

LE P'TIT GUIDE

PRACTICAL GUIDE

FOR YOUR
STAY IN
NANTES

2026



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BEFORE LEAVING YOUR HOME COUNTRY

RECOGNIZED DEGREES

› Le Diplôme de designer Bac +5 : a state recognized master's degree in design

The Diplôme de designer is based on a five-year curriculum, divided into two cycles (a 3-year undergraduate program followed by a 2-year master's course).

L'École de design Nantes Atlantique is one of the very few design school(s) to have obtained certification from the French Ministry of Higher Education and Research for its Master's degree in design. This degree is also registered in the Registre National des Certifications Professionnelles (the French directory for vocational qualifications or RNCP) as a Level 7 Master's degree.

› DN MADE, a fully recognized undergraduate degree

L'École de design Nantes Atlantique also offers DN MADE, National Diplomas in Fine Crafts and Design. The DN MADE leads to the award of a bachelor degree after three years of studies.



ACADEMIC CALENDAR

The academic year starts early September and finishes in early July. The year comprises vacation periods, including two weeks at the end of the year (Christmas and New Year).

For exchange students, the 1st semester usually starts early September and finishes by the end of January at the latest. The second semester lasts from early February to the end of June.

ECTS : EUROPEAN CREDIT TRANSFER SYSTEM

L'École de design Nantes Atlantique has implemented the European ECTS (European Credit Transfer System) to ensure the academic recognition of studies abroad.

ECTS credits are distributed over different teaching units in proportion to the work they require. Each teaching unit has been assigned a number of ECTS credits on the basis of 60 credits for an academic year (30 credits per semester).

TUITION FEES 2026

For European students

- › Postgraduate Studies - Master's Level
Degree International Design Strategy:
€8,900 / year
- › Undergraduate Studies - Bachelor's Level
Degree DN MADE: €8,900
- › Preparatory Program for undergraduate
studies: €5,500

For Non-European students

- › Postgraduate Studies - Master's Level
Degree International Design Strategy:
€9,900 / year
- › Undergraduate Studies - Bachelor's Level
Degree DN MADE: €9,900
- › Preparatory Program for undergraduate
studies: €5,500

No tuition fees are required for exchange students who pay the tuition fees of their own university.

• Installments

Tuition fees can be settled in installments as follows :

- › When handing in your full registration form after being accepted: you must submit a 25 % first installment by bank transfer to confirm you accept your admission.
- › Payment will be settled through five direct withdrawals on your bank account (on the 15th of each month, from October to February).

• Scholarships

The school offers a limited number of scholarships exclusively for non-exchange students joining the International Master in Design, Strategy and Innovation in Nantes.

For more information, please contact :

- › **international-admission@lecolededesign.com**

According to your country of residence and your particular situation, different possibilities may be available to finance your studies in France: government grants, funding granted by international organizations and NGOs, private fellowships...

Campus France has a scholarship search engine which may help you identify a scholarship available in your situation (country of residence, degree being prepared etc.)

- › **<http://campusbourses.campusfrance.org/fria/bourse/#/catalog>**

PREPARING YOUR ARRIVAL: FEEL FRANÇAIS PLATFORM

Feel Français are our partner specialized in assisting international students in preparing their arrival in Nantes. All students accepted to the school will be given a personal login to the Feel Français platform.

The list of services* provided by Feel Français:

- **Before your arrival in Nantes :**

- › Steps and tips for your visa application file
- › Find accommodation
- › Open a French bank account
- › Subscribe to a mobile phone plan
- › Subscribe to a housing insurance (mandatory in France)
- › Subscribe to a Civil Liability insurance (mandatory in France)
- › Sign up to our buddy system

- **Once you set foot in Nantes :**

- › Enroll in la CAF (housing allowance/ stipend from the French state - only for European students and scholarship holders)
- › Visa validation (this is the second mandatory step once you're in France to validate your student visa)
- › Public transportation card subscription
- › Get electricity for your accommodation
- › Subscribe to a health insurance plan.
- › Subscribe to French Social Security

› www.feelfrancais.com

*non exhaustive



DOCUMENTS YOU WILL NEED FOR YOUR STAY IN FRANCE



Non-European students

- › 4 passport photos
- › An accommodation certificate
- › A copy of your school certificate in French
- › Private health insurance to cover the medical expenses that the french social security do not cover (otherwise you can buy a top up health insurance when you are in France)
- › Money for rent and deposit
- › A copy of your birth certificate showing your parents' information in original language (mother tongue)
- › Your bank details in your home country
- › Passport and visa



European students

- › 4 passport photos
- › An accommodation certificate (we will give you this when you arrive)
- › A copy of your school certificate in French
- › Private health insurance to cover the medical expenses that the french social security do not cover (otherwise you can buy a top up health insurance when you are in France)
- › Money for rent and deposit
- › A copy of your birth certificate showing your parents' information in original language (mother tongue)
- › Your bank details in your home country
- › Your ID card or passport
- › European Health Insurance Card valid for the period of stay.
- › Your student card from your home university

OFII Procedure and renewal of residency permit

Holders of a VISA VLS-TS (Visa long séjour valant titre de séjour) have to validate it online within 3 months after the arrival in France on the OFII website (<https://www.ofii.fr/en>).

Students will need to buy a fiscal stamp online on the OFII website, the stamp costs 50 euros.

This validation is compulsory. Students wishing to extend their stay beyond the dates on their visa must request a residency permit (carte de séjour) from the Prefecture in Nantes.

This online process must be started 2 months before the visa expiry date via this link: <https://administration-etrangers-en-france.interieur.gouv.fr/particuliers/#/>

STUDENT VISA

If your stay in France lasts for more than three months, you will need to obtain a long-term student visa before your arrival in France. The request for the form must be made at least 3 months before your departure.

- **International students can apply for an online visa on France-Visas** (<https://france-visas.gouv.fr/en>). The new service is accessible to students applying for a long stay visa living in a country where visa application is outsourced and available online. This service helps accelerate the transfer to the outsourced service provider.

Digital visa application prerequisites

To complete a digital visa application, you must comply with the following conditions:

- › Be an international student applying for studies in France;
- › Apply for a long-stay visa for studies only; and
- › Live in a country including an outsourced service provider collecting visa applications.

Online visa application steps

If you comply with the prerequisites, you may apply for a student visa by completing the following four steps:

1. Complete your online visa application on France-Visas and transfer your documents;
 2. Submit in person your passport and completed form at the collection centre;
 3. Follow your online application on the service provider's website; and
 4. Retrieve your passport.
- **To students applying for a long stay visa living in a country where visa application is not outsourced and not available online**, the request for the form must be made at the French embassy or consulate in your country of residence at least 3 months before your departure or at your local Campus France.

A visa is not required for students who are citizens of the following countries or zones:

- › the European Union (EU)
- › the European Economic Area (EEA)
- › Andorra, Monaco, San Marino, Switzerland or the Vatican.



ARRIVAL IN NANTES

ACCOMMODATION

L'École de design Nantes Atlantique grants you access to the school's housing platform that will greatly facilitate your search for an accommodation in Nantes and on which you will be able to:

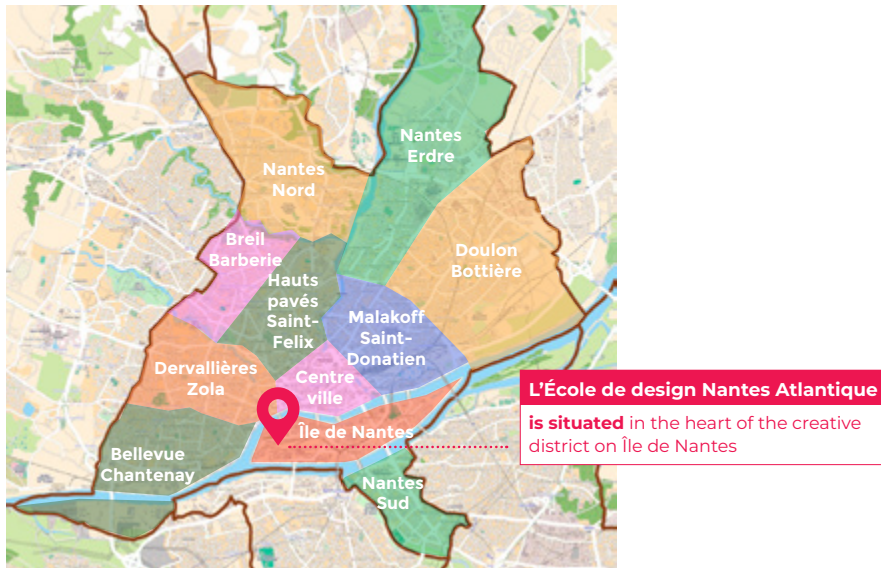
- › Find a rental close to the campus
- › Find a room in student residences
- › Find your international or French roommate(s) and form shared rentals
- › Find a subletting
- › Find a private rental
- › Find a room in a French family (ideal for the experience)

A number of accommodations from private owners, halls of residence, real estate agencies, or rooms in private homes, are available close to the school. *(The allocation of rooms is subject to availability, and the school cannot guarantee access to accommodation).*

University residence

L'École de design Nantes Atlantique has a partnership with the CROUS, which manages the university halls of residence. A certain number of rooms in student residences, are reserved by L'École de design for international students.

In order to apply for one of these rooms, students must connect to the Feel Français platform › www.feelfrancais.com



HOUSING BENEFIT (APL) FROM THE CAF

You may be eligible for housing benefit if...

- › You are renting, House/flat sharing,
- › You are living in an apartment, a university residence, a hostel, a furnished flat, a hotel, a room in a private home,
- › You are a EU citizen or a holder of a scholarship

Follow this link to estimate the amount of help you'll need and apply online

› <https://www.d.caf.fr/wps/portal/caffr/aidesetservices/lesservicesenligne/estimervosdroits/lelogement>

Connect to the Feel Français platform to apply for this benefit › www.feelfrancais.com

USEFUL INFORMATION

The amount of housing benefit awarded depends on your taxable income in France or abroad, on the type of your accommodation and the amount of rent paid.

If you had very little or no income, your benefit is calculated on a flat-rate basis depending on your situation.

Only means-tested grants and Erasmus grants are non-taxable.

You can claim housing benefit the month after you satisfy all the criteria for applying. If you apply late, your claim will not be backdated.

CVEC (CONTRIBUTION VIE ÉTUDIANTE ET DE CAMPUS)

All students must pay the "Contribution à la vie étudiante et de campus" (CVEC) to finalize their registration. This contribution, collected by the GROUS (Regional Centers of University and Schools) is intended to promote the reception and social support, health, culture and sports of students. CVEC is a tax that validates your registration in a higher education institution.

The CVEC contribution is set at just under €105 per year.

Exchange students are not subject to the CVEC. Students with a Campus France scholarship are exempt from paying the CVEC but must go online anyway and download their certificate free of charge.

INSURANCES IN FRANCE

			Health insurance	
	Housing insurance	Civil liability insurance	French social security	Complementary health insurance
	Compulsory to settle in an accomodation	Compulsory to study	Compulsory	Highly recommended especially if you do not have any private health insurance
WHAT ?	Covers your accomodation in case of damages (fire, water damages, theft etc...)	Covers you at school and outside for any damages you may cause to another person	Covers you in case of medical care (they reimburse up to 70% of your medical fees)	Covers you in case of medical care (To make sure that you are fully reimbursed)
WHERE ?	Subscribe on the Feelfrançais platform or in any insurance company in Nantes	Subscribe on the Feelfrançais platform or in any insurance company in Nantes	Follow the process sent by email	Subscribe on the Feelfrançais platform or in any Mutuelle company in Nantes
NOTES		Often included when you subscribe a Housing insurance		If you have your own "Private health insurance" possible to double check with Heyme if it give you ALL the complement you need.



HEALTH INSURANCE

In France, enrolment in higher education leads to membership to the students social security scheme. The French social security is now free for all international students.

The administrative procedure may differ depending on your situation:

- **International students from the European Union, European Economic Area, United Kingdom and Switzerland**

- › If you already have health insurance coverage in your country, you do not need to sign up for the French State health insurance. In this case, you must bring your European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) valid for the duration of your stay.
- › We recommend that you come to France with your own private health insurance. However, we will also be able to put you in contact with an insurance company in order to sign up for a top-up health insurance policy after your arrival in France.

- **Non-European students**

- › You must get registered online at the French social security (CPAM). This registration is mandatory and must be done as soon as you arrive in France. You will receive an email with a procedure to follow. › www.etudiant-etranger.ameli.fr
- › You will benefit from the same level of coverage as other students and benefit from a free healthcare
- › We recommend that you come to France with your own private health insurance. However, we will also be able to put you in contact with an insurance company in order to sign up for a top-up health insurance policy after your arrival in France.

Finding a GP

- › You can make an appointment with the doctor of your choice, the price is €30 for a consultation with a GP. If you need to see a specialist you will often need to first go to the GP and ask for a referral (with the exception of gynecologists, ophthalmologists and psychiatrists who you can contact directly).
- › You can make an appointment online via the Doctolib website › www.doctolib.fr
It is possible to select doctors who speak English. A GP is known as a “medecin généraliste” in France.
- › Your buddy can help you to make an appointment if necessary.

BENEFIT FROM THE NANTES UNIVERSITY HEALTH SERVICE

The school has set up a partnership with the health service of Nantes University in order to give a free of charge access to its students to the same health resources as university students. This partnership is extended for this new 2026-2027 school year.

Students at L'École de design Nantes Atlantique will benefit, among other things, from consultations with :

- › general practitioners
- › gynecologists
- › addictologists
- › psychologists and psychiatrists
- › school planning and examinations.

This service can be accessed by booking an appointment online. You will first need to create and activate your account on › univ-nantes.contactsante.fr/RendezVous

If you have any questions, you can also contact the reception assistants by telephone on › **02 40 37 10 50** or by e-mail at › accueil.sumpps@univ-nantes.fr

Messages must be written in French to ensure that your request is clearly understood by the reception assistants, whose working language is French. All consultations take place at 110 boulevard Michelet in Nantes.

To find out more › www.univ-nantes.fr/vie-de-campus/sante

USEFUL EMERGENCY CONTACTS

› Nantes Hospital

Centre Hospitalier Universitaire de Nantes
1 place Alexis Ricordeau 44000 Nantes
Tel : 0240083333

› SOS Médecin

(Emergency out of hours doctors)

17 Rue de la Cornouaille, 44300 Nantes
Tél 02 40 50 30 30

› Emergency Numbers

SAMU (medical emergencies): **15**

Fire Brigade: **18**

Police Force: **17**

E.U. Emergency Number: **112**



OPENING A BANK ACCOUNT

It is highly recommended to open a bank account as soon as you arrive if you wish to receive housing benefits, medical reimbursements and obtain a bank card and / or a checkbook. Ask your usual bank if it is associated with a French network, it can facilitate the procedure.

To open a bank account in France, you will have to provide the following documents :

- › copy of your school certificate or copy of your student card
- › copy of your ID card or passport
- › copy of your Visa (for non-european students)
- › proof of address in France (housing certificate, rent receipt etc.)

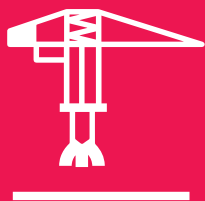
Payment by credit card is accepted by most merchants, but sometimes a minimum amount is required (about €10/15). Many ATMs are available in most places. Some banks will charge you a small fee if you use another ATM than theirs.

Banks are normally open from Monday to Friday, from 09:00 until 16:00 (17:00 at some branches). Some banks are open on Saturday mornings or all day long, in which case they are closed on Monday.

You can open a bank account via the Feel Français platform › www.feelfrancais.com







LIVING AND STUDYING IN NANTES

NANTES, AN ATTRACTIVE METROPOLIS

The creative capital of Western France.

L'École de design Nantes Atlantique is located in Nantes, the 6th biggest city in France is located 50 km from the Atlantic Ocean and 342 km from Paris (a two-hour trip with the TGV high-speed train). Well recognized for its quality of life, Nantes is known for its economic dynamism, vibrant cultural life and support for contemporary creation, and was awarded European Capital of Innovation in 2019 by the European Commission.



A HIVE OF CULTURAL ACTIVITY

The cultural life of Nantes is abundant:

- › The Machines de l'Île (and its famous Great Elephant) - an exhibition and events space open all year round - are located right next to the buildings of L'École de design Nantes Atlantique;
- › The «Voyage à Nantes» lets you discover works of art in the public space;
- › Major events also punctuate the daily life of the people of Nantes, such as La Folle Journée, Hip OPsession, Les Rendez-vous de l'Erdre and the Scopitone festival...
- › Many museums such as the Museum of Arts, the Museum of Natural History, the Musée Dobrée or the Château des Ducs de Bretagne



Click to visit Nantes and its emblematic places with students in the International 3rd-year Bachelor!



L'ÎLE DE NANTES

A place of culture and innovation

« Ile de Nantes » is an effervescent site, emblematic of the city, which hosts many economic and cultural actors (startups, artists' collectives, exhibition halls, theaters and concert halls, bars and restaurants).

The school is located in the heart of the Quartier de la Création, which aims to promote synergies between higher education, research and the entire creative ecosystem. With nearly 5,000 students, this district has become a creative campus of international reference.



L'École de design Nantes Atlantique

61 boulevard de la Prairie au Duc,
44200 Nantes

TRANSPORT IN NANTES

Two lines serve the school :

① Tram line 1

The Tram line 1 connects the northwest to the northeast of the metropolis and serves downtown Nantes.

› **The closest stop to the school is: "Chantiers Navals".**

The Tram line 1 also connects to Tram lines 2 and 3 (which serve the southwest and the north of the city) at "Commerce" stop, as well as to Busway line 4 (which serves the southeast of the city) at "Duchesse Anne - Château" stop.

⑤ Busway line 5

The Busway line 5 runs along the entire length of the Île de Nantes between the SNCF South Station and the Hangar à Bananes.

› **The closest stop to the school is: "Prairie au Duc".**

The Busway line 5 also connects to Tram lines 2 and 3 (which serve the southwest and the north of the city) at "Vincent Gâche" stop, as well as to Busway line 4 (which serves the southeast of the city) at "Île de Nantes" stop.

› naolib.fr

The company of transport of Nantes (Naolib) runs a network of buses and tramways all over and around the city. To use the system, students will have to buy a monthly ticket.

- Annual Pass (under 26): €249 (10 installments of €24,90)
- Annual Pass (over 26): €549 (10 installments of €54,90)
- A one hour ticket for buses and tramways: €1,80 but €2,50 when you buy the ticket on the bus
- A book of ten tickets: €17,80
- ***On weekends (saturday and sunday): Public transport is free!***



"Nantes by boat!":

«Navibus» is part of the Naolib public transport network. You can therefore access it with a 1-hour ticket or an Annual Pass.

One boat station is located on the Île de Nantes and is close to the school:

› **"Hangar à bananes"**

› naolib.fr





THE BUILDING'S EQUIPMENT

L'école de design Nantes Atlantique in the heart of the creative district

This unique site offers a working area of 11,500m², in a building specially designed to meet the school's needs and which represents the largest real estate investment in France in the last ten years in the field of design.

The school provides access to all the tools and equipments necessary for creation and experimentation:

- › **700 m² model-making workshop** : machine workshops, ceramics, resin molding, flexible materials, painting booth, publishing and silk-screening space, laser cutting and 3D printers. All necessary materials are provided by the school.
- › **Studio for media production and digital experimentation.**
- › **More than 120 computer workstations** in Mac and PC environments, and rooms equipped with Cintiq screens. Each student is provided with an Adobe Creative Cloud license.
- › **Design Labs** to connect Research, Pedagogy and Innovation.
- › **A conference room** (with 180 seats).
- › **Project studios** (with 20 to 40 seats).
- › **Visual arts rooms.**
- › **Classroom facilities for lectures.**



Click to visit the school's

Click to visit the school by drone!

ERASMUS STUDENT NETWORK (ESN)

The Erasmus Student Network is one of the largest, interdisciplinary student organisations in Europe. It looks after international students and helps them to settle into their new surroundings. It organizes a whole range of activities, services, and trips for international students. In Nantes, the ESN association is called “Autour du Monde”. A presentation of their activities will be given to international students during their first week at the school.

ESN Nantes website › www.studyinfrance.net/erasmus-in-france/esn-nantes

ESN Nantes Instagram Page › [@esnnantes](https://www.instagram.com/esnnantes)



INTERNATIONAL STUDENT UNION

The student union within the school is called the BDE (Bureau des Etudiants).

The BDE organize a number of parties, events and sporting and cultural activities for French and international students all year round. A group within the BDE deals specifically with international students. They organize activities for international students but also ensure international students are integrated into all the school activities.

They communicate with international students in English via a dedicated Facebook page and an Instagram page set up for international students. The BDE international group will present these activities and events to international students during their integration week.

BUDDY SERVICE!

International students can be allocated a buddy to help them settle into and adapt to their life in France. To sign up for the buddy service, go to the Feel Français platform.

Mentors are a point of contact before the arrival of the student and can, depending on their availability, meet students when they arrive in Nantes. They continue to be a helping hand to international students throughout the semester.

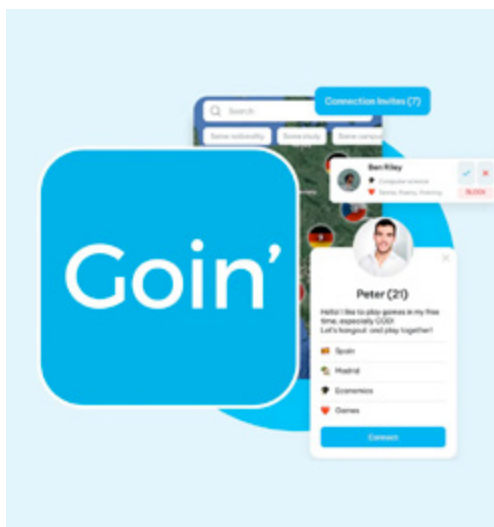
Buddies are all student volunteers (French and international) who have already spent at least, one year at school and in Nantes. They are the best guides and are very enthusiastic to welcome new international students to Nantes.



JOIN OUR STUDENT COMMUNITY WITH GOIN'

Goin Connect is a platform designed to help new students connect with their future classmates before arriving at the school. Along with your acceptance letter, you will receive a link to log in to the app, where you can join our student community, chat with other students, ask questions, join interest groups and start building friendships ahead of the start of term.

› goinconnect.com



EATING NEAR SCHOOL

On campus: The school is located 100 meters from a new student social catering center managed by the « Centres Régionaux des Oeuvres Universitaires et Scolaires (CROUS »). These university restaurant offers the best in terms of value for money: 3,30€ per meal (starter, main meal and dessert). There are other CROUS cafeterias in Nantes, ask the CROUS for a list. › www.crous-nantes.fr

There are other possibilities nearby the school. Students have the option of eating lunch on site, the cafeteria is equipped with microwaves and snack machines.

Big supermarkets (E.Leclerc, Carrefour or Auchan) are usually found in commercial zones on the outskirts of towns, but you will also find smaller supermarkets (Carrefour market, Intermarché, Super U, Monoprix etc.) within the city center.

A minimum monthly food budget would be somewhere between €200 to €250.*

**Estimated budget - non-contractual information.*



ESTIMATED BUDGET

	NON-EXCHANGE STUDENTS	EXCHANGE STUDENTS
Annual tuition fees	<p>For European students</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International 3rd-year Bachelor (DN MADE) : €8,900 • Diplôme de designer / postgraduate programs : €8,900 /year <p>For Non-European students</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International 3rd-year Bachelor (DN MADE) : €9,900 • Diplôme de designer / postgraduate programs : €9,900 /year 	Exempt
Student tax	CVEC : set at just under €105 per year	
Health insurance	Free	
Complementary health insurance	From €10 a month	
Housing	<p>In University Residence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Security deposit : €270 • Monthly rent : around €260 <p>Private housing :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Security deposit : about €400 / €500 • Monthly rent : about €400 / €500 	
Housing insurance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Around €45 per semester for a room in a university residence - Between €60 /year* and €85 /year* for a private housing (room in a shared flat or studio apartment) 	
Food	About €200/month (€3,30/meal at the University Restaurant)	
Public transports (Naolib) pass	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Pass (under 26) : €249 (10 installments of €24,90) • Annual Pass (over 26) : €549 (10 installments of €54,90) 	
OFII	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • €60 (tax stamps – first request) • €49 (tax stamps – oneyear renewal) 	
Supplies	About €150	

Cost of living* (some prices recorded in Nantes, on average)

- › A coffee in the city: €1,70
- › A soft drink in a café: €2,80
- › A meal in a restaurant: €12 to €22
- › A French newspaper: €1,20
- › A baguette (French bread): €1,20
- › A cinema ticket: €8 to €11

*Estimated budget - non-contractual information.

USEFUL TIPS

• Opening hours

Shops are open from 9am to 7pm, Mondays to Saturdays, sometimes they close at lunchtime. Most supermarkets are open from 9am to 7pm, sometime until 9 pm, Mondays to Saturdays.

Please note you will find very few grocery stores open on Sunday.

Public Administration Office are usually open Mondays to Fridays : 9am to 12.30am and from 2pm to 5pm.

Post offices are usually open 9am - 6pm, Mondays to Fridays, sometimes they close at lunchtimes, and some city post offices open on Saturday morning.

• Launderettes

If you are a resident in a students' hall of residence you will find washing machines in the basement. There are also several launderettes in town (approx. €3,50 per machine).

• Anti-tobacco legislation

Smoking is forbidden in public places. If you break this law you are liable to receive a fine. Since the anti-tobacco laws were passed, places such as cafes and restaurants are obliged to provide outside smoking areas.

Within the school, smoking is forbidden, but you can smoke outside the premises, where you will find ashtrays. In addition, recent anti-tobacco regulations prohibit smoking within at least 10 meters of entrances to schools, as well as in certain outdoor public areas such as parks, gardens, beaches, and bus stops.

• Alcohol

The legal drinking age in France is currently 18.

If you have to drive, remember that the permitted alcohol level is 0.5 grams/litre, equivalent to about 2 small glasses of wine.

• Negotiating price

Most businesses do not like clients to bargain for goods or services (restaurants, hotels, clothing, food).

• Tips

Unlike other countries, tipping is not obligatory in France, as service is included in all prices. However you may leave a tip if you wish.

YOUR CONTACTS AT SCHOOL

For any information regarding:

Accommodation



› Julie Boheme and
Laetitia Monnerat



accueil@lecolededesign.com

Incoming Exchange



› Zoé Lacey

z.lacey@lecolededesign.com

*International Relations
Coordinator*



› Oriane Besnard and
Candice Le Borgne

incoming@lecolededesign.com

*International Relations
Assistants*



International students (non-exchange) recruitment



› Céline Leroux

international-admission@lecolededesign.com

Student recruitment manager



› Constance Marchand

international-admission@lecolededesign.com

Student recruitment assistant

Educational Team

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