



Université
Catholique
de Lille 1875



Welcome Guide



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Edito

Welcome to Lille, welcome home.

Choosing to study at the *Université Catholique de Lille* is much more than just a geographical move: it marks the start of a personal, cultural and academic adventure. Whether you're arriving from the other side of the world or a neighboring country, today you're taking an important step on your journey, one filled with discoveries, challenges and new encounters.

The *Université Catholique de Lille* is not only a place to study, but also a vibrant environment for living, engaging and opening up to others. Here, you will meet students from diverse backgrounds, each contributing their own cultures, ideas and ambitions. This diversity is a true strength: it encourages dialogue, expands horizons and makes your experience here genuinely unique.

Lille is a warm and vibrant city, renowned for its hospitality and friendly atmosphere. With its rich historical heritage, thriving cultural life and lively student scene, you'll find plenty of opportunities to enjoy yourself outside of lectures. Take the time to explore it, get a little lost now and then, and above all, make new memories.

Settling into a new environment can sometimes feel daunting. A new language, new customs, a different university system... all these things take time to get used to. But you are not alone. The whole university community is here to support you: lecturers, administrative staff, student associations and fellow students are all on hand to help you find your feet and settle in quickly.

This guide has been designed to help you get started: administrative procedures, daily life, practical advice, top tips... You'll find essential information to help you settle in and make the most of your stay.

But beyond the practical information, we invite you to approach this experience with curiosity and an open mind. Be bold in reaching out to others, ask questions, and get involved in student life. Every interaction and every discovery will help enrich your journey.

We wish you a smooth transition, wonderful encounters and an unforgettable experience.

Welcome to Lille, and may your adventure be a wonderful one.



Université
Catholique
de Lille 1875

Université Catholique de Lille

Lighting the way to the future!

Founded in 1875, the *Université Catholique de Lille* is a multi-disciplinary institution that brings together 5 Faculties, 18 Schools, *Grandes Écoles* in business and engineering, and health and social care establishments. As France's largest private not-for-profit university, it is founded on the human and Christian values that inspired its origins.

OUR VISION : The integral development of the individual through academic excellence in the service of the common good and the transformation of the world.

OUR MISSION : Training, Research, Service to society.

OUR PROMISE : To place the individual at the center of our concerns.

OUR VALUES : Humanism, Ethics, Optimism, Openness.

KEY FIGURES

43,000 students including **8,800+** international

360+ degree programs

23 training institutions

A **hospital group** and health and social care establishments (nearly **2,000** beds and places in total)

15 research units

580+ partner universities on 5 continents

univ-catholille.fr





LILLE

CAMPUS VAUBAN

HÔTEL ACADÉMIQUE (HA)

60 boulevard Vauban

General Reception, Career Centre, International Relations, Entracte – Ground Floor

Clarife – 1st floor

Faculty of Theology (FT) – 2nd floor

Faculty of Arts and Humanities

(FLSH) – 3rd floor

HA - AILE VAUBAN

Entrance on the right into the

main courtyard: **Visitor Reception,**

Photocopying – Ground Floor

Aula Maxima Room – First Floor

LE RIZOMM BUILDING (RZ)

41 rue du Port, Lille

ESSLIL

MICHEL FALISE BUILDING (MF)

13 rue de Toul, Lille

Faculty of Management, Economics and Sciences (FGES)

ISEA | EDN Bachelor's Degrees

FÉRON-VRAU BUILDING (FV)

56 rue du Port, Lille

Faculty of Medicine, Midwifery and Health Sciences (FMMS)

JOSEPH MENET CENTRE

12 rue Norbert Ségard, Lille

Workspaces, breakout areas,

lecture theatre

UNIVERSITY LIBRARY (BU)

60 rue du Port, Lille

ROBERT SCHUMAN BUILDING (RS)

58 rue du Port, Lille

Faculty of Law (FD) – Ground floor

USCHOOL – 2nd floor

LOUISE WEISS BUILDING (LW)

81 boulevard Vauban, Lille

ESPOL

SAINT RAPHAËL CAMPUS

83 boulevard Vauban, Lille

ESPAS Building E

ESTICE – Building E

ISTC – Building C

All Resto

125 rue Meurein

CPSU - Centre de soins

47 bis rue du Port

HangArt'Créatif

12 rue Lavoisier

Campus Créatif

ICAM

6 rue Auber, Lille

IKPO

10 rue St Jean-Baptiste de la Salle,

Lille

IÉSEG Lille

3 rue de la Digue, Lille

JUNIA

2 rue Norbert Ségard, Lille



WENOV CAMPUS AT EURATECHNOLOGIES

WE Building – A and B

117 allée Clémentine Deman, Lille

Faculty of Management, Economics and Sciences (FGES) - Masters

Reception – 1st floor

ISTC – Masters – 2nd floor

WE - C BUILDING

117 allée Clémentine Deman, Lille

School of Digital Technology (EDN)

LiDD, Design School

30 rue Henri Regnault, Lille

SAINT-DOMINIQUE CAMPUS

IFP - 236 rue du Faubourg de Roubaix,

Lille

VILLENEUVE D'ASCQ

IJTM – Institute of Journalism for All Media

9 rue Archimède – Villeneuve d'Ascq



LOMME – CAPINGHEM

HUMANICITÉ CAMPUS

HUMANICITÉ Building

2 rue Théodore Monod, 59160 Lomme
University Library

**Faculty of Medicine, Midwifery,
Health Sciences (FMMS)**

Nursing Program (IFSI)

Care Assistant Program (IFAS)

Childcare Program

Healthcare Management Program (IFCS)

Vocational Training

ROUBAIX – TOURCOING

EURACREATIVE CAMPUS BY PLAINE IMAGES

PLAINE IMAGES BUILDING

73 bis boulevard d'Armentières,
Roubaix

Piktura - Video Games + Illustration
Course

Communications Department

OMÉGA BUILDING

7 boulevard Constantin Descat,
Tourcoing

Piktura - 2D Animation Program

LINK BUILDING

75 bis boulevard d'Armentières,
Roubaix

Piktura - 3D Animation Program

EDHEC Campus

24 avenue Gustave Delory, Roubaix



PARIS REGION

ISSY-LES-MOULINEAUX CAMPUS

Faculty of Law (FD)

Le Vaisseau

2 allée des Moulineaux,
Issy-les-Moulineaux

IÉSEG Paris

1 parvis de La Défense, Paris

EDHEC

16-18 rue du 4 Septembre, Paris

MAUBEUGE

ESSLIL

6 rue d'Artois, Artois building –
entrance B, Maubeuge

And elsewhere:

JUNIA Bordeaux

2 allée Marianne Loir

JUNIA Châteauroux

2 allée Jean Vaillé

EDHEC Nice

393 promenade des Anglais

Services and locations

RECEPTION

► WELCOME & INFORMATION

Campus life: university residences (ALL) and Studapart, a platform for private offers, catering, sport, student associations, etc.

► ORIENTATION

- Information and documentation.
- Book appointments with certified professional coach: career planning, self-confidence, personal development, stress management, further study, reorientation, skills assessment, work methodology.

► SERVICES

- Carte Vitale: Health insurance card update terminal.
- Lost and found.

Forgot your badge? You can pick up a QR code at the Visitor Centre to get access to the campus for one day.

General Reception, Vauban Campus, 60 boulevard Vauban, Lille (Ground Floor of the *Hôtel Académique*).

Monday to Friday, 7.30am to 6.30pm.

03 20 13 40 00 saio@univ-catholille.fr

Visitors reception: Monday to Friday, 7.30am to 7.30pm and Saturday, 7.30am to 12.30pm.

ALL

► ALL resto

ALL Resto is composed of four university restaurants, each with its own self-service concept, and three sandwich stores at the heart of the Vauban campus in Lille, as well as catering services on several campuses.

VAUBAN CAMPUS (LILLE)

Le Globe-trotter, 125 rue Meurein

Le Tradi, 125 rue Meurein

Le Food Corner, 47 bd Vauban

Le Green, 127 rue Meurein

La Sandwicherie Héninnot, basement of 125 rue Meurein

La Sandwicherie du 60, Hôtel Académique hall, 60 bd Vauban

La Sandwicherie Atrium, Michel Falise building, 13 rue de Toul

La Sandwicherie Campus Saint Raphaël, 83 bd Vauban

The restaurants are open from 11am to 1:30pm (2pm for the Globe-trotter). Le Green is open from 7.15am to 9.30pm (7.30pm on Fridays) and welcomes university students all day long to work, relax, have a coffee... In addition to the lunchtime offer, catering is available in the morning until 10am, for snacks from 2.30pm to 5.30pm and in the evening until 8pm.





As a complement to the RU, a table-service restaurant (3rd floor, 125 rue Meurein) offers cuisine with fresh, seasonal ingredients and welcomes you in a friendly setting.

RATES

As an institution funded by the CROUS, ALL offers a €1 meal deal at all its university restaurants. Valid at all outlets, once per meal service and per student card.

TAKE-OUT MEALS

ALL meals are available to take-out from our various catering outlets. A click & collect service is available on the ALL Resto website.

[University Dining – Food Services and Outlets All la Catho](#)

WENOV EURATECHNOLOGIES CAMPUS (LILLE) & HUMANICITÉ CAMPUS (LOMME)

Every day, menus are delivered and placed in lockers on site. They are available at the same price as the RU student formula: €3.30 and €1 for scholarship holders. It's easy to use: order your lunch on the ALL Resto website, choose a pick-up point and collect your meal at the time of your choice with your student card or All service card.

PLAINE IMAGES CAMPUS (TOURCOING)

You can find a catering outlet with a sandwich offer in the main Piktura building.

LE VAISSEAU (ISSY-LES-MOULINEAUX)

You can find a catering outlet in the Faculté de Droit building in Issy-les-Moulineaux.

► **ALL Logement (ALL Housing)**

ALL Housing manages around twenty student dorms at the heart of the Vauban campus, close to the Humanité and Plaine Images campuses, and in the Lille Metropolis.

From single rooms to studios, ranging from €350 to €710 (all costs included), we offer a wide range of housing that suits all needs and budgets.

Our student dorms are mixed, and some of our accommodation is accessible on social criteria. Reservations for a room or studio in an ALL Housing dorm can be made exclusively online from April preceding the start of the academic year.

You will find details on each dorm, type of accommodation, prices, including services and more on the ALL Housing website below (Housing section).

[Student Housing in Lille – All la Catho University Residences](#)



► Sport, health and well-being

SPORT

ALL Sport offers 3 spaces dedicated to sports. They are accessible to all students of the *Université Catholique de Lille*.

Our mission: bringing physical activities to as many people as possible, regardless of their level, aiming at personal development and health preservation.

The Fitness Club

The fitness room is located at the heart of the Vauban campus, at 125 rue Meurein in Lille. The membership allows unlimited access to:

- A cardio-training and weight room, supervised by certified coaches.
- A fitness room with group classes (cardio-training, muscle reinforcement, zumba, yoga, pilates, boxing...).
- All year-round events and sports challenges.

A gymnasium is also accessible at 10 rue Colson in Lille. It is open to sports associations and schools for the practice of team sports in the evening by (paid) reservation. Please contact the sports associations and sports offices for more information.

Each school and faculty of the *Université Catholique de Lille* has its own specific sports offer. Facilities may vary from one campus to another, and the sports offered by the student sports associations may vary as well. Don't hesitate to contact a school or faculty for more information.

[Gym – Fitness Activities and Student Memberships All la Catho](#)



HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

The CPSU (Centre Polyvalent de Santé Universitaire – University Multi-Service Health Center) of the ALL Health department offers general medical consultations, gynecology consultations, nurse appointments, as well as psychological support. It serves two purposes: the prevention and the treatment of the *Université Catholique de Lille* students.

Prevention:

- Medical visits, including a compulsory visit for first-year students.
- Healthy lifestyle advice (help on quitting smoking consultation, dietitian's consultation...).
- Prevention initiatives (AIDS screening, anti-smoking campaigns...).

Treatment:

- General medical consultations without appointment.
- Gynecology consultations upon appointment.
- Psychological support upon appointment (individual support, emotional support, psychotherapy...).

Well-being:

Emotional regulation workshops, relaxation, mindfulness meditation and positive psychology, hypnosis...

Opening hours

Monday – Thursday / 8am to 7pm Friday / 9am to 6pm
Closed during school vacations.



Maison médicale de garde (On-duty medical center)

If you have a health problem that doesn't require emergency care outside CPSU opening hours, you can go to the Maison Médicale de Garde (On-duty medical center). It is located on rue Desais in Lille, and is accessible via the Saint Vincent de Paul Hospital emergency ward. It is open Monday to Friday from 8pm to midnight, and on weekends and public holidays from 8am to midnight.

Violence, Harassment and Discrimination Unit (VHD)

The well-being and safety of students on our campuses are a shared priority. To ensure a welcoming environment, we deploy dedicated resources to combat violence, harassment, and discrimination through a specialized unit.

This unit offers a hotline emergency service, personalized support and collects reported situations. It can be used in each facility, with individual appointments or anonymously (as well as non-anonymously) through our platform where witnesses or victims can express themselves in complete confidentiality

Each school and faculty of the *Université Catholique de Lille* offers health and well-being services. Depending on your campus, these may vary. Don't hesitate to contact a specific faculty or school for more information.

[Student Health – University Health Center \(CPSU\) All la Catho](#)

► Solidarity

Good living conditions are essential if you are to succeed in your studies.

Are you experiencing personal, financial, administrative or academic difficulties? ALL Solidarité helps students at the *Université Catholique de Lille* all year round.

Social workers are available upon appointment to help you with your day-to-day problems or if your situation changes. They will listen to you, provide support and guidance in complete confidentiality: grants (CROUS, regional, study grants, etc.), financial, personal, family and housing support, and any other questions you may have.

Monday to Friday, free service, upon appointment only.

[Solidarity – Student Social Support All la Catho](#)



ARTS AND CULTURE

The *Université Catholique de Lille* attaches great importance to the development and accessibility of art and culture within its various institutions.

► Creative Campus

The *Université Catholique de Lille* Creative Campus is a place for creative minds. Our mission is to gather students motivated to the desire to stimulate their creativity and artistic sensitivity. We aim to arouse curiosity, create inspiring shifts, nourish the imagination, and free the creative potential of every student through artistic expression.



By offering unique artistic moments, we encourage our students and collaborators to push back the boundaries of their imagination, explore new perspectives, and develop their creative language.

Join us at Creative Campus and delve into a universe where art and innovation meet to nourish the soul and stimulate the mind.

HangArt Créatif: the place where art comes to life

HangArt Créatif, a true jewel of the *Université Catholique de Lille*, represents the essence of our Creative Campus. To give life to this project, the University invested in premises completely dedicated to artistic expression, thereby creating a newly furnished building from conception to completion.

The *HangArt Créatif* structure consists of:

- A stage.
- An art room.
- A recording studio.
- A fully equipped music studio.
- A silver-based photo lab.
- A dance studio.

After free registration, these spaces are made available for our students to give life to their creative projects.

Workshops: cultivate your talent

Creative Campus offers the opportunity to participate in more than 30 weekly workshops exclusively reserved for students and supervised by professional artists. Each workshop, rich in teaching and practice, culminates in a performance at the end of the semester and academic year.

Workshop reservations are made at the beginning of the semester at *HangArt Créatif*.

[Arts & culture | Université Catholique de Lille](#)

CAREER CENTER

As part of its commitment to helping students develop their professional skills, the university maintains a permanent link with the business world.

Working closely with employers in both the private and public sectors, we run a wide range of schemes and events at our schools to help students find out about different activities and professions, as well as internships, work-study contracts and jobs.

This connection with the professional world is fundamental. It also contributes to the development of our training programs, to ensure that they keep pace with the emergence and transformation of professions and professional practices.

Contact your school's Career Center, the "Relation Entreprises" desk or Reception desk!

CLARIFE

Specialized in the teaching of French as a Foreign Language (FLE), the Clarife program at the *Université Catholique de Lille* aims to facilitate academic integration, help students adapt to French culture, enhance and enrich their language skills. Courses are offered in the form of extensive or intensive programs. A certificate of proficiency is issued upon completion of the program.

We offer a variety of programs:

- Intensive French as a Foreign Language (FLE) Courses.
- Evening FLE Courses.
- Spring Modular Courses.
- Intensive Summer Courses / "European Summer Program".
- August Pre-School Start Courses.
- DELF/DALF Preparation.
- Other Courses.



UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

The University Library is an autonomous secondary institution of the *Université Catholique de Lille*. It oversees four libraries that let their respective collections available to the entire academic community of the *Université Catholique de Lille*. The University Library is associated with the IESEG, JUNIA, and EDHEC Libraries.

The creation of the Library took place at the end of the 19th century when the university was founded. It gathered printed, electronic, and heritage collections of the *Université Catholique de Lille*.

[University libraries](#) | [Université Catholique de Lille](#)



HORIZON INTERNATIONAL

Horizon International (Hi!) is a friendly space where you can open up to the world, meet new people, and get support throughout your student journey. It brings international life to campus and is here to help you every step of the way. It's a lively and welcoming hub where you can join language cafés, intercultural workshops, and cultural event, great opportunities to chat, discover new cultures, and make meaningful connections.

You can also drop by anytime for practical help: information about studying or living abroad, scholarships, or support with everyday admin (CPAM, bank account, etc.).

We can't wait to meet you! Our International Solidarity volunteers are here to welcome you, so feel free to come say hi or ask any questions about your mobility or your life in France.

Come and meet us in office HA 045! (Ground floor of Hôtel Académique building)





LILLE PROGRAMS

LILLE – “Learn In Lille, Live Europe” – programs are organized by the International Relations Office of the *Université Catholique de Lille* for international students from all over the world. They combine a variety of innovative, student-centred academic programs, that have been designed to suit different academic needs and schedules, and to provide a welcoming environment and an excellent study/life balance.

The LILLE Programs offer academic courses taught in English or in French, utilizing the University’s expertise in Humanities, Social Sciences, Management, and more. Courses are taught by highly-qualified faculty from the *Université Catholique de Lille* or visiting professors, aiming at providing both theoretical background and practical learning through site visits, cultural activities and field trips.

Several programs are available:

- LILLE European Summer Program – end of May to end of July.
- LILLE Winter Program - January.
- LILLE Semester Immersion Programs and Faculty-Led Programs – organized in collaboration with universities to provide a customized academic and cultural experience for their students.

Find more information about academic and cultural packages, dates, pricing and application procedures on the website: www.univ-catholille.fr/en/lille-programs/



Tools used in everyday student life

STUDENT CARD

My student card is my access badge for:

- All entrances and exits to buildings on all campuses.
- Entering and borrowing books at the University Library.
- Reporting to the examination room and written exam.

My student card can be recharged to pay for my meals in the ALL University Restaurants. Reload your card at www.all-lacatho.fr or at the terminals near the service card office at 125 rue Meurein. resto@all-lacatho.fr

My student card is European! It enables:

- Access services at European level: make it easier for me to stay in a school during an Erasmus + exchange or any other mobility in Europe.
- Complete my administrative formalities online, without a paper version.

SECURITY

As part of the overwatching and protection of the University's people and buildings, security measures have been taken within the establishments of the *Université Catholique de Lille*, including the installation of access controls. Access is impossible without a card. The student card is personal, nominative and non-transferable. Any unauthorized use of the card will be penalized, as stated in the internal regulations. Access problems: dmg@univ-catholille.fr

CAUTION! Do not leave your personal belongings unattended in the halls and communal areas. Report any suspicious items or events (packages, individuals, etc.).

vigilance@univ-catholille.fr

Alexandre Lafrance - Safety Manager 06 77 84 17 46

YOCHI

The mobile app that makes student life easier.

With YOCHI, you have all the essential tools from the *Université Catholique de Lille* right in your pocket, making it easier to organize your day-to-day life.

- ▶ Your timetable in real time: Access your personalized timetable (lectures, timings and rooms are updated in real time to help you manage your day).
- ▶ Your grades and course materials: View your results by semester and log in directly to iCampus to find your course materials, assignments and deadlines.
- ▶ Find your way around campus easily: Thanks to the built-in campus map, you can locate quickly your buildings and classrooms.
- ▶ All student services in one place: Accommodation, sport, health, canteen menus... You can also top up your student card directly from the app.
- ▶ Easier trips: Check public transport stops and timetables near the campus.
- ▶ Quick access to libraries: you can easily find opening hours and available resources.
- ▶ Find an internship or a job: With the integrated Career Center, you can discover internship, work-study and student job opportunities.
- ▶ Don't miss out on student life: Stay informed about events, initiatives and tips thanks to the university calendar and social media channels.

AGORA

This is the platform dedicated to students enrolled at the *Université Catholique de Lille*. On this platform you will find all the information dedicated to your faculty or school. You will find useful links (iCampus, Planning), your certificate of registration (in « mes documents », information about courses cancellations, and changes of classrooms (in the « NEWS »).

Students will access AGORA and iCampus once they have chosen their courses, which will be registered by the International Relations Department.

Reminder: after the first 3 weeks of the semester, no changes will be possible!

When you arrive in Lille, you will access Agora by entering your Agora Student number and your first password.

Warning: The AGORA portal is optimized to work with the browsers Chrome and Mozilla Firefox. You may have problems with other browsers (especially Internet Explorer).

Connect to AGORA www.agora.univ-catholille.fr/ ▶ If you forget your password, just click once on "MOT DE PASSE OUBLIE", and wait a moment, you will receive another one by email; then you can reset it.

ICAMPUS

iCampus is a platform on which your professor will upload documents regarding the courses. To log in to the website, you need to use your student ID as username. The password is the same as the one you use to log in to AGORA.

HYPERPLANNING

This website is a tool to check your schedule, classroom numbers and professors' schedules.

WI-FI ACCESS

How to connect to the Wi-Fi:

- Choose the « eduroam network ».
- Login & Password: same as for your Agora account.

You can connect in all University buildings but also in all the European institutions by using Eduroam.



Student life and campus activities

STUDENT ASSOCIATIONS

Arts, community, the environment, sport... get involved in the student life on your campus! With over 500 student associations, you can thrive during your studies, develop skills, and meet and interact with other students.

Each faculty and school has a Student Life Office (BDE) and an International Life Office (BVI). There are also organizations dedicated to a wide range of issues (the environment, social solidarity, ecology, politics, etc.).

For further information, please contact the student welfare officer at your institution:

Law: Alice CARAVETTA

alice.caravetta@univ-catholille.fr

ESPOL: Robin CASTELEYN

robin.casteleyn@univ-catholille.fr

FGES: Rosalie GAMBINO rosalie.gambino@univ-catholille.fr

Sabrina FLAMENT sabrina.flament@univ-catholille.fr

Louise GILLIS louise.gillis@univ-catholille.fr

FMMS: Marie ANTAS DE OLIVEIRA

marie.antas@univ-catholille.fr

FLSH: Vincent ROGER

vincent.roger@univ-catholille.fr

Theology: Anne-Laure DE CHATEAUVIEUX

a.dechateauvieux@univ-catholille.fr

Piktura: Geoffrey CANTREL

geoffrey.cantrel@pole3d.com

ESSLIL: Loïc MARTIN

loic.martin@univ-catholille.fr

LiDD: Hervé Dansart

herve.dansart@univ-catholille.fr

Uschool: Stéphanie LEFEBVRE

stephanie.lefebvre@univ-catholille.fr

IESEG: Romain NOEL r.noel@ieseg.fr

LA FÉDÉ

The Student Union of the *Université Catholique de Lille* represents the University's 43,000 students. It brings together the various student unions and associations at the university around shared values, collaborative and humanitarian projects, and represents its members before the University administration, ALL, the town hall, the CROUS and the FAGE.

La Fédé recruits in September and October. If you'd like to enhance your CV and your academic record, don't hesitate to get in touch!

fede.lille@gmail.com

insta: fede_lille



BECOME AN AMBASSADOR

Do you enjoy discussing and debating? Would you like to tell sixth-formers and prospective students about your course, promote your program and share your experiences of university life? Become an ambassador for your faculty or school! Contact the communications department at your faculty or school for more information.

REPAIR CAFÉ

Is your hairdryer on its last legs? A hole in your shirt? A computer playing up? Throw it away? No way! Repair Café is all about giving your broken or damaged items a new lease of life with advice from local DIY enthusiasts!

Join us every second Thursday of the month from 6pm to 8.30pm at the Simone Veil community centre, 77 rue Philippe-Laurent Roland, Lille.

AGORAÉ LILLE - FÉDÉPICERIE

A combination of a community space and a social grocery store. In the grocery section, the Agoraé team offers fresh fruit and vegetables, a varied and balanced selection of foodstuffs, and hygiene products.

As for the community space, a lounge area with books, board games and coffee will welcome during opening hours. Throughout the year, workshops will be organized: budget management, nutrition, cooking, prevention, as well as film-and-discussion evenings, minitalks, etc.

You can only access Fédépicerie's services if you register. Reach out to them to learn more! Registration by application (means-tested) is available to download from their social media or to collect in person.

Solidarity and disability

The *Université Catholique de Lille* is committed to ensuring that every student has the best possible conditions in which to develop and study throughout his/her time with us. Respect for diversity and fighting against discrimination are major challenges on the road to success at the *Université Catholique de Lille*. Find out what we are doing to promote equality, diversity and inclusion.

Are you experiencing personal, financial, administrative or academic difficulties? ALL *Solidarité* helps students at the *Université Catholique de Lille* all year round.

Social workers are available by appointment to help you with your day-to-day problems or if your situation changes. They will listen to you, provide support and guidance in complete confidentiality: grants (CROUS, regional, study grants, etc.), financial, personal, family, housing support and any other questions you may have.

Monday to Friday, free service, upon appointment only.

www.all-lacatho.fr/en/solidarity

MISSION ACCUEIL HANDICAP (MAH)

With its strong values of openness, the *Université Catholique de Lille* is committed to welcoming all those who wish to pursue higher education.

It pays particular attention to people with disabilities, so that they can continue their studies and find their place in society and the world of work.

The MAH has 4 main missions:

- Raising awareness within the university community of the need to respect the principles of accessibility and non-discrimination.
- Putting in place facilities adapted to different situations of disability, whether they may be temporary or long-term.
- Leading the network of MAH referents in each establishment.
- Informing teachers, administrative staff and students about the existing schemes.

Request for accommodation for students with disabilities (to be renewed each academic year).

Stage 1: When you register. Completion of the written accommodation request.

Stage 2: Appointment with the CPSU doctor. The doctor gives an opinion on the accommodation requested and makes recommendations to the school.

Stage 3: Decision by the institution. The institution makes a decision on the accommodation to be provided during courses and examinations and informs the student.

Contact Mission Accueil Handicap :
+(33) 3 20 13 40 31 / mah@univ-catholille.fr

Request accommodation for courses and exams on our website: www.mah.univ-catholille.fr/

HEARING ASSISTANCE DEVICE

The *Université Catholique de Lille* is gradually introducing a system on its campuses to facilitate access to courses and conferences for people who need a hearing support.

Using a free app, the personal assisting listening solution provides live audio content via WiFi to any iOS or Android phone in the room.

Users can then follow their lessons or lectures more easily by connecting headphones or their hearing assistance to their smartphone.

LISTENING SERVICE

The listening service offers students a confidential space to talk, run on a voluntary basis by a retired English-speaking doctor, whose main role is to listen empathetically and provide support.

These sessions are neither a medical consultation nor psychological treatment. No treatment is prescribed in this context. The aim is to provide an opportunity for discussion, support and reflection, in a respectful and non-judgemental setting.

If you are experiencing difficulties that go beyond simply needing someone to talk to, particularly in the case of mental health issues or crisis situations, it is essential to seek help from appropriate services, such as the University Health Centre (CPSU), or, in an emergency, the nearest A&E department.

If you would like to make an appointment, you can visit the International Relations Office at your faculty or come to **Horizon International** (HA045) in the Hôtel Académique building, open Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm.

Sustainability and environmental responsibility on campus

LIVE TREE, a socio-ecological program

Inspired by integral ecology and guided by the principles of strong sustainability, the Live TREE program promotes a systemic approach to transition involving students, staff, partners, and local stakeholders.

For over ten years, the University has advanced its roles in global education and social responsibility, structuring projects around mobility, energy, biodiversity, and more.

The University pursues a clear ambition: to build together a resilient institution, aligned with planetary limits, committed to social justice, and able to make the transition inspiring, desirable, and positively impactful for the planet, society, and all living things.

LIVE TREE, Act II – Thinking about the living

After 10 years of action, a major shift.

Having focused heavily on green technologies and carbon reduction through its first decade, Live TREE is now undergoing a major shift.

The observation: technological solutions alone are not enough, and can themselves have negative impacts (mining, water consumption, soil degradation, biodiversity collapse). The new approach integrates living systems, frugality, and strong local partnerships, responding to “both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor” (Pope Francis, *Laudato Si'*, 2015).

Spirituality

As a space of communication and reflection, the chaplaincy welcomes the *Université Catholique de Lille* students, teachers, and staff throughout the year. Believers or non-believers, you are all welcome! Occasionally or regularly, you may come to prepare a sacrament (baptism, first communion, confirmation), speak individually with the chaplains, benefit from spiritual guidance, and more.

CHAPLAINCY

It is a meeting place in the campus' heart. Hosted by students who are accompanied by their chaplains, the Chaplaincy lives by 5 values:

- **Fraternity:** You're welcome to come and have lunch at the chaplaincy every day, especially on Thursdays when a homemade “Ch'ti meal” is waiting for you; or join a “frat” (a faith-sharing group).
- **Prayer:** weekly Masses (including the beautiful candlelit Mass on Tuesday at 10 pm!), worship, confessions...
- **Service:** outreach work, visits to hospitals or care homes, religious education, choir, serving on a chaplaincy team...
- **Training:** lectures, theological reading groups, etc.
- **Mission:** sharing of faith and action within “missionary fraternities”.

It is also possible to meet chaplains (occasional listening, spiritual coaching...), during appointments.

Places Premises are waiting for you in front of the Academic Hotel, 67 boulevard Vauban.

University Chapel Saint Joseph is a University place of worship located at 60 bis boulevard Vauban.



Useful information

COSTS OF LIVING IN LILLE

between €895 and €1,325 per month:

- Accommodation: from €450 to €800
- Food: €200
- Transport: €80 (rather leisure)
- Electricity: €45
- Phone & Internet: €20 to €50
- Personal: €100

EMERGENCY NUMBERS:

- SAMU: Call 15 Emergency Medical Services.
- Police emergency: Call 17 in the event of violence, theft, robbery.
- Fire Department: Call 18 in the event of fire, gas leak, water damage, natural catastrophe, or traffic accident.
- Call 112: European emergency services number that's accessible from anywhere in the European Union in addition to the French numbers above.

Need help with your administration procedures?

UCLILLE INTERNATIONAL OFFICE OPENING DAYS AND HOURS

Horizon International (Hi!) - 60 boulevard Vauban, ground floor, room 45.

Open from Monday to Friday (9.00 am to 5.00 pm).

Closed from July 27 to August 17, 2026 & from December 21, 2026 to January 4, 2027.

You can follow the latest news from Horizon International on Instagram: [@univcatholille_intl](https://www.instagram.com/univcatholille_intl)

Any questions about applying to the CAF (housing assistance) or CPAM (health insurance), or about your visa?

**Come to office HA 045, our team is here to help you.
Or send us an email : international@univ-catholille.fr**



LIVINFRANCE

The *Université Catholique de Lille* partners with LivinFrance, a free platform created in Lille in 2016 to help international students settle in France. It centralises key steps like visas, housing (CAF), bank accounts, insurance, and accommodation. With dedicated support, everything is simplified in one place, just log in with your university code.

Every establishment has a dedicated international relations office. The role of this office is to support students and answer academic queries. Please contact your establishment's reception desk to obtain the contact details and location of this office.

The Métropole Européenne de Lille (MEL) has also produced a welcome guide. [Click here to find out more!](#)

Lille and the surrounding area

Introduction to Lille: history, culture, and a location that is ideal for students

A RICH HISTORY AT THE CROSSROADS OF EUROPE

Founded in 1066 by the Count of Flanders, Lille – Rijsel in Flemish – became an important trading and stock market point on the route between the rich Flemish towns and the Champagne fairs. As you can see from its architecture, Lille was successively Flemish, Burgundian, and Spanish before finally becoming French in 1667 under Louis XIV, whose military engineer, Vauban, designed Lille's impressive Citadel.

Yet the city has never stopped reinventing itself through successive economic, social, and power shifts. Lille's strategic location and the area's rich resources have made it one of the most fought over regions in Europe, a history visible today particularly through the numerous memorials from the last two World Wars in the region, toured by national and international visitors each year.

BIG CITY ADVANTAGES WITH SMALL CITY ATMOSPHERE

Lille enjoys all of the conveniences of being at the centre of a cross-border urban zone with a population of over 2 million, yet it remains a "human-sized" student city with 350,000 inhabitants, nearly half of whom are under age 30. Visitors can get around easily on foot or by bicycle. The metro, the tramway, and many bus lines also run frequently and late into the night. Plus, several trains connect the city to the rest of Europe.

CITY OF ART & CULTURE

Since its designation as a European Capital of Culture in 2004, Lille Métropole has sponsored themed arts festivals with specific international connections every few years. The city was also designated a World Design Capital in 2020. But the arts are on display all year, every year. Lille boasts a significant number of theatres, concert venues, movie theatres, an opera house, and a national orchestra. Annual cultural events include, among many others, the Lille Piano(s) Festival, International Independent Movie Week, the international "Series Mania" festival, the Wazemmes accordion festival, and the "Fête de la Musique" (country-wide) on June 21 with free concerts all over town.





Getting to Lille

Lille is exceptionally well connected to the rest of France and Europe, making it easy to reach by train, plane or bus.

BY TRAIN

Lille has two central train stations, both located in the heart of the city, a few minutes' walk from each other, and connected to the bus and metro network:

- Lille-Flandres handles domestic trains, including high-speed TGV services to Paris (1 hour), as well as regional TER connections across the Hauts-de-France region.
- Lille-Europe serves international and high-speed routes, including direct Eurostar services to London St Pancras (1h20), as well as connections to Brussels, Amsterdam and beyond.

Train tickets can be purchased through several platforms, including SNCF Connect, Trainline, Omio.

BY PLANE

Lille-Lesquin Airport is located approximately 10 km from the city centre. It offers a range of domestic and European destinations, though the network is relatively limited. A direct coach connects to central Lille, stopping outside the main train stations.

Brussels South Charleroi Airport, 120 km from Lille, offers a wide range of European destinations through low-cost carriers.

Brussels Zaventem Airport has regular train departures to Brussels-Midi station, from where you can take a direct train to Lille.

Paris Charles de Gaulle Airport has a train station in Terminal 2, with regular direct services to both Lille-Europe and Lille-Flandres.

BY BUS

Long-distance coaches are one of the most affordable and sustainable ways to reach Lille. Several operators serve the city, including Flixbus and BlaBlaCar Bus, with connections to many European cities. Commutes are longer than by train, but prices are significantly lower - a good option if you are travelling on a budget.

Wherever possible, we encourage you to travel by train or bus rather than by plane. From Lille, most major European destinations are easily reachable overland – and with a much lower environmental impact.

Transport in Lille

Lille's public transportation network is well-developed and continuously improving. Getting around Lille is easy – the city offers a wide range of transport options to suit every need and budget, whether you're heading to university, exploring the city or travelling further afield.

ILÉVIA - BUSES, METRO & TRAMS

Ilévia runs all public transport across the Lille Metropolitan Area, including buses, metro lines and trams. If you're going to be using public transport regularly, downloading their app is a great first step – it gives you access to maps, itinerary planning and real-time timetables, as well as news about any planned disruptions or strikes when transport may not be available.

If you don't travel that often, you can purchase single-ride tickets, day passes, or ten-trip packs. If you're commuting regularly, the best value is a pass card at a cost of €4 with a monthly, ten-month or annual subscription for unlimited travel. And if you're under 26, you benefit from a reduced price for subscription!

You can purchase your tickets:

- Online via the [Ilévia website](#) (you'll need to create an account).
- At machines in any Ilévia metro or tram station.
- In person at an Ilévia desk (e.g. Lille-Flandres or République Beaux-Arts stations) - the best option if you're getting a pass card for the first time. Don't forget to bring your ID and check in advance whether any other documents are required.

Tip: an additional TER subscription also allows you to travel beyond Lille to nearby cities in the Hauts-de-France region – which is convenient you plan to explore the area regularly. Check out official ilévia website for more details:

www.ilevia.fr/

CYCLING

The city has been steadily expanding its bike infrastructure, so whether you're cycling to class or just exploring, you'll find it a genuinely enjoyable – and sustainable – way to travel.

You can easily buy a cheap bike online (leboncoin or marketplace) that will allow you to move around in Lille. Many bike repair shops have opened and can help you repair your bike at a low cost (Les Mains dans la Guidon in Lambersart and Wazemmes, le Biclou in Hellemmes).

You can also rent a V'Lille city bike - with over 266 stations across the city and a 24/7 service, it is a flexible and affordable option. Check the Ilévia website for subscription options, pricing and deposit details:

www.ilevia.fr/v-lille

TRAINS

To explore other European cities, the train is an excellent option. You can book through two main platforms: [SNCF](#), which covers all stations across France, and [OuiGo](#), which offers cheaper fares on a more limited network. It's always worth comparing both before you book.

If you're between 12 and 27 and a frequent traveller, the Carte Avantage Jeune is a must – it gives you up to 60% off train tickets for just €49 a year. You can buy it online or at Lille-Flandres station. More information [here!](#)

Tip: Book as early as possible for the lowest fares — prices go up quickly, especially on popular routes.

INTERNATIONAL BUSES

It is one of the most affordable ways to travel across France and Europe. Lille's central location makes it particularly convenient for trips to Paris, Belgium and the Netherlands. Check [Flixbus](#), and [BlaBlaCar](#), - though note that BlaBlaCar offers both bus tickets and carpooling, so make sure you select the most proper service, that is best adapted to your needs.

Daily life: places and applications recommendations

Lille has a great deal to offer: from iconic landmarks and world-class museums to parks, cinemas and great shopping.

ICONIC SITES

Vieux-Lille – The old town is one of the most beautiful parts of the city, with its cobbled streets, Flemish architecture and a great selection of independent shops and restaurants.

The Belfry (Le Beffroi) – A UNESCO World Heritage Site standing 104 metres high, built between 1294 and 1332, offering a breathtaking panoramic view of the city.

La Vieille Bourse – The former Chamber of Commerce building, now a lively meeting point for booksellers, chess players and tourists. In summer, tango dancers take over the courtyard in the evenings.

Grand Place – The heart of the city, surrounded by grand Flemish architecture.

Place Rihour – A dynamic square that turns into a magical Christmas village from November to beginning of January.

Saint-Sauveur – A former goods station renovated in 2009, now a vibrant cultural and recreational space hosting exhibitions, events and outdoor activities.

Lille Zoo – Home to over 70 animal species, open from late February to November.

La Citadelle – A 17th-century fortress designed by the military architect Vauban, surrounded by Lille's largest park. The interior remains an active military base, but guided tours are available through the Office de Tourisme.

Jardin Vauban – A charming 19th-century garden near the main university campus, popular for picnics, cycling and relaxing outdoors.



MUSEUMS

Most museums in Lille offer free entry on the first Sunday of the month, and students generally benefit from reduced ticket prices year-round.

Palais des Beaux-Arts – Opened in 1892, this is the second-largest fine arts museum in France after the Louvre. It regularly hosts temporary exhibitions, workshops, concerts and conferences.

Musée de l'Hospice Comtesse – Founded in 1237 by Countess Jeanne de Flandre, this former hospital is now a museum showcasing Lille's Flemish heritage and medieval history.

Maison Natale Charles de Gaulle – The birthplace of the famous French general and statesman, born here in 1890. The house preserves the bourgeoisie lifestyle of the era and offers a glimpse into early 20th-century French life.

Musée d'Histoire Naturelle – Home to over 450,000 objects across four collections: geology, zoology, science and technology, and ethnography. (presently closed for restoration work).

Musée LaM (Villeneuve-d'Ascq) – Combines modern and contemporary art with France's largest public collection of art brut (outsider art).

Villa Cavrois (Croix) – A modernist villa designed in 1932, offering a fascinating insight into the lifestyle of the French bourgeoisie in the early 20th century.

La Piscine (Roubaix) – A former Art Deco swimming pool converted into a museum of fine and decorative arts, housing paintings, sculptures, ceramics, textiles and drawings from the 19th century onwards.

OPERA, THEATRE & CONCERTS

Opéra de Lille – One of the city's most prestigious cultural institutions, hosting operas, concerts, dance performances and more. Every Wednesday, one-hour concerts are available for just €10. If you plan to attend regularly, age-based passes offer 50% discounts on tickets.

Orchestre National de Lille (Le Nouveau Siècle) – The city's symphony orchestra, performing regularly throughout the year.

Theatres: Théâtre du Nord, Théâtre Sébastopol, Le Grand Bleu, the Comédie de Lille, and more.

Zénith de Lille – A large venue hosting concerts, film screenings accompanied by live orchestras, and ballet performances.

Stade Pierre-Mauroy – Lille's largest stadium, hosting major concerts, football matches and other sporting events.



SHOPPING

The largest shopping centre in the city is Euralille, conveniently located between Lille-Europe and Lille-Flandres train stations. For day-to-day grocery shopping, here are the main options across different price ranges:

Most affordable: ALDI, LIDL.

Mid-range, conveniently located: Carrefour Market, Carrefour City, Supermarché Match (worth getting a loyalty card for student discounts), Intermarché Express.

Higher-end prices: Monoprix, Casino.

Frozen food specialist: Picard.

Organic stores: Biocoop, Naturalia, Bio C Bon.

Zero-waste shops: Nous Anti-Gaspi, DayByDay.

Souvenirs: Furet du Nord, Le Gallodrome, Souvenirs Lille.

Lille's local markets are also a fantastic and affordable option, offering fruits, vegetables, spices, clothes, flowers, books and much more. One of the most popular is the Wazemmes Market – with up to 50,000 visitors on busy days, it is one of the liveliest spots in the city. The outdoor market runs every Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday from 7am to 2pm, while the covered halls are open Tuesday to Saturday from 8am to 8pm and Sunday from 8am to 3pm. Other markets are located across the city throughout the week – discover the full list [here](#).



MOBILE APPS RECOMMENDATIONS

Too Good To Go – Order unsold food from bakeries, restaurants and supermarkets at reduced prices. Great for saving money and reducing food waste.

Vinted – Buy and sell second-hand clothes.

Leboncoin – France's leading second-hand marketplace, ideal for finding furniture and household items when setting up your accommodation.

If you live in Lille, Hellemmes or Lomme, you can apply for **Lille&moi pass** online for free. With this pass, you get to benefit from:

Free entrance each Sunday in the following museums: Palais des Beaux-Arts, Musée de l'Hospice Comtesse, Musée d'Histoire Naturelle.

Access to the multiple public libraries in Lille, Hellemmes and Lomme.

Reduced prices to access the roller and skate park and the swimming pools.

To apply, you will need to upload a proof of address dates less than 3 months old, a copy of your identity document, and a passport-style photo.



DINING OUT

Lille is a multicultural haven, with plenty of restaurants to discover local Flemish food, but also international cuisine from different parts of the world.

Must-try specialties:

Carbonnade Flamande: A traditional Flemish beef stew, slow cooked in beer with mustard and spiced bread. Historically, the dish reflects the region's abundant beer production and the need for hearty meals to sustain workers in colder months.

Welsh: A derivation of "Welsh rarebit," this dish has been wholeheartedly adopted and adapted in Lille. It's a savory mixture of melted cheese, beer, and mustard served over toasted bread, often accompanied by a side of fries and salad.

Poulet au Maroilles: A delicious combination of chicken cooked in a creamy sauce made with Maroilles cheese.

Moules-frites: Mussels served with fries is a staple in Lille, especially during the annual autumn Braderie.

Merveilleux de Fred: a sweet treat made of meringue and whipped cream coated with nuts or chocolate shavings.

La gaufre Méert: A favourite of Charles de Gaulle, these delicate waffles filled with smooth vanilla cream (and now other flavors).

Galette des Rois: It is a famous French tradition that started during ancient Roman times. People usually eat this tasty pastry on January 6th, called Epiphany. Inside the galette (most popular flavours are frangipane and apple) there's a small hidden object called a "fève". The person who finds it in their slice becomes the "king" or "queen" for the day and gets to wear a paper crown that comes with this cake.

Culture in Lille: major celebrations and holidays

Living in Lille means living in a city where culture is blended in its identity. Between world-class museums, a thriving music and theatre scene, and some of Europe's most iconic annual events, your time here is a unique opportunity to immerse yourself in local French and European culture.

LARGEST EVENTS

Museum Night (Nuit européenne des musées)

Every May, as part of a Europe-wide event, Lille's museums open their doors late into the night, offering a unique experience. It's a great opportunity to explore collections and exhibitions under the charming ambiance of nightfall. Visits are often accompanied by guided tours, special activities and live performances.

Lille3000

Since becoming the European Capital of Culture in 2004, Lille has hosted Lille3000 – a recurring festival, held every three years, that celebrates global cultures and contemporary issues through art, performances and urban installations. Past editions have included «Eldorado» (2019), inspired by the legendary land of gold and spotlighting Mexico's cultural richness alongside themes of migration, and «Utopia» (2022), which explored the relationship between humans and nature. The most recent edition, «Fiesta», took place in 2025 and centred on celebration and collective gathering.

Each edition launches with a spectacular opening parade at the Grand Place, featuring elaborate costumes, live performances and large-scale art installations. From the opening day through to the end of the year, themed exhibitions can be found across museums, creative spaces and the streets of the city.

The Music Festival (Fête de la Musique)

Every year on the summer solstice (June 21), music takes over the streets, squares and public spaces of Lille – and the rest of France. Its purpose is to promote music in a spirit of inclusivity, showcasing both amateur and professional musicians. Free concerts take place all over the city, spanning every imaginable type of music, from classical and folk to rock and electronic. It's one of the most joyful summer nights of the year, open to everyone, and a great way to discover local musicians and vibrant atmosphere.

Bastille Day (Fête Nationale)

The National Day of France, commonly known as Bastille Day, is celebrated every year on July 14. This day commemorates the Storming of the Bastille in 1789, a pivotal event in the French Revolution that symbolizes the end of absolute monarchy and the birth of the modern nation. It's a day imbued with historical significance, reflecting France's



journey towards liberty, equality, and fraternity. In Lille, the celebrations typically include a grand military parade, spectacular fireworks on Champs de Mars in the evening, concerts, public gatherings, and other festive events.

Flea Market Festival (Braderie de Lille)

Did you know that Lille hosts Europe's largest flea market every year on the first weekend of September? Dating back to the 12th century – when it began as a fair for servants to sell their masters' unwanted goods – the Braderie now draws 2.5 million visitors to the city. Over 53 km of stalls line the streets, offering antiques, vintage finds, crafts and local delicacies, while concerts and parties bring the whole city to life. The traditional dish of the weekend is moules-frites – and restaurants compete to build the tallest amount of mussel shells on their doorstep. Lively, chaotic and completely unique, it's one of those experiences that will make you glad to be living in Lille.

Soup Festival (La Louche d'Or)

Every May 1, the neighbourhood of Wazemmes transforms into a giant soup festival. Locals, students, community groups and visitors from France and other countries set up their pots, competing for the coveted Gold, Silver or Bronze Ladle – while the public gets to taste everything for free. From classic family recipes to the most imaginative creations, there is something for every taste. With concerts and a wonderfully convivial atmosphere, it is one of those quintessentially Lille moments: intercultural, intergenerational and a little bit chaotic.

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

France has 11 official public holidays (jours fériés) spread throughout the year, and the university will be closed on each of them. Beyond the practical implication of planning your schedule, these holidays are a fascinating window into French history, culture and traditions. Here are the dates to keep in mind:

- ▶ **All Saints' Day – November 1.** Known as La Toussaint, this is a day to honour all saints and remember deceased loved ones. Families traditionally visit cemeteries to lay chrysanthemums on graves.
- ▶ **Armistice Day – November 11.** Commemorates the end of World War I in 1918. - Official ceremonies are held across France.
- ▶ **Christmas Day – December 25.** Celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ. In France, the main celebration traditionally takes place on Christmas Eve (le réveillon de Noël), with a large family meal. Christmas markets (marchés de Noël) are a highlight of December in Lille – well worth a visit in the weeks before.
- ▶ **New Year's Day – January 1.** Celebrates the start of the new year. As in many countries, New Year's Eve (le réveillon du Nouvel An) is a big celebration, with gatherings, fireworks and festivities across the city.
- ▶ **Easter Monday – March/April (varies).** The day after Easter Sunday, marking the resurrection of Christ. In France, a charming tradition has it that church bells fly to Rome on Good Friday and return on Easter Sunday, dropping chocolate eggs for children to find – so expect plenty of chocolate in the shops!
- ▶ **Labour Day – May 1.** Known as La Fête du Travail, this is the only French public holiday on which employees are legally required to have the day off. It is traditionally marked by trade union marches and the gifting of lily of the valley (muguet) as a symbol of good luck – you'll see bunches sold on every street corner.
- ▶ **Victory in Europe Day – May 8.** Commemorates the Allied victory over Nazi Germany and the end of World War II in Europe in 1945. Official ceremonies and parades are held across France.
- ▶ **Ascension Day – May/June (varies).** A Christian holiday marking Jesus Christ's ascent into heaven, celebrated 40 days after Easter.
- ▶ **Whit Monday (Lundi de Pentecôte) – May/June (varies).** Marks the descent of the Holy Spirit, the day after Pentecost.
- ▶ **Bastille Day – July 14.** France's national day, commemorating the storming of the Bastille in 1789 – a key moment of the French Revolution.
- ▶ **Assumption Day – August 15.** A Catholic holiday celebrating the Virgin Mary's ascent into heaven. A quiet summer holiday, falling in the heart of the French holiday season when much of the country is away.



Travel recommendations

Lille is perfectly located at the crossroads of Europe, making it an ideal starting point for exploring the continent. Whether you're after a quick day trip or a longer weekend away, some truly great destinations are just a train or bus ride away.



Dunkirk (Train 30 min, Bus 1h): The largest port city in the region, Dunkirk is a great place to breathe in the sea air and discover another side of northern France. Beyond its port, it's a must-visit for history lovers! The city was a key battleground during World War II. Every year around February, it hosts one of France's most famous carnivals.

Calais (Train 1h): One of France's busiest port cities. Relax on its wide sandy beaches or venture a little further to the nearby Cap Blanc-Nez, where white chalk cliffs overlook the Strait of Dover and offer outstanding walks with views stretching to the English coastline on a clear day.

Berck (Train 2h): A charming seaside town with long, wide sandy beaches – perfect for a peaceful walk along the northern coastline. Every April, the skies come alive during the famous kite festival. And if you're lucky, you might even spot some seals sunbathing on the seashore.

Brussels (Train 33 min, Bus 1h40): The capital of Belgium offers the perfect blend of culture, sightseeing, shopping, and activities. It's a dynamic city with cultural events happening throughout the year.

Bruges (Bus 1h): One of Europe's best-preserved medieval cities, Bruges is a perfect day trip destination. Stroll along its canals, explore its Gothic churches and charming bridges, and take your time in its quiet cobbled streets or shop delicious handmade chocolate at Dumon or Chocolate Line.

Paris (Train 1h, Bus 3h): Easy to reach from Lille, Paris is ideal for a weekend getaway or even a day trip. As the cultural heart of France, it boasts countless museums, concerts, fashion, restaurants, and activities. Its architecture is world-renowned, with stunning sights around every corner. There's always something new to discover!

London (Train 1h20): Hop on the underwater Eurostar train and arrive in London in under two hours. Explore iconic landmarks, jump on a classic red double-decker bus, walk through the legendary shopping districts, and experience its vibrant nightlife. Whether you visit under the Christmas lights or during the summer sunshine, London never disappoints.

Amsterdam (Train 2h30, Bus 5h30): Famous for its winding canals, narrow gabled houses and world-class museums. Rent a bike to explore the city like a local and enjoy the beautiful streets and cosy cafés. If you're visiting in spring, make sure to venture to the spectacular tulip fields and Keukenhof park. And don't leave without trying some local cheese!

Cologne (Train 3h): Home to one of Europe's most breathtaking Gothic cathedrals, Cologne is well worth the trip – especially in winter, when it hosts one of the largest and most spectacular Christmas markets on the continent. A great introduction to German culture, architecture and gastronomy.

International life in Lille

Lille is home to around 125,000 students, including a growing community of international students from across the world. Whether you're here for a semester or a full degree, the city offers plenty of opportunities to connect, explore and feel part of a larger community. Beyond your campus, external associations are a great way to meet students from other universities and get the most out of your time in Lille.

Two associations in particular are well known in the city:

- [Erasmus Place](#)
- [Erasmus Student Network](#) (ESN) Lille

Both regularly organise a varied programme of cultural, social and sporting events, as well as group trips to destinations across France and Europe. It is a wonderful way to explore the region while building lasting friendships.

Ch'ti culture

You've probably never heard the word "Ch'ti" before arriving in Lille. It refers to the regional dialect of Northern France – and also to the people who live there. While the dialect is mostly extinct today, it continues to influence many words and expressions still used across the region, and you may occasionally hear it spoken in the countryside.

Here are a few expressions to get you started:

Je te dis quoi – I'll let you know.

Ça drache – It's raining heavily.

Hein ?! – An interjection expressing surprise or confusion.

You might also notice that locals have a distinctive ch'ti accent – the «a» sound, for instance, tends to shift toward an «o». If you want a fun and charming introduction to the dialect and the region, the 2008 French comedy "Bienvenue chez les Ch'tis" is essential viewing – and a national favourite.

Ch'tis have a reputation across France for being warm, straightforward and generous – always ready to help a stranger or point you in the right direction, even if your French is still a work in progress. As a student here, you are arriving in a place where you will feel genuinely welcomed and at home.

Local social media recommendation

One of the best ways to feel at home in a new city is to participate in local events. Lille has a vibrant and ever-changing cultural scene, and these local accounts and platforms will help you stay informed, discover hidden gems and make the most of everything the city has to offer:

Ville de Lille – the official city account, with news, events and local announcements.

[lille.fr](#) | [@lille_france](#)

Lille Addict – Weekly outline of events, new openings and places.

[lilleaddict.fr](#) | [@lille_addict](#)

Les Cachotteries – Event and place recommendations with a local, insider feel.

[@les_cachotteries](#)

Lille la Nuit – An online aggregator for concerts, exhibitions and other events in the city.

[lillelanuit.com](#)



**Université
Catholique
de Lille** 1875

International Relations Office

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