even if some embassies indicate a monthly amount of 650€, we believe that it is more comfortable to have a budget of about 1 000€.*

TRANSPORTS IN LILLE

You can benefit from student rates up to the age of 25 years on all transport (metro/bus/tramway/train) with a youth pass:
<https://www.ilevia.fr/boutique/4-25-ans>



You can also rent a city bike (V'Lille)
<https://www.ilevia.fr/v-lille>

Lille
Métro et tramway



LIFE IN LILLE

At the heart of Europe, Lille is particularly fortunate in its geographical location.

With high-speed trains, easy access to the Channel Tunnel and a whole network of motorways passing through the city, Lille is less than an hour from Paris and Brussels and less than two hours from London and Amsterdam. Today Lille is a dynamic, innovative city with about 1.5 million inhabitants, proud of its industrial, cultural and business heritage. It is an important financial centre with numerous international companies, but also attracts thousands of tourists every year.

Lille was European Cultural Capital in 2004 and is a city overflowing with life. As the third largest student city in France, the many universities, colleges and training institutes give Lille its young, dynamic population. The presence of so many students means that Lille is the place to be for partying, cultural events, sport and eating out.



LIVINFRANCE : INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS SERVICES



Université Catholique de Lille have implemented a free platform in order to help you settle in France for your studies.

Register <https://livin-france.com/lesfacultes.univ-catholille/login>



On this platform, you will be able to :

- Find housing
- Open a bank account
- Complete administrative procedures (visa, registration, etc)

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My favorite thing is that there is always something to do and something going on in the city : never really boring. I live in a shared flat, I sometimes go out with my house mates. I feel like it's very social compared to what I'm used to. I go to school, I go back home and I go out again. A very lively period. Compared to Paris or any big city, I feel like Lille is very cozy and very easy to live in.

Galina, from Vilnius Tech University (Lithuania)

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THE FACULTY OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES

PRESENTATION

Whether you are interested in culture, communication, the media, languages, international business, international relations, teaching or psychology, the Faculty of Arts and Humanities can help you reach your professional goal. In addition to providing inspirational teaching and springboards into the profession of your choice, the Faculty of Arts and Humanities also enables you to gain valuable international experience which makes you even more attractive on the job market.



2 650
students



1 preparatory classes
10 bachelor's degrees
20 masters
4 professional diploma



4 subject areas
Literature, Culture and Communication
Languages and International Affairs
History and International Relations
Psychology

COURSE CATALOGUE

You will find the updated version of our courses catalogue on our [website](https://www.flsh-lille.com/exchange-information/) :
<https://www.flsh-lille.com/exchange-information/>

Before your arrival you will receive by email the catalogue of courses, with specific details of those available to international students.

French class for international students is mandatory for students for whom FLSH is the main Faculty.

ACADEMIC CALENDAR

The academic calendar is available on our [website](#)
[section exchange information](#)



THE FACULTY OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES

REGULATIONS ON CAMPUS AND FOR EXAMS

SECURE CAMPUS

All students present in the university must have their badge on them at all times where the security staff can see it. You need your badge in order to get in or out of the buildings via the security barriers. It has your name on it and it is forbidden to lend it to someone else or to use it to let someone else into the buildings. If you lose it, have it stolen or forget to bring it, please go to the security lodge at the visitors' entrance to the main building (east wing of 60 Boulevard Vauban).

ATTENDANCE

Reminder : Class attendance is compulsory

CONDUCT AND ATTITUDE WHILE IN CLASS

- Respectful behavior
- Cell phones must be turned off in class
- Punctuality

DROPPING A CLASS

If you want to drop a class before the end of the semester, you must inform the international relations coordinator immediately, by e-mail or orally.

Once the list of classes has been agreed on and signed by the student, it is no longer possible to drop a class, except when the student's home university explicitly requires it or when there has been a change in the class schedules.

REGULATIONS FOR MIDTERMS AND EXAMS

You must be in the exam room at least **30 minutes** before the beginning of the exam or midterm. Doors will be closed 15 minutes before the exam begins. Students arriving late for an exam **will NOT be allowed** into the examination room, whatever the reason.

- Upon entering the exam room, there must be complete silence. You must leave at the entrance: bag, pencil case, personal items, particularly your turned off cell phone.
- You may not have any documents (unless otherwise authorized).
- You can only start the exam when the proctor allows it. You are not allowed to write on your rough paper before the exam has started.
- **ONLY FOR EXAMS** : Once you have finished, you must be sure to seal your test paper (fold and stick the upper corner containing your name).
- If you cheat or are suspected of cheating, you will be summoned by the Disciplinary Council

VALID ABSENCES

The reasons listed below are the only ones considered valid by the Faculty of Arts and Humanities :

- Medical reasons (only on production of original medical certificate),
- Academic commitment in other establishments of Lille Catholic University or the student's home university (on production of an official letter or email from the institution concerned),
- Death of a close relative (death certificate requested).

WRITTEN TESTS AND EXAMS

You will receive the academic calendar before you arrive in France. You must adhere to it.

Written tests will take place during the class or out of the class time on Monday mornings or Friday afternoons.

When written tests occur during class, the teacher will usually inform the students 1 or 2 weeks in advance.

If the exam takes place out of class, an international student can have 2 or 3 written tests in the same half-day. If the total length does not exceed 4 hours and half, there is no problem.

Each student is responsible for checking all the information about exams.

If the absence of the student is not justified for the midterm or exam:

- No other alternative date will be scheduled,
- He will automatically have to sit the retakes,
- Otherwise, the ECTS credits won't be transferred to his home university.

If the student does not submit any assignment for the course, then he has no right to retakes.

For information, **electronic dictionaries are forbidden** for written tests or exams.

RETAKES

The dates of the retake exam sessions are given in advance.

If you are in France you will take the same exams as the French students.

If you have returned to your home university at the time of the retakes, the retakes will be sent to you by email to be done for a specified date during the retake exam session.

The teacher will assign a new grade for the retake and the new grade will be the **only one** that counts, whatever the result.

Please note that if the new grade lowers your GPA and if you get less than an average of 10/20, some ECTS credits will not be transferred.

If you do not submit your work before the due date, it will be noted as "incomplete" on your transcript of records. No credits will be given for the course in question.

Please note : *it will not be possible to do oral retake examinations after leaving France.*

PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is the total or partial, literal or veiled use of a text which is someone else's property without acknowledging the source, and leading people to think it is one's own, whether for an examination, an assignment or an assessment (final report for a work placement, tutorial classes, etc...). Unless told otherwise by the course instructor, the use of artificial intelligence (AI) is prohibited for all FLSH work.

Any assessed work identified as plagiarism will be considered as fraud and will be punished as such.

Punishment :

Any work (exam, final report, assignment...) considered as fraud will be given 0/20. Moreover, the work could be totally rejected, the student could be forbidden to sit for the exam session or the student could be asked to do the work again. Besides, a disciplinary committee may pronounce stricter disciplinary measures such as permanent exclusion from the Faculty.

INSTITUTIONAL GRADING SYSTEM

*The institutional grading system is available on our [website](#)
[section exchange information](#)*

CONTACTS



FOR RUSSIAN-SPEAKING COUNTRIES

Pr Natalia GUILLUY
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FOR SPANISH-SPEAKING COUNTRIES

Dr Sarah DUMORTIER
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Room HA 202



FOR GERMAN-SPEAKING COUNTRIES, BELGIUM, CROATIA & LITHUANIA

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Room HA 201



FOR ENGLISH-SPEAKING COUNTRIES

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Room HA 301



FOR ASIAN COUNTRIES

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FOR ITALY, SWEDEN AND NORWAY

Dr Sean MARK
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Room HA 205-206



FOR ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES

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