

REGISTER WITH THE FRENCH SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM* AS AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT OR RESEARCHER

**Are you an international student or researcher at PSL looking
to register with the French Social Security system?**

We hope that this PSL Welcome Desk guide can help!

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**[Social Security](#) refers to the French system of social protections, which is divided into several branches, including the Health Branch.*

NOTES:

The information provided is for reference only and is not contractually binding on PSL University. The information has been compiled from various government websites and based on the PSL Welcome Desk's experience; however, it is subject to change depending on changes to services or other factors. Please feel free to email us at welcomedesk@psl.eu with any questions or comments.

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ACCESS THE FRENCH SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM

The French Social Security system is a collective system, funded by mandatory employer and employee contributions, that aims to ensure that everyone has the means to live decently in France. By registering to Social Security, you become eligible for benefits from various Social Security administrations, including health insurance. International students and researchers are thus opening their rights to health insurance coverage by registering to the Social Security system.

For more information, you can check our guide on the healthcare system in France.



You can contact the French Health Insurance administration by calling **36 46** in French or **09 74 75 36 46** in English.

Obtaining a Social Security Number as an International Student

As an international student, you can apply via this website: etudiant-etrananger.ameli.fr

To do so, you must be enrolled in a French higher education institution and provide the required supporting documents. Once the application has been submitted, you will receive a provisional and then a definitive Social Security number, which you keep for life, with which you will be able to access healthcare coverage and be reimbursed up to 70% of your healthcare costs.

The process of acquiring a Social Security number can take months. As an international student, it is strongly recommended that you register with an international insurance that will cover healthcare expenses for at least the first two months of your stay in France.

Considering the time that it takes to have your application processed, if you are coming to France for a short stay (less than 6 months), we recommend that you purchase private insurance instead.

If you are an international student outside the European Union

As soon as you arrive in France, apply via this website: <https://etudiant-etrananger.ameli.fr>

List of required supporting documents:

- Proof of enrollment for the current school year
- Proof of identity (passport)
- Full copy of birth certificate with apostille, if applicable, translated into French by an official translator
- Residence permit card or validated VLS-TS
- Bank details (RIB)

IMPORTANT

If you are a PhD student enrolled at the University without a doctoral contract, enter "*étudiant sans activité professionnelle*" (student without employment) in the "status" section.



If you are an international European student



If you are an international European student (*EU/EEA or Swiss national), you can apply for the European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) from your home country's Social Security organization before you arrive.

The EHIC enables you to seek medical treatment and claim reimbursement of costs incurred under the same conditions as those registered with the French healthcare system. This means that it is not necessary to have a French Social Security number.

If you plan to stay more than 6 months in France, it is recommended to apply for a Social Security number. You will then need to cancel your health insurance in your home country and order the French equivalent of the EHIC (*CEAM*) once you have your *carte vitale*.

If you are an international student from Monaco, Andorra, or Quebec

If you are from Monaco, Andorra, or Quebec, you may benefit from bilateral agreements between the health insurance systems of those territories and the French health insurance system.

LEARN MORE

[L'Assurance Maladie](#) and [Centre des liaisons européennes et internationales de Sécurité sociale](#)



Obtaining a Social Security Number as an International Researcher

In France, the principle of universal coverage ensures that anyone who works or resides in France on a stable and regular basis is entitled to have their healthcare costs covered throughout their life.

If you are a researcher or a PhD student employed in France

If you are a PhD student or researcher employed in France with a French doctoral contract or another employment contract, you must be enrolled in the French social security system. First, check with your human resources department to see if your employer has submitted the application on the [dedicated platform *Immatriculation des Salariés étrangers*](#). If not, you must apply using the [Cerfa 15763*02 \(S 1106a\) form](#) and mail it to the CPAM along with the required documents.

GOOD TO KNOW

Find the forms explained in English on our web page.

- Registration to French Social Security system (*Cerfa 15763*02 (S 1106a)*)
- Registering a minor children (*Cerfa 14445*)





If you are a PhD student not employed in France and enrolled at the University

If you are a doctoral student not employed in France and enrolled at the University, please refer to the section above titled "How to Obtain a Social Security Number as an International Student" and register via this website: etudiant-etranger.ameli.fr.

You must indicate "*étudiant sans activité professionnelle*" (student without professional activity).

If you hold a "talent-researcher" or "scientist-researcher" residence permit, upload this in lieu of the "student" residence permit when submitting your supporting documents.

If you are a PhD student not employed in France and not enrolled at the University, or a researcher without salary

For nationals of the European Union, the European Economic Area, or Switzerland:

If you are an international researcher from Europe (an EU/EEA or Swiss national), you can apply for the European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) from the social security service in your home country before your arrival. The EHIC allows you to receive medical care and claim reimbursement for expenses incurred under the same conditions as those enrolled in the health insurance system of the country where you are staying. This means that you do not need a Social Security number.

If you are an international researcher from Europe and plan to stay in France for more than 6 months, it is recommended that you apply for a Social Security number in addition to your EHIC, primarily to gain access to simplified reimbursement procedures. We therefore encourage you to follow the procedure below.

For holders of a "talent-researcher" or "scientist-researcher" residence permit:

You can submit your application for health insurance enrollment after 3 months of legal residence in France if you plan to stay for more than 6 months. You will need to fill out the [Cerfa 15763*02 \(S 1106a\) form](#).

SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER AND HEALTH INSURANCE CARD (CARTE VITALE)

Provisional Social Security Number

Once your application has been processed, you will receive a provisional certificate of Social Security enrollment by email (if you submitted your application online) or by mail (if you submitted a paper application).

The provisional Social Security number is used to identify you in the French healthcare service, *Caisse primaire d'assurance maladie* (CPAM). You can immediately claim the reimbursement of your healthcare expenses by the French healthcare system, and you can also register with a complementary healthcare insurance (*Mutuelle*). The only restriction is that you cannot access your Ameli online account and that you must request your reimbursements using the [*feuille de soins*](#), which is a form to fill out with your doctor.

Definitive Social Security Number

This number is made of 15 digits and identifies you to the CPAM, providing you with access to your Ameli online account. Additionally, it allows you to identify yourself to [all the other Social Security institutions](#).

The proof of enrollment in the *Assurance Maladie* system, including your definitive Social Security number, which you keep for life, will be sent to you by mail.

Health Insurance Card (*Carte vitale*)



This card is a personalized document which contains all the information required for the reimbursement of healthcare expenses. When you show your health insurance card to the doctor, your data is identified electronically, so you will no longer need to send the *feuille de soins* forms to be reimbursed.

To order your health insurance card, follow the instructions provided in the letter you received from the CPAM. You can also call the French Health Insurance Administration (**36 46** in French or **09 74 75 36 46** in English) to receive a temporary password that will allow you to log into your Ameli account and order your *Carte Vitale* online.

IMPORTANT

Your *carte vitale* will be sent to you by mail. There is no fee to obtain your health insurance card. Beware of scams: SMS or other messages that ask you to pay to receive your health insurance card are always fraudulent.



FAMILY FOCUS

If you are coming to France with your family (spouse and children), each of you must apply for Social Security coverage.

If you have minor children, you must include [Form Cerfa 14445: "Application to Add Minor Children to One or Both Insured Parents."](#)

A child under the age of 16 must be added to the *Carte Vitale* of at least one of his or her parents. It is possible to add the child to the *Carte Vitale* of both parents. Thus, the parent who takes the child to the appointment and presents their *Carte Vitale* will receive reimbursement for the visit.

When your child turns 16, the *Assurance Maladie* will send a *Carte Vitale* application form directly to your child; however, you can apply for a *Carte Vitale* through your *Ameli* account as early as age 12.

CONTACT THE PSL WELCOME DESK



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