



EBS International Student Handbook

Welcome to EBS Paris!

This handbook provided by the International Office contains information on EBS Paris, as well as useful information for your stay in Paris.

The International Office will be more than happy to help you during your stay in Paris and we hope that this exchange program experience will be most rewarding.

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A FEW PRE-DEPARTURE TIPS

As you are getting ready for your upcoming trip to Paris, here are a few tips and reminders that we would like to share. **Please, read carefully!**

➤ **HEALTH INSURANCE:**

You need to obtain **health insurance coverage** before you leave your home country. **It is your responsibility to be covered for your travels and during your whole stay in Paris.** Your insurance coverage should include health/medical, hospitalization, personal liability and repatriation. Please, contact your insurance provider for information.

Regarding your **health/medical insurance coverage**, please try to gather all the necessary information **before you leave** as many health insurance providers can give you a list of **pre-approved doctors and / or hospitals** in any area. Most students will never need to use these details but, in case of a medical emergency, having all the required information prepared would be very helpful.

➤ **IMPORTANT TRAVEL DOCUMENTS:**

In addition to your valid passport (or ID card for EU citizens), please take the following documents with you, as they may be requested by Immigration Services at the airport (although that is rarely the case).

- Your EBS Acceptance Letter
- Proof of your booked return trip
- Address of your accommodation in Paris
- Proof of your health insurance coverage

➤ **BANK**

Before you leave, please **contact your bank** to let them know you will be traveling abroad and make sure that your **debit / credit card(s) will work properly in France**. It might also be a good idea to bring some euros with you, just in case you run into some difficulties using your card(s) during the first days.

If you want to change your money in France, you will need to find a "**bureau de change**" (currency exchange booth). These booths can be found in airports and throughout Paris. You might want to check if there is one near the place where you are staying (here is a [list](#) provided by Yelp). Most "bureaux de change" charge fees for any transaction.

➤ **CELL PHONE**

Please, check with your cell phone provider to see if they might offer interesting international plans and make sure your phone will work in Europe. If you decide to buy a French SIM card, the most famous French providers are Orange, SFR, Bouygues and Free.

It might be a good idea to do **some online research to find the best option for you before you leave so that you can sort this out quickly once in Paris.**

Here is a [link](#) for a comparison of different prepaid SIM cards. You can find lots of information online.

➤ **ELECTRICAL DEVICES / SOCKETS:**

You might want to check whether or not you need an adapter to plug your electrical devices in France (voltage / sockets). You will easily find detailed information online, for example, [here](#).

If you need an adapter, try to pack one so that you are able to use your devices as soon as you are in France. Otherwise, you will need to buy one upon arrival either ordering it online or going to stores such as FNAC or Darty.

HOUSING

EBS Paris does not provide on campus housing and students are responsible for their own accommodation reservation and payment.

***** You will find below a few resources, *for your information*. Please note that EBS is *not affiliated* with any of the services listed below and *shall not be liable* for any problems, costs or damages arising directly or indirectly from students using those services. *****

- **CIUP**

EBS's new campus (since September 2024) is right by the **CIUP** (Cité Internationale Universitaire de Paris), a large international campus for students, researchers and academics. While each national residence often gives priority to advanced degree-seeking students from their country, some exchange students might also find semester accommodation options there. Several students have in the past!

<https://www.ciup.fr/en/buildings-list/>

- **CAMPUS FRANCE**

Check the **Campus France** resources, with lots of information / useful links about **student residences, hostels and private real estate market and intergenerational housing**.

<https://www.campusfrance.org/en/student-housing-france>

- **APARTMENT SHARING** ("colocation" in French)

<https://www.lacartedescolocs.fr/>

- **HOMESTAY**

For students interested in staying with a French family, homestay solutions could be an option.

<https://www.atomeparis.com/en/>

<https://www.homestay-in-paris.com/>

- **A FEW RENTAL PLATFORMS**

<https://www.studapart.com/en>

<https://www.uniplaces.com/en>

<https://erasmusplay.com/en>

<https://www.immojeune.com/en/>

<https://www.adele.org/en/>

<https://www.studelites.com/en>

<https://www.nexity-studea.com/en/>

<https://www.adagio-city.com/gb/home/index.shtml>

- **FORMER EXCHANGE STUDENTS**

We strongly encourage you to **contact former exchange students** to get their feedback and advice on housing (and many other topics!). You can use the student list (from the previous academic years) shared by EBS and/or ask your home institution about the students they sent to EBS in previous years.

In the past few years, exchange students have often secured their housing through **online platforms** such as Airbnb.

In France, a few other websites are quite popular for rental ads (but only exist in French):

<https://www.seloger.com/> ; <https://www.pap.fr/> ; <https://www.leboncoin.fr/> .

A few tips:

- Beware of ads that seem too good to be true! In Paris, count on spending **at least** 800 € for a studio on the private market (and often 1000 – 1200 €)
- Never send money remotely until you've signed a rental agreement and had **direct exchanges** with a property owner or agent / realtor.
- Avoid paying rent in advance.

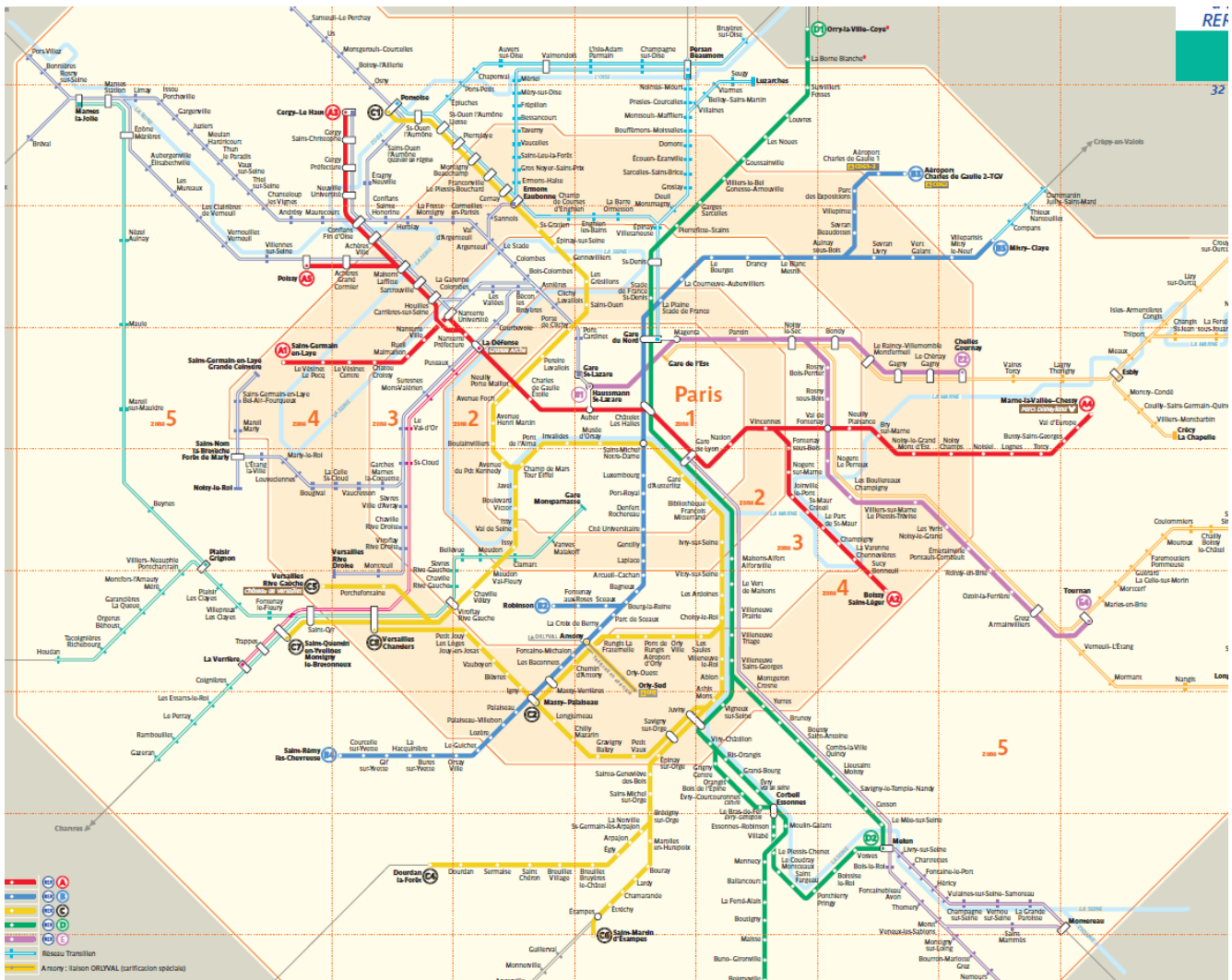
PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION IN PARIS

➤ Metro , Bus , Suburban Rail Service

• TRANSPORTATION PASS / "NAVIGO"

To use public transportation, you will need a **Navigo Pass** (long term) or **Navigo Découverte Pass** (short term) that can be "charged" for a calendar week or a calendar month: <https://www.ratp.fr/en/titres-et-tarifs/navigo-monthly-and-weekly-travel-passes>. This Navigo Pass will give you **unlimited access to all of Paris public transportation system**. This Navigo Pass also gives you access to all the Ile-de-France area public transportation (whole suburban area) with no zone restriction (zones 1 through 5). You may then use your pass to go visit Versailles or Fontainebleau, for instance, at no extra cost.

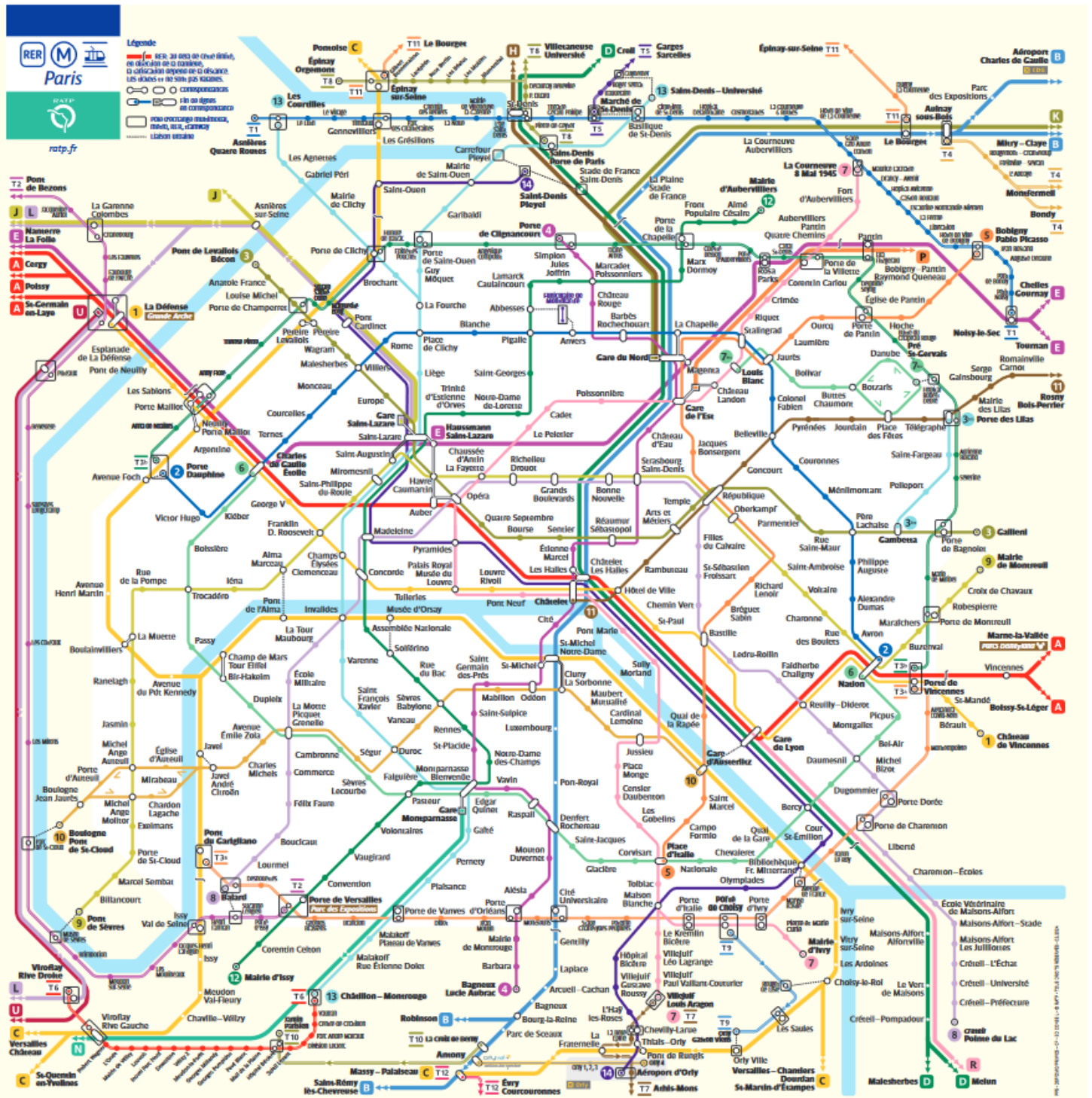
• MAP OF THE 5 ZONES – check : <https://www.ratp.fr/en> for all details.



- LINES - check : <https://www.ratp.fr/en> for all details.



The Paris Métro currently has 16 lines (more under construction) identifiable by number, color, and end-of-line names. For instance, line 1 is yellow and is called "Château de Vincennes/La Défense" because it runs from Château de Vincennes (east of Paris) to La Défense (northwest).



Always use a **line's endpoints to determine in which direction** you need to take the train. If you are at Charles de Gaulle-Etoile and need to get to Concorde, look at the Métro map to locate your destination. You will see that Concorde is located southeast of Charles de Gaulle-Etoile, toward Château de Vincennes, so you will need to take line 1, direction "Château de Vincennes". This is important because once you take the metro in one direction, you usually need to exit through the turnstiles and go through them again to change direction. The Métro system does not use references such as North/South or East/West.

Métro lines 6 and 2 run above ground for much of the way, sometimes offering impressive views of the city. Line 6 offers spectacular views of the Eiffel Tower near the Bir-Hakeim station. From line 2, you can catch beautiful views of the Sacré Coeur.

The Métro operates on a daily basis from **5.30 am to 1.00 am approximately** (and up to 2 am on Fridays, Saturdays and on the eve of national holidays). Arrive at the station approx. 20 to 30 minutes before closing, as last trains depart at different times depending on the station. Paris bus hours vary considerably, but major lines run from approximately 5:30 a.m. to midnight. You can check schedules online and at each station.

For further information: please, check: <https://www.ratp.fr/en>. This is the most reliable website for information about public transportation in Paris. Their **free app "Bonjour RATP"** <https://www.bonjour-ratp.fr/> is also very helpful! **We strongly encourage you to download it if you can.** You will find all the maps / itineraries you might need.

On the RATP website / app, you will also find detailed information about regular bus lines and night buses.

Another **very useful free app** to plan your trips around the city is **Citymapper**, <https://citymapper.com/?lang=en>. It will help you plan itineraries very easily, whether you decide to walk or use public transportation.

➤ **Other means of transportation**

• **Taxicab**

Taxi G7 is a well-known taxi company in France. You can call 3607 from France (or +33 1 41 27 66 99 with an international phone) or make a reservation through their website (<https://www.g7.fr/en/>) or app.

- **Uber** is also widely available in Paris. (Lyft is not).

➤ **To & from the airport**

There are two major international airports near Paris: Charles de Gaulle Airport and Orly Airport. You will have various options to get to / from each of these airports: public transportation (RER), shuttle bus, taxi...

If you are traveling with heavy luggage, sharing a taxi with another student (or 2) might be the easiest option. In any case, always make sure you use **an official taxi following taxi signs in the terminal**.

Please check the official « Aéroport de Paris » website for all details (public transportation itineraries, taxi fares, etc.):

- Charles de Gaulle : <https://www.parisaeroport.fr/en/passengers/access/paris-charles-de-gaulle>
- Orly : <https://www.parisaeroport.fr/en/passengers/access/paris-orly/>

➤ **Leaving Paris**

French trains are often the best way to travel between major French town & cities and to several major European cities. France's world-famous TGV travels at up to 200 mph, from city center to city center, and if you book your ticket a few weeks in advance you may find some really cheap fares, too.

It is fairly easy to buy tickets at the station, even if you do not speak French. At main stations, you can buy tickets from self-service machines that have an English language option. For long-distance trains including all TGV & Intercités de Nuit (overnight trains), it is mandatory to make a reservation, but there are usually seats available even on the day of travel and you can buy a ticket immediately before the train departs.

However, on the day of travel, you will pay the full price, but there are much cheaper fares if you pre-book. It is also a good idea to pre-book during busy holiday periods. Remember to validate / stamp your tickets by putting them into the small machines at the entrance of every platform – there is a fine if you don't!

For further information and booking:

<https://www.sncf-connect.com/en-en/>

<https://www.sncf-voyageurs.com/en/travel-with-us/booking-and-itinerary/book-tickets/>

Please note that public transportation strikes are quite frequent in France... You will usually be able to get the most updated details on the **RATP website or through their **app**.**

For local news in English:

<https://www.france24.com/en/>

<https://www.thelocal.fr/>

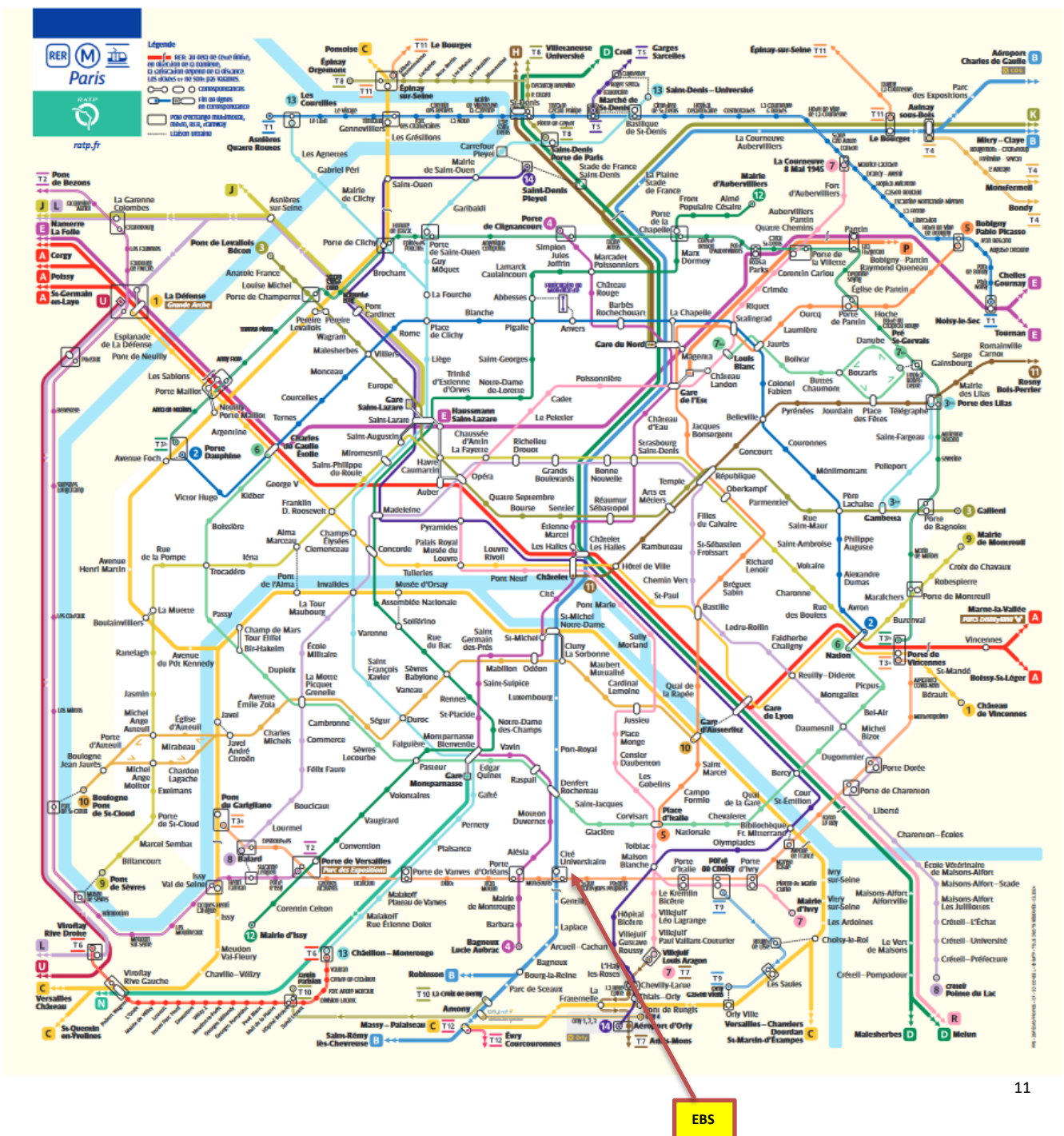
HOW TO GET TO EBS PARIS

Our **NEW** campus is located in the **13th district** of Paris (border with the 14th), right to the east of the CIUP (Cité Internationale Universitaire de Paris). The campus address is:

9 avenue Pierre de Coubertin
75013 Paris
France

The closest stops are "**Cité Universitaire**" on **RER Line B** (7 min) or "**Stade Charléty**" stop on **Tramway line T3a** (2 min). The closest Métro stop is "Porte d'Orléans" on **Métro line 4** (20 min).

Paris Métro map with EBS Paris location:



INTERNATIONAL OFFICE

The International Relations Office is located on the **5th floor** of the main building (in France, that means 5 floors above the ground floor, so that would be the 6th floor in the US 😊), office number **506**.

The office provides support to international students with services and advice on administrative and academic matters.

Katy FERREIRA
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International Coordinator

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New Person Soon!
International Office

Catherine AL HACHEM
Director of Programs
catherine.alhachem@ebs-paris.com

During our orientation / welcome presentation on the first day of the program, we will provide students with more detailed information about our staff and our campus.

CULTURE IN PARIS

Paris is a major cultural center and you will most likely find countless opportunities to go out and explore what the city has to offer. **The City of Paris's official website** is a good starting point to find information about anything you might be interested in: **museums, libraries, sports facilities, markets, outdoors activities**, etc. You will also find a calendar of free activities (exhibitions, screenings, etc.): www.paris.fr (in French) and <https://en.parisinfo.com/> (**in English**). FYI, the city of Paris is divided into 20 districts (called "arrondissements"). The last 2 digits of a Parisian ZIP code indicate the "arrondissement". EBS Paris's ZIP code is 75013, which means we are located in the 13th arrondissement. That can be useful when you are trying to locate a specific place.

- Museums / Art Galleries

You can find detailed information about the many Parisian museums and monuments on the following website: <https://en.parisinfo.com/what-to-see-in-paris>. Some of the most famous and "must-see" museums include Le Louvre, le Musée d'Orsay, Le Musée National d'Art Moderne (Centre Pompidou- Beaubourg), le Grand Palais, le Palais de Tokyo (Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris)... Most national museums are closed on Tuesdays. EU citizens under 26 get **free access** to permanent collections in national museums (there usually is a fee for temporary exhibitions). Other museums usually offer a discount fare for students (student ID is required).

Besides those major museums, Paris also offers the opportunity to visit many smaller museums and art galleries such as the Fondation Cartier pour l'Art Contemporain, Musée Rodin, Maison Européenne de la Photographie, Fondation Henri Cartier-Bresson, etc. There are many small art galleries in several neighborhoods, but particularly around the Marais district (3rd, 4th "arrondissements"). The "Arts & Culture" section of Time Out Paris can be a good starting point to find information about current exhibitions: <http://www.timeout.com/paris/en/arts-culture>.

- Film / Theater

Paris has the **highest density of movie theaters** in the world (number of theaters per inhabitant), which will give you the opportunity to see almost any kind of movies you might be interested in, from independent foreign films to huge blockbusters. Some theaters, especially in the Latin Quarter, specialize in old classics or cult films. You will always be able to watch recent releases either in their original version with French subtitles or dubbed in French. General admission can be a little expensive (around 13 €) but most movie theaters offer student discounts (admission around 8 or 9 €). It is also often possible to buy a multiple-entry pass at a discount price.

Most multiplex chains (Gaumont, UGC) focus on bigger releases while MK2 is a smaller chain that dedicates more screens to independent films. There are also **many independent theaters** that are well worth a visit for their program but sometimes also for their building, history and atmosphere (la Pagode, le Louxor, le Cinéma des Cinéastes, le Studio 28...) There is a weekly guide that can help you find out what movies are playing in any theater: l'Officiel des Spectacles. This guide will also include detailed information about current plays and exhibitions. You can check details at <http://www.offi.fr/cinema> (in French only). For film

buffs, the **Cinémathèque Française** is definitely a “must see” (screenings, festivals, museum, exhibitions, library, etc.): <http://www.cinematheque.fr/>.

For **French movies with English subtitles**, check “Lost in Frenchlation”. They frequently organize screenings and other events for the international community in Paris (<https://lostinfrenchlation.com/>)

During the summer, the City of Paris organizes **free outdoors screenings** of famous films. You can check <https://parisjetaime.com/eng/things-to-do-in-paris-i001> to discover many things to do!

- Music

Paris also offers many interesting options for live music enthusiasts ranging from large concert halls and outdoors festivals to small independent venues and cafés. Some of the most famous larger venues include AccorHotels Arena, le Zénith or l’Olympia. Smaller venues include la Cigale, Le Trianon, le Point Ephémère, la Maroquinerie, Petit Bain, L’International, Supersonic (lots of free concerts) and many more. All those venues offer an eclectic program but tend to focus on “indie” and electronic music. Jazz enthusiasts will find several jazz clubs around the city and particularly in the Latin Quarter district and around the 1st arrondissement. Those venues all have websites detailing their program. You can also find a detailed schedule of most concerts in a small free booklet called LYLO (Les Yeux Les Oreilles, <http://www.lylo.fr/>) available in many bars and cafés.

As far as record stores are concerned, you will also be able to enjoy many options ranging from chain stores like FNAC and Gibert Joseph – both also large bookstores (<http://www.fnac.com/> and <http://www.gibertjoseph.com/>) – to independent, well-stocked record stores (Born Bad, Pop Culture, Music Fear Satan, Souffle Continu, Ground Zero, Silence de la Rue...). More details are available here: <https://www.timeout.com/paris/en/shopping/music-shops> .

Please do not hesitate to ask for more details as I know many of those places quite well. I would be happy to help if I can.

We sincerely hope that you will enjoy your time with us at EBS Paris and that you will make the most of this great opportunity to study in Paris.

Do not hesitate to contact the International Office if you have any questions!

USEFUL INFORMATION - HEALTH & SAFETY

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

- **Emergency Medical Service (Samu) / Ambulance: 15 or 112.**
- **Police: 17**
- **Firestation (Sapeurs-pompiers): 18**
- **General Emergency: 112** (EU-wide emergency number that will contact emergency services in any EU country or language; have this number on hand while traveling around Europe!)
- **Doctor Emergency (SOS médecins): 01 47 07 77 77** (or +33 1 47 07 77 77 with an international phone)
<https://www.sosmedecins.fr/en/contact-us/>
- **List of Foreign Embassies in France:**
<https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/fr/le-ministere-et-son-reseau/representations-etrangees-en-france/>
- **Lost Credit Card: PLEASE CHECK WITH YOUR PERSONAL BANK**

Major numbers

AmEx: 01 47 77 72 00

Visa: 0 892 705 705

Mastercard: 0 800 901 387

You can also check <https://www.angloinfo.com/how-to/france/money/banking/lost-cards-phones>

USEFUL MEDICAL RESOURCES

➤ **Major Hospitals Near EBS Paris:**

Hôpital Européen Georges-Pompidou
20 rue Leblanc - 75015 Paris

T: 01 56 09 20 00 (+33 1 56 09 20 00 with an international phone)

Hôpital Cochin

25 Rue du Faubourg Saint-Jacques - 75014 Paris

T: 01 58 41 27 22 (+33 1 58 41 27 22 with an international phone)

Hôpital Pitié Salpêtrière

47-83 Bd de l'Hôpital - 75013 Paris

T : 01 42 16 00 00 (+33 1 42 16 00 00 with an international phone)

➤ **24/7 Pharmacies** (check online as that changes frequently)

- **6 Boulevard Richard-Lenoir à 75011 Paris - M° Bastille**

(01 47 00 49 44 or +33 1 47 00 49 44 with an international phone)

- **6, place de Clichy – 75009 Paris – M° Place de Clichy (01 48 74 65 18 or +33 1 48 74 65 18 with an international phone)**

- **5 Pl. de la République, 75003 Paris – M° République (01 47 00 18 08 or +33 1 47 00 18 08 with an international phone)**

Please note that French pharmacies do not carry as many over-the-counter medicines as pharmacies in some other countries might.

➤ **English Speaking Medical Professionals & Hospitals in Paris:**

List provided by the US Embassy:

<https://fr.usembassy.gov/services/medical-assistance/english-speaking-medical-professionals-and-hospitals-in-paris/>

➤ **EBS PARIS Insurance Coverage Requirements:**

You will need to have insurance coverage for the whole duration of your stay in France.

Coverage should include:

- Medical / hospitalization
- Personal / civil liability (this is **mandatory** in French higher education)
- Repatriation

EU Students with European Health Insurance Card : this card only grants you basic health coverage and we strongly encourage you to obtain extra coverage.

➤ **A few tips:**

The most convenient way to find a doctor's appointment is via the **Doctolib** website: <https://www.doctolib.fr/>

You can now use the website in English and search for doctors who speak English.

The mention « **Conventionné secteur 1** » or "**Sector 1**" means the doctor has an agreement with the French Social Security. Such doctors will charge a fixed fee corresponding to the rates that serve as a basis for reimbursement by the French health insurance fund (i.e. 30 euros for a GP / family doctor).

- European students with EHIC (European Health Insurance Card) usually **need to advance** the costs upfront and then request the reimbursement from their home country health care system (sometimes upon return to home country).
- Students without EHIC / with personal private insurance should check **exact process with the insurance provider** (toll free number to contact, list of pre-approved health care providers, etc.).

STAYING SAFE IN PARIS

Paris is one of the world's most visited capitals, welcoming millions of tourists each year. While the city remains safe, visitors may be the target of pickpockets or scammers.

You will find below a link to a guide provided by the "Préfecture de Police de Paris" (the "Paris PD"). This guide on how to stay safe in Paris includes several tips for steering clear of malicious acts as well as the procedure should you need to file a complaint.

https://www.prefecturedepolice.interieur.gouv.fr/sites/default/files/Documents/PP_guide_paris_securite_En_2022_0.pdf