INTERNATIONAL ADMISSIONS & STUDY ABROAD

Special Information regarding Rent Subsidy in France

What is CAF?

There is a rent subsidy scheme in France, run by the CAF (Caisse d'Allocations Familiales; http://www.caf.fr/), for which you may be eligible to apply. It is best to apply as soon as possible because the bureaucracy can take some time, however, the subsidy can be backdated once it is approved. It seems that the amount of the subsidy depends upon the location and size of your accommodation, as well as other factors, but it is usually worth about 20-30% of your monthly rent.

Please see below for advice on applying to CAF for the rent subsidy. Students have advised that the best way to apply is online.

Additional Information: Other factors include employment (salary), whether or not you have a partner who will be living with you, or even the amount of your grant (the higher your grant, the less you'll receive).

You will need

To apply for the rent subsidy you will need to know your address in France (including postcode), and you will need a French bank account. You may also need an identity card from your host university and a form signed by your landlord. Previous outgoing Erasmus students from Trinity College have suggested that you bring several photocopies of your passport and plenty of passport photos, as you will often be asked for these when negotiating French bureaucracy.

Additional Information: During the application process and if you're not working, you may also need to declare officially in the way of a letter that you have sufficient funds to support yourself through the year.

Bank account advice

Students have recommended that you open a French bank account immediately when you arrive because sometimes landlords do not wish to lease to you unless you have one. Also, it may be useful to have bank statements or a letter from your home bank saying that you have enough money to support yourself or that a parent/guardian has guaranteed to do so. Be prepared to have to schedule an appointment with a bank in order open a bank account, especially in the cities...
where there are many foreign students. To open a bank account you may need to show your passport, student i.d., and proof of residence (e.g a rent agreement or a letter of offer from your host university).

You will not need
EU students do not need a Carte de séjour, but non-EU students do. Previous students have advised that you do not need a French translation of your birth certificate.

How to apply to CAF

The following is the website of the CAF (Caisse d’Allocations Familiales) which allocates all the rent subsidy funds: http://www.caf.fr/

How to apply online

1. View the CAF website page http://www.caf.fr/

2. At the centre of the page underneath “Les Services en Ligne” click on “les aides au lodgement”

3. You will now enter a new page, under the heading “Vous n’êtes pas allocataire” you need to click on “Le Logement” from here you will be brought to a new page where you can begin your application for rent subsidy.

Please remember that you can only apply for the CAF rent subsidy once you have a French address (including a postcode). Once you have submitted your application form online, you will be given a reference number and asked to print the form off and send any accompanying information to your local CAF office.

Additional Information: If you are eligible for Caf, you will then receive a Code confidentiel (Private Pin number), your Numero D’allocataire (Personal Tenant number) and a number to which you can contact them for future enquiries. You will also need these details to access your online CAF account.

CAF offices in Paris
The following is the link to the contact details of all the CAF offices in Paris: http://www.caf.fr/ma-caf/caf-de-paris/actualites