

Université d'Auvergne

France

About the University

The Université d'Auvergne (also referred to as Clermont-Ferrand I) is located in the centre of the city. History of higher education in the area dates back over 400 years. The university has over 15000 students and around 3000 foreign students. It has eight faculties, including the Law School and Political Science.

Studying at the University

All courses are taught in French, and it is highly recommended that you improve your French as much as you can before you start your study exchange and also take intensive language courses while you are there in order to pass the substantive modules. The International office (http://ressources.campusfrance.org/guides_etab/accueil/en/univ_clermont2_ac_en.pdf) is responsible for welcoming and guiding exchange students. The office will help students find housing in university residences and will also liaise with teaching staff if necessary.

Accommodation

Students can apply for a room in a university residence, private student residence or in private rented accommodation. As stated above the International Office can help students apply for accommodation and will provide guidance on the different types available.

Living in Clermont-Ferrand

Clermont-Ferrand is the capital of the Auvergne region in the plain of Limagne in the Massif Central, in the heart of France. Clermont-Ferrand is adjacent to the 'Parc des Volcans', the largest natural park in France which is over 120km long. Its central location is ideal for travelling around France and its neighbouring countries.

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About the Year Abroad

You are required to take a minimum of 30 ECTS (European Credits) during your year abroad and also write three termly reports on your studies in French, considered as equal to a full year of study at Loughborough.

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Université Lumière Lyon 2

France

About the University

The history of higher education in Lyon dates back to the 1800's, although the University Lyon 2 was not fully established until 1969. The university offers 210 degrees and is made up of six faculties, seven institutes and two training departments. Lyon 2 has two main sites: the Berges du Rhône campus (located in the centre of Lyon), and the Porte des Alpes' campus (on the south-eastern outskirts of Lyon). The university has an international vision and strongly believes in the importance of international exchanges. Just over 15% of students at the university are foreign.

Studying at the University

All courses at Lyon 2 are taught in French, and you are encouraged to improve your French as much as possible before you arrive. The Centre International des Etudes Françaises provides pre-university training courses for foreign students attending the university as part of an exchange agreement. For more information please visit: <http://cief.univ-lyon2.fr/spip.php?rubrique123>

The International Relations Division is in charge of welcoming and settling in all international exchange students. They also provide courses and programmes on French culture including cultural excursions culinary workshops; meetings with French families, language workshops and special international evenings will be organised.

Accommodation

There is a variety of accommodation available in Lyon. The International Relations Division can help students to apply for accommodation in CROUS halls of residence. There is also the opportunity to apply for rooms in University halls of residence through the Regional Student Welfare and Advice Centre, although the type of accommodation is in high demand. Due to this demand for halls of residence accommodation, students are advised to explore also the options of private halls, student hotels and house sharing.

For more information about accommodation please visit: <http://www.univ-lyon2.fr/international/exchange-programs/www4-finding-accommodation-in-lyon-160420.kjsp?RH=WWWUK4exc>

Living in Lyon

Lyon is situated between Paris and Marseille in the Rhône-Alpes region. It has a rich cultural and architectural history and is a UNESCO heritage site. The city is also a hub of modern industries and ranks second in France as an economic centre.

The Erasmus Student Network has a section in Lyon called CosmoLyon. For more information about ESN Lyon and the events the run for exchange students, please visit: <http://lyon.ixesn.fr/>

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Lyon Institut d'Études Politiques

France

About the University

The Lyon Institut d'Études Politiques (Sciences Po Lyon) is an external institution affiliated with the University of Lyon 2. Sciences Po Lyon is part of the national network of Institutes of Political Studies (IEP). The institution was created by a decree in May 1948 and became affiliated to the Université Lumière Lyon 2 in 1984.

Studying at the Institution

The Institut d'Études Politiques is part of the network of political science institutes in France. There are two ways in which students can organise their studies at the institute: taking the Certificate of Political Studies or taking Integrated Studies. The Certificate of Political Studies is designed specifically for foreign students who study at the institution for one year, and there is no cost to take the Certificate. For more information on organising your studies at the institution, please visit: <http://iep.univ-lyon2.fr/index.php?Rub=75>

Accommodation

The institution does not help students search for housing. However, it is possible to arrange housing with CROUS who provide accommodation, and help students search for private accommodation, in Lyon.

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Rennes Institut d'Études Politiques

France

About the University

Sciences Po Rennes was established in 1991 and is a modern and dynamic institute. It aims to provide excellent multi-disciplinary education based broadly in human and social sciences. The university is located in beautiful historic buildings within the city.

About 20% of the students at Rennes are international students and many of them are visiting students from other Erasmus partner universities.

Studying at the Institution

As an exchange student in Sciences Po Rennes you required to take the Certificate d'Études Politiques. This is a specific programme consisting of a course module reserved for foreign students and numerous courses which can be freely selected from those taught at the institute. The compulsory courses in this programme are a lecture and seminar courses in French history and civilisation, and a French language lecture. Students can then choose the rest of their courses from the 1st, 2nd and 4th year modules taught at the institute.

For more information about studying at Science Po Rennes, please read their international students guide at: http://www.sciencespo-rennes.fr/mediastore/11/9418_1_FR_original.pdf

Accommodation

You can apply for accommodation through the institute for housing with the organisation CROUS. CROUS provides the majority of student housing throughout France. There is more information about student accommodation in the 'international students guide' mentioned above.

Living in Rennes

Rennes is the capital of Brittany in north-western France and has a very interesting historic centre. It is the site of music and cinema festivals and has a wide variety of museums and exhibition centres. Rennes is also the largest university town in western France, and is home to around 60,000 students.

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Strasbourg Institut d'Études Politiques

France

About the University

The Institute of Political Studies at the University of Strasbourg was founded in 1945. The University of Strasbourg is the largest university in France with more than 42,000 students. It has a very European identity which can be seen as a result of its specific historical and cultural development, as well as its close geographical border with Germany.

Studying at the Institution

The Interdisciplinary Diploma in European Studies is a university diploma awarded at the end of one year of studies at the Institute of Political Studies. For more information about the diploma and the study options within the programme, please read the document found at http://www-iep.u-strasbg.fr/fichiers/2011/DIEE_1112.pdf

Accommodation

University residences are owned and run by the organisation CROUS. CROUS Strasbourg reserves some of its housing for Erasmus exchange students. Students can request accommodation through the International Relations department within the Political Studies Institution. For more information please visit: <http://www.crous-strasbourg.fr>

Living in Strasbourg

Strasbourg is the capital of the Alsace region. Its historic centre was classified as a UNESCO World Heritage site and represents a mixture of Franco-German culture. The city has a long and eventful history as one of the most important cities along the river Rhine.

Strasbourg is home to the European Parliament and the Council of Europe. Every year, during 'European Week', students from the institute - together with international exchange students from other parts of the university— have a chance to visit the European Parliament and can take part in talks given by experts on the EU.

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Institut für Politikwissenschaft Giessen

Germany

About the University

The Institut für Politikwissenschaft is part of the University of Giessen (Justus-Liebig Universität Giessen). The University of Giessen is a modern University which has a history of higher education dating back over 400 years. Around 24'000 students study at the university of which 1'700 are international students. International students are looked after by the International Office (http://www.uni-giessen.de/cms/international-pages/view?set_language=en).

Studying at the University

The Institute of the Justus-Liebig-Universität Giessen offers a wide variety of modules in the context of inter-disciplinary political sciences. All international students can attend free intensive German language classes as part of their accreditation. There are also pre-semester courses for international students which provide intensive German language classes and a wide cultural programme to prepare students for their studies in Germany.

Students have to pay a Student Service fee of around 200€ per semester. This covers the cost of the International Student ID card and public transport within the region along with the other services offered by the Studentenwerk (students union).

Accommodation

Most Erasmus students apply to stay in one of Giessen halls of residence. The price for a room varies depending on the duration of your stay but will proximately cost between €207 and €290 a month. The rent for the first month and a deposit of € 200 have to be paid on arrival. If preferred, students can look for private accommodation where rooms prices vary from €180to € 300.

Living in Giessen

The town of Giessen is located in the German state of Hesse. The town has the highest student density of all German towns and cities, which is reflected in the cultural life of Giessen. There are plenty of leisure activities on offer in Giessen and the surrounding area due to the vast amount of hills and lakes. Cosmopolitan Frankfurt is just 30 minutes from Giessen by train—travel to Frankfurt is free of charge for students who have paid the Student Service Fee.

Erasmus students are well looked after at the University of Giessen! The university offers free language courses, field trips and free use of regional public transport!

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Leuphana Universität Lüneburg

Germany

About the University

Lüneburg University is one of the few campus universities in Germany and is situated on the outskirts of the city. The University began its life in 1946 as a College of Education and continued to expand in the following years. In 2003 it was classed one of the top five universities in Germany. Leuphana University describes itself as 'the university for the civil society of the 21st Century'. The university has around 7,000 students of whom about 6% are international. In 2010 the university was awarded the 'International Sustainable Campus Excellence Award' for its outstanding commitment to sustainability and environmental management.

Studying at the University

You will be studying in the Political Sciences department within the Faculty of Cultural Sciences. All exchange students are looked after by the International Office during their stay. This includes the assignment of a 'buddy' who will help you find your way around the university and the city. There is also an orientation programme for all exchange students ran at the beginning of your exchange. The International Office also organises a variety of activities and events for international students including day trips, dinner parties and cultural events. (<http://www.leuphana.de/en/services/io/incoming/bachelors-masters-program.html>)

Students are required to pay €180 for student services which includes a semester ticket for public transport covering a radius reaching as far as Hannover and Hamburg.

Accommodation

The university helps exchange students find a place to live during their time in Lüneburg. The university's Housing Service is affiliated to the International Office, and they can pre-arrange accommodation for you. There are various housing options including student halls, private apartments and even living with a host family. The halls are located on or next to the campus, as well as the city centre, and usually consist of apartments of between 2-9 rooms with shared bathroom(s) and kitchens.

Living in Lüneburg

Lüneburg is situated in Lower Saxony, which borders more neighbouring states than any other federal state. This makes it an ideal location for traveling around Germany, as well as for exploring central Europe. Lüneburg is a beautifully preserved medieval city which lies just south of the exciting city of Hamburg.

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Universität Innsbruck

Austria



About the University

The University of Innsbruck is the largest institution of higher education and research in western Austria. It has 25'000 students and over 4000 members of staff. The history of higher education in Innsbruck dates back to 1562, and makes the university one of Austria's oldest.

Studying at the University

You will be studying within the Institut für Politikwissenschaften. All courses are taught in German and it is strongly recommended that you try and improve your German as much as possible before arriving in Innsbruck. A German language course for Erasmus exchange students is offered free of charge, but must be applied for online through a short test to establish your level of proficiency. Preparatory courses are offered in the summer by the 'Innsbrucker Hochschulkurse Deutsch' at the University, there is a three week and a six week course available.

Accommodation

The Austrian Academic Exchange Service (ÖAD) helps to organise rooms for exchange students, although there are limited number of rooms available (especially single rooms). However, Erasmus and other official exchange programme students do have priority. Rooms are allocated on a 'first come first served' basis. There are single or double study-rooms which have use of a shared bathroom and kitchen. If students prefer they can organise their own private accommodation, although this can be very difficult and expensive.

More information about housing can be found at <http://www.uibk.ac.at/international-relations/llp-erasmus/incoming/housing.html>

Living in Innsbruck

Innsbruck is a beautiful historical city in the Alps in the Inn valley. Tyrol, where Innsbruck is situated, is a beautiful region to explore both in the summer and winter. The region gives a wide range of leisure opportunities all year round. In the winter downhill and cross-country skiing, snowboarding, ice-skating and even bobsleighbing at Igls Olympic run, in the summer mountain-climbing, hiking, mountain-biking and paragliding. In 2012 Innsbruck is hosting the Youth Olympic Games. From Innsbruck you can take a day trips using ÖBB (the Austria railway) to Vienna, Salzburg, Zurich, Venice or Munich.

The Erasmus Student Network supports incoming students (<http://www.uibk.ac.at/international-relations/llp-erasmus/incoming/>). ESN-Innsbruck organises a variety of activities, trips, excursions and much more for exchange students. They also organise a student support system known as the 'buddy system' where students can sign up for an Austrian buddy!

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Universidade Carlos III de Madrid

Spain

About the University

Carlos III is a relatively young university and aspires to become one of the best universities in Europe. There are over 18,000 students enrolled at the university, and each year the university welcomes over 850 exchange students (around 600 of these are Erasmus students). The university has three campuses, located in Getafe, Leganes and Colmenarejo.

Studying at the University

You will be studying in the department of Political Science and Sociology. There is a wide variety of modules offered within the field of politics, including the opportunity to study courses which are specifically focused on Spain. 'Espacio estudiantes' (<http://www.uem.es/en>) is the Centre of Services, Activities and Resources for Students (quite often referred to as either ESES or Student Space). The Student Space organises a variety of activities for students including culture and nature trips, exhibitions, music and dance programmes, and sports activities.

Accommodation

There are three halls of residence at the university, which provide high standard accommodation for students. The university residences do not have any cooking facilities, but there is an option to rent a room with full board. Other accommodation is available including a residence hall with cooking facilities, and renting privately. If you would like to stay in a student-shared flat, then you can find more information at: <https://aplicaciones.uc3m.es/aloja/>

Living in Madrid

Madrid is one of the most dynamic cities in Europe, and is a very popular choice for both national students and international students. The city has a rich historic, artistic and cultural heritage and is home to a wide variety of well renowned museums. There is also a range of sporting activities including winter sports on offer in the city and its surrounding area.

The university estimates living expenses to be around €600-800 per month.

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Universidade de Santiago de Compostella

Spain

About the University

The Universidade de Santiago de Compostella (known as USC) is located in two historical cities: Santiago de Compostela and Lugo. They have around 30-35,000 students and over 2,200 lecturers. The university has over five hundred years of history, with its origins dating back to 1495. The university offers more than 60 degree programmes and has 32 faculties, schools and institutions located throughout its two campuses.

Studying at the University

As an exchange student at USC you are able to choose courses from the department of Political Science. There is a wide variety of courses available to exchange students, and some have a special focus on Spain (such as the Spanish Political System). The External Relations Office (http://www.usc.es/en/gobierno/vrrelins/portal_internacional/ore.html) is responsible for accepting, accrediting and welcoming exchange students from EU countries to USC. The university also arranges hundreds of annual cultural events for students and visitors. You are also advised to take intensive Spanish language courses to allow you to access and pass the substantive modules.

Accommodation

Students can apply for accommodation within campus halls. Halls offer accommodation as well as a variety of facilities and activities for the students. Students can also rent rooms in private halls of residence, or organise their own privately rented accommodation.

Living in Santiago de Compostela

Santiago de Compostela is the capital of Galicia in the north of Spain. This historic cathedral city is rich in culture and has been declared a World Heritage City by UNESCO due to its multicultural nature and as the final destination of a thousand-year-old pilgrim route named 'the Way of St James'. Santiago de Compostela is surrounded by the green forests of Northwest Spain and is close to the Galician bays and the Portuguese border.

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