

If you already have a French residence permit

Do not launch any further procedure and please contact EURAXESS Service Centre in Tours.

VISA AND RESIDENCE PERMITS FOR PHD STUDENTS

Should I apply for a visa/Hosting agreement?

- <https://france-visas.gouv.fr/web/france-visas/ai-je-besoin-d-un-visa>

The regulations on entry and stay conditions in France for PhD students who are non-citizens of the EU/EEA are very complex. It is essential to start the most adapted procedure according to your situation before entering the French territory:

A visa mistake could cause major difficulties once you arrive in France (legal impossibility to work and thus to receive an income, impossibility to register for a health insurance, to get your residence permit etc.).

For detailed information regarding which visa you should apply to, please contact the EURAXESS Services Centre in Tours. EURAXESS Tours is responsible for the setting up and follow-up of the Convention d'Accueil.

I. If you come for a PhD and you are enrolled at University of Tours

a. You will have a French employment contract (doctoral contract, CIFRE agreement, fixed term contract) and will be enrolled in France as a PhD student

As soon as your funding and the dates of your stay are confirmed, you will have to ask the EURAXESS Service Centre in Tours for a "Hosting agreement for visiting researcher" (convention d'accueil), at the conditions you give us the required documents as listed in the PDF enclosed. Before making an appointment at the Consulate, please wait to receive your hosting agreement by mail. You will have to present the original version to the French consulate of the country you're living in, in order to obtain a "scientific-researcher" long stay visa or "Passeport-talent - Researcher" resident permit.

You must bring the original of this document with you in France. The convention d'accueil is the only official document that proves your scientific-researcher status in France. It enables you to practice higher education and/or research activities.

The convention d'accueil cannot, by any means, be considered as an actual contract or an internship agreement. Its only aim is to legitimate the stay of the foreign researcher in order to apply for a scientific visa, which will allow him/her to work full time in France on the mentioned research project. It legally commits the University of Tours and the hosting unit (Director and host researcher) for the welcomed researcher.

You will be enrolled as a PhD student in France, but don't apply for a "student" visa at the French consulate if you received a hosting agreement. You will have to apply for a "scientific researcher" visa. The "student" visa doesn't enable you to work full time (obligation to apply for an additional work permit, which is impossible at your arrival). The "scientific-researcher" visa is best suited to your situation and enables many advantages.

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b. You will be enrolled in Tours as a PhD student without employment contract -> You are a grant holder of your government / French government, self-funded PhD, grant holder of a research organism...)

You can't obtain a "convention d'accueil": you must apply for a "student" long-stay visa. Depending on your nationality, you will directly contact the Campus France agency of your country to obtain your visa (EEF procedure). Otherwise, you will be redirected towards the nearest French Consulate.

During your doctoral studies in France, you will be able to work but only part time. You can also apply for an additional work permit (under conditions). If you manage to obtain funding during your PhD, it will then be possible to request a hosting agreement and a change of status with the authorities.

II. If you come to the University of Tours for your research project, without being enrolled in France as a PhD student, but employed by your University of origin

You pertain to the "scientific-researcher procedure"

As soon as your funding and the dates of your stay are confirmed, you will have to ask the EURAXESS Services Centre in Tours for a "Hosting agreement for visiting researcher" (convention d'accueil), providing you give us the required documents as listed in the PDF enclosed. Before making an appointment at the Consulate, please wait to receive your hosting agreement by mail. You will have to present the original version to the French consulate of the country you're living in, in order to obtain a "scientific-researcher" long stay visa or "Passeport-talent - Researcher" resident permit.

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You can't apply for a "student" visa (since you won't be a student in France) nor a "trainee" visa (except particular case: mandatory traineeship in the frame of your cursus, with obligation of a traineeship agreement signed by the Préfecture).

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PLEASE NOTE: the visa should be requested according to your personal and individual situation. If you have any doubt about which procedure you should apply for, please contact the EURAXESS Services Centre in Tours. If you are coming with your spouse and/or children, make sure to inform the Consulate on your first contact. They will need visas as well.

III. Other situations

Please contact EURAXESS for further information. In any case, do not apply for a temporary long-stay visa (visa de long séjour temporaire).



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