

**Q and A - CAMPUS FRANCE x APUAF'S MEMBERS MEETING**  
**Monday, November 6th 2023**

- **Does Campus France have any insight into the volume of visa appointments vs. demand expected at VFS for the visa cycle in January 2024? Particularly in Chicago and New York.**

*We share our data with the French Consulate about the number of applications we receive every week so that they can anticipate the amount of appointments. We don't expect many delays or trouble with the visas.*

- **Expected/Anticipated delays or timing concerns for visa applications submitted to VFS in January 2024?**

*No anticipated delays.*

- **How does the new European travel authorization impact our students on French visas? How does it interact with the French visa process?**

*This new travel authorization will not be implemented until 2025.*

- **Work authorization:** Students who have the VLS-TS visa have the authorization to work up to 964 hours per year. On the Hérault site, it is stated for student internships that hours worked as part of the curriculum are not deducted from the 964 hours. "Internships carried out as part of the curriculum with a tripartite agreement are not considered to be salaried work, and therefore do not count towards the 964 hours. Periods of employment undertaken with a view to obtaining a diploma or accreditation (work study, trainee accountant, intern, etc.) are not considered to be student internships." **The question concerns the definition of "as part of the curriculum". Does this mean it has to be a required internship? Will an optional internship be treated in the same way if there's a tripartite agreement?**

*All internships, mandatory or not (with a "convention de stage") will not be considered as work hours but as an academic internship. So yes, both optional and required internships will be treated the same way.*

- **When a student loses their passport, must they return to the US to renew their visa? Or can they renew it at the prefecture? What type of passport should they apply for?**

*If the student is American: The student must request a new passport at the American consulate in France. The remaining duration of the program should then be examined.*

*If the remainder of the program is **less than 90 days**, the American student can not request a new visa. The question then arises as to whether the student needs to leave the Schengen zone for the 90-day visa-free period to begin, or whether the date of issue of the passport in France is sufficient.*

*If the student is of another nationality : It is advised to check whether he/she needs a visa for a short stay in France.*

*If the remainder of the program is **more than 90 days**, the student or the school may contact the préfecture to request an autorisation provisoire de séjour (APS), justifying this request with the need to complete studies in France, in the event of a lost passport (a copy of the old visa, a copy of the declaration of loss of passport, and a letter of support from the school are required). However, there is no guarantee that the prefecture will accept this request.*

If not, **the student will have to return to the USA** to apply for a new visa. The student will submit a new pre-consular application, but will be exempt from the CF fee.

- **Can you explain the group visa process more? Is it the same price as one appointment or does each student need to pay?**  
*The group mailing is a Campus France service that allows study abroad advisors to send all of their students' Etudes en France applications together. This option reduces the Campus France processing time from **3 weeks to 5-7 business days** for the regular service fee of \$250 per student. There is no additional charge.*
- **What are the risks for students staying one semester (4 months) if they don't validate their visas?**  
*The risk is that if they leave France and try to come back, they might have problems. They might also be refused a future visa application. Students must validate their visa in the first 3 months of their arrival in France to allow them to travel during their stay in France and to return to France. In addition, validating the student visa online is obligatory in order for students to be able to apply for a Titre de séjour in France (without coming back to the US to apply for another visa). This is explained in our [Student Visa Guidelines](#)*
- **Can you explain the difference between Campus France, VFS Global, and the French consulates with regard to the student visa process?**  
*Campus France deals with Etudes En France: reviewing the application to see if the program is official, if the school is referenced, if the program exceeds 90 days, and reviewing with the students all the pre-requisites of the programs they are applying for (for example to check the student's French level). It is a service of the Embassy of France, checking that all of the required documents are included and valid. VFS is a go between, between Campus France & the Consulate. VFS offers appointments and receives visa applications. The consulate processes the visas and has the authority to issue the visa.*
- **Some students have asked about the visa on your doorstep option through VFS - do you recommend this service? How does it compare to the traditional application process?**  
*VFS can propose this service for an extra cost; it is relevant for large groups of students: <https://www.vfsglobal.com/visa-at-your-doorstep/> The service was recently used by a university with a large student body (120 visa applications) for France. Please contact VFS directly for information about the service.*
- **Proof of financial means for the visa: The template that you linked to has the required monthly amount in USD (~\$800), but the required amount in euros is 625€, which is more like \$650 at today's exchange rate. Can we advise students that whatever the USD amount they have it should be equivalent to 615€ or do they need to show the \$800 on the template?**  
*The required amount is listed as 625 euros. The exchange rate varies daily. Proof of resources includes bank statements and an ID and could be student resources or someone else's resources on behalf of the student.*
- **Are US passport holders able to apply for a French student visa from outside the US? For example, if a student is studying in a different European country, are they able to apply for a French visa from there without returning to the US?**

*If a student is studying in another European Country and has a **resident status** there, they should be able to ask for a French visa from that country. The student needs to ask the French consulate there to make sure they are eligible and check the student visa procedure. Other European countries do not follow the CF procedure. If a student **has not a resident status** he would have to come back to the US to apply for a French long stay student visa.*

- **The situation of those who are studying in another European country and want to do a Spring in France for example:**  
*They would need to ask the Consulate if this is for a long stay.*
- **If students are studying (for over 90 days) in one EU/Schengen country and then want to study in France (for over 90 days) in another EU/Schengen country, do they need to apply for a French visa or can they renew their current EU/Schengen long stay visa?**  
*If a student is studying in one country (for 90 days or more) and wishes to study in France (for 90 days or more), he or she must apply for a student visa for France from the country in which he or she is currently studying. Students should contact the French Consulate in their country of residence to check their eligibility and the visa application procedure. If a student has a long-stay visa from another Schengen country, he or she can visit France for up to 90 days (per 180-day period).*

*However, given that the main residence for 2nd semester studies would now be in France students need to check with the consulate to find out whether it's possible to study under a visa from another Schengen country - a procedure they will need to check to make their stay in France official.*

*There are some programs which include 2 countries. When we have the documentation, before the student leaves the US, showing that the program is followed by another Schengen area program (if it is scheduled as such from the beginning), then you can ask for a visa including both countries / both programs.*

- **What is the framework for students participating in programs in several Schengen countries ?**  
*There are multiple possibilities :  
In some cases, we can include the duration of the program in the French student visa (specific cases of study abroad programs where program dates and universities are specified in the letter of acceptance for a total duration of less than one year). Alternatively, in the case of longer studies, you can apply for a "**programme mobilité**" residence permit, once you're in France, and three months before your student visa expires, which allows students to stay in the Schengen area for up to two years.  
On the other hand, a student who has just completed a semester in Spain and decides at the last minute to do a semester in France, will have to return to the United States to apply for a French student visa. A student mobility visa can be applied for under certain conditions, facilitating student mobility for programs with components in several Schengen countries.*
- **The EU Commission has established protocols for students who will study in several European countries. The visa should be issued by the country in which the student will study the longest. If all study periods are the same, then the first country of study should issue the visa. Does the French consulate uphold this policy?**  
*The first program will determine where to apply for the visa. If the first part of the program is in France, followed by 6 months in another country in the Schengen area, you will start with the first consulate.*

- **Should the visa be issued by the country where the student is studying the longest?**  
*No, from the country where they begin their program.*
- **Is it still mandatory for students to go to the consulate in their "consular region" or can they choose the closest one to their home?**  
*They can choose the VFS center of their choice.*
- **Also, once a student chooses a consulate, is it possible to modify the choice before the appointment?**  
*The student can cancel the appointment initially made at one VFS center and make another at another VFS center. Check with the Consulate.*
- **Which French language test option should students select in the Etudes en France application if they took the Evalang test to show a B2 level of French proficiency? Our students take the Evanlang test and did not see that test listed as an option on the Etudes en France application.**  
*For pre-consulate files, no French proficiency test result is required by Campus France & for a student Visa. The program might have these requests but not Campus France. For Candidature, Campus France and French institutions request DELF/DALF or TCF test results, B2 level for a Bachelor (year 1) and C1 level for a Masters taught in French.*
- **A specific question about scheduling a visa appointment at VFS: for students on a study abroad program (1 semester) should students sign up for a "long stay" visa or "student" visa appointment?**  
*They should select "Student visa".*
- **Are students able to travel in Europe after their student visa expires? If so, are there any restrictions on their travel? Is there anything that they must do to ensure they are traveling legally?**  
*They always have a few days before and after their programs but that is it. They would have to leave the Schengen zone and wait 24 hours before being able to come back as a tourist (90 days max).*
- **Can you confirm if students with a VLSTS visa may or must contract a personal liability insurance contract in France? This is clearly explained on other Campus France sites but not Campus France USA.**  
*Yes, it is required. We can add the information on our website.*
- **If a student completes the Campus France EEF procedure and receives their CF EEF acceptance, but then decides to defer their study abroad to the following semester; does this student need to complete the EEF procedure again for the now later program?**  
*Yes, they would have to do a new application or contact us to modify their application.*
- **Do they have to let CF know, and upload a new acceptance letter, but not have to pay the EEF fee again?**  
*It depends on the reason why they are not doing the first program. Is it a health reason or just a desire to change? It depends on the case.*
- **What should a student indicate for program dates on a long stay visa if the student plans to arrive in the country a couple of days before the start of the program and/or wants to extend their visit after the program?**

*Visa dates typically allow for several days before the start of the program and a few days after. They have several days to settle in. We cannot extend the dates of the visa for personal travel in France.*

*Students must indicate the exact dates of the program in their letter of acceptance. These dates determine whether or not a student is eligible for a long-stay student visa, which must be for a minimum of 90 days.*

*Students then have the option of indicating in their visa application the desired date of arrival in France.*

*The visa office grants a "grace period" of between 10 days to 2 weeks before and after the program dates.*

- **In the Etudes en France application, what degree level should third-year (junior) US students select? Is Baccalauréat +3 the correct level?**  
*This information is requested when students enter their program details on the EEF platform. Students can indicate that their "junior year" corresponds to a bac+3.*
- **Is there any reason for students that will be remaining in France for an extended program (two to five years) to have their birth certificate apostilled in the USA before they come to France? For example, to sign up for their carte vitale?**  
*No, Campus France does not ask for a birth certificate, so it would be the same for a longer program.  
Although Campus France does not request an apostilled birth certificate for the pre-consular procedure, it is possible that other organizations in France will. For long programs, it may be useful for students to have a document at their disposal.*
- **How far in advance can students book an appointment with VFS Global? Is there any way of securing an appointment now for mid-December?**  
*Appointments are available 90 days before the start of the program, not more. You cannot start before that.*
- **Related to the question about applying for a visa from another country in Europe, I have a student approved for a program in Provence for the spring who has booked her flight back to the US on December 15th when her other program ends. Is there someone she could contact now to secure an appointment on that date? Or must they keep checking until it gets available.**  
*The appointments are available up to 6 weeks in advance so yes, they will have to continue checking. It is not possible to get a specific appointment. Students need to log on the website every day to see when the December appointments will open.*
- **A student staying for 2 semesters decides to extend for the second semester. Is the only path to go back to the US and apply for a new visa?**  
*They will have to ask for un titre de séjour at the Préfecture. They will have to make the request 3 months before the end of their actual visa.*
- **When will Seattle begin accepting student visa appointments?**  
*They already have, but only once a week at the moment (Wednesdays), so appointment slots are very limited to approximately 10 a day. We are expecting an increase of visa appointments in the coming months.*
- **Question regarding the Social Security application with Ameli, mentioned in the presentation. Can students enrolled with a French Study abroad program (semester-long) apply for Social Security or is it only for exchange students directly enrolled with French universities?**

*All student visa holders can apply for social security (etudiant-etranger.ameli.fr). Even for a short 4-6 month program. But not less than 90 days.*

- **Regarding the ability to travel after the end of student visas: does this mean that the 90 days in, 90 days out rule does not apply to students who study on a visa?**  
*The visa has expired so you must leave the country, just as in the US.*
- **How long does a student have to leave the Schengen area after his or her visa has expired before they can re-enter and benefit from the rule of a visa exemption for 90 days in a 180 day period ?**  
*They must leave for 24 hours before re-entering. The stamp on their passport upon entry to the territory will be the start of the 90 days.*
- **Can the VFS Global application be booked prior to completion of the Campus France application?**  
*No, you need the Campus France USA confirmation before booking a VFS appointment.  
Students can book an appointment before their application is fully processed, however, they must ensure that the date of their appointment allows Campus France enough time to process their application.  
If the application is not processed on the day of the visa appointment, the student risks having their visa refused.*