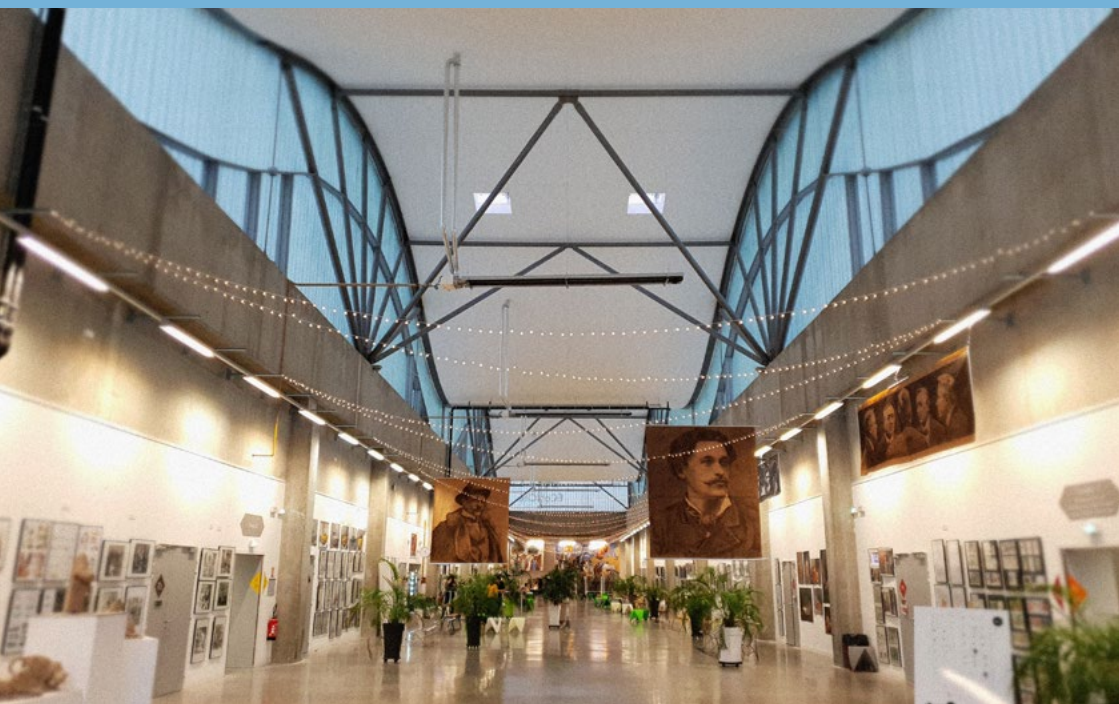
International Student Welcome Guide

Lyon & Angoulême
2026/2027

école émile cohl



Welcome Message

from the Director General, Antoine Rivière

You've chosen to travel, sometimes across the world, to draw. That choice says a lot about you, and it's exactly the kind of determination that built this school. Our establishment was founded in 1984 out of a simple conviction: drawing had almost disappeared from art education, and it deserved to be brought back to the centre. Forty years on, we still believe that. Everything we teach, observation from life, mastery of gesture, the discipline of getting a line right, is there to give you a hand and an eye you can trust, wherever your career takes you afterward.

You are joining a school that never had to choose between tradition and ambition. Our students learn academic drawing the way it shaped generations of artists before them, and they learn it alongside the digital tools of animation, illustration, comics and video games. It's a rare combination, and not always an easy one, but it's exactly what has sent our alumni, the «Cohliens», into studios and creative careers all over the world, from Lyon to Los Angeles, Tokyo to Toronto.

Coming here as an international student takes its own kind of courage, and we don't take that lightly. Whatever your first weeks bring, a form to fill in, a word you don't know yet, a wave of homesickness that catches you off guard, our international relations team isn't someone you call as a last resort. Reach out early, reach out often.

Welcome to Lyon. Welcome to Émile Cohl. We can't wait to see what you draw here.

Antoine Rivière
Director General

This guide is primarily addressed to students hosted at the Lyon campus. Students at the Angoulême campus are invited to contact their local point of contact for site-specific information.

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Before Your Arrival

Visa

EU / EEA / Swiss nationals — No visa required. National ID card or passport is sufficient. For stays over 3 months, a residence permit is optional.

Learn more:
www.service-public.gouv.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F2651

Non-EU nationals — Required for all non-EEA students.

Learn more:
www.service-public.gouv.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/N105

Check your requirements at France Visa:
france-visas.gouv.fr/assistant-visa

Campus France:
www.campusfrance.org/fr

Documents to Bring

Remember to bring and scan the following:

- Valid passport (and copies)
- Visa if applicable
- School enrolment certificate
- Birth certificate (translated if necessary)
- Academic transcripts and qualifications
- Proof of financial resources
- Passport-sized photos
- Civil liability certificate — required for school enrolment. This can be taken out in France or in your home country, provided it covers French territory for the full duration of your stay.

Upon Arrival: Priority Steps

VLS-TS Validation

(non-EU only — urgent)

If you hold a long-stay visa serving as a residence permit (VLS-TS), you must validate it online with OFII within three months of your arrival.

ANEF — Digital Administration for Foreigners in France:
administration-etrangers-en-france.interieur.gouv.fr

CVEC (Student Life and Campus Contribution)

The Student Life and Campus Contribution (CVEC) amounts to €105 for 2026–2027 (subject to change). It must be paid before your administrative enrolment. Without a CVEC certificate, enrolment cannot be finalised.

Exemptions: French government grant holders, refugees, asylum seekers, incoming Erasmus+ students.

cvec.etudiant.gouv.fr

Social Security

EU / EEA — Use your European Health Insurance Card (EHIC), which you should request before departure.

Non-EU — Register with the CPAM (French health insurance) as soon as you arrive.

etudiant-etranger.ameli.fr

Supplementary health insurance is strongly recommended (LMDE, SMENO…).

Students Welcome Desk

The ComUE Université de Lyon offers a free multilingual welcome desk at the start of each academic year to assist you with all administrative procedures. Available from late August to mid-December, 10am to 5pm.

+33 (0)4 37 37 43 00

universite-lyon.fr/swd

Find all the information and steps required upon your arrival in France as an international student on Étudiant.gouv

The CROUS supports international students throughout their studies with various types of assistance. All information is available on the CROUS network website.

Housing

Start your search several months before the start of term.
To be completed — link to the 'find accommodation' page to be inserted here.

Option	Useful Information
Private student residences	Fewer guarantees required — ideal for international students
Shared accommodation	Cost-effective and well-developed in Lyon
CROUS	Subject to DSE application and means-testing (generally reserved for grant holders; international students are not usually eligible for means-tested grants)
Standard rental	French guarantor or Visale scheme required
CISL (Lyon International Centre)	Ideal temporary solution on arrival: 100 rooms, accessible by tram, open to individuals (cis-lyon.com)

No guarantor in France? The Visale scheme offers you a free rental guarantee: visale.fr

Housing Allowance (APL)

Check your eligibility at caf.fr
Apply as soon as you move into your accommodation.
Home contents insurance is compulsory for all tenants in France.

Non-EU/EEA students without a grant or employment in France are no eligible for APL.

Dining

Students have access to Lyon's university restaurants. Since May 2026, meals cost €1 for all students (grant holders and non-grant holders alike).

Opening hours and addresses: crous-lyon.fr/se-restaurer

Nearest university restaurants:

- Café Bistrot de la Manu, 2 cours Albert Thomas, 69008 Lyon
- Resto Manufacture des Tabacs, 1 avenue des Frères Lumière, 69008 Lyon
- Cafétéria Rabelais, 8 avenue Rockefeller, 69008 Lyon
- Resto Rockefeller, 6 rue Volney, 69008 Lyon

The SEPR cafeteria (on the vocational campus) is accessible to École Émile Cohl students using their school badge.

Budget and Financial Support

Item	Monthly Estimate
Housing	€450 – €700
Food	€200 – €300
Transport (TCL student pass)	€30 – €50
Leisure and miscellaneous	€100 – €150
Estimated total	€780 – €1,200/ month

Teaching materials will also be required, depending on your programme and length of stay. La Centrale Émile Cohl offers a selection suited to your needs at a reduced price.

Grants

Contact the French embassy in your country or visit Campus France for information. If you experience unexpected financial difficulties, contact the school's student life department.

Life at the School

Administrative Enrolment and Student Portal

Upon arrival, you will need to complete your administrative enrolment via the school's online portal. You will also sign the school's internal regulations, which you are required to read. The portal also gives you access to your timetable.

scolarite.cohl.fr

Digital Life

On arrival, the school will provide you with a building access badge and a student email address. Please check your student inbox regularly, as it is the school's official communication channel.

support@cohl.fr

French Language Support (FLE)

Classes are taught in French. A good level of comprehension is essential. If you experience difficulties, the school offers free French as a Foreign Language (FLE) support as needed.

international@cohl.fr

La Centrale Émile Cohl

The student association runs an on-site shop selling everything you will need: stationery, pencils, markers, paints, pastels, modelling supplies, books and starter packs. It is the most cost-effective way to get equipped.

Open Monday–Thursday 1:30–2pm and 6–6:30pm / Friday 5:30–6pm only. Reserved for students, former students and teaching staff.

centrale.cohl.asso.fr

Specific Needs / Disability

The school has a disability coordinator who can support you if you have specific needs related to a disability or health condition. Contact them as soon as you arrive so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

referenthandicap@cohl.fr

Life in Lyon

Getting Around

The TCL network (metro, tram, bus) covers the entire greater Lyon area — a reduced-rate student pass is available at tcl.fr. A TCL stand will be present at the school during welcome week so you can take out an annual pass without visiting an agency.

For short trips, the Vélo'v self-service bike scheme is ideal: affordable, practical and eco-friendly, with stations throughout the city.

velov.grandlyon.com

Culture

Museums, cinemas and exhibitions often offer reduced-price admission for under-26s. Free admission to permanent collections in national museums applies specifically to EU/EEA nationals and residents under 26. Check each museum's policy if you're a non-EU student.

Getting Started in Lyon

Beyond the formalities, Lyon has a great deal to offer. Here are a few tips to help you find your feet.

The 3rd arrondissement — your new neighbourhood. Between Part-Dieu and the banks of the Rhône, the 3rd is a neighbourhood of contrasts: glass towers and quiet side streets, morning bakeries and late-night grocers. This is where you will study, and where you will make yourself at home.

Eat well, eat affordably. Lyon has a world-class gastronomic reputation — and it is well-deserved. From traditional bouchons to kebab shops near Part-Dieu, the city feeds you well at every budget. Explore, try things, ask the locals: that's how you become a Lyonnais.

Stay connected
@onlylyon to discover the city
@lyoncampus for student deals
@lyon.citycrunch to find out where to go at the weekend

Erasmus+ Students

Your mobility is governed by an agreement between Haute École Albert Jacquard and Émile Cohl. The school will provide you with a Learning Agreement, an attendance certificate and a Transcript of Records at the end of your stay.

You are exempt from the CVEC and, if you are an EU/EEA national, covered by your EHIC. Your point of contact at the school:

international@cohl.fr

OLS Language Support

As an Erasmus+ student, you have access to Online Language Support (OLS), the European Commission's free language-learning platform, now hosted on the EU Academy (academy.europa.eu).
It offers self-paced courses and live tutoring in over 24 languages, including French.
Taking the initial language assessment is compulsory for stays of 14 days or more (except for native speakers). It doesn't affect your participation. It simply helps track your progress.
Your home institution's Erasmus coordinator will send you an invitation to access the platform.

Extension or Change of Status

If you wish to extend your stay or change your status during the year, these procedures are handled by the French administrative authorities. Consult ANEF to find out which procedures apply to your situation.

ANEF — administration-etrangers-en-france.interieur.gouv.fr

Useful Contacts

At the School

International Relations / Erasmus
Aurélia: international@cohl.fr
Disability Coordinator
Frédérique: referenthandicap@cohl.fr
Student Portal:
scolarite.cohl.fr
La Centrale (materials):
centrale.cohl.asso.fr

Administrative Procedures

ANEF (residence permit, VLS-TS):
administration-etrangers-en-france.interieur.gouv.fr
Rhône Prefecture:
rhone.gouv.fr
CVEC:
cvec.etudiant.gouv.fr
Campus France:
campusfrance.org
Students Welcome Desk:
+33 (0)4 37 37 43 00
universite-lyon.fr/swd
Administrative difficulties (residency):
Cimade Lyon, ADATE

Housing and Financial Support

Visale (rental guarantee):
visale.fr
CAF du Rhône:
caf.fr
CROUS Lyon:
crous-lyon.fr
CISL (temporary accommodation):
cis-lyon.com

Health

CPAM / Ameli:
ameli.fr

Emergency Numbers

SAMU (Medical Emergency): 15
Police / Gendarmerie: 17
Fire Brigade: 18
European Emergency Number: 112

Our international coordinator

Aurélia Gulyas Szulc
international@cohl.fr

École Émile Cohl — Communications Department — 2026–2027

The information in this guide is provided for guidance purposes and may change. Always consult official websites for current procedures.

For more information, visit:

International Brochure

English Website