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This is a one-year journey in France Lyon. There are many people who have already shared their experience of school background and courses information. Here I give the information about the administration process and VISA, I separate into two-part, before going to France (in Taiwan) and the process in France.

In Taiwan:

The process is:

1. get the acceptance letter from the exchange school
2. apply for student VIS

You need to keep around two weeks for the application process, and you need your departure time. If you are the student who will stay in France for more than 6 months, you are eligible to apply CAF as the rental reimbursement. Here is the process of apply CAF (for Taiwanese): Apply for a certificate of birth -> apply for the proof of a certificate of birth from the court.

Meanwhile, I would suggest that prepare a copy of your passport, VISA, and personal picture (in the blue or gray background). Regards to the housing issue, you can choose student flats provided by the school. If you want to find your own place, you can go to the Facebook page '台灣里昂同學會' to find more information. Here are some tips, there are still frauds on the internet if you find a flat but the host asks you to pay two or three months deposits, you have to watch out it and reconfirm the information. It is important to get the address information, telephone sim card, bank card, and CAF (if you have) information would send to this address.

In France:

I would suggest you follow the below process:

1. Translate your certificate of birth (Traducteur assermenté près la cour d'appel)
2. Look for your flat
3. Apply for bank account and bank card
4. Apply for telephone sim card
5. (if you stay over 3 months) Apply for OFII
6. Apply for CAF
7. Apply for CAPM (health insurance)

It takes almost one week to translate your certificate of birth. After getting the documents, remember to copy them.

For the bank account, it takes two weeks to one month. The process is as follow: your address -> the certificate of housing (the contract or other proofs) -> apply bank

account (you need a passport, student VISA, acceptance letter, and the certificate of housing). I would suggest you prepare some cash or credit card during this waiting period. Please keep in touch with your bank counselor to make sure everything is in progress.

For the sim card, you need below material: address and bank RIB. It takes also one to two weeks for your sim card. You need to initiate your sim card online after you get it by mail delivery. I would suggest you buy a Europe sim card in advance just for this waiting period.

For the OFII, as for my experience, emlyon would help you apply for it. You need to prepare a passport, student VISA, proof of registration, certificate of birth, and 3 photos. You can also go to the OFII office to apply for OFII.

For the CAF application, you need to go to this website (<http://www.caf.fr/>), apply online and print the application form. Bring the application form, passport, student VISA, proof of housing, OFII, and bank RIB to CAF office and apply for it. You can download the CAF APP for the progress and additional information, the whole process may take 2 to 3 weeks.

For CAPM application, go to the website (<https://etudiant-etranger.ameli.fr/#/>). The France government reimburse 70% of the medical service, you can get the detail information on the official website. You need a passport, student VISA, OFII to apply CAPM. It takes two weeks to one month to apply for CAPM, and you will get CAPM number for temporary use. You can apply for the medical reimbursement according to this CAPM number.

The living expense in Lyon compare to the living expense in Paris is related low. Regards to the food consumption, it cost from 8 euro to 25 euro or up generally. If you go for steak or Michelin restaurant, the cost might be higher. For foreign student here, I would suggest you search for second-hand appliances or other stuff in some specific groups or pages, which can save more money for you. Besides, definitely try Lyon Bouchon which is the traditional food here in Lyon. la vouête chez Léa and chez paul are the restaurants I recommend.



Traditional lyonnaise food

The temperature in winter in Lyon is getting to 0 degrees, I would suggest foreign students here buy a coat with waterproof function which is a good choice for students who travel or party a lot. On the other hand, the temperature in summer is up to 40 degrees, students had better preparing a fan for the summer. I recommend an e-commerce service ASOA, I purchase my clothes on it. There are some discounts randomly that you can use to save money, and one more important thing is, it provides free delivering and returning.

The rental in Lyon is between 300 euro to 600 euro, depends on what kind of area and what kind of house you choose. If you apply for CAF, the support is between 80 to 150, it would be a great support for foreign students. There are some platforms provide rental service, you can search on the website, but be cautious, there are also some frauds on the internet. Once you receive the information that you have to pay deposits or pay one to two months rental fee in advance to keep the house, that might

be a fraud. Besides, there are some fees would be charged such as cleaning fee and introduction fee, if you sign the contract with agencies. Make sure you get enough information and compare different websites for more choices.

The public transportation is relatively expensive in France. It cost at least 45 euro from Lyon to Paris by TGV, sometimes the price would reach up to 90 euro. If your age is under 26, there is a good package called TGV max for you, it cost 79 euro per year and with this package, you can enjoy the cheap ticket and even a free ticket. Lyon's public transportation administration called TCL, it provides metro and bus service. You can choose tickets from option monthly ticket, ten-time ticket, night bus ticket, or single ticket. Some important stations are list below: main station Lyon Part Diur, main bus station Perrache, and main business area Bellecour.

French is extremely important in France. There are some institutions provides lessons or activities to help people learn French. CPU(Coup De Pouce Université) is what I choose to study in. The teachers in CPU are people retired from different industries, you can learn France history, France culture, and daily dialogues here with 85 euro per year, quite a valuable price. It is important that you stay with local people and get deeply into local activities, hence I would recommend international students in Lyon join different organizations to make friends, learn the local culture, and extend horizon.

The activities here in Lyon you must try are ski and paragliding. Annecy is only two hours by car from Lyon and where you can play paragliding and enjoy the beautiful mountain view. Chamonix is the place you must visit if you want to enjoy ski and winter vacation in France, it is only three hours by car from Lyon. There are other interesting activities in Lyon, you just need to walk into the local life to find events such as dance, performance, festivals and so on. I would encourage students to enjoy local life by joining more local activities in France.

It is important to keep your mind opened to everything you meet and face in France. But on the other hand, you have to fight for your rights when you feel that something is ridiculous or something hurts your right. The open-minded attitude and the spirit of fighting for the right things can help you with a better life in France.