Université de Montpellier I
# Table of Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The University</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Affairs Office</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Useful Contacts</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accommodation</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic Calendar</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Life</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Health</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sport</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transport</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Getting There</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Getting Around</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Tips</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The University

The University of Montpellier 1 (Université de Montpellier 1) is a French university, in the Academy of Montpellier. It is one of the three successor universities to the University of Montpellier. The University of Montpellier is one of the oldest in the World, 1160, having been granted a charter in 1220 by Cardinal Conrad von Urach and confirmed by Pope Nicholas IV in 1289. It was suppressed during the French Revolution but was re-established in 1896.

There are 26 300 students in distributed in 7 UFRs and 2 institutes. Montpellier I also counts 950 academics.

Présidence:

The Présidence (headquarters of the University) is where you will find most administrative departments. The current President of Montpellier I is Philippe Augé.

Présidence de l’Université Montpellier 1
5, boulevard Henri IV
CS 19044
34967 Montpellier Cedex 2
Tél : +33 (0)4 67 41 74 58
Fax : +33 (0)4 67 41 74 56
Located on the Méditerranéen coast in the Languedoc-Roussillon region, Montpellier is the 8th biggest city of the country, and is also the fastest growing city in France over the past 25 years. The city of Montpellier has an estimated population of 265,000. The population of the metropolitan area is an estimate 533,000.

There are many sites throughout the city which are worth seeing: the Place de la Comédie, main focus point of the city; the historic centre; the Jardin des plantes de Montpellier – oldest botanical garden in France; the fourteenth century Saint Pierre Cathedral; rue Foch with its typical 19th century architecture and many others.

Montpellier also has many museums: the Musée Fabre; Musée d’anatomie; Musée du Vieux Montpellier; Museum of pharmacy etc.
International Affairs Office

Useful Contacts:

Service des relations internationales
Services centraux
Espace Richter
Rue Vendémiaire
Bâtiment E
CS 29555
34961 Montpellier
Cedex 2
Tél: +33(0) 4 67 82 12 56
Fax: +33(0) 4 67 82 12 58

Accommodation

The general demand for flats/apartments to rent in the Consular Region is very high. It is therefore advisable to begin looking for accommodation to rent several months in advance, and if possible, to come and spend several days in the city you wish to live in, in order to have a better chance to find something.

The Accommodation Office

The main housing body is CROUS, which helps students find local housing. It also aims to help students from all walks of life by providing advice and financial help. Along with housing services, CROUS helps students find jobs and provides inexpensive dining options.

166 Rue de Messidor
34000 Montpellier, France
04 67 64 81

OR

119 Rue du Faubourg Boutonnet
34000 Montpellier, France
04 67 61 12 87
Private Student Residences

Accommodation is classified depending on the number of rooms in addition to kitchen and bathroom: T1, T2, T3, etc., also called F1, F2, F3, etc. Standard abbreviations in classified ads are:

- 2 PCB: "2 pièces, cuisine, salle de bain" (2 rooms, kitchen, bathroom)
- 6 Pc: "6 pièces" (6 rooms)
- rdc: "rez-de-chaussée" (ground floor)
- sdb: "salle de bain" (bathroom)
- chauf cent: "chauffage central" (central heating)
- chauf elec: "chauffage électrique" (electric heating)
- chges ou ch: "charges" (maintenance costs)
- kitch: "kitchenette"
- balc: "balcon" (balcony)
- ascen: "ascenseur" (lift)
- part: "particulier" (private individual)

To be connected to gas or electricity, call EDF/GDF on 0810 31 14 97 or contact them by internet www.edf.fr.

In most cases, you will need a guarantor ("garant" or "caution solidaire"), i.e. a resident of the EU with a monthly income equal or higher than three times the amount of your rent, answerable in particular for unpaid rent. Your parents or a guardian are probably the best choice. In addition, you will have to pay a deposit ("caution" or "dépôt de garantie") of at least one month rent which will be returned at your departure provided no damage has been caused.

An inventory ("état des lieux") must be established on the first day and last day of occupation. Everything that is not in good condition must be mentioned as the total refund of your deposit depends on it.

You have a few options to choose from while looking for housing in Montpellier.

Housing Grants

You may be eligible for French government grants which will help with the cost of housing. The state-subsidized "Caisse d'Allocation Familiale" (CAF) provides rent rebates for all students, regardless of their nationality or income, if their residency permit lasts more than four months. The CAF can reimburse students up to half the rent of your apartment. These rebates are called APL (Aide Personnalisée au Logement) or ALS (Allocation au Logement à caractère Social).
Learn more about the CAF here:
http://www.caf.fr/wps/portal/etudiants/jeuneschercheurs/candidatures

And read about other aid and allowances here: http://www.sciences-po.fr/formation/inscriptions/logement_anglais/financement.html

**Lease and Insurance**
The lease ("bail") is compulsory and regulated when you rent an empty flat. It is usually signed for one year and can be renewed, but if you want to leave you have to send a notice (préavis) to your landlord or estate agency one to three months (according to the lease) before departure.

It is compulsory to subscribe a housing insurance valid from the first day of rental, to cover possible damages such as fire or flooding.

**Academic**

**Academic Calendar**

Consists of two semesters:
- The first semester generally starts in September-October and ends in December-January.
- The second semester generally starts in January-February and ends in April-May.

The university holidays are quite similar to those of primary and secondary school. There are generally five holiday periods per year:

- Vacances de la Toussaint: they can range from one to two weeks, in October-November; generally, they are not granted to university students;
- Vacances de Noël: a two-week holiday at the end of the year, involving both Christmas and New Year's Day;
- Vacances d'hiver: a two-week holiday in February-March; generally, university students only have a one-week holiday;
- Vacances de Pâques: a two-week holiday, generally in April;
- Grandes vacances or vacances d'été: as for primary and secondary school, they last two months in July and August; on the contrary, university students often have three or four months of holiday.

However, the university calendar depends on the Académie (regional educational unit), on the institution itself, on the education status (for example, post-graduate students have longer vacances d'été in order to allow them to intern at companies) and even on the curriculum! Thus, make sure to take a look at the current calendar of the University of Rennes 1.
**Student Life**

**Student Health**

Get an E11 card or European Health Insurance Card. It will allow you to have reduced prices on medical spendings.

The University of Rennes 1 encourages its students to be fully aware of their health and gives them all necessary means to preserve it through a dedicated department, the *SUMMPS*.

All students can request a medical examination at any time throughout their curriculum, for example in order to obtain a *certificat médical* (certificate of fitness to practice sport).

In addition to medical examinations, students can also request specific consultations:

- Contraception;
- Dietetics;
- Smoking cessation.

Students can ask the *SUMMPS* for all prescribed vaccinations and nursing services: dressings, injections, blood pressure measurement, etc.

Beginning one's education in another country represents a major step. To help you cope with your new challenges, a team made of a psychiatrist and several psychologists is available to counsel all students of the University.

**Sport**

Located in the very centre of the Campus, the “Service universitaire des activités physiques et sportives (SUAPS)” offers a great range of activities both for leisure or competition. Every student can sign up for it.

**Student Life**

The Bureau de la Vie Etudiante (BVE)’s aim is to participate in the management of the University, support and organise numerous events and actions. It also puts up posters around the university to inform students of current events.

offers students material useful to the organization of events: sound equipment, video-projector, desks etc.
Transport

Getting There

Plane
- Cork-London Stansted-Montpellier
- Cork-London Stansted-Carcassonne, then train (TGV) to Montpellier
- Cork-Paris, then train (TGV) to Montpellier
- Plane to Marseille the TGV to Montpellier
- Plane to Toulouse the TGV to Montpellier

Do not forget that the baggage allowance is much smaller with Ryan Air than Aer Lingus!

Getting Around

There are buses, tramways and bicycles rent out at your convenience for short periods of time around the city.

Student Tips

Erasmus is full of excitement and adventure, but also uncertainty and nerves. Although the International Education Office in UCC and the International Office in Montpellier 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 Montpellier.

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.
- Exam structure is very different; continuous assessment is limited.
- Most French students generally only study one subject in their degree, not two.
- Keep up with your reading!

Accommodation:
- Accommodation in Montpellier can be very difficult to find.
- 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 adaptor for any 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 can be very expensive.
- SNCF’s “12-25” discount is a good idea if you plan to travel by train.
- Beware of scammers organizing trips for international students as a way to steal deposit money. Make sure all events are school-sanctioned.

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.
- Translated birth certificate

Social:
- If you intend to join a sports club, it is advised to get a medical cert off your doctor before you leave Ireland.
- 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. 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.
- Get the E11 Card.

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 Montpellier, 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.