

# SHAHEEN PAKISTAN

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Module: Further Study in France



|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| <b>GLOSSARY</b>  | <b>3</b>  |
| Ecoles Nationales Supérieures d'Architecture   | 3         |
| <b>SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION</b>   | <b>4</b>  |
| GENERAL INFORMATION  | 4         |
| Which programs or specializations are most popular/renowned?                               | 4         |
| MOTIVATION TO APPLY TO FRANCE  | 4         |
| Variety of Subjects  | 4         |
| Job Prospects  | 4         |
| Working while studying   | 4         |
| OVERVIEW OF THE EDUCATION SYSTEM   | 5         |
| TYPES OF DEGREES/INSTITUTIONS  | 5         |
| Universities   | 6         |
| Master's Degrees   | 6         |
| The Grandes Ecoles   | 6         |
| Schools of Art and Applied Arts  | 7         |
| The National Schools of Architecture (ENSA - Ecoles Nationales Supérieures d'Architecture) | 7         |
| MISCONCEPTIONS   | 7         |
| <b>SECTION 2: UNDERGRADUATE STUDY</b>  | <b>8</b>  |
| <b>APPLYING</b>  | <b>9</b>  |
| OVERVIEW   | 9         |
| <b>FEES, FUNDING AND SCHOLARSHIP</b>   | <b>11</b> |
| FEES   | 11        |
| SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS  | 11        |
| <b>SECTION 3: POSTGRADUATE STUDY</b>   | <b>12</b> |
| OVERVIEW   | 14        |
| <b>FEES, FUNDING AND SCHOLARSHIP</b>   | <b>17</b> |
| FEES   | 17        |
| SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS  | 17        |
| <b>SECTION 4: GENERAL INFORMATION</b>  | <b>18</b> |
| <b>(Applicable to all Applicants)</b>  | <b>18</b> |
| BUDGETING  | 19        |
| <b>APPLYING FOR A VISA</b>   | <b>19</b> |
| DO YOU NEED A VISA   | 19        |
| What is an OFII sticker?   | 19        |
| HOW LONG CAN YOU STAY IN FRANCE  | 19        |
| HOW MUCH DOES IT COST  | 20        |
| APPLYING   | 20        |
| OTHER INFORMATION  | 20        |

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| COMMON PROBLEMS                        | 20        |
| How can problems be avoided?           | 20        |
| Working on a visa                      | 20        |
| <b>ACCOMMODATION</b>                   | <b>22</b> |
| GENERAL OPTIONS                        | 22        |
| How to choose accommodation            | 23        |
| Useful Links                           | 23        |
| Cities ranked according to living cost | 23        |
| <b>SECTION 5: CONTRIBUTORS</b>         | <b>24</b> |

## GLOSSARY

| Term  | Definition  |
|---|---|
| <i>CAF (Caisse des Allocations Familiales)</i>      | This can also be termed as the French Family Benefit Fund, which can help you finance your rent. More information on CAF can be found in the <a href="#">Accommodation</a> section of this profile.   |
| <i>Diplôme Universitaire de Technologie</i>         | Diplomas given by Institutes of Technology  |
| <i>Ecoles Nationales Supérieures d'Architecture</i> | National Schools of Architecture  |
| <i>Grandes Ecoles</i>                               | Institutes of higher education that are outside the main framework of the French public institution system  |
| <i>Master Professionnel</i>                         | Regular/Professional Masters degrees  |
| <i>Master de Recherche</i>                          | Research Masters degree   |
| <i>LMD system (Licence, Master and Doctorat)</i>    | Tier structure, followed by Universities in France. It stands for:<br>L - Licence: Bachelor's Degree, which is done over a period of 3 years<br>M - Master: Master's Degree which is done over a period of 2 years<br>D - Doctorate: Doctorate which can vary in length |

## SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

### GENERAL INFORMATION

|                                      |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Higher Education Institutions</b> | France has 3,500 public and private institutions of Higher Education. Details on the nature and division of different types of institutions within this can be viewed <a href="#">here</a> (page 5).<br><i>Note that the embedded link is a site marketing higher education in France and so should be read with scrutiny.</i> |
| <b>Finding the right program</b>     | <a href="#">This link</a> allows you to browse through the various types of programs available.  |

#### Which programs or specializations are most popular/reowned?

Bilal Carfantan (Head of Modern Foreign Languages, British Overseas School) comments that the following are popular study areas in France, based on his experience there:

- Medicine
- Engineering
- Veterinarian studies

### MOTIVATION TO APPLY TO FRANCE

#### Variety of Subjects

There are approximately 1103 programs taught '100% in English' in France, as of 2018. [Campus France](#) allows you to browse through the various such programs being offered.

#### Job Prospects

In order to work in France, you will need to have **at least** some basic knowledge on the French language - some jobs may require more proficiency in French.

When working in France, you are guaranteed a minimum wage a.k.a. *Salaire Minimum Interprofessionnel de Croissance* (SMIC). As of January 2018, this is € 7.61/hour (after deducting mandatory Social Charges).

#### Working while studying

Regardless of the level of studies you are undertaking, you are allowed to work while studying:

- You are allowed to work up to 19.5 hours per week during the semester and full-time during the holidays.

The following are some of the ways in which you can work part-time as a student:

|                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| <b>Work at a University</b> | Working within your university/institution is one way in which you can work while studying. The maximum length of work for such work |
|-----------------------------|--|

|  |   |
|--|---|
|  | <p>is usually one year (contracts do not exceed 12 months: 1 September till 31 August). Work can include conducting tutorials, activities, assisting students with disabilities and much more, generally directed towards improving the well-being of the social environment of the university.</p> <p>Note however that the maximum work hours are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 670 hours during the semester (1 September till 30 June)</li> <li>• 300 hours during the summer holidays (1 July till 31 August)</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>Working at an Internship as a part of your program</b></p> | <p>Some degrees require students to work in an internship. The following are the maximum working hours:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There must be a contract established for the internship</li> <li>• If the internship lasts longer than 2 months, the students are entitled to a payment of € 5,770/month (as of January 2018)</li> </ul>   |

Useful resources:

- [This link](#) includes resources useful for job hunting as a student.
- [5 ways to earn money while studying abroad in France](#)

### **Working in France after graduation**

While we would hope that Pakistanis return to Pakistan to play a part in building the country, we do want to share that -- for those interested in staying abroad -- it is important to note that work opportunities can be very limited after graduation. For one thing, France has very strict visa and immigration laws. Secondly the language barrier can be difficult to overcome when applying for jobs. For information on visa-related requirements or restrictions, about working in France post-graduation, please refer to the [visa](#) section in this country profile.

## **OVERVIEW OF THE EDUCATION SYSTEM**

France follows a 3-tier system for its higher education structure. This is known as the LMD system (*Licence, Master and Doctorat*) which stands for:

- L - Licence is a Bachelor's Degree, which is done over a period of 3 years
- M - Master is a Master's Degree which is done over a period of 2 years
- D - Doctorat is a Doctorate which can vary in length

## **TYPES OF DEGREES/INSTITUTIONS**

### **1. Les classes préparatoires (a.k.a. "Prepas")**

These are similar to US highschools, except that their study extends beyond the typical high school years (i.e. secondary school study). These institutions offer 2 more years of classes (which can be considered similar to the first two years of undergraduate study), which are particularly important for students who plan on pursuing higher education at Grandes Ecoles (explained below).

It is important to note that prepas are very intensive study programs -- the understanding is that if students pass these two years of prepas (and the corresponding entrance exam for the Grandes

Ecoles), then they are prepared for the level of intensive study required by the Grandes Ecoles. It is also important to note that such programs are more open to French high school students.

## 2. Universities

Most international students apply to universities: these are located all around the country, and confer national degrees (Bachelor's degrees). Anyone who has a high school diploma or its equivalent is eligible to study here. Programs at these universities typically offer degrees in the following fields: Science, Literature, Languages, Arts, Humanities, Medicine and Sport. Universities typically follow a 3-tier structure, known as the LMD system (*Licence, Master and Doctorat* -- 3, 2 and 3 year respectively).

Note: Universities in France tend to be officially named after the city that they are situated in. For example, there are 13 universities titled University of Paris, numbered I - XIII (1-13). Otherwise, many universities also take their own name (usually in addition to the city name, as outlined before), for example, Université d'Auvergne in Clermont Ferrand (a.k.a. Clermont Ferrand I).

### **Note for Master's and Doctoral degrees**

|                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| <b>Master's Degrees</b>  | A Master's degree is typically 2 years long. The program consists of a foundation year (which is the first year); after finishing their foundation year, students select one of two tracks: <i>Master de Recherche</i> (Research Master) or <i>Master Professionnel</i> (Regular/Professional Master). Both tracks confer the same degree. |
| <b>Doctorate Degrees</b> | The minimum duration of a doctoral degree is 3 years. This degree is conferred after a public defence of the doctoral thesis. Admission is based on the Master's degree obtained.  |

## 3. The Grandes Ecoles

This is the second-most popular option for international students. These are private and public institutions of higher education that are recognized by the State. They typically confer degrees for 3-5 years of undergraduate study -- and some award the title of Master to its students too.

In order to be accepted into a Grandes Ecoles, applicants must pass the entrance exam ("concours"). Most of the teaching and training is conducted in English. Class size is small, and most of the faculty members are professionals, or academics from neighbouring universities. Grandes Ecoles are what can be considered as the "elite" or top-tier institutions in France.

Grandes Ecoles include:

- Institutes of Advanced Education (ENS, Écoles Normales Supérieures)
- Institutes of Political Science (IEP, Instituts d'Études Politiques)
- Engineering schools,

- Business and Management schools,
- Veterinary Schools etc.

Admission for these institutions is highly selective.

#### **University vs Grandes Ecoles:**

When deciding between Grandes Ecoles and Universities, you need to consider what your post-graduation plan is. If you plan on working in France then Grandes Ecoles are a great option (if you can get accepted). If you plan on working outside France, then Universities are a better option -- or you can take a degree in Grandes Ecoles that has more of an international focus, so that it is relevant for your future career.

#### **4. Schools of Art and Applied Arts**

There are almost 50 public schools of art and design in France, and typically provide training in art, design and communication. The length of these programs is usually 3 or 5 years, and national degrees are awarded on completion of program. Some schools might offer a third level of study (which will require more than 5 years).

#### **5. The National Schools of Architecture (ENSA - Ecoles Nationales Supérieures d'Architecture)**

The ENSA form a network of 20 public schools, and confer equivalent degrees in architecture and other related fields. This network is overseen by the Ministry of Culture, and the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation in France.

#### **6. Institutes of Technology (Diplomas)**

These are independent institutes, usually affiliated with a university, which offer programs in higher education. The programs are usually 2 years long, and graduates receive diplomas (DUT: Diplôme Universitaire de Technologie) when they finish the degree. Such degrees are usually for fields that are oriented towards a profession (i.e. they tend to be professional degrees).

To find more about the different kinds of institutes in France, click on the links provided below:

- [Universities in France](#)
- [Grandes Ecoles](#)
- [Institutes of Technology](#)
- [Institutes of Higher Education in France](#)

#### **MISCONCEPTIONS**

- You do not need to speak French to start an undergraduate program in France
- Immigration and visa laws are very strict in France -- work opportunities after studies are thus limited.



## **SECTION 2: UNDERGRADUATE STUDY**

# APPLYING

## **OVERVIEW**

You can view a list of fields available for undergraduate study [here](#).

To browse through the various Undergraduate programs offered [click here](#).

## **Application Components**

- Application Form
  - This will usually need to be printed and filled out - later sent to the university within the admission package.
- Admission Exam
- Admission Essay (sometimes required)
- Official Transcripts
- Diploma/Degree of Secondary School or equivalent
- If applying to English-taught programs:
  - You will need to prove proficiency in English by sending results of any of the following proficiency tests:
    - IELTS
    - TOEFL
  - Though proving proficiency in French is not usually a requisite, you should know some basic French at least to live in France and communicate with people.
- If applying to French-taught programs; you will need to prove proficiency in French through the following ways:
  - Diplôme d'Études en Langue Française (DELF): Universities usually require the B2 (intermediate) certificate in DELF
  - Diplôme Approfondi de Langue Française (DALF): Universities usually require the C1 (advanced) certificate in DALF
  - Requirements vary depending on the nature or type of course you are applying for. Make sure to check university requirements.
  - For more information on French Language courses, [click here](#).
- Passport Copy and proof of visa
- Passport-sized pictures
- Copy of your birth certificate and a certified translation of the birth-place of both your parents
- Proof that you have the finances to fund your studies

## **Application Cycle**

You should make sure to submit your applications **at least** 2 months before the start of the semester for that course. Make sure to start work on your application and confirm your eligibility well before

this. Admission tends to be competitive and so the earlier you submit your application, the earlier it can be evaluated and decisions about admission can be made. [Studying in France](#) claims that submitting your application earlier can be beneficial for you.

### Application Process and Timeline

**Preliminary Request for Admission (DAP) - To study the first year of an undergraduate degree course you need to first send in this request**

You must submit a [White File](#) (the link is in French - you will need to translate it) to the Department of Cooperation and Cultural Action at the [French Embassy](#). Try to finish this application procedure in November, preceding the academic year you are planning on studying in France. DAP applications usually open in early December and deadlines are usually on 1 February, however it is recommended that you check online in case these changes in future years.

**Then you can apply for Bachelor's Program**

Then you can apply directly to the universities of your choice. It is recommended that you contact them and find out about their application procedures. Admission packages including all the required documentation must be sent directly to the university as soon as possible.

## **FEES, FUNDING AND SCHOLARSHIP**

### **FEES**

France has subsidized tuition fees for public universities that are all set at a standardized level. If you are a non-EU international student, you will have to pay €2,770 per year for your Bachelor's degree. Please note that this fees is for the 2019-2020 years and could be subject to change afterwards.

If you go to a private university, the fees here will be set by the university themselves. In these institutions you should expect to pay between €3,000 - €10,000 per year (2019-2020 figures). Make sure to check the specific university's website before applying.

### **SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS**

There are a limited number of scholarships targeting undergraduate study in general; [this link](#) provides a list of scholarships you may be eligible for. Otherwise, you should contact the institutions you are interested in to find out about any institution-specific scholarships you may be eligible for.

Useful resources:

- [Scholarships for Foreign Students in France](#)
- [Finance your Studies/Scholarships](#)

## **SECTION 3: POSTGRADUATE STUDY**

## **NON-DEGREE PROGRAMS (CERTIFICATIONS AND DIPLOMAS)**

### **Diplomas:**

***Diplôme Universitaire de Technologies:*** DUT is a diploma received after 2 years of post high school education. Just like a Bachelor's is after 3 years, a DUT is after 2, and is usually in professionally oriented field

For some courses of study, there is a different admission procedure. You should contact the bodies indicated below for:

- Non-university higher education courses in **plastic arts**
- For information on **higher education-level accounting courses and chartered accounting**
- Courses to train **agronomic engineers, agrifood engineers and veterinarians**
- Non-university higher education courses in **music and dance**
- **Paramedical** courses

# APPLYING

## OVERVIEW

To browse through the various Master's programs offered [click here](#).

To browse through the various Doctoral programs offered [click here](#).

### **Application Components**

- Application Form
  - This will usually need to be printed and filled out - later sent to the university within the admission package.
- Admission Exam
- Admission Essay (sometimes required)
- Official Transcripts
- Diploma/Degree of Undergraduate and/or Master's study or equivalent
- If applying to English-taught programs:
  - You will need to prove proficiency in English by sending results of any of the following proficiency tests:
    - IELTS
    - TOEFL
  - Though proving proficiency in French is not usually a requisite, you should know some basic French at least to live in France and communicate with people.
- If applying to French-taught programs; you will need to prove proficiency in French through the following ways:
  - Diplôme d'Études en Langue Française (DEFL): Universities usually require the B2 (intermediate) certificate in DEFL
  - Diplôme Approfondi de Langue Française (DALF): Universities usually require the C1 (advanced) certificate in DALF
  - Requirements vary depending on the nature or type of course you are applying for. Make sure to check university requirements.
  - For more information on French Language courses, [click here](#).
- Passport Copy and proof of visa
- Passport-sized pictures
- Copy of your birth certificate and a certified translation of the birth-place of both your parents
- Proof that you have the finances to fund your studies

### **For Doctoral Programs:**

- You will need to finalize a thesis topic and find a supervisor before you can enrol.
- Requirements for proficiency in the French language vary:
  - *For a Doctorate in the field of Natural and Technological Sciences:* you may still be able to complete your Thesis without needing to know French

- *For a Doctorate in the field of Arts and Humanities:* it is more difficult to find programs that do not require proficiency in French
- Check with the programs you are interested in to find out if you need to know French.

### Application Cycle

You should make sure to submit your applications **at least** 2 months before the start of the semester for that course. Make sure to start work on your application and confirm your eligibility well before this. Admission tends to be competitive and so the earlier you submit your application, the earlier it can be evaluated and decisions about admission can be made. [Studying in France](#) claims that submitting your application earlier can be beneficial for you.

**For Doctorate Admissions:** Institutions usually upload their Doctorate offers in January. Deadlines then tend to be between April and May - with the academic year starting in September (of that year) and ending in August (the next year). Some publish offers during the year so you will need to keep checking programs you are interested in.

### Application Process and Timeline

|  |
|--|
| <b>Preliminary Request for Admission (DAP) - To study the first year of an undergraduate degree course</b>   |
| You must submit a <a href="#">White File</a> (the link is in French - you will need to translate it) to the Department of Cooperation and Cultural Action at the <a href="#">French Embassy</a> . DAP applications usually open in early December and deadlines are usually on 1 February, however it is recommended that you check online in case these change in future years. |
| <b>Apply for Master's Program</b>  |
| Then you can apply directly to the universities of your choice. It is recommended that you contact them and find out about their application procedures. Admission packages including all the required documentation must be sent directly to the university as soon as possible.  |

### Applying to a Doctoral Program

Before applying to a Doctoral program, you will need to decide on a thesis topic and find a supervisor - only then will you be eligible to apply for a Doctoral program.

Note: This is different to other higher education systems, where you enrol in Doctoral programs within a particular field and use the first year to decide and refine a thesis topic.

|          |   |
|----------|---|
| <b>1</b> | <b>During Second Year of Master's</b>   |
|          | <i>(In order to apply for a PhD, you need to have completed a Master's degree or its equivalent)</i><br>You should start exploring Doctorate options during the second year of your Master's degree; starting in January is recommended.<br><br>If you are studying within the field of Natural and Technological Sciences, you will need to secure |



|                                 |   |   |
|---------------------------------|---|---|
|                                 | <p>funding before you can enrol in a Doctoral Program. Check the Funding Section below for tips and details on funding opportunities. For other fields, you may not need to secure funding prior to enrollment - <b>check program requirements well before applying.</b></p>  |   |
| <p><b>2</b></p>                 | <p><b>Finalizing Thesis Topic and Supervisor</b></p>  |   |
|                                 | <p><b>For students applying for a Doctorate in Natural and Technological Sciences:</b></p>  |   |
|                                 | <p><b>Apply for Thesis subjects</b></p>   | <p>In other countries, students must finalize a research topic and then look for relevant researchers. In France however, you will need to look over thesis subjects that have already been published by French researchers. <a href="#">Click here</a> to look over available subject. Subjects can be divided into two categories:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Contract:</b> Subjects funded by the host establishment</li> <li>2. <b>Grant:</b> Subjects for which you will need to find your own sources of funding</li> </ol> <p>When you find a research subject you are interested in pursuing, you contact the researcher or Doctoral institution that published the subject and secure them as your supervisor.</p> |
|                                 | <p><b>For students applying for a Doctorate in Social Sciences and Humanities</b></p>   |   |
| <p><b>Find a Supervisor</b></p> | <p>There are two ways for students applying for a Doctorate in Social Sciences and Humanities to secure a supervisor:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. You can browse through the Subject Lists and see if any topic interests you. If one does, you can contact the relevant research/institution to find a supervisor.</li> <li>2. You can prepare a research project and then send it to relevant researchers to find a suitable supervisor:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <b>Do not send it to all researchers</b> working in that field; they receive multiple such proposals and can't go through all of them.</li> <li>b. Target specific researchers who specialize in the topic of your research proposal.</li> <li>c. When you find a researcher, you will work with them to finalize and refine your thesis topic.</li> </ol> </li> </ol> |   |
| <p><b>3</b></p>                 | <p><b>Enrol in a Doctoral Institution</b></p> <p>Once you have finalized a thesis topic, you can enrol in a Doctoral institution. Some Doctoral institutions require students to secure funding prior to enrollment, in which case you will have to get the funding approved before admission.</p>  |   |

## FEES, FUNDING AND SCHOLARSHIP

### **FEES**

France has subsidized tuition fees for public universities that are all set at a standardized level. If you are a non-EU international student, you will have to pay

- €3,770 per year at the Master's level
- €3,770 per year at the Doctoral level
  - The annual registration fee for a Doctorate is €391 (as of 2018), which is required even if you have a doctoral fellowship.

Please note that these fees are for the 2019-2020 years and could be subject to change afterwards.

If you go to a private university, the fees here will be set by the university themselves. In these institutions you should expect to pay between €3,000 - €10,000 per year (2019-2020 figures). Make sure to check the specific university's website before applying.

### **SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS**

Please refer to the following links for information on scholarships and grants opportunities:

- <http://campusbourses.campusfrance.org/fria/bourse/#/program?id=183>
- <https://www.campusfrance.org/en/bursaries-foreign-students>
- <http://hec.gov.pk/english/scholarshipsgrants/Guidelines/Pages/Guideline-for-France.aspx>

## **SECTION 4: GENERAL INFORMATION**

**(Applicable to all Applicants)**

## BUDGETING

As an international student, you will have to account for a lot of costs besides just the tuition fees. These include:

1. Travel expenses
2. Health and travel insurance
3. Accommodation and living expenses
4. Travel and sightseeing
5. Textbooks and other course materials
6. Food and drink
7. Miscellaneous

Keeping these costs in mind, you should have between **€830 - €1,800 per month**. You will be at the higher end of this range if you stay in a place like Paris or Nice. If you stay in smaller cities, you should expect to remain in the lower end of this range, and may end up spending even less than €830 per month. Please note that these figures have been calculated according to data and prices from the year 2018.

For more information on living costs, please [click here](#).

## APPLYING FOR A VISA

### **DO YOU NEED A VISA**

If you are hoping to continue your higher education in France, you will need to apply for a Student Long-Stay Visa (includes a residency permit), i.e. the Visa Long Séjour valant Titre de Séjour mention étudiant (abbreviated as the VLS-TS).

If you receive a multiple-entry VLS-TS, you can travel outside France without your OFII Sticker. After three months, you will need to display the OFII sticker if you wish to exit the country.

### **What is an OFII sticker?**

The [OFII](#) (French Office of Immigration and Integration) Sticker certifies that your VLS-TS visa has been validated. If you do not complete the OFII requirements in the allotted time frame, you will need to submit a new visa request to the French Consulate in Islamabad.

### **HOW LONG CAN YOU STAY IN FRANCE**

The VLS-TS allows you to stay in France for a period of four months to one year in France.

With the visa, you are eligible to:

- Travel to and from all the countries in the Schengen area,
- Work 20 hour per week (or 964 hours in a year),
- Receive housing subsidy from [CAF](#)
- Use the [VISALE](#) service (free rental deposit service for students)

## **HOW MUCH DOES IT COST**

The Visa Application will cost 99 Euros. There might be additional costs for renewal.

## **APPLYING**

*This section was last updated in November 2018. It is recommended you visit this link in case the process has changed.*

To apply, visit this link. A summary of the steps you need to take to apply is provided below:

1. You can use the "[Visa wizard](#)" to confirm if you need a visa (and the type of visa). This tool will also give you a list of the documents that need to be enclosed in your application, and the fee.
2. Next, you will need to complete the [online application](#), and create a France-Visas account.
3. After finishing the application, you will need to submit it to the visa centre.
4. Once your application has been submitted, you can track its progress and find out how it needs to be collected.

## **OTHER INFORMATION**

- Supporting documents in [Urdu](#) will need to be officially translated to French, from the authorized translation centres in Pakistan. For the list of authorized translation centres, click [here](#). Documents that are originally in English do not need to be translated.

## **COMMON PROBLEMS**

### **How can problems be avoided?**

- Make sure you are submitting your documents in the language required by the Embassy.

### **Working on a visa**

#### **Working after graduation**

To work in France after graduation, you will need to have:

1. Have a work contract or 'promise of employment' ([Campus France](#))
2. Earn at least 1.5 times the minimum wage

Your employer will have to manage the authorization process; you will need this before you can apply for a visa/permit.

**Working for less than 90 days**

Your employer will need to get you a temporary work permit from the French Ministry of Labour (DIRECTE).

|                                      |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Working for more than 90 days</b> | <p>Your employer will need to develop a work contract and send it to the French Ministry of Labour (DIRECTE). If they approve it, they will send it to the Office Francais de l'Immigration et de l'Intégration (OFII). Lastly, if the OFII approve it, the contract will be sent to the <a href="#">French Embassy in Pakistan</a>, which will then arrange for your long-stay visa.</p> <p><i>Note: If you want family members to go with you, you will need to inform your employer, who will then go through the relevant processes.</i></p> |
|--------------------------------------|--|

If you **do not** have any promise of employment, you can apply for a [Temporary Resident Permit](#) (APS), which will allow you to look for work for one year. Note that:

- The APS **can not be renewed**.
- You are eligible for an APS if you have graduated from a Bachelor's or Master's program.

However, according to [The Local](#), France, many applications for this are refused (Note: the article refers to post-Master's applications).

## ACCOMMODATION

### GENERAL OPTIONS

It is recommended that you start looking into accommodation options before leaving Pakistan. Try to look at as many options as possible before you make your section. You will have a number of different accommodation types to choose from. For details on each, go through the table below.

| Options                             | Detail   |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Option 1: Hotels                    | These are typically the most expensive option, and have daily/nightly rates. You will also have little opportunity to interact with other students in this accommodation type. Additionally, you will not be able to cook food yourself and will need to buy your meals every day, which may be expensive.   |
| Option 2: Extended Stay Hotels      | These are more affordable than conventional hotels (option 1); they have weekly and monthly rates, depending on the length of your stay. Additionally, they also include some more features, like: kitchenettes, living areas, business areas, phone connection etc.   |
| Option 3: Apartments and Townhouses | These are significantly more affordable than hotels (both options 1 and 2). The cost will vary from city to city; the average cost of housing is 350-700 Euros per month.<br><br>Apartments and Townhouses are a popular choice for most students, so you will find more opportunities to interact with them. Additionally, some housing options do not require a lease (or just require a short-term lease) to make living more convenient. |
| Option 4: Student Housing           | This is university-approved housing, but it is only offered by <u>some</u> institutions.   |
| Other: Social Housing Program       | Admission into such schemes is lengthy and difficult, but it is still an option that you could consider: speak to your host/prospective university to find out more information. These programs will typically have a long waiting list, so you should try to apply as early as possible.  |

### How to choose accommodation

- Cost of living should only be one factor; it is equally important to take proximity to university (and job, if applicable) into account when finalizing your accommodation.
- Financial aid may cover some of your costs of living (if you are a student with a permit and low income, you may qualify for these benefits:
  - These programs are offered through the CAF or French State assistance);
  - APS and APL programs (need to have a rental contract in your name to be eligible for assistance amount of help you can receive from such a program varies and is dependent upon factors which include the amount of income you have, the type of housing you are residing in and the amount of rent you are paying); you will also be required to submit your birth certificate and a certified translation

### Useful Links

- [VISALE](#): through this service, you can most likely increase your chances of finding accommodation. Students between the age of 18 and 30 are eligible to apply for this, on a VLS-TS Visa. It is recommended that you begin the process of obtaining VISALE as soon as you receive your VLS-TS visa from the consulate.
- [CAF](#)
- [CAF Benefits](#)

### Cities ranked according to living cost

- Paris and Nanterre are the most expensive student cities in France, according to a study conducted by [UNEF](#) (the main Student Union in France).
- Poitiers is one of the cheapest student towns (with a rent of approximately 320 Euros/per month). The city is small, and has a higher proportion of students as compared to other towns.
- Brest, Limoges, Saint-Etienne, and Angers are also cheap options. Limoges and Angers have high-quality transport systems, and Saint Etienne has a relatively lower cost of rent (since it is home to six colleges and universities).



## SECTION 5: CONTRIBUTORS

This information was compiled with the valuable help of SHAHEEN volunteers. The contributors to this tip-sheet include the following people:

- Mr Bilal Carfantan, Head of Modern Foreign Languages at British Overseas Schools (Karachi)

We thank our volunteers for their contribution, and hope their tips and advice will help you in your application. We recommend that you check out the following sources, in addition to the content in this country profile:

- [Graduate Study in France](#) - Top Universities Guide

In addition to that, the following sources were consulted in developing this country profile:

[Studying in France](#), [Education and Diplomas in France](#), [Study in France](#), [Campus France](#), [Types of Courses where the French really excel](#), [Working student](#), [How to find work in France](#), [5 ways to earn money while studying in France](#), [Stay in France after finishing your degree with an authorization](#), [Work in France](#), [Working in France](#), [Undergraduate study in France](#), [Finding a university in France](#), [How to apply to study at a university in France](#), [International students](#), [The local](#), [FAQ Doctorate in France](#), [How to enrol in Doctorate France](#), [France educational elite](#), [Prepa vs Bachelors degrees](#), [Grande Ecoles](#), [Institutions of Higher Education in France](#), [Higher education systems](#), [Student lodging in France](#), [Student housing](#), [Students in France](#), [France Accommodation for students](#), [Education in France](#), [Study abroad in Paris](#), [Living costs for students in France](#), [Study in France](#), [Tuition fees in France](#), and [Tuition fees in France](#).

Good luck!