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The University

The University of Clermont-Ferrand was founded on 1854.

During the Second World War, the university hosted Clermont students and professors from the University of Strasbourg, fleeing the German occupation. The University was also severely affected. On 25 November 1943, the buildings were surrounded by the Gestapo, with orders to arrest deans, students and those from Alsace-Lorraine, as they all could be related to the resistance. Nearly 50 students and teachers were arrested and Collomp Paul, a professor of the faculty of Literature, was killed by gunshot.

The University of Clermont-Ferrand was divided into two colleges in 1976: Clermont I in Law, Economics and Medical Sciences and Clermont II in Literature, Sciences and Technology.

In 1987, the University Clermont II was named Blaise Pascal University after the mathematician, scientist, and philosopher Blaise Pascal, who was born in Clermont.

The University of Clermont-Ferrand is composed of 10 faculties, institutes and schools:
- The University department of Applied Languages, Business and Communication
- The University department of Literature, Languages and Human Sciences
- The University department of Psychology, Social Sciences and Science of Education
- The University department of Sciences and Physical Education
- The university department of Sciences and Technologies

During the year 2009-2010 the university was attended by 14,400 students, of whom 2,424 are international students.

Plan of the different universities in Clermont-Ferrand:

Université Blaise Pascal
34, avenue Carnot - BP 185
63006 CLERMONT-FERRAND cedex
France

Phone: +33 (0)4 73 40 63 63 (standard)
Fax: +33 (0)4 73 40 64 31
The International Relations Office/International Education Office

The International Relations Department organizes and manages student and teaching staff from programs with partner foreign institutions. It mainly coordinates the outgoing French students and the incoming international students, as well as providing support services for students enrolled in exchange programmes. The International Education Office is there to help students with any enquiries or problems you may have. If you are in need of any assistance, please contact them.

The Office is directed by Stephanie Lamaison and the Erasmus administrator is Caroline Fayolle.

It is open Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9:00 till 11:45 and 13:30 till 16:30. On Friday the office opens from 9:00 till 11:45 and 13:30 till 16:15. It is located on the fourth floor of the Carnot area.

Relations Internationales
Université Blaise Pascal
34 avenue Carnot
63006 CLERMONT-FERRAND cedex 1
Phone: +33 (0)4 73 40 61 37
Fax: +33 (0)4 73 40 61 02
ri@univ-bpclermont.fr
Clermont-Ferrand sits on the plain of Limagne in the Massif Central and is surrounded by a major industrial area. Clermont-Ferrand is also located in the chain of extinct volcanoes which ring the city, including the highest and the most famous dormant volcano, the Puy-de-Dôme, some 13 km away from the city centre.

The city is situated in the quart southeast of France and it is the administrative centre of the Auvergne region and the prefecture of the Puy-de-Dôme department.

With an estimated population of over 420,000 in the greater metropolitan area, it is the 22nd largest city in France. While it is famed for its tire company Michelin created more than 100 years ago in the city, it is also considered Europe's main military space and aeronautics research centre. Clermont-Ferrand is also famous for hosting the world's number one international short-film festival, Festival du Court Metrage de Clermont-Ferrand which takes place in the month of February during one week.

Clermont-Ferrand is one of the oldest cities in France with some tourist attractions. The city witnessed the famous Battle of Gergovia, in which the Gauls led by Vercingetorix triumphed temporarily over the Romans led ultimately by Julius Caesar.

Clermont-Ferrand's most famous public square is Place de Jaude, on which stands a grand statue of Vercingetorix sitting imperiously on a horse and holding a glaive. The inscription reads: J'ai pris les armes pour la liberté de tous (I took up arms for the
This statue was sculpted by Frédéric Bartholdi, who also created the Statue of Liberty.

You can go to Notre-Dame du Port, a Romanesque church built during the 11th and 12th centuries (the bell tower was rebuilt during the 19th century). It was nominated as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1998. You can also visit the Clermont-Ferrand Cathedral (Cathédrale Notre-Dame-de-l'Assomption de Clermont-Ferrand) which is a Gothic cathedral built between the 13th and the 19th centuries. The cathedrals are made with the typical black volcanic stone of the area named "Pierre de Volvic". These are the two most famous churches. You can also see the 48 public fountains.

Eating and Drinking:

You can discover the culinary specialties of the Auvergne’s region like the Truffade which is sort of thick pancake made with shredded potatoes that are first fried, then mixed with thin strips of tomme cheese. Sometimes lardons and garlic are added to the mix.

You can try other dishes of the region which are l’aligot, la patranque, la pansette de Gerzat, le pounti, la potée auvergnate, la falette, le mourtayrol and a dessert named la flognarde, a flan-like with fruit arranged in a buttered dish and covered with a thick flan-like batter.

If you like cheese, you are in a good region! You have to taste La Fourme d’Ambert, Le Bleu d’Auvergne, Le Saint-Nectaire, Le Cantal, Le Salers and some others...

If you want to go to a restaurant you can go to this website: http://www.restaurantsclermont.com/

Go out for a drink!

You can go to Le Café Pascal on the Place de la Victoire; this café next to the cathedral has an international feel. It is lively at night. You can discover:
- L'Appart, 6, place Sugny
- The Still Irish Pub located on 7, Bd Leon Malfreyt
- Les Frères Berthoms or La Perdrix, 14 rue terrasse (below the Place de la Victoire).

You can try Le Rimbaud which is a bar, restaurant, snack, ice cream, Place Louis Aragon (near the Jaude commercial center). They do concerts, happy hours and they have beers, cider and other specialities from Brittany. They are on Facebook (Le Rimbaud), where you can see upcoming events.

If you want to go shopping you can go to the Jaude Area Mall.  
http://www.centre-jaude.com/commerces.asp
Accommodation

University Accommodation

The Cercle des Universitaires run by CROUS (Centre Régional d’ Oeuvres Universitaires et Scolaires) are the halls of residence offered to students in Clermont-Ferrand. They vary from flats to small duplexes.

Blaise Pascal University has 100 rooms at its disposal for international students, in halls of residence. These rooms are small and simple, and perfectly suited to the everyday needs of student life. Each has a single bed, table, chair, cupboard and washbasin. Toilets, showers and a kitchenette are available for communal use on each floor. Sheets and blankets are available. It is forbidden to cook in the rooms themselves. Each hall of residence includes a restaurant or a cafeteria, where meals at very low prices can be found.

Priority for booking and occupation of these 100 rooms is given, following proposal by the International Relations Office alone, to students coming from the most distant places, in the context of SOCRATES and official bilateral University agreements.

Monthly rent amounting to 135 Euros must be paid on 1st September, whatever your date of arrival during the first semester. In addition, a deposit of 140 Euros must be paid on arrival; you must also provide a certificate proving insurance for all risks arising from tenant status (fire, water damage, theft…).

Any request for booking commits you to payment of the monthly rent for the room:

- For a period of 10 months, from 1st September to 30th June, if you intend to follow a study programme for a year
- For a period of 5 months, from 1st September to 31st January, or from 1st February to 30th June, if you intend to follow a study programme for a semester.

The student must read carefully the commitment mentioned in the interior regulation signed with the CROUS and has to conform to it throughout his stay. Students cannot terminate contracts of 10 or 5 months’ duration.

In order to know more information, please do not hesitate to contact Brigitte.MEILLEROUX@univ-bpclermont.fr.

While prices are very competitive, accommodation is basic and sparse in comparison to UCC.

The University will give send your further information about housing and an application form for their accommodation.
Please bear in mind there is an accommodation shortage in Clermont-Ferrand and if you decide to stay in university accommodation please return this form as soon as possible.

For more information go to:
http://www.crous-clermont.fr/Modeles/Affiche_Page.php?id_page=38
http://www.crous-clermont.fr/Modeles/Affiche_Page.php?id_page=77

Private Accommodation

While private accommodation is generally of a higher standard with better facilities, it is much more expensive. Please note rented accommodation in France is usually unfurnished.

Prices range from €250 to 400 depending on location, size, state of repair, etc.

When looking for accommodation in Clermont-Ferrand, please research the areas they are located in and how you will get to and from campus.

There are a number of ways to find accommodation in Clermont-Ferrand. You can use a letting agency – often they specialise in either furnished or unfurnished property. Do not pay the letting agency until they have found you a place and you have signed a contract.

You can look at local newspaper for the rental lists or keep an eye out for buildings with “A louer” (for rent) on them, and phone the landlord directly to set up a viewing.

Whatever way you decide to go about finding accommodation in Clermont-Ferrand, it’s highly recommend to arrive early, as a huge student population will all be trying to find accommodation at the same time.

You can go to these websites too:
http://www.leboncoin.fr/
http://www.appartager.com/
http://www.ouestfrance-immo.com/
http://planeterasmus.net/
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 amount allocated depends on the rent charged and on your personal circumstances. It’s important to know that your rent may be significantly reduced by claiming the housing benefit. To be eligible, you must first have completed all other administrative formalities (residence permit, bank account etc...). Benefits can be claimed only from the second month’s rent onwards. You must complete an application form online at http://www.caf.fr. You also have to provide an official certificate of birth translated in French.

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, and it can save you a lot of money in the long run.

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

All students also have to take an accommodation insurance to insure their flat in case of fire, flooding, theft etc. For more information you can contact "LMDE" or “SMERRA”, which propose attractive policies.

The CAF is open Monday to Friday from 8:30 till 16:00.

Caisse d'Allocations Familiales

2 rue Pélissier
63100 Clermont-Ferrand
Phone : 04 73 14 67 00
Fax : 04 73 42 83 99

Site : www.puydedome.caf.fr
Transport

By plane

Aer Lingus doesn’t fly directly from Dublin to Clermont-Ferrand, Air France does but the fares can be very expensive. You can fly from Dublin to Paris or Lyon and then take a train until Clermont-Ferrand.

Alternatively, you can fly from Dublin to Paris with British Airways and Air France.

You can fly with Ryanair to Dublin to Paris-Beauvais and then proceeding to Clermont-Ferrand by TVG.

By train

The main train station, Gare Clermont-Ferrand, is located about 1 km from the centre of town. Several trains per day go north to Paris (3 hours 30); south to Montpellier (about 6 hours) and to the centre to Limoges and Lyon (3 hours approximately). Buses and taxis leave from in front of the station.

By car

You can reach Clermont-Ferrand by car from north (taking the A71 highway), south (taking the A75 highway). Going to Montpellier by the A75 highway takes 3 hours and 30 minutes approximately.

If possible, avoid driving between 8-10 AM and 4-7 PM, as the beltway is usually overcrowded.

By bus

The bus station is located Place Gambetta - Les Salins.
Phone: 04.73.93.13.61
E-mail: info@gare-routiere-clermont-fd.com

For more information go to:
Getting Around Clermont-Ferrand

Clermont-Ferrand is a city; however, most of the main attractions are located in the town centre. It is not recommended to use cars to get around. It is always a hassle to park and car parks are expensive.

Walking is the most efficient and economic method of transport and most of the town center is a pedestrian area. If you like sports, you can rent roller-skates or bikes.

The bus network is organized around 23 bus services.

For more information go to:
http://www.t2c.fr/plans-des-lignes

1. Tickets can be purchased on the bus and you can change buses with the ticket bought on a bus during 1 hour 10, but that can be expensive. One ticket costs €1.40.

2. A 10-trip ticket will cost €11.40. You can change buses with the ticket during one hour and 10 minutes.

3. You can also buy tickets that will enable you to use the bus network freely for one to seven days - those tickets cost from €4 up to €13.20. You can also take a season ticket for €27.20 per month. This pass is available to all persons under 26. You buy it in T2C vending machines, transport places or in T2C agencies. Before buying your season ticket, you need to have another card named the card ModePass and it is available on this address http://www.t2c.fr/sites/www.t2c.fr/files/PDF/formulaire_abonnement.pdf Complete it and go to a T2C agency. The card costs €6. You have to submit some information, to give a recent photo and you have to give a supporting document (passport, ID...) to prove you are fewer than 26 and a proof of address.

4. You can also take a season ticket for the whole year, to the 1st of September to the 31 of August, which cost €234.

For more information go to:
http://www.t2c.fr/
## Sample Monthly Budget

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accommodation</td>
<td>€140-400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>University accommodation/Private Accommodation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electricity</td>
<td>€0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone bills</td>
<td>€20-60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food</td>
<td>€100-200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transport</td>
<td>€27.20 per month or €234 per year with the bus company of the city</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel</td>
<td>€50-150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Textbooks/Stationery</td>
<td>€10-20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student life</td>
<td>€50-200</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

High speed inter-city train from Nantes to Paris: €30 approximately if you have a 12-25 card which also costs €49 a year. It will cost you €50 or more if you have no card.

It can be a good idea to buy this card at the beginning of your stay if you plan to travel in France.

You can buy ‘Prem’s’ tickets on internet. These are very cheap, but it is a good idea to plan your trip three months in advance. If you are lucky you can also find special deals.

http://www.voyages-sncf.com/
Admissions Procedures

1. Your home university should announce your candidacy by mail to ri@univ-bpclermont.fr
2. After your candidacy has been approved, you will receive a request for registration/application form.
3. The request for registration/application form is to be returned before 1 July.
4. Please consult the information on the University Blaise Pascal’s website for further guidelines.

Academic

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
French Language Classes

The Department of French as a Foreign Languages offers courses on culture and language to international students throughout the term year. 5-hour-weekly classes in French language are offered to foreign students who wish to improve their level and who are enrolled in an Erasmus exchange program for the duration of their studies at Blaise Pascal University. There are extra-classes available at a reduced rate.

For more information, please go to:
http://www.univ-bpclermont.fr/rubrique105.html

Technology Assisted Learning

The University Blaise Pascal is committed to using the most advanced technology available across campus. The university is trying to build a digital network that will connect all aspects of the college online to support teaching, learning, and administration.

Through the student portal, you can access your student email and administration, the library catalogue, and e-resources such as Blackboard.

The University Blaise Pascal has his own newspapers.

Since 2006, WiFi was installed in all the college campuses.

Library and Research Facilities

There is specialist libraries located throughout the campus organised by the subject or department they represent.

At the campus, the following libraries are located:

- Library of Human Arts and Sciences
- Library of Law and Economics
- Library of Sciences and Sports
- Library of Health
- Library of the University of Technology
- Library of French School of Education
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)
- Bordeaux 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 of 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.

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 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.

In the Student Health Centre (SSC), you can avail of free consultations with GPs, without appointment; with an appointment you can see specialist physicians (gynaecologists, dermatologists etc). Family planning services and a counselling service are also available.

The Service Inter-University of Preventive Medicine and Health Promotion (SIUMPPS), offers free medical check ups, an immunisation service, a fitness certificate, and consultations with psychologists. All care, immunizations, testing, and medical consultations are free upon presentation of the card.
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.

Organisations called *mutuelles* offer students all types of insurance at cut rate prices. There are numerous different *mutuelles*. For more information on the individual services they offer, simply search for “Clermont-Ferrand *mutuelles*” in any search engine.
**Student Matters**

**Student Societies**

There are numerous student societies in college. They are a great way to meet new people, indulge a hobby, or learn a new skill. The societies at Blaise Pascal vary hugely and cover areas such as language, culture, music, art, and humanitarian aid. To see a full list of the student societies and to get more information, please go to:

http://www.univ-bpclermont.fr/rubrique40.html

**Sports**

Blaise Pascal is fully equipped for most sports with a state-of-the-art gym, swimming pool, sports fields, track, and tennis courts.

In fact, students are able to incorporate sports into their curriculum, and can be awarded points to their overall average per term for attendance, participation, knowledge of the sport, progress, and performance.

Students can choose from activities supervised by instructors including: athletics, badminton, basketball, dance, football, handball, kayaking, bodybuilding, swimming, rugby, skiing, and volleyball.

The University also welcomes any international students who would like to try out for any of the sports teams.

The SUAPS organizes some cheap sportive week-ends such as walking in the chain of extinct volcanoes or in the mounts of the Cantal for example.

To get more information please go to:
http://www.univ-bpclermont.fr/siuaps/

S.U.A.P.S de Clermont-Ferrand  
15 bis rue Poncillon - 63000 Clermont-Ferrand  
Phone: 04.73.29.32.01 - Fax. : 04.73.29.32.09  
E-Mail: Marc.DUPONT@univ-bpclermont.fr

**Student’s Associations/Associations Etudiantes**

The Service Universite Culture offers a lot of cultural activities for all the students which are:

- Music  
- Acting  
- Dancing  
- Cinema and video with the association Cinefac and a film is showing every Tuesday  
- Writing
- Plastic Arts

There is about thirty students associations in the University Blaise Pascal. Lectures and events are organised all year.

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 Department in Clermont-Ferrand 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 Clermont-Ferrand.

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.
- Before beginning your courses, talk to the instructors. It may be recommended for you to take higher or lower courses.
- There are many libraries on campus: one main library and each subject has its own smaller departmental library.
- Most French students generally only study one subject in their degree, not two.
- Keep up with your reading!

Accommodation:
- Accommodation is basic, space is limited, and facilities are 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- security in the university halls can be lax, and you are responsible for your own personal safety.
- There is an accommodation shortage.
- 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 Clermont-Ferrand, it is easy to travel all around France, as well as Europe, especially Switzerland and Italy. Plus it’s near the Massif Central for skiing.

- SNCF’s under-26 discount is a good idea if you plan to travel by train. It will give you discounts up to 50%.
- Consider buying monthly or even yearly tickets for the trams, bus, etc. They will ultimately save you money.

**Bureaucracy:**
- Bring multiple photocopies of any documentation you might need, including many copies of passport photos.
- 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 off your doctor before you leave Ireland.
- Join a student society.
- Buy local news papers and magazine, and listen to local TV, radio, and music.
- Immerse yourself in the culture!
- French students have a different manner than Irish students. Do not be offended if they do not come up to you – it may take some time to get to know them.
- There is a great international student community.

**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.
- Brings some books in English. Although you can buy some English language books in France, 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.