

1. PURPOSE

Students who wish to study and live in France must comply with French immigration laws. From the day they enter France and until they graduate from AUP, students must obtain and retain legal residency in the country. They must also keep updated residency records online with the Office of Student Immigration Services at all times. This policy outlines guidelines and procedures that help ensure compliance with French law so that students have the legal right to study in France.

2. WHO IS AFFECTED BY THIS POLICY

Students. NON-EU and EU students

3. POLICY STATEMENT

A. NON EU students:

In order to enter France legally to study at AUP, students are required to hold a **passport valid for more than 6 months after their date of arrival** and either a **long-term student visa** (VLS-TS) or a **short-term visa** (for one semester/one year visiting students only) issued by their local French Consulate.

Although some NON-EU citizens are authorized to enter France under tourist status, this does not allow them to study in France. Switching from a tourist status to student status while in France is strictly forbidden.

NON-EU students who hold an **EU country residency card** are **NOT exempted** from applying for a student visa to legally enter France to study.

B. Dual citizenship students (NON EU+ EU)

In order to enter France legally to study at AUP, NON-EU students who have dual citizenship (NON EU+ EU) are required to **ensure their EU passport / national ID is valid at all times while studying at AUP.**

Any NON-EU student whose EU residency expires while in France will be required to apply for the required student visa until their EU passport/ID is renewed.

C. EU and French students

In order to enter France legally to study at AUP, EU and French students are required to **hold a passport or a national ID valid for more than 6 months after their date of arrival/the official semester starting date.**

D. NON-EU Minor students

In order to enter France legally to study at AUP, students are required to **hold a passport valid for more than 6 months after their date of arrival** and either a **“Visa Mineur scolaire”** or a **long-term student visa** delivered by their local French Consulate.

Any student whose legal status in France is invalid (or no longer valid) will be required to return immediately to their country of residence to regularize their situation and legally re-enter France. Students trying to enter/re-enter France under an illegal status will jeopardize their chance to study at AUP with the risk of being blocked and deported back to their country.

Please note that SIS has no visibility on the French Authorities' agenda and that students are required to wait until they are contacted by the French Authorities (~~for the appointments with the OFII, or with the French Consulates abroad~~ or for the (convocations at the *Préfecture de Police* to pick up the new residency permit *Récépissé, Titre de Séjour*).

Please note that SIS has no control regarding how much time the residency permit renewal process takes, and is not authorized to ask the French Authorities to expedite a residency extension request.

E. Travelling: private trips and AUP study trips

Once in France, **NON-EU students** must not travel outside of France without a **valid residency card** (VLS-TS, *Récépissé, Titre de Séjour*).

Before traveling, students must check their residency card expiry date and should **not** book any trip until it is confirmed by SIS (and the Cultural Program Office) that they can travel abroad.

RE-ENTERING FRANCE UNDER AN EXPIRED RESIDENCY CARD IS NOT ALLOWED. IN DOING SO, ONE IS AT RISK OF BEING BLOCKED FROM RE-ENTERING FRANCE AND BEING SENT BACK TO HIS/HER COUNTRY OF ORIGIN.

The French Authorities will **not** speed up the residency procedure because a personal or school trip has been planned!

4. RESPONSIBILITIES

The Student Immigration Coordinator, with the support of the Vice President for Security, Operations and Student Services, is responsible for this policy. The role of the Office of Student Immigration Services is to:

- Inform students on the current legislation and the different administrative rules they must follow
- Help new students apply for their first residency permit (student validation to legalize their stay in France under a student status)
- Help returning students apply for the renewal of their residency card (*VLS-TS, Titre de Séjour, Récépissé*) – Online procedure through the *Préfecture de Police*
- Provide NON-EU Students with the necessary documents if they must re-apply for a new student visa (Campus France, VSF Global, French Consulates abroad)
- Monitor and ensure that all students have a legal right to study at AUP

5. DEFINITIONS

SIS: Office of Student Immigration Services

VLS-TS: Visa Long Séjour valant Titre de Séjour

VSF GLOBAL: Visa Facilitation Services Global

6. APPROVALS & HISTORY

This longstanding policy was reviewed on November 16, 2020 (definitions updated). Next review will take place in November 2023.

7. ISSUING OFFICE AND CONTACT

The Office of Student Immigration Services

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