



Accommodation in Lille

Upon the arrival :

* Youth hostels:

Most of the time, incoming students choose to stay in youth hostels for a while before they can find a permanent accommodation. Take a look of these options :
Auberge Stéphane Hessel ≈ 25€ per night (subway Porte de Valenciennes)
Gastama ≈ 25€ per night (Vieux-Lille)
Eklo Hotels ≈ 25€ per night (subway Porte de Valenciennes)

* AirBnB:

Like in many others cities in France, you can find a lot of temporary housing options suitable for all tastes on this website that offers private rooms/ accommodation for short periods of time.

* Couchsurfing:

This website is designed to connect couchsurfers from worldwide that are looking for an alternative way of traveling. How does it work? The hosts open their homes and share their life for a few nights with the couchsurfer. The idea is that when the couchsurfer goes back home, s/he will become a host and open her/his home for another couchsurfer. The whole process is free of charge for the host and for the couchsurfer and it is based on the principle of mutual benefit, sharing and solidarity. To find a host, you have to sign in on the website (www.couchsurfing.com) and to start talking with members of the community in Lille.

For one semester or the academic year :

University accommodation – « CROUS »:

International students **in exchange programs** can apply for CROUS university accommodation because the Direction of International mobilities has a number of reserved rooms. The rooms in university campus are (sometimes but not always) smaller and less comfortable than a studio in town. But they have financial advantages: they are cheap, are exempt from the housing tax, and for electricity, gas or other, no need to deal with the contract.

International students **outside the exchange program (freemovers)** must follow an individual housing application procedure by directly applying to CROUS international service. **Warning:** places are limited!

The application for admission must be made on the website before May :
www.crous-lille.fr

Contact: service.international@crous-lille.fr or antenne.lille1@crous-lille.fr.

The REEFLEX student hall:

The students can rent a flat during few days to few months. The rooms/flats are fully furnished with a kitchen, private bathroom and bedroom. The price depends on the size of the room: 396€/month for 18m² and 452€/month for 23m².

A guarantor and the equivalent of one rent of security deposit are required at the arrival, as well as the payment of the membership of the REEFLEX association (60€).

Contact: reeflex@univ-lille.fr

Tél: +33(0)3 59 31 29 80.

Résidence REEFLEX: avenue Paul Langevin, Cité Scientifique 59650 Villeneuve d'Ascq.

Renting:

International students can also rent a private accommodation in town. They can visit the following websites:

Stud'Apart - University of Lille:

Studapart has become the on-line housing service of more than 150 schools and universities, among the most renowned in France. More than 100,000 housing units are present on the housing platforms of partner higher education institutions.

The University of Lille is part of this network to facilitate and secure the rental of a housing. <https://univ-lille.studapart.com/fr/>

HousingAnywhere:

This service connects French students who are doing an exchange program and who are willing to rent their room/flat for the time of their stay abroad with exchange students from abroad who are looking for a room/flat

during their stay in Lille. It is a win-win situation! The French students can get their room back when they return, and the foreign students can have access to authentic French accommodation suitable for them.

In the frame of the partnership, the University of Lille maintains a permanent contact with HousingAnywhere, that provides our students with a privileged access to all offers and a scrutiny of special requests. In addition, if the room doesn't comply exactly with the advertisement, HousingAnywhere reserves the right to steer immediately the students towards another flat/room and to refuse to pay the rent. Finally, the partnership we maintain with HousingAnywhere offers discounts on the bookings fees. www.housinganywhere.com

GOTOO LILLE:

Gotoo Lille Real estate provides, housing services for erasmus students, and french students. What makes the difference is its customer service and our online assistance before, during and after your stay . To get further information, please check its website : <https://lille.world/>

Take a look to other options:

www.bienici.com

www.leboncoin.fr (private individuals and/or real-estate agencies)

www.paruvendu.fr (private individuals and/or real-estate agencies)

www.pap.fr (private individuals)

www.ij-annonces.fr/category/logements/ CRIJ: Centre Régional Information Jeunesse: The CRIJ is a regional network aiming at helping students and young workers in different areas including housing.

2 rue Edouard Delesalle - 59000 Lille

07.72.18.61.07

<http://www.lokaviz.fr/rechercher-un-logement/fiche-logement>

(CROUS: Centre Régional des Œuvres Universitaires et Scolaires, 74 rue de Cambrai - Lille.)

Phone : 03 20 88 66 00

Students also can rent a room in a private student hall:

www.adele.org

www.nemea-residence-etudiante.com

logement.studyrama.com

Some general information:

Usually, a lease for a private student accommodation lasts for one year: from September to August. If your lease doesn't detail the date you have to leave the room, you have to inform the accommodation service that you are leaving one month before you go. The rent is also usually higher than regular university accommodation or private housing, and booking fees can be applied. The rooms generally include a fitted kitchen, a bathroom, a desk, a closet and a bed. The student generally has access to communal areas like living rooms, playroom and sometimes a gym.

House or flat sharing:

It is a great way to meet locals or other international students in Lille. You can follow these websites:

www.housinganywhere.com (for more information, see the section 'renting' above)

www.leboncoin.fr (private individuals and/or real-estate agencies, however real-estate agencies rarely offer shared houses)

www.appartager.com (private individuals)

On Facebook: Lille: location d'appart, échange, colocation !

www.lacartedescolocs.fr (private individuals)

fr.chambrealouer.com/colocation/FR-France/lille (room in a local's house)

www.colocater.com (real-estate agencies)

Real-estate agencies can help you find an accommodation as they offer a customized support and have the monopoly on certain houses. They work as a mediator between you and the landlord. You can go directly to the area where you plan to rent a flat and look for a real-estate agency (a lot of them are situated in the city center, subway République) or you can use this website to find locations:

www.pagesjaunes.fr

Warning: You have to be aware that if you rent a private housing in town, you will have to: apply for a housing insurance contract before you settle in the flat (see the section below), potentially pay for the electricity, gas or internet separately from the rent, and if you are staying in the flat on the 1st of January, pay the taxe d'habitation (local tax) which can be pretty expensive (up to 2 times the rent, depending on the size of the flat and other items)

Alternative housing options:

Foreign students can also choose between various options to find a cheap accommodation in exchange for services or social commitment:

Many families from Lille offer a cheap room in their house in exchange for language classes for their children, houseworking or babysitting. You can find ads on usual websites (ex: www.leboncoin.fr) or on the billboard in the hallways of the University.

« Kolocation à projets solidaires » (KAPS) by the AFEV (Association de la Fondation Etudiante pour la Ville):

This project offers students and young workers (18 to 30yo) the opportunity to share a house with others students taking part in the same program for a cheap rent (depending on the location and the house, from 150€ to 330€ per month, + APL). The accommodation is located in a working-class neighborhood and the tenants have to commit to set up and/or participate in a social project in the neighborhood involving the locals (3 to 5 hours per week). The tenants need a guarantor (see below) but foreign guarantors are accepted as long as the documents are translated in French.

Toit + Moi:

This website works as an intermediary between Erasmus+ students in France and older people providing a room in their home. This housing option offers the Erasmus+ students the opportunity to live within a genuine French environment and to rediscover some kind of a family setting even far from home.

As this solution is based on "cohabiting", it is non-profitable, which means that the student will pay no rent but that s/he will participate in the daily costs (150€/month maximum). To apply, the student has to sign in on the website (www.toitplusmoi.eu). The association leading the project is in charge of approving the duos and to certify the members' profiles.

Le Campus Vert:

This website offers the opportunity for students to rent a fully furnished flat (kitchen, private bathroom, furnished room) in a farm close to Lille. This housing options offers the great opportunity for student to live surrounded by nature for a very competitive price. <http://www.campusvert.com/>

Youth houses:

Normally this kind of accommodation is meant to host young workers, but some of them accept a small proportion of international students. The rooms are comfortable but most of the time the kitchen and the bathroom are communal. Moreover, cultural and social events are often organized in this kind of houses.

Résidence Arouet,

81 rue de Jemmapes, 59800 Lille,
03.20.63.16.80,
www.maison-jeunes-lille.asso.fr

This youth house offers monthly contracts for students between 18 and 25 and doesn't require students to have a guarantor. International students and refugees can apply for a room as long as they have a residence permit on the French territory. The rent for a room is about 442€ and the student can apply for the *Aide Personnalisée au Logement* (APL, see section below).

Foyer Béthanie,

15 rue St Genois, 59800 Lille,
03.20.06.08.57,
www.bethanie-lille.com

This house hosts young workers and students (18-30yo) and requires a monthly income of minimum 300€ (salary, money sent by family...). The tenants have to pay a security deposit when they arrive, but they can be helped by the Loca-Pass service (see below). The price for a fully furnished room is about 400€ per month, charges included, + APL.

Maison d'Accueil du Jeune Travailleur,

17 rue de Thumesnil 59000 Lille, 03.20.52.69.75,

and l'Atrium,

60 rue du Faubourg d'Arras 59000 Lille,
03.20.53.66.22
www.majt-lille.org

Both of those youth houses are intended to help young persons in difficulty. Foreign students can apply for a room as long as their residence permits are in order. The price for a furnished room (shared bathroom and kitchen) is 356€, + APL. No guarantor is required.

Foyer de jeunes travailleurs Nazareth,

17 place Cormontaigne
access at 2bis boulevard Montebello), 59000 Lille,
03.20.17.07.17

This youth house is primarily intended for young workers (max 30yo), but they can host up to 10 students. It requires a monthly income of minimum 500€ (salary, money sent by family...) and a guarantee from the parents for the students. It offers furnished studios and the prices range from 340€ to 450€.



What are the necessary steps to manage accommodation in Lille?

In France, everytime you rent a room/flat/house of any kind (private, student hall, etc.), you will be asked to pay for a security deposit, to have a guarantor and to have an insurance contract for the flat/house. Students can also benefit from a financial support by the Caisse d'Allocations Familiales (CAF).

a) The security deposit:

This is an amount of money (generally the equivalent of one rent) the landlord or the real-estate agency will ask you to pay before you settle in the accommodation that compensates the potential damages that could be caused during the person's stay.

According to the French law, the deposit cannot exceed a monthly rent (free of charge) for an empty flat and 2 monthly rents (free of charge) for furnished flats. When the tenant leaves the accommodation, s/he is called for an outgoing inventory of fixtures and if no damage was caused, s/he gets his/her security deposit back. However if damages were caused, the amount of money the tenant will get back depends on how much the landlord will have to spend to repair the damages.

If they are significant, the landlord can reserve the right to keep the whole amount of the deposit. However, any deduction from the deposit must be justified and the tenant has the right to ask the lessor to present proofs of the damage (photos, bills, bailiff's report, etc.). At the end of the contract, the lessor has to pay the security deposit back to the tenant within 2 months or s/he has to pay late payment penalties.

Warning: We have been informed that several students have been abused by shady landlords. If you have any doubt, please contact the incoming office of the University. Therefore, when you sign the lease, you have to be able to pay for twice the monthly rent. For example, if you want to apply for the cheapest room in the CROUS, you will be asked to pay 320€ for the first month (160€ for the first rent + 160€ for the guarantee), and 160€ for the other months.

In case of financial difficulty to pay the security deposit, you can use:

The Loca-Pass guarantee by Action Logement: This service is managed by the same association as the VISALE (see below), but it is an interest-free loan of maximum 500€ aiming at helping the student to pay for the security deposit asked by the landlord at the moment of the lease signature. People who can ask for this loan are:

- * employees of the private sector
- * young people (under 30) in professional training (apprenticeship or professionalisation)
- * employed or employment-seeking young people
- * grant-holding students
- * working students with a 3-month-long contract (minimum)

The Fond de Solidarité pour le Logement (FSL):

This service offers a financial help for people who face a difficult financial situation to pay for accommodation charges (security deposit, insurance, electricity bills, rent, etc.).

Warning: international students are rarely eligible for this service because it requires to have steady incomes but to be in financial difficulty and more importantly, to stay in the accommodation for a great period of time (at least several years). However, in case of great financial difficulty, some mediator associations can facilitate the process (ABEJ Solidarité, GRAAL).

b) The guarantor:

Usually a parent, a friend or a bank who commits to pay for your rent if you cannot pay. As an international student, it may be difficult for you to find a guarantor as most of the time, the landlord or the estate agents expressly ask for a French resident. However, different options exist for you:

The international students in an exchange program at the Université of Lille can apply for a CROUS room, as some of them are especially saved for exchange students, in particular those from non-European countries as they need a proof of accommodation to be granted their visa. In this case, the University becomes automatically their guarantor. However, as stated before, the accommodation capacity of the CROUS student hall is very limited, which means that all applications won't be accepted.

VISALE guarantor by Action Logement:

This is a guarantor service for students and young workers under 30 who sign an individual lease (bail individuel) and whose rent (charges included) doesn't exceed 1300€. The procedure is entirely electronic; the student has to create an account on the website before s/he signs the lease in order to get a visa certifié by Action Logement (the association in charge of this service).

Then, this visa will be used by the landlord as a guarantee.
(<https://www.visale.fr/#!/principe>)

The bank guarantee:

your bank can become your guarantor, in exchange for fees that most of the time are rather high (usually 2% of total of the rents of the covered period. Ex: 500€ monthly rent for 12 months. $500 \times 12 = 6\ 000$. 2% of 6000 = 120€ fees).

Moreover, most banks accept to become your guarantor only if you have enough money to cover your entire stay. For instance, if you need a guarantor for one year (twelve months), the bank will request you to have on your account at least 12x the amount of your monthly rent.

examples of banks that offer this service: Caution Good Loc' du Crédit Agricole, Caution Locative de la Banque Populaire, Société Générale, CIC...

Other options :

Finding an accommodation that doesn't require a guarantor.
For instance: Nemea (private student hall), Chez Nestor is a housing service that offers fully furnished flats in the city center especially for international students.

<http://chez-nestor.com/>

Contact : +33 (0) 972 323 102

Warning: this kind of accommodation services are usually more expensive than the options mentioned above.

If you arrive in France with an important amount of money, you can choose to pay all the rents at once (for instance, if you plan to stay for 6 months, you can pay 6 times the monthly rent at once when you settle). In this case the landlord cannot require a guarantor.

You can contact associations that are specialized in housing support for young people: ABEJ, Eole, GRAAL.

c) The home insurance:

This contract covers the house/flat and what's in it against risks like fire, flood, etc. You will need one on the day you settle in the accommodation as the home insurance is always mandatory. There are plenty of insurance companies that offer this kind of contract (ex: Axa, Maaf, etc.) and they remain quite cheap (the price depends on the size of the flat and the location but is usually doesn't exceed 100€ for the whole year). Many banks also include the home insurance in the account opening process.

d) Financial housing assistance:

The Caisse d'Allocation Familiale (CAF) is a French public service facility that is in charge of distributing the social security benefits and providing financial housing assistance. This financial help depends on the tenant's income, the location of the apartment and the rent. All students are entitled to this help except the non-European students who are only staying for 1 semester with a short-term visa. Foreign students are asked to provide a translated version of a birth certificate issued within the last three months and have to open a French bank account.

Two types of housing assistance can be provided:

Aide Personnalisée au Logement (APL):

Before signing the lease, the tenant needs to ask the landlord if the flat has a contract with the CAF (logement conventionné) because only those apartments are entitled to the APL (most of student apartments are). If it is, you can use the simulator on the CAF website which will give you an estimate of how much you are entitled to.

The application for the APL has to be done entirely online: www.caf.fr

Warning: The request is not retroactive, so you must do it upon your arrival.



Allocation de Logement Social (ALS):

People who don't meet the requirements for the APL can be entitled to the ALS, once again depending on their income. Just like the APL, the application has to be done online on the CAF website.

Warning: The processing time of the applications is often very long (2 to 3 months), so you should apply online as soon as you sign the lease. Also, you must take into account that the first month is taken out of the calculus of your financial help, which means that if you settle in the flat on the 1st of September, you will not receive money for the month of September but only from October on.

Therefore, you have to be able to afford the full amount of the rent, at least during the first months of your stay. Finally, as far as the CROUS rooms and some private apartments are concerned, the financial aid is directly transferred to the lessor, which means that the tenant won't receive any money but that the rent will automatically be cheaper.