

# QUESTIONS ABOUT RESEARCHERS VISA

A visa allows you to enter in a foreign country. Affixed on the passport like a sticker, it informs authorities about the length and the object of your stay in the host country, whatever the duration.



Visa application is the first important step to take once your mobility has been greenlighted. Thus, it is essential to know the correct procedure depending on your situation.

#### • Which visa do I need ?

- You are PhD student, researcher, post-doctora fellow or a teacher-researcher from the European Union or Switzerland :

If you are from the European Union (or the EEA) or from Switzerland, you do not need a visa to stay or to work in France. Only a valid identity card is necessary.

- You are PhD student , researcher, post-doctoral fellow or a teacher-researcher not from the European Union or Switzerland:

The visa you are eligible for depends on the funding of your stay.

- Contract in France or in your country of origin :

You are eligible for the « researcher-talent passport » long-stay visa procedure ("researcher scientist" long stay visa for Algerian scientists). **First , you must request a hosting agreement to the EURAXESS Service Centre of the University of Orleans.**

Here is a list of the documents you need to get a hosting agreement :

- The completed EURAXESS Information form (to be requested by email)
- A copy of your passport
- A copy of your visa (If you are already in France)
- A financing proof (Doctoral contract, employment contract) indicating the dates and the amount of your remuneration
- A health insurance certificate covering the first 4 months of your stay (or CPAM / CEAM if you are already in Europe)

The signature of a hosting agreement takes between a week and 10 days. We advise you to schedule an appointment with the French Embassy according to this timeframe. When your hosting agreement is ready, the EURAXESS Service Centre will send you a scanned copy by e-mail and the original copy will be sent to you by registered international mail, as it will be required by the embassy.



**You are eligible to a hosting agreement depending on your total funding. It is based on the minimum amount of a French doctoral contract (2300€ for 2026). If your funding is above this minimum, you are eligible for a hosting agreement.**

- Other funding :
  - Registered at the university:

If you register as a PhD at the University of Orléans and your funding comes from a scholarship or personal resources, you must apply for a student visa.

- Not registered

If you do not have a working contract in France nor in your country of origin and if you are not registered in the University of Orléans, you must apply for a visitor visa.

- Funded by a ministerial scholarship

If you receive institutional funding (Campus France scholarship) Doctoral Schools must issue a "Convention Séjour de recherche" (research stay agreement). Used alone, without a "Convention d'accueil" (hosting agreement, this document allows you to apply for a student visa.

#### How to apply for a visa ?

You must submit the visa application yourself. You can do it at the nearest French Embassy or Consulate. Application can also be done through this website :

**<https://france-visas.gouv.fr/en/web/france-visas/>**

There are many translations available on this website. As soon as you receive your visa, please send a copy by email to your EURAXESS contact in Orléans.

#### How to validate the visa ?

Within the 3 months following your arrival in France you must validate it.

- For a stay of less than to 12 months :

You hold a long-stay visa valid as a residence permit (VLS-TS) called « researcher talent passport -- L313-20 4° » or « student ». It is valid for a year but needs to be validated online on this website :

**<https://administration-etrangers-en-france.interieur.gouv.fr/particuliers/#/>**

Cost : €200 for « researcher talent passport » and €50 for « student » payable in tax stamps purchased on the same website.

The "L313-20 4°" mention corresponds to "CESEDA R311-3-9" in the list cited on the website, as Article 9 of CESEDA 311-3 refers to holders of a visa bearing the "L313-20 4°" mention.

For more information: [https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/codes/article\\_lc/LEGIARTI000038189078/](https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/codes/article_lc/LEGIARTI000038189078/)

- For a stay of more than 12 months :

At first, you hold a « researcher talent passport » visa with the « L313-20 4° C.SEJ A SOLLIC. mention (meaning « Carte de séjour à Solliciter » residence permit to be requested) » or a « student » visa.

**This visa is valid for three months and does not constitute a residence permit.**

To get a residence permit, you must make an appointment at your local prefecture :

**Centre de services Euraxess - Université d'Orléans**

Direction des Relations Internationales  
5 rue du Carbone, 45100 Orléans

- For Orléans and Montargis : <https://www.loiret.gouv.fr/Prendre-un-rendez-vous-en-ligne>
- For Chartres : <https://www.eure-et-loir.gouv.fr/Prendre-rendez-vous-en-ligne>
- For Châteauroux : <https://www.indre.gouv.fr/Prendre-rendez-vous-en-ligne>
- For Blois : <https://www.loir-et-cher.gouv.fr/Prendre-rendez-vous>

For the appointment, here are the required documents :

- Paper copy + original of your passport
- Paper copy + original of your visa
- Proof of address dated within the last 3 months (home insurance certificate, phone or electricity bill ...)
- 3 ID photos (format 3,5x4,5 cm format)
- Master's or PhD degree
- Original copy of the hosting agreement

After the appointment, you will receive a receipt if your visa is about to expire while you wait for your residence permit to be issued.

When your residence permit is ready, the prefecture will contact you to collect it. You will need to pay taxes up to €225 (€25 for stamp duty + €200 of tax), or €75 for a « student » visa. You can buy tax stamps in almost every tobacco shop or online (<https://timbres.impots.gouv.fr/index.jsp>).

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#### 🔗 [How do I renew my visa ?](#)

If your visa is about to expire and you want to renew it, you can complete the online procedure via the ANEF website ( Digital Administration for foreign nationals in France ) :

<https://administration-etrangers-en-france.interieur.gouv.fr/particuliers/>

You will need a new hosting agreement if your stay is extended under an employment / doctoral contract.

The EURAXESS Service Centre remains at your disposal if you have questions or if you need additional information regarding the procedure.

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