Université de Provence, Aix-Marseille
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The University

Université de Provence (Aix-Marseille):

The Université de Provence (Aix-Marseille) is a public institution with a scientific and cultural mission. It was formed in 1969 through a merger of the faculty of arts and letters of Aix-en-Provence and the faculty of sciences of Marseille. From its conception, the Université de Provence has a strong multidisciplinary character, and it is actually made up of three schools. Aix-Marseille1 (University of Provence) covers Arts and Social Sciences. Aix-Marseille 2 (University of the Mediterranean) covers health, sports, and economics. Aix-Marseille 3 (Paul Cézanne University) covers laws and political science. As UCC students you will attend either Aix-Marseille 1 or 3, both located in Aix-en-Provence.

University of Provence (Aix-Marseille 1 or U1)
The University of Provence, located in the heart of Aix-en-Provence, offers a wide range of courses in Arts and Literature, the Human and Social Sciences, and Science and Technology. At present 22,900 students attend, of which 3,300 are international students.

Paul Cézanne University (Aix-Marseille 3 or U3)
The Paul Cézanne University was founded in 1409. Today it is a multi-disciplinary university offering courses in Law, Political Science, Economics, Management, Environment, Science and Technology. At present 23,000 students attend, of which 3,000 are international students.

For more information about University of Provence, Aix-Marseille 1 go to: http://www.up.univ-mrs.fr/

For more information about Paul Cézanne University, Aix-Marseille 3 go to: http://www.univ-cezanne.fr/cgi-bin/WebObjects/SiteAix
International Education Office/International Relations Service

The International Relations Service is responsible for enhancing the internationalization of the University of Provence, administering international programmes and facilitating collaborations. It mainly coordinates international student programmes and provides support services for students enrolled in exchange programmes. The International Education office is there to help students with any enquires or help you may need. If you are in need of any assistance, please contact them.

University of Provence (Aix-Marseille 1 or U1)

Central International Relations Office
29 avenue Robert Schuman
F- 13621 Aix-en-Provence
Tel: +33(0) 442 95 32 00
Fax: +33(0) 442 95 31 42

International Relations Director: Jean-Claude Abric

Erasmus Coordinator: Maire-Hélène Varnier
Tel: +33(0) 442 35 31 88
sribouyn@up.univ-aix.fr

Paul Cézanne University (Aix-Marseille 3 or U3)

Central International Relations Office:
1 allée Bastide des Cyprès
13100 Aix-en-Provence
Tel: +33 (0)4 42 17 14 20
Fax: +33 (0)4 42 21 59 71
Secretariat.sri@univ-cezanne.fr
www.international.univ-cezanne.fr

International Relations Vice-President: Paul Djondang
Head of Administration: Rosalind Boniface
Location

Aix-en-Provence:
Both Aix-Marseille universities are located in the historic town of Aix en Provence. Aix en Provence is located in the south of France, in the Provence-Méditerranée region, in the Bouches du Rhone department. It is at the crossroads of the main trade routes between Spain and Italy.

Today, Aix-en-Provence is a thriving city of about 150,000 inhabitants. It is situated approximately 30km from Marseilles and is a major port with an international airport nearby. Close to numerous sites of unique natural, historical and cultural interest, Aix is a mere two-hour drive from both the Alps and the French Riviera.
Aix en Provence, or Aix, as it is more commonly known, is a city with a vast history, excellent universities and exciting opportunities. According to the Aix-en-Provence Tourism Office, the city was founded in 122 B.C. and was built on the motto, "Town of water, town of art." It strikes the perfect balance between small-town and regional hub, neither too big nor too small.

For an authentic Aixois experience, students can walk down the Cours Mirabeau that runs through the centre of the city and eat at Les Deux Garçons, a famous café visited by Cézanne, Zola, Churchill and Sartre.

Art students will be delighted to study how the city inspired famous artists, including Picasso, Van Gogh, Monet and Granet. However, it is Aix’s native son, Paul Cézanne
whose influence is seen most obviously throughout the city. Students studying in Aix even have the chance to visit his studio.

Architecture enthusiasts will certainly take note of the city's golden stone façades and well-known Provençal architecture. The Gothic-style Cathédrale Saint Sauveur (located just across from the IEP) can be traced back to the 11th, 12th and 13th centuries and was built on the site of an ancient Roman temple. The church of Saint-Jean-de-Malte also displays beautiful Gothic architecture while the Hôtel de Ville was constructed in the classical style. From the mansions of the Mazarin Quarter to the City of Counts, the city's architecture documents Aix en Provence's history.

Aix is also known for its many decorative fountains, originally built to remedy the city's short water supply. Some of the most famous fountains include the Espéluque - the oldest in the city, the fountain of the four dolphins in Mazarin square and the Fountain of Hot Water, which is fed by the thermal waters of the Bagniers and nicknamed "Moussue" for its mossy covering. In addition, students should not miss the impressive Rotunda fountain featuring three statues said to represent Justice, Agriculture and Fine Arts - the main activities of Aix.

While studying in Aix, students must be sure to sample the city's famous sweets, especially calissons, which are made with melon and orange-flavoured almond paste. The city is also known for its olives and wine. Those students in Aix during July will have the opportunity to attend its world-famous music festival, which features a series of operas and concerts as well as recitals by young artists from the European Academy of Music.

Aix en Provence refers to itself as a "living history book," as the city's architecture, art and traditions reflect both past and present. Students will find it a fascinating and enriching study abroad destination.
Accommodation

Student Halls of Residence

Rooms in Halls of Residence are open to all students on exchange programmes.

You should register for a room, before the summer break, through the International Education Office in UCC. With the confirmation of availability of a room in the residence, you will be informed on how to proceed with your reservation.

Remember accommodation fills up fast, and it works on a first-come-first-served basis, so the earlier you apply, the better chance you have of receiving university accommodation.

CROUS is the organisation that governs student accommodation, and the Accueil Etudiants Etrangers CROUS offer a welcome service Monday to Friday, between 9am and 3pm. To avail yourself of this service, please email: acce.marseille@crous-aix-marseille

CROUS description of accommodation:

Single room:
- Around 10 metres squared with wash basin
- Basic furnishings
- Internet in only some of the halls

On every floor:
- Communal showers and toilets
- A kitchen with cooking rings and refrigerator (which can be rented on arrival)

In the communal areas, there is a TV room, a study room, telephone boxes, and internet access.

Monthly rent is €140.15. **Exchange students must pay three months rent on arrival.**

There are four Halls of Residence in Aix, all located within walking distance of the campuses:

**Cité de Cuques**
Traverse de Cuques
13621 Aix-en-Provence Cedex 1
Tel: +33 (0)4 42 93 57 90
Fax: +33 (0)4 42 26 77 98
Cité des Gazelles
Av. Jules Ferry
13621 Aix-en-Provence Cedex 1
Tel: +33 (0)4 42 93 57 70
Fax: +33 (0)4 42 93 57 76

Cité de l’ Arc de Meyran
Av. Gaston Berger
13621 Aix-en-Provence Cedex 1
Tel: +33 (0)4 42 93 64 75
Fax: +33 (0)4 42 27 11 92

Cité l’Estélan
Av. du Maréchal Leclerc
13090 Aix-en-Provence
Tel: +33 (0)4 42 29 60 70
Fax: +33 (0)4 42 20 44 59

*If you have reserved a room in university accommodations, you should try and arrive before 3pm, Monday to Friday, to avail yourself of the welcome service. The receptions in the Halls of Residence close at 6pm.

If you arrive later than this, it is recommended to make a reservation in a nearby hotel.
For a list of accommodation in Aix-en-Provence, see:
http://www.aixenprovencetourism.com/uk/

Private student residences

There are several private student residences which are more comfortable than the university halls, but considerably more expensive (€300-400 per month). Generally as early as August there are no more vacancies, and we advise you to make a reservation in June.

Students may prefer to rent accommodation in the old city centre. Private landlords let rooms, bed sits and flats to students. They are often unfurnished and you will probably have to pay a deposit equivalent to two months’ rent.

Examples of monthly rents:
- A studio apartment or bed-sit in the old town costs around €380 per month
- A one bed roomed apartment ranges from €380 to €460 per month
- A two bed roomed apartment ranges from €460 to €600 per month
- A three bed roomed apartment is over €600 per month

Cost of Living

Cost of living is obviously going to depend on your lifestyle. The amount officially required by the French authorities is around €430 per month, but you are likely to need considerably more than this. Aix-en-Provence is the second most expensive city in France, especially as far as housing is concerned.
All students are advised to open a bank account (you will need to have a French bank account to receive the ALS housing grant), although this is not compulsory for EU nationals. Banks are generally open Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm, and Saturday morning.

Here are some examples of living costs for students and an estimate of an international student’s monthly budget:

- Soft drink costs around €3.50
- A cup of coffee costs about €1.50
- A reduced rate cinema ticket costs about €7
- A meal in a restaurant is between €12 and €20
- A subsidised meal in a university restaurant is €2.75
- A reduced rate return ticket Aix-Paris (TGV 2nd class) is about €50

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rent</th>
<th>Halls of Residence</th>
<th>€140</th>
<th>Private Accommodation</th>
<th>€350</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Food</td>
<td></td>
<td>€250</td>
<td></td>
<td>€250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entertainment</td>
<td></td>
<td>€70</td>
<td></td>
<td>€70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Books</td>
<td></td>
<td>€55</td>
<td></td>
<td>€55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone(without internet)</td>
<td></td>
<td>€55</td>
<td></td>
<td>€55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Transport</td>
<td></td>
<td>€20</td>
<td></td>
<td>€20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Monthly Amount</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>€590</td>
<td></td>
<td>€800</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please note that in the first month there are likely to be many extra expenses, such as health insurance, accommodation deposit, initial expenditures, etc.

**Housing grants (ALS)**

Like their French counterparts, international students may be entitled to a housing grant called ALS (*Allocation de Logement Social*). The maximum amount given for a single student living alone is about €135 per month (the first month is not reimbursed).

The procedure is long and complicated, and you are unlikely to receive any money for several months. However, you will be reimbursed for the previous months if your application is accepted.

As an international student, you will need to have obtained your residence permit and be able to produce a *récépissé* (acknowledgement of receipt).
Transport

How to get there

Plane:
From Cork:
You can fly into Paris (Aer Lingus), and then take a connecting flight to Marseille (1 hour 15 min) or the TGV (high-speed train, 3 hours) to either Marseille or Aix-en-Provence.
Alternatively, you can fly from Cork to London (Aer Lingus and Air Ryan), and then take a connecting flight to Marseille.

From Dublin:
You can fly to Paris or Marseille (Aer Lingus and Ryan Air).

From Shannon:
You can fly into Paris (Ryan Air), and then take a connecting flight to Marseille or the TGV (high-speed train) to either Marseille or Aix-en-Provence.
Alternatively, you can fly from Shannon to London (Aer Lingus and Ryan Air), and then take a connecting flight to Marseille.

If you arrive in Charles de Gaulle Airport Paris:
Take the TGV to Marseille or Aix.

If you arrive at Marseille-Provence airport (formerly Marseille-Marignane):
Either take a taxi, costing around €40, or an airport shuttle. They leave every 30 minutes and costs €9 one way.
In case of late arrivals, students are advised to spend the night in one of the hotels on the airport site. There is a free shuttle bus that will take you to “Nuit d’Hôtel” or “Louisiana Hotel”. Hotel information and reservations can be found at www.voyages-sncf.com

Train:
Try to travel by TGV (high speed trains) as you will save time. Paris-Marseille takes 3 hours; Paris-Aix TGV Arbois takes 2 hours 40 minutes. Consult the website of the Société Nationale des Chemins de Fer (SNCF) at www.sncf.com for information and reservations.
SNCF offers special reductions, such as the under-26 loyalty card, which entitles the holder to a percentage off full price (this depends on times). Check out the website to see if you can avail yourself of any of the special offers.

If you arrive in Aix-en-Provence by TGV:
The TGV station is situated 20kms from Aix-en-Provence. Shuttles leave for the city centre every 30 minutes (15minutes in rush hour) from 5.40am to 11.25pm. The fare is €3.80.

If you arrive in Marseille by TGV:
From Marseilles St Charles train station, you can take a local train to Aix-en-Provence, but these are few and far between and extremely slow. We recommend that you walk 100metres or so down the road to the coach station (gare routière), from which coaches run at frequent intervals, every 5 minutes in rush hour. You are entitled to a 50% student reduction (tariff réduit étudiant) if you have a student card. Buses run from approximately 6.00am to 10.00pm. The bus company of the Bouches du Rhône department is called Cartreize. The fare from Marseille to Aix-en-Provence is approximately €4.10.

**Coach/long-distance bus:**

A number of national and international buses arrive and depart from the Gare Routière in Marseille.

**Transport in Aix-en-Provence**

The historic centre of Aix is quite small. Most places are within walking distance, including the university libraries, residence halls, student restaurants, and sports facilities. It is possible to cycle, but it is dangerous due to a shortage of cycle paths.

There is an excellent bus service in Aix. Tickets cost €7.30 for a book of ten, and the “Aix en Bus” transport network offers a number of travel packages, including:

- **Uno**/one-day ticket with unlimited travel everywhere on the network for one day
- **Monthly Card** for €20
- **Season Ticket** for 12 months at €130

**Car:**

If students intend to bring their own car, they should know that free parking places in the city centre are almost impossible to find, and using multi-storey car-parks or pay-and-display (horodateurs) parking is very expensive. It is easier to park in the residential areas where the residence halls are located.
Admissions Procedures

The Application

The application consists of two documents: the online application form (moveonline) and the study contract.

The application form is to be signed by your teacher and UCC’s ERASMUS officer, accompanied by the study contract (Learning Agreement) before:

- May 30 for an annual stay or 1 semester (mid-September - the end of January)
- 31 October for a stay in 2nd semester (1 February - mid June)

Academics

Academic Calendar

The first semester begins mid September and runs until December. There is a two week break for Christmas, but exams can be either in December or January.

The second semester begins at the end of January/start of February and runs until the exams in June. There is also a two week spring break at the end of March/start of April.

- French National Holidays:
  - All Saints Day: 1st November
  - Armistice Day 1918: 11th November
  - Christmas: 25th December
  - New Years Day: 1st January
  - Easter: varies with the church calendar
  - Labour Day: 1st May
  - Thursday Ascension Day: varies in May
  - Armistice Day 1945: 8th May
  - Whitsuntide: varies in June
  - National Day: 14th July
  - Assumption Day: 15th August
Library Services

There are numerous libraries in Université de Provence’s three colleges. You can enrol in any of the libraries with your student card. At the start of the year, guided tours of the library are organised. All the libraries have card-operated photocopying facilities and internet access. Inter-library loans with other universities in France are also possible.

The libraries for arts and social sciences are located in U1. There you will find the Centre Schuman and Médiathèque de la Maison Méditerranéenne des Sciences de l’Homme (MMSH). The libraries dedicated to Law, Political Science and Economics are located in U3. These include the Section Droit et Economie, Section Sciences et Dirit de Montperrin, Section IAFEE, and Section IAE à Puycarcard.

And for a subscription of €15, students can use the Méjanes Municipal Library situated next to the bus station:

- Bibliothèque Municipale
- Phone: +33 (0)4 42 25 98 88
- 8-10 rue des Allumettes
- 13100 Aix-en-Provence

Faculties and Courses

To look up the different faculties, departments, and courses in the University of Provence, Aix-Marseille 1, please go to:

To find faculty homepages and course descriptions at Paul Cézanne University, Aix-Marseille 3, please go to:
http://www.univ-cezanne.fr/cgi-bin/WebObjects/SiteAix.woa/1/wo/r061QCbgTSiGGygxZfKxOg/15.26

ECTS Credit Transfer System

The ECTS credit transfer system is used principally within the Erasmus exchange programme. ECTS credits are means of measuring the relative workload of a course. One academic year represents 60 ECTS credits, and one semester 30 credits. The system ensures that visiting students have an equivalent workload whatever the university system.

The ECTS system also provides a standardized grading scale which may be translated to the grading system of your country or institution. This is essential for the recognition in the home institution of grades obtained by visiting students in the host institution.
ECTS grading scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ECTS GRADE</th>
<th>Appreciation</th>
<th>French mark</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>15.5 and more</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>Very good</td>
<td>14 to 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>12 to 13.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>Satisfactory</td>
<td>10 to 11.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>Sufficient</td>
<td>8.5 to 9.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Fail</td>
<td>8 and less</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Practical Information

Residence Permit Application

French law requires all foreign nationals to apply for a residence permit within three months of their arrival in France (even if you are an EU citizen).

At the beginning of the academic year, application forms are given to the international students by the International Relations Office, who assists them throughout the application procedure.

Requirements for the residence permit vary from one year to the next, but students are likely to need the following documents for their application:

- photocopy of a valid passport: pages concerning personal information, nationality, date and place of issue
- 4 passport photos (3.5 × 4.5 cms)
- IEP registration certificate (*attestation d’inscription*)
- *Fiche d’état civil* or a certified translation of your birth certificate
- Proof of sufficient financial resources: €5160 minimum for the academic year (certified from your bank and/ or student grant authorities, tax declaration….)
- Proof of adequate health insurance cover (e.g. EHIC/ European Health Insurance Card)
- Proof or residence in France e.g. rent receipt (*quittance de loyer*) in your name or a photocopy of the identity card of the person with whom you are staying.

*It is a good idea to have multiple copies of all these documents.*
Maison Aixoise de l’Etudiant (M.A.D.E)

A visit to the M.A.D.E is a must for all new students arriving in Aix. An *Espace Infos Services Etudiants* is set up at the beginning of each academic year. It runs until the end of October.

Students can open a bank account, obtain a rail or bus pass, and join a student trade union, all in the same place. The *Caisse d’Allocations Familiales* (for ALS applications), France Telecom, EDF (electricity company), and many other organizations are represented in order to inform you and help you settle into your new environment.

Maison Aixoise de l’Etudiant
215, ave Joseph Villevielle

Health and Insurance

EU students should bring a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) obtained from the health insurance services in their home country. If medical expenses are incurred, this will enable the student to be reimbursed by the *Sécurité Sociale* offices. In case of hospitalisation, presentation of this form will exempt students from payment.

Students also have the option of going to the *étudiants internationaux de plus de 28 ans* (The students Social System, which gives cover to students under 28). For an annual fee of around €186, they will cover 70% of medical fees and between 35 to 65% of medicines. In some cases they may even partially cover dental and eye care.

The *Service de Médecine Préventive Interuniversitarie* is the university’s equivalent of a health centre, where students can obtain free appointments with nurses or doctors; however, they are unable to give out prescriptions. For further information, contact:

*Service de Médecine Préventive Interuniversitarie*
Au RU Fenouillères, 2e étage, Avenue Gaston Berger
Tél: 04 42 26 13 57
Fax: 04 42 26 76 12

There are also two student *mutuelles* (Insurance Companies) which provide additional cover. For information and registration contact:

*La Mutuelles des etudiants (LMDE)*
6, rue Esperiat
13100 Aix-en-Provence
Whatever their country of origin, the responsibility is on the student to take out insurance for such risks as accidents, repatriation, damage caused to third parties, etc.

Students in private rented accommodation are required to take out household insurance (available at student rates from LMDE or MEP).

**Student Matters**

The *Bureau de la vie étudiante* (BVE) is the equivalent of our Student’s Union. It is dedicated to student life, welcomes services, information, events, and also works as a liaison between the university and the students themselves.

Association **MOZAIK** is a student society that specifically helps international students integrate into student life.

The Paul Cézanne University offers a **buddy programme**, where you can be matched with French student. To avail yourself of this service, please go to: www.international.univ-cezanne.fr

**SIUAPS** is the organization that governs all sporting activities in the university. There are 50 different team and individual sports played in Université de Provence. To use the sporting facilities or to join in any sporting activities, you must register with the sports office. To register with the sports office, you will need 3 passport photos, a medical certificate to prove your physical fitness, and €3 for an insurance fee.

**SIUAPS**
35 avenue Jules Ferry
Aix-en-Provence
Tel: 04 42 26 66 78
Student Tips

Erasmus is full of excitement and adventure, but also uncertainty and nerves. Although the International Education Office in UCC and the International Relations Service in Marseille will help you as much as possible, nothing can beat the experience of being in your shoes. So here are some tips and tricks from UCC students who have studied in Marseille.

Academic Matters:
- Take the chance to learn new things.
- Try and take some courses that allow you to learn more about French life, culture, history, or literature. You’ll never have quite the same opportunity in Ireland.
- The fact that French is your second language is not taken into account in exams.
- Exam structure is very different, and continuous assessment is limited.
- The library is much smaller than UCC’s Boole library, and all books must be requested from the main desk.
- Most French students generally only study one subject in their degree, not two.
- Keep up with your reading!
- Lectures are generally 2 hours long and run from 8am to 7pm.

Accommodation:
- Accommodation is basic, space is limited, and facilities can be poor. However, it is adequate and has everything a student needs. Plus it’s a great way to meet people, and much time is spent getting to know your neighbours.
- Bed linen is not supplied – a sleeping bag is handy when you arrive, and for travelling.
- Always look through the peephole before answering the door.
- Bring pictures of home to put on the walls.
- Bring a 2-pin plug for your Irish electrical products.

Travel:
- Remember generally the earlier you book the flights, the cheaper they are.
- Some clubs organise really cheap day and overnight trips.
- If you are coming home for Christmas, it is a good time to bring back excess luggage.
- Taxis are very expensive.
- From Aix, it is easy to travel all around France, as well as Europe, especially Italy and Spain. Plus it’s near the Alps for skiing.
- SNCF’s under-26 discount is a good idea if you plan to travel by train.

Bureaucracy:
- Bring multiple photocopies of any documentation you might need.
- Bear with the bureaucracy. It’s probably more than you are used to in Ireland, but the majority of form-filling will be finished by the end of the first month.
- EU citizens do not need a Carte de Séjour.
• Patience is helpful.
• It is a good idea to carry some sort of ID with you at all times.

Social:
• If you intend to join a sports club, it is advised to get a medical cert from your doctor before you leave Ireland.
• The university is a lot smaller than UCC, so it does not have the same variety of clubs and societies.
• Buy local newspapers and magazine, and listen to local TV, radio, and music.
• Immerse yourself in the culture!
• French students have a different manner than Irish students, so do not be offended if they do not come up to you. They may take some time to get to know.
• There is a great international student community.
• For a big night out, Marseille is not far by bus.

General:
• Bring a good French dictionary.
• Unlock your mobile phone before you leave Ireland if you want to put a French SIM card in it.
• Bring some books in English. Although you can buy some English language books in Marseille, they can be expensive, and it is handy to have some for travelling and for when you first arrive.
• Look into phone cards – they are one of the cheapest ways to phone home.
• If you have a laptop and internet access in your accommodation, look into getting Skype or other internet phone packages.
• Set up Internet banking.