



# FINDING ACCOMMODATION (AS A PSL INTERNATIONAL STUDENT)

• • • • • • • • • • If you are an international student and you have been admitted to a university program of PSL, searching for accommodation will be certainly one of your priorities in your Check-list! To make it easier for you, we have listed in this guide all the options that you can choose from, according to the accommodation that you have targeted and your situation.

Before beginning to search for accommodation, it is important to know that the Parisian housing market is often described as "tense". Indeed, the demand is higher than the supply, and it can be sometimes hard to find accommodation that meets all your expectations in terms of price, surface area and location. Therefore, to facilitate your search (and make it more fruitful), we advise you to explore all the possibilities.

## RENTAL PRICE RANGE IN PARIS AND ITS OUTSKIRTS\*:

Accommodation type	Monthly average rent	
	Paris	Outskirts (= outside of Paris)
Room in a host's house	between 500€ and 700€	between 400€ and 600€
Room in a co-living house	between 500€ and 700€	between 450€ and 600€
Studio in a student residence (type CROUS)	between 400€ and 550€	between 400€ and 550€
Studio	at least 600€	between 500€ and 700€

\* For a single room, we refer to a surface area of around 15 m<sup>2</sup>; for a studio, our reference area is around 18 m<sup>2</sup>.

This guide will present you:

- The housing services of PSL's schools (part 1)
- The housing options offered by the PSL Accommodation Service (Part 2)
- Some ways of searching accommodation by yourself (Part 3)
- Some practical information that you may need about housing in France (Part 4)

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### PART 1: HOUSING SERVICE BY PSL'S SCHOOLS

Some schools of PSL have a housing service or have secured rooms in student residences for their international students.

Depending on your study program and the type of your mobility, it is possible that a room or studio in a student residence might be booked for you. For more information on eligibility requirements, please contact the accommodation service of your school of enrollement.

- ENS : [hebergement@ens.fr](mailto:hebergement@ens.fr)
- ESPCI : [direction.etudes@espci.fr](mailto:direction.etudes@espci.fr)
- Dauphine-PSL : [logement.housing@dauphine.psl.eu](mailto:logement.housing@dauphine.psl.eu)
- Mines Paris-PSL : [maisondesmines@wanadoo.fr](mailto:maisondesmines@wanadoo.fr)

#### Important

*If you have obtained a scholarship from the French government via Campus France and the French embassy in your country of residence, you may benefit from their housing support service. Contact your Campus France space for more information.*



### PART 2: FINDING ACCOMMODATION VIA THE PSL ACCOMMODATION SERVICE

At PSL University, a service is dedicated to supporting students in their search for accommodation: PSL Accommodation Service. Particular attention is paid to international students who may face additional difficulties (finding accommodation without being in France, the language barrier, finding a guarantor, etc.).

Through the PSL Accommodation Service, different types of accommodation are available to you, such as :

- Accommodation in CROUS **student residences** (= public student residences with moderate rents)
- Accommodation offered by **social housing operators**, with moderate rents.
- Rooms in **private residences** with intermediate rents.

A catalog of available residences can be consulted via [this link](#).

Before getting started with your accommodation application, please identify first what your situation is:

1. Newcomer international student admitted to a PSL degree program (see situation 1);
2. Newcomer international student admitted to a non-degree program of PSL as part of a university exchange (for a semester or two. For example: an Erasmus exchange) (see situation 2);
3. International student admitted or enrolled at PSL and living in France (see situation 3).

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**Situation 1: you are a new international student (= you are arriving in France from abroad) and you have been admitted to PSL in a degree program (Bachelor's, Master's or double degree)**

Finding accommodation from abroad is not easy! Moreover, if you are an international student from a country outside the EU/EEA/Switzerland\*, a document stating that you have found a long-term accommodation in Paris will be required when applying for the VLS-TS student visa. Therefore, searching for accommodation should be your top-priority as soon as you are admitted to PSL.

**The accommodation application process via the PSL Accommodation Service:**

1. First, read through the catalog of PSL residences (please click [here](#)) and identify which residences you can have access to (as you can see, some residences are reserved for specific student groups: Dauphine students, undergraduate students, international students of PSL, etc.).
2. Contact directly the PSL Accommodation Service by email and express your interest in obtaining accommodation ; you will then be informed if there are any vacancies : [logement.housing@psl.eu](mailto:logement.housing@psl.eu)
3. If there are vacancies in the residence that you have targeted, you can fill out [this form](#) to apply. We strongly advise you to check the box "I accept that the PSL Accommodation Service will make me another offer because I really need housing"so that you can increase the probability of success in obtaining accommodation.
4. Once your application file has been submitted and validated, a certificate of "search for accommodation" will also be issued for you. You can use it to complete your visa application (if necessary).
5. The allocation of accommodation is made according to your criteria and the vacancies. If an offer of accommodation is assigned to you, you'll receive an email with a link to finalize your registration.

\* The abbreviations EU and EEA stand for the European Union and the European Economic Area respectively.

**Please notice that:**

- In order to be allowed to apply for accommodation in one of the residences of the PSL Accommodation Service, it is necessary to be enrolled in one of PSL's schools. If you cannot provide a certificate of enrollment, you will be required to provide a proof of university admission at the end of the housing application procedure. The PSL Accommodation Service does not usually manage any housing allocation for stays of less than one academic year.
- Allocations are made on the basis of social criteria (e.g. your parents' income), geographical location and level of study (priority is given to younger students).
- If you choose to do your accommodation application via the PSL Accommodation Service, you will be asked to pay a 49-euro assistance fee during the procedure. It cannot be reimbursed.
- **Important:** Allocations are subject to availability. However, the PSL Accommodation Service will do its best to propose accommodation to each applicant. A waiting list will be set up. Accommodation Support Fees are not refundable.

**Situation 2: you are a new international student admitted to PSL as part of a university exchange for one or two semesters (example: Erasmus mobility)**

- You can apply for accommodation via the PSL Accommodation Service. You will be asked to pay accommodation support fees of 180 euros during the application process.
- Important: if you are admitted to Dauphine-PSL, you won't have to do anything specific for the accommodation application until you receive an email from the PSL Accommodation Service.

**If you are an exchange student enrolled in another PSL's school, please contact the PSL Accommodation Service directly: [logement.housing@psl.eu](mailto:logement.housing@psl.eu)**



**Situation 3: you are an international student admitted or enrolled at PSL and you live in France**

You live in Paris but you would like to change your accommodation? You can submit a housing application via the PSL Accommodation Service. Accommodation support fees of 49 euros will apply.

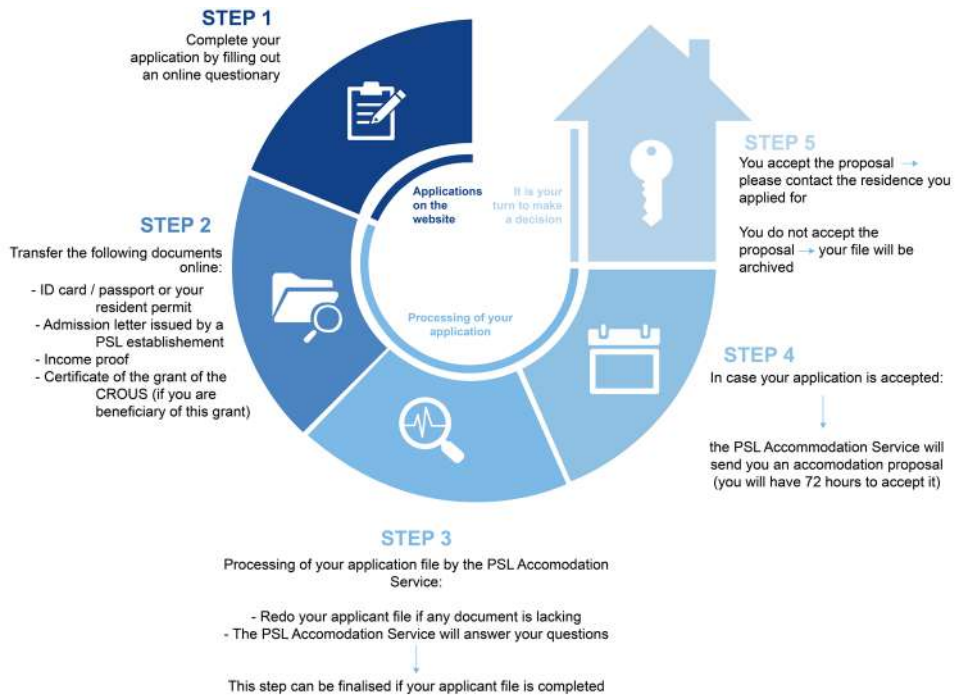
Good to know: if you received a grant from the CROUS\* based on social criteria (from level 0 to level 4) and you wish to apply for accommodation via the PSL Accommodation Service, your application will be prioritized.

\* For international students, only those who have already lived in France for a determined period of time are eligible for this grant.

**You are a student with disabilities**

The PSL Accommodation Service is able to offer accommodation adapted for people with reduced mobility in the residence Housing by Dauphine at Saint-Ouen-sur-Seine.

**Accommodation application procedure via the PSL Accommodation Service**



**Application platform**

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### Option 2: Private student residences

This type of residences is managed by companies, associations or foundations, and the accommodation they offer is generally spacious (at least studios of type T1), with services (janitor, communal areas, etc.). Their rents are thus higher, but they are easier to reserve compared to the CROUS residences. Here are some sub-categories of websites which may be useful for you:

#### 1. Platforms for student residence reservation: they work like search engines.

Examples:

- (1) Adele: available in French, English and Spanish. [adele.org](http://adele.org)
- (2) Studylease: available in French, English and Spanish. [studylease.com](http://studylease.com)
- (3) CLLAJ (le Comité Local pour le Logement Autonome des Jeunes de Paris): [iledefrance.unclaj.org](http://iledefrance.unclaj.org)

#### 2. Websites of private student residences

Some residences are subsidized and others are not. The subsidized residences allow you to obtain a decent accommodation at an affordable price, and they accept Visale\* as your guarantor. A large number of student residences are not subsidized, their rents are consequently more expensive.

*Be aware that some residences may ask for high application fees when you make a reservation of accommodation. Besides, you should also read carefully the terms about reservation on their website.*

According to the type of guarantor accepted, we categorize the private student residences in two groups:

##### (1) Visale, Garantme or natural person guarantor is accepted:

- Cité internationale universitaire de Paris (the International University Campus in Paris): [ciup.fr](http://ciup.fr)
- Fac Habitat (subsidized residences): [fac-habitat.com](http://fac-habitat.com)
- ARPEJ (subsidized residences): [arpej.fr](http://arpej.fr)
- Appart Study (two residences located in the department Val-de-Marne): [appartstudy.com](http://appartstudy.com)
- Kley : [kley.fr](http://kley.fr)
- Espacil Habitat (subsidized residences managed by the Action Logement group, the allocations of housing are based on social criteria): [espacil-habitat.fr/devenir-locataire/etudiants](http://espacil-habitat.fr/devenir-locataire/etudiants)

##### (2) Garantme or natural person guarantor is accepted:

- Nexity Studéa : [nexity-studea.com](http://nexity-studea.com)
- Estudines: [estudines.com](http://estudines.com)
- Cardinal Campus: [cardinalcampus.fr](http://cardinalcampus.fr)
- Suitétudes: [suitétudes.com](http://suitétudes.com)
- Student Factory: [student-factory.com](http://student-factory.com)
- Studélites: [studelites.com](http://studelites.com)
- Youfirst : [campus.youfirst.co](http://campus.youfirst.co)
- Logifac : [logifac.fr](http://logifac.fr)
- Twenty-campus: [sergic-residences.com](http://sergic-residences.com)

*\*For more information, please read "Rental Guarantees" in Part 4 of this Guide.*

### Option 3: Foyers des jeunes travailleurs (Young workers' homes)

The young workers' homes (foyer de jeunes travailleurs, FJT) or "Habitat jeunes" are residences that accommodate young people from 16 to 30 years old, at affordable rents. The residents of FJTs can be young workers, students, researchers, interns, etc.

Here are some websites:

- L'Etape : [etape.asso.fr](http://etape.asso.fr)
- ALJT : [aljt.com](http://aljt.com)
- CLJT : [cljt.com](http://cljt.com)
- ARFJ : [arfj.asso.fr](http://arfj.asso.fr)
- UNHAJ (Union Nationale pour l'Habitat des Jeunes) : [habitatjeunes.org](http://habitatjeunes.org)

In addition, Action Sociale has created a page which contains a list of the FJTs in the Île de France region: [annuaire.action-sociale.org/etablissements/readaptation-sociale/foyer-de-jeunes-travailleurs-non-transforme-en-residence-sociale-257/rgn-ile-de-france.html](http://annuaire.action-sociale.org/etablissements/readaptation-sociale/foyer-de-jeunes-travailleurs-non-transforme-en-residence-sociale-257/rgn-ile-de-france.html)





#### Option 4: Search for private accommodation via ads

If you prefer searching for your accommodation in France via online ads, it is quite doable, even from abroad. There are websites which allow you to get in touch with individual landlords, so you won't have to go through agencies that usually require not only high fees, but also a French guarantor (that is to say, Visale and Garantme are not accepted). You can find numerous platforms where you can find ads for accommodation leases rentals, some of them may even offer paid services to facilitate your accommodation application, while the rest is free. But be careful, because there may be scams on some websites, and some proposals of accommodation are not eligible for housing aids from the Caisse d'allocations familiales (CAF).

There are some websites that allow you to exchange directly with the landlords:

##### (1) Housing (in general)

- PSL Housing: the PSL Accommodation Service has set up the PSL Housing platform, a platform where you can find verified ads from private landlords. It is reserved for PSL students only. After creating an account on the site, you will be directed to the Studapart platform: [pslhousing.psl.eu](https://pslhousing.psl.eu)
- Studapart: available in French, English and mandarin: [www.studapart.com](https://www.studapart.com)
- Lokaviz (a platform managed by the CROUS, it is dedicated to student housing): [lokaviz.fr](https://lokaviz.fr)
- PAP: [pap.fr](https://pap.fr)
- Le Bon Coin – Housing: [leboncoin.fr/locations/offres](https://leboncoin.fr/locations/offres)
- Seloger: [seloger.com/location](https://seloger.com/location)
- Immojeune: [immojeune.com](https://immojeune.com)
- Loc Service: [locservice.fr](https://locservice.fr)
- Entre Particuliers: [entrepaticuliers.com](https://entrepaticuliers.com)
- Viva Street: [vivastreet.com](https://vivastreet.com)
- Paru Vendu – Housing: [paruvendu.fr/immobilier/location](https://paruvendu.fr/immobilier/location)
- Flat Looker: [flatlooker.com](https://flatlooker.com)
- Studyrana Logement: [logement.studyrana.com](https://logement.studyrana.com)
- Location Etudiant: [location-etudiant.fr](https://location-etudiant.fr)

##### (2) Flat-sharing

The flat-sharing is the way in which several tenants (roommates) rent rooms of the same house or apartment as their principal residence. The tenancy contract can take the form of a single lease signed by all the co-tenants, or respective individual leases.

Main flat-sharing websites in France:

- CoopColoc : an innovative system of student flat-sharing in Paris, the housing is provided by social landlords: [coopcoloc.fr](https://coopcoloc.fr)
- La Carte des Colocs: [lacartedescolocs.fr](https://lacartedescolocs.fr)
- A Partager: [appartager.com](https://appartager.com)
- Roomster: [roomster.com](https://roomster.com)
- Room 4 Talk (Co-living with language exchange): [room4talk.com](https://room4talk.com)

##### (3) Living in a host's house

It is a fairly common option of accommodation. The tenant occupies a habitable room (mainly furnished) in an apartment or house that is the owner's main residence. The kitchen, bathroom, toilet and sometimes the living room are shared. Living in the resident's house has advantages: the rent is affordable, the residence tax can be exempted, the conviviality would be agreeable, etc... Nevertheless, you must follow the rules of co-living.

Related websites:

- Bemynest: [bemynest.com/en/home](https://bemynest.com/en/home)
- Cohébergement: [cohebergement.com](https://cohebergement.com)
- Roomlala: [fr-fr.roomlala.com](https://fr-fr.roomlala.com)



**(4) Intergenerational co-living**

It is a type of solidary solution which allows young people to benefit from free or very low-cost accommodation, as long as they spend some time with the elderly host and help the host with daily life. Intergenerational co-living websites are usually run by non-profit organizations.

Examples of websites:

- Ensemble 2 générations: [ensemble2generations.fr](http://ensemble2generations.fr)
- Cohabilis: [cohabilis.org](http://cohabilis.org)
- Le Pari Solidaire: [leparisolidaire.fr](http://leparisolidaire.fr)

**(5) Ads on social networks**

Social networks make it easier for individuals to spread house ads. You may search for accommodation on Facebook, but be careful with scams!

**PART4: PRACTICAL INFORMATION**

**Housing aid**

- **The Caisse d'Allocations Familiales (CAF):** If you pay rent for your main residence and your financial resources are modest, you may have access to housing aid (APL or ALS) depending on the type of accommodation. You can submit an application online and estimate the amount of the grant you may get. In case of difficulty, the PSL Welcome Desk is here to help you complete this process.
- The **AILE** (Aide à l'installation dans un logement pour les étudiants, a financial aid for which students can apply when they move into their new accommodation) is a lump sum of 900€.
- **Paris Logement:** monthly allowance provided by the City of Paris for low-income tenants.

**Rental guarantees**

**(1) Guarantor**

The guarantor is a person who undertakes the payment of the tenant's debts to the landlord. This person, as guarantor, is therefore obliged to pay the rent and rental charges in case of the non-payment by the tenant. Both natural person and legal person can be the guarantor.

- **Visale** is a free rental guarantee for private housing, social housing or collective residences (including student residences). The application procedure should be done online.
- **Garantme** is another possible guarantor service. This service is paid.

**Good to know: we have a guideline dedicated to explaining how to use these two guarantor services.**

**(2) Security deposit**

The security deposit is a sum of money to be paid at the moment of signing the lease. This sum is normally returned at the end of the lease unless the accommodation is found damaged. Its amount can vary between one or two months of rent depending on the type of residence, lease, etc. In case of need, you can benefit from the **AVANCE LOCA-PASS** which allows you to immediately pay the security deposit requested by the landlord and to reimburse it to Action Logement little by little, without paying interest, over a maximum period of 25 months. The maximum amount is 1 200 €.

**Vocabulary about housing**

- **Les charges:** The rental prices can be indicated without charges (HC) and/or with charges included (CC or TCC). The monthly rental charges usually include the contribution to the maintenance of the building and the rental taxes. In general, these charges also include cold water (you need to ask the landlord about it first) and sometimes heating (in this case, it is called "collective heating") and Wi-Fi.





- **L'état des lieux:** it is a document which needs to be completed when entering and leaving the accommodation in the presence of both the tenant and the owner, when the keys are handed over. It consists of a precise note of the general state of the accommodation (cleanliness, electrical installation, heating, wall paintings, floors, sanitary facilities, etc.). Please note that the comparison of these two documents (which are completed when moving in the accommodation and leaving) will be used as a reference to check possible damages and establish responsibilities. The landlord will then decide on this basis to return all or part of the security deposit when you leave.
- **Le délai des préavis:** before leaving your accommodation, you must imperatively inform your landlord within the delay fixed by the law, which is called "le délai des préavis" (notice period). The delay is fixed at 1 month for tenants in Paris and its suburbs. The letter notifying your departure from the accommodation must be sent by registered mail with acknowledgement of receipt. The landlord will then be entitled to claim the months of rent to be paid.
- **Le bail:** (= the lease) it is the tenancy contract that formalizes the rights and obligations of the landlord and the tenant. Some mentions and information must be included in it. The rules mentioned in the lease depend on whether the accommodation is furnished or empty.

**Financial difficulties**

- If you encounter a financial difficulty and you are not able to pay your rent, please contact first your key contact at your school who will direct you to the social assistant of your school or of the CROUS.
- PSL University also organizes during the academic year some campaigns of emergency funds. Don't hesitate to contact the PSL Welcome Desk team who can assist you with the process.
- The Fonds de solidarité pour le logement (**FSL**), a solidary accommodation fund, can provide some financial aids.

**Legal aid**

If you are in contention with the landlord, you may turn to some associations which may give you useful legal advice. But we hope that you will never need to use this service!

- The **ADIL** (Agence Départementale d'Information sur le Logement de Paris) an association aiming to provide legal advice on all matters relating to housing. Free service appointments are proposed in the city hall of every arrondissement of Paris.
- **Apaso:** free legal advice is offered to international students.

**For more information**

Don't hesitate to contact the PSL Accommodation Service directly:

[logement.housing@psl.eu](mailto:logement.housing@psl.eu)

You want to ask questions about the entire process of searching for accommodation? You would like to talk with someone who speaks English, German, Italian, Arabic or Mandarin? Please contact PSL Welcome Desk [welcomedesk@psl.eu](mailto:welcomedesk@psl.eu). To book an appointment with the PSL Welcome Desk, please click [here](#) (choose the "accommodation" service).

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