

## Considering the CAF: Are You Eligible and Is it Worth It?

AUP students, even if they are not French, may be entitled to receive a French housing subsidy called the CAF (*Caisse d'allocations familiales*). To apply, students must provide a French lease with their name on it and must pay rent directly to their landlords (as opposed to parents paying the rent, for example). Check with the Housing Advisors at Orientation regarding the type of contract you sign and whether or not you are eligible to apply for the CAF.

Note that if you are not eligible to apply for the CAF it is probably because you are paying a lower rent and will not be expected to pay rental taxes (*taxe d'habitation*). Students who receive the CAF usually must pay yearly rental taxes equivalent to a little less than one month's rent.

Because CAF benefits are allocated in an arbitrary fashion, AUP students should not count on receiving this allowance when determining their rental budget for the year. Visiting students, who usually do not have French bank accounts and are here for short stays, should not apply for the CAF.

## Applying for the CAF

If you are eligible and do decide to apply for the CAF, the application form can be downloaded from the following site:  
[www.caf.fr/wps/portal/particuliers/formulaires/metropole/al](http://www.caf.fr/wps/portal/particuliers/formulaires/metropole/al)

Before filling in your application, make sure you have the following information:

- exact address of your apartment
- your resources (amount of your grant, amount paid to you by your parents, salaries earned, etc.)
- bank details (*RIB - relevé d'identité bancaire*)
- French Social Security number
- e-mail address

After you fill out the dossier online, you must print it out and send it back to the CAF with the following supporting documents:

- *attestation de loyer*: Must be filled out by your landlord or real estate agency
- *déclaration de ressources*: Stating income earned in France. If you have no earned income in France, you should draw a diagonal line across the form, but be sure to fill in your name, address and date of birth at the top of the form
- income tax return for the previous year if you have earned income in France
- photocopy of your ID card or passport
- photocopy of your visa/residence permit
- RIB. Any subsidies will be deposited directly to your bank account\*
- photocopy of your rent receipts

\*You will most likely want to receive the subsidy directly in your own bank account, so do not fill out the form *demande de versement direct*. This form is a request for the subsidy to be deposited in your landlord's account with the assumption that it would be deducted from your rent.

## CAF Awards

It can take up to two months to receive a reply from the CAF, but if your request is accepted, you will be paid retroactively up to three months, except for the first month's rent. The amount of the monthly subsidy depends on a number of factors: your age, the location and size of your apartment, your previous income, your current income and the amount of rent you pay.

Please contact the Housing Office with any questions about the CAF or for help filling out your CAF form (an appointment will be necessary).

