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The University

In Rennes, the University is split into three major campuses with all facilities. It also has several departments outside of Rennes, in Brittany. The University currently welcomes about 22,000 students (including about 2,000 from abroad), plus more than 2,000 in continuing education, all surrounded by 1,600 teachers and full-time researchers and about 950 administrative and technical staff.

The University of Rennes 1 has been in existence since 1969, but its heritage stems back to the days of the Breton university founded in 1461 by the Duke of Brittany, François II, in Nantes. Over the centuries, the university moved to Rennes, with Nantes keeping some university departments. The official separation between Rennes and Nantes came in 1962, therefore creating the University of Nantes and the University of Rennes. The 1968 reform of higher education in France led to the creation of three new universities from the former University of Rennes: Universités of Rennes 1, Rennes 2 (Université de Haute-Bretagne, University of Upper Brittany) and Brest (Université de Bretagne Occidentale, University of Western Brittany).

More recently, in 1995, a new university was created in Lorient/Vannes: the Université de Bretagne Sud (University of Southern Brittany).

In Rennes, the University is mostly spread on four locations.

Présidence

Located in the town-centre, the Présidence (headquarters of the University) is where you will find most administrative departments.

2 rue du Thabor - CS 46510
35065 Rennes Cedex - France
Tel: +33 (0)2 23 23 36 36
Fax: +33 (0)2 23 23 36 00

Beaulieu campus

There are five research and training departments on the Beaulieu campus:

- UFR Mathématiques (Mathematics);
- UFR Sciences de la Vie et de l'Environnement (Biology);
- UFR Structures et Propriétés de la Matière (Structure and properties of the matter);
- UFR de Philosophie (Philosophy);
- IFSIC (Computer Science).
The general address of the campus is:

263 avenue du Général Leclerc - CS 74205
35042 Rennes Cedex - FRANCE
Tel: +33 (0)2 23 23 35 35
Fax: +33 (0)2 23 23 36 00

The IUT de Rennes is also on the Beaulieu campus

3 rue du Clos Courtel - BP 90422
35704 Rennes Cedex 7 - FRANCE
Tel: +33 (0)2 23 23 40 00
Fax: +33 (0)2 23 23 40 01

**Villejean campus**

There are three research and training departments on the Villejean campus:

- Faculté de Médecine (Medicine);
- Faculté d'Odontologie (Dentistry);
- Faculté de Pharmacie (Pharmacy);

The campus is at the West of the.

2 avenue du Professeur Léon Bernard - CS 34317
35065 Rennes Cedex - FRANCE
Tel: +33 (0)2 23 23 35 35
Fax: +33 (0)2 23 23 36 00

**Campus Centre**

As its name suggests, the Campus Centre is in the town-centre of Rennes. It comprises four research and training departments and institutes:

- Faculté de Droit et de Science politique (Law and Politics)
- Faculté des Sciences économiques (Economics);
- Institut de Gestion de Rennes (IGR-IAE) (Institute of Business Administration);
- Institut de Préparation à l'Administration Générale (IPAG) (Institute of Public Administration).
Location

The site of Rennes was first settled by a Celtic group called Armoricans, who named the city Condate. The Museum of Rennes has a large collection of coins and artefacts left by these people and discovered in the 19th and 20th centuries. The region was taken over by the Romans around 50 AD, and became the last western stronghold of the Roman Empire.

The region came to be known as Brittany, with the Breton people hoping to preserve its independence from France. Brittany became part of France when Duchess Anne of Brittany married King Charles VIII in 1492. The city began to expand southward with the completion of the Gare de Rennes in 1857. During World War II, however, parts of the city were destroyed when a German bomb hit a parked ammunition train, and later by successive Allied bombs dropped while trying to free the city from German forces. Rennes was freed on August 4, 1944, by General Patton. In the 1950s, the city began a development project which led to Rennes becoming the third fastest-growing city in France. The population of Rennes is now around 300,000, with a student population of around 60,000, giving the city a youthful and dynamic atmosphere. Rennes is twinned with Cork, a partnership created in 1982.

Today Rennes is known as one of the best places to live among France's biggest cities. It is located about two hours from Paris, London and Brussels, and only 40 minutes from the Atlantic coast. Plus, Mont Saint Michel, one of France’s most popular attractions, is nearby. As the first Healthy City, it now manages the network set up by the World Health Organization. The city also boasts a vast pedestrian area full of shops and offers plenty of leisure, sport and art activities.
Rennes is a renowned patron of the arts, and it hosts several acclaimed festivals. The city also has four museums:

- Musée des Beaux Arts (Art Gallery)
- Musée de Bretagne (Museum of Brittany) at the Champs Libres, together with le ‘espace of sciences’ and a planetarium
- Museum of Farming and Rennes Countryside at la Bintinais, south of Rennes
- Musée des Transmissions (Museum of Broadcasting) at Cesson-Sévigné, west of Rennes center

There is also a growing movement to revive the Breton language. In 2007, 2.8% of Rennes’ children attended the bilingual schools in primary education. The municipality launched a linguistic plan through Ya d'ar brezhoneg in January 2008.

**International Affairs Office**

Student mobility is quite important at Rennes 1. Each year, the University welcomes 2,000 students, including 300 students welcomed within the framework of an exchange program, and more than 800 students of the University go abroad, whether to study (350) or to intern (450).

Several initiatives aim at improving the conditions and quality of mobility:

- a better acknowledgement of study periods achieved abroad, through the use of credits;
- easy procedures and friendly reception of foreign students welcomed within the framework of an exchange program;

The University of Rennes 1 provides its current and future foreign students with this office to help them with the following issues:

- arrival in Rennes (welcoming day for all students, tailor-made welcome by a tutor);
- formalities to be undertaken when arriving (resident card request, formalities related to your health, opening of a bank account);
- budget management (assessing your budget before coming, opening a bank account when in France, social welfare issues);
- accommodation (accommodating in a résidence universitaire or looking for a flat in the private sector);
- eating (restaurants universitaires on campus, other restaurants downtown);
- health (social security, mutual insurance companies, attending physician, mandatory inoculations);
- life in Rennes (public transport, shops, places of worship, cultural and sports activities).
Useful Contacts

Mr François Michel
Director of the International Affairs department and manager of the Socrates program
Tel: 33 (0)2 23 23 36 71
Email: francois.michel@univ-rennes1.fr

Ms Catherine Réminiac
Deputy director of the International Affairs department
Tel: 33 (0)2 23 23 39 52
Email: catherine.reminiac@univ-rennes1.fr

Ms Gaëlle Lancelin
In charge of all issues related to Europe
Tel: 33 (0)2 23 23 36 01
Email: sai-europe@univ-rennes1.fr

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.

The student welfare office:
CROUS (Centre Régional des Oeuvres Universitaires et Scolaires)
7 place Hoche CS26428 35064 Rennes
Cedex Tel: 02.99.84.31.31
Minitel: 3615 CROUS

http://www.crous-rennes.fr/

There are several CROUS restaurants in the area:
- EREVE, bâtiment EREVE campus Villejean
- Villejean 1 "Le Glazik"
  avenue Bataille Flandres Dunkerque
  Tél. 02 99 59 17 82
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 Rennes.

The Private Advertisements: the owner lets his flat without using an estate agent

- Ouest-France (covers the whole area) website address: www.ouestfrance-immo.com
- Télégramme de Brest (departments 29, 22, 56)
- Presse-Océan (departments 44, 85)
Estate Agency Advertisements: the owner uses an estate agency to let his accommodation

- Consult the previously given list of websites and newspapers
- www.fnaim.fr (National Federation of Real Estate Agents)
- Agence ESPACIL – Real Estate Agency (they have a welcome service for Foreigners)
  
  Rue du Scorff – CS 54221 Rennes Cedex
  TEL: 02 99 27 20 00

Privately-Owned Accommodations: studios and 1-2 bedroom flats, no furniture

- Les Estudines
  23, rue de Châtillon, 35000 Rennes
  TEL: 02 99 51 54 95

- Top Campus
  13, rue Doyen Denis Leroy, 35000 Rennes
  TEL: 02 99 23 15 88

- Le Saint-Grégoire
  24-28, rue Baron Rault, 35760 Saint-Grégoire
  TEL: 02 23 20 54 24

- Domus Service
  1, rue de la Tremblais, 35170 Bruz
  TEL: 02 99 83 97 84

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 or 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.

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**Academics**

The standard French university 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, most 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.
Libraries

The libraries of the Community Information Service of Rennes 1 are open to all. Anyone may have free access to all paper collections in situ.

However, you will need to get registered annually in order to be able to consult the electronic resources of Rennes 1. The registration gives you access to the whole network and is free of charge for the students and staff both of Rennes 1 and Rennes 2.

During the week most libraries on campus open from 9:00 – 19:00, closing at 17:30 on Saturdays. Libraries do not open on Sundays.

Computer Facilities

The University offers a number of computing facilities on all campuses, a large part of which are freely available to students. Those facilities give them access to the University network as well as to the Internet.

From public workstations, students will be able to access their personal data storage space, their email account and every other digital service provided by the University. They will also be able to use the software installed, which involves standard office applications as well as specialized software (multimedia, graphics, statistics, development, etc.).

In addition, the WiFi network available on most campuses will allow members and visitors with laptops to access the University network and the Internet.

Since January 2005, the University of Rennes 1 provides its students and staff with a Digital Workspace (in French, ENT or « portail ») allowing them to access individualized information and services at any time, from any place, only with an Internet connection and a web browser.

The Digital Workspace offers many services:

- news about the current and upcoming events, whether academic, scientific, community, cultural, related to sports, etc.;
- access to administrative information for students:
  - back-to-school calendar,
  - personal timetable,
  - assessment information: regulations, calendar, results and grades,
  - online enrollment at University;
- access to teaching services:
  - submission of practical work,
  - access to e-learning modules;
- access to library resources and services:
  - access to online library resources and/or information retrieval,
- multi-metadata OAI-compatible repository of digital resources with its harvester;

- online access to existing computing services:
  - management (reading/sending/sorting) of your emails,
  - access to your own document storage space;

- additional services provided through the Digital Workspace:
  - access to your personal file,
  - access to the intranet,
  - online calendar, whether personal or shared,
  - access to shared document storage spaces, allowing, for example, a teacher and his/her students to share documents, whatever their geographical situation,
  - bookmarks,
  - access to online software

To access your Digital Workspace, you need:

- an Internet connection;
- a web browser;
- a Sésame user account. Every student and staff of the University of Rennes 1 is automatically granted a Sésame user account. To be able to use it, first you need to activate it.


**Student Life**

**Student Health**

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 SIMMPS.

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 SIMMPS 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.

A partnership between the University of Rennes 1 and the specialized center Guillaume Régnier allows the students to have a place where people let them talk and listen to them.

**Sport**

The students and staff of the University are offered a vast range of sports and arts activities, whether indoor or outdoor. They include more than 30 disciplines of various kinds:

- teams sports: basket-ball, football (soccer), futsal (indoor soccer), handball, volleyball, rugby football.
- racket sports: badminton, table tennis, tennis,
- combat sports: boxing, French boxing, aikido, judo, self-defense,
- physical training: muscular training, fitness competition, tai chi chuan, aiki-taiso, stretching, maintenance exercises,
- dance: contemporary, jazz, hip hop, rock'n'roll, lindy hop, salsa,
- swimming-pool sports: swimming, underwater diving, apnea diving, lifeguarding,
- outdoors activities: climbing, golf, cycling, track and field athletics, rowing, canoeing, sailing,

A wide variety of sporting facilities are available on and off campus to allow students and staff to easily take part in the sporting activities of their choice.

**Transport**

**Getting There**

**From Cork:**
Some flights are available on Aer Lingus to the Rennes airport, but these only fly on certain days and only during the summer. Aer Lingus flies directly to Charles De Gaulle International Airport Paris.

**From Dublin:**
Some flights are available on Aer Lingus and Air France fly directly to Charles De Gaulle International Airport, while Ryanair flies to Beauvais Airport, about an hour outside Paris.

**From Shannon:**
Ryan Air flies to Beauvais Airport, about an hour outside Paris.
Another option is to fly with Ryanair from London Stansted to Dinard/Pleurtuit/Saint-Malo Airport, which is about an hour from Rennes.

The easiest way to reach campus from Paris is to take the TGV. Depart from Gare Montparnasse. There are TGVs almost every 30 minutes and the ride is just over two hours long. If you get SNCF’s under-26 discount card, you can save up to 50% on most train trips.

Rennes airport is less than 5km from the city centre, and bus No 57 links it with the city.

Getting Around

By Bus
Rennes has a very good public transport system, called Star. If you're planning to buy a pass (weekly or longer), you'll need to go to one of the two agencies Place de la Republique and Place de la Mairie to get a "Korrigo" card. Don't forget a picture which they will scan. It is a free electronic card on which your pass will be saved. Once you have it, just reload it anywhere tickets are sold. Daily tickets can be bought for €3 a day, and are valid on both the bus and metro. Star claims that its network has the cheapest prices in France, with a single ticket (valid for an hour after validation for unlimited connections) costing €1.20.

Rennes offers more than 50 different bus routes and a metro, with 1 bus every 5 minutes for the metro and main bus lines at the peak hours. The hub of the network is at Republique, which feeds most of the 50 different routes. This bus and metro network connects all parts of Rennes, and so you're never far from a bus stop. All the bus stops conveniently have a map (une carte) of Rennes with all the lines on, and a timetable for the routes it provides, so there isn't much chance of getting lost.

The metro, called the VAL, has only one line with 15 stops and measures 8.57km. It runs from one edge to the other in 16 minutes. It connects the main train station to the centre-ville, Villejean university, the hospital, the town hall and more. It runs from 0525 to 0030, as do the five main bus lines.

Illenoo is a public bus service of the Conseil général d'Ille & Vilaine (Département level). It allows people to travel within the département (and a little bit outside) on 18 lines for a good price. For example, Rennes - St Malo is €4.80 return for students under 26.

By bike
Rennes offers very good options for cyclists. With plenty of cycle lanes, the town has plenty of cyclists. For residents of the town, bikes can be borrowed free of charge from the mayor's office. These bikes aren't particularly good, but they work and have gears, so it’s worth checking them out. If you're after a pleasant cycling trip, check out the canal route. This is flat, and therefore not very hazardous.

Shops

Generally most shops open from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., from Monday to Saturday. Supermarkets open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., from Monday to Saturday. They are located in the suburbs.
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 Rennes 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 Rennes.

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 Rennes 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 under-26 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.

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 magazines, 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 Rennes, 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.