

KADAMB OVERSEAS - SINCE 2012 - AHMEDABAD

# Complete Study in FRANCE 2026

*The Honest 54-Page Master Guide for Indian Students*

**World-Class Grandes Ecoles - Charpak + Eiffel Scholarships - Talent Passport to PR**

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*Founder, Kadamb Overseas*

*14+ Years Europe Education Expert - 500+ Indian Students Placed in Europe  
Campus France Certified - 97% Visa Success Rate*

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# Foreword from Saumitra

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Dear future France student,

In 14 years of doing this work, France has gone from being a "niche" choice for Indian students to one of the smartest. When I started Kadamb in 2012, maybe 10,000 Indians studied in France. Today, the number is approaching 10,000 new arrivals every single year. By 2030, France will host 30,000+ Indian students.

Why the rush? Because France quietly built the best deal in Europe for ambitious Indians: **world-class engineering at the Grandes Ecoles, world-leading business schools (HEC, INSEAD, ESSEC), public university tuition under EUR 4,000 a year, two government-funded scholarships (Charpak for Bachelors, Eiffel for Masters/PhD), and the most generous post-study work visa in continental Europe (5 years on the Talent Passport).**

But France is also where Indian families make the most expensive mistakes. They confuse Grandes Ecoles with public universities. They miss the Etudes en France deadline by two weeks. They underestimate the housing crisis in Paris. They apply to the wrong scholarship for their level. They land in Lyon without a French bank account and lose three weeks fixing it.

This guide is everything I wish every Indian student had before they applied to France. Real institution names. Real tuition in EUR and INR. The Campus France process step by step. Sample SOPs. The professor email that actually gets replies. The CAF housing claim that puts EUR 100-180/month back in your pocket.

If you read this carefully, you will know more about studying in France than 95% of Indian applicants. If you implement it, you will give yourself a serious shot at HEC, Polytechnique, Sciences Po, or whichever school you want.

Want me to personally review your profile? WhatsApp me at **+91 99133 33239** or visit **kadamboverseas.com**. The first 30 minutes are free. France matters to me.

Welcome to France. Bonne chance!

**- Saumitra Rajput**

*Founder, Kadamb Overseas | Ahmedabad, May 2026*

# Why France - The Underrated Indian Choice

**Quick read:** France hosts 10,000+ new Indian students every year. World-class Grandes Ecoles, public university tuition under EUR 4,000, two huge government scholarships (Charpak + Eiffel), and the most generous post-study work visa in continental Europe (5 years on Talent Passport).

## The Five Reasons That Actually Matter

### Reason 1: Public University Tuition is EUR 2,770 Bachelors / EUR 3,770 Masters

Since 2019, French public universities charge non-EU students EUR 2,770/year for Bachelors and EUR 3,770/year for Masters. That is roughly INR 2.5-3.5 lakh per year - the cheapest world-class education in Western Europe.

And here is the secret: **about 60% of public universities have officially waived these fees for international students.** Universite de Strasbourg, Sorbonne University, Aix-Marseille, Lyon 1, Bordeaux, Toulouse III - all charge international students the same as French students: EUR 170/year for Bachelors, EUR 243/year for Masters. That is INR 15,000-22,000 a year. Cheaper than your phone bill.

Compare: A 2-year Master's at Stanford is INR 1.8 crore in tuition. The same MS at Sorbonne University costs INR 30,000-7 lakh total. **You save 95-99% on tuition.**

## Reason 2: 5 French Universities in QS World Top 100

When parents ask whether French degrees travel globally, here is the data:

Institution	QS 2026	Best For Indians
Universite PSL (Paris Sciences et Lettres)	#26	Sciences, Math, ENS
Institut Polytechnique de Paris	#36	Engineering, Data Science
Sorbonne University	#41	Sciences, Medicine, Humanities
Universite Paris-Saclay	#73	Engineering, Sciences
Ecole Normale Superieure de Lyon	#142	Sciences, Humanities
Sciences Po Paris	#192	Political Science, IR
Universite Grenoble Alpes	#258	Engineering, AI
Universite Cote d'Azur	#310	Sciences, IT
INSA Lyon	#400	Engineering
Universite de Strasbourg	#410	Sciences, Pharmacy

## Reason 3: Grandes Ecoles - The "MIT of Europe"

Grandes Ecoles are France's elite parallel system to universities. Smaller (200-500 students per cohort), highly selective, world-renowned for engineering and business. Indian recruiters know these names:

Grande Ecole	Type	Indian Salary Reputation
Ecole Polytechnique (X)	Engineering	Goldman, McKinsey, BCG
HEC Paris	Business / MBA	Top tier worldwide
INSEAD Fontainebleau	MBA	Pays back in 8-12 months
ESSEC Business School	Business / Finance	Banking + consulting
ESCP Business School	Business / Marketing	Strong in Europe

Grande Ecole	Type	Indian Salary Reputation
CentraleSupélec	Engineering	Tech + research roles
Mines ParisTech	Engineering	Energy + materials sector
Sciences Po	Political Science	Diplomacy, UN, World Bank

## Reason 4: Indian MS Graduates Earn EUR 38,000-65,000 Starting

I track our France alumni salaries every year. Here is what an Indian MS graduate from a French institution earns in their first job:

Field	Starting Salary	After 5 Years
Software Engineer (Capgemini, Atos, Dassault)	EUR 38-50K	EUR 60-85K
Data Scientist (Criteo, BNP, Airbus)	EUR 42-58K	EUR 70-95K
Mechanical / Aerospace (Airbus, Safran, Renault)	EUR 40-55K	EUR 65-90K
Investment Banking (BNP, Soc Gen, JPM Paris)	EUR 55-75K + bonus	EUR 100-160K + bonus
Strategy Consulting (McKinsey/BCG/Bain Paris)	EUR 70-90K + bonus	EUR 140-220K + bonus
Luxury & Fashion (LVMH, L'Oreal, Hermes)	EUR 42-58K	EUR 70-110K

A 2-year MS in France costs INR 5-25 lakh total (depends on public uni vs Grande Ecole). A first-year salary of INR 38-55 lakh recovers the investment in 12-18 months. **And France lets you stay 5 years on the Talent Passport once you find a qualifying job.**

## Reason 5: The Cultural Edge - 50,000+ Indians Already Live in France

Many Indian families worry about culture. Here is the reality: France has 109,000 people of Indian origin and 50,000+ Indian residents (students + workers). The community is small compared to Germany or UK, but it is deeply rooted - many families go back two to three generations through Pondicherry and Reunion Island.

City	Indian Community	Speciality
Paris	40,000+	Largest, finance + tech
Lyon	8,000+	Pharma + biotech
Toulouse	7,000+	Aerospace (Airbus)
Marseille	5,000+	Trade + maritime

City	Indian Community	Speciality
Strasbourg	4,000+	EU institutions, biotech
Nice / Sophia Antipolis	3,000+	Tech + research
Bordeaux	2,500+	Wine, aerospace, IT

# Honest Reality Check

## France IS the Right Choice If:

- \* You want elite engineering or business education at a fraction of US cost
- \* Your family budget is INR 12-25 lakh per year (Grandes Ecoles) or INR 5-8 lakh (public unis)
- \* You are open to learning French (B2 needed for most jobs after 2 years)
- \* You want a 5-year post-study work visa - the most generous in Europe
- \* You like culture, food, art, and the European lifestyle

## France is NOT the Right Choice If:

- \* You want a US-style 1-year MS (France is mostly 2-year tracks)
- \* You refuse to learn any French (English-only jobs are about 25% of market)
- \* You only care about big tech salaries (US/Germany pay more for SDEs)
- \* You want low cost of living in Paris (one of Europe's most expensive cities)
- \* You want non-STEM roles only (humanities have weaker job pipelines)

*"Indian students who do best in France are the ones who pick the right tier of institution for their profile, learn at least conversational French, and treat the 5-year Talent Passport as a strategic runway. The students who struggle are the ones who only applied to Sciences Po hoping for a miracle."*

- Saumitra Rajput

## Chapter 2

# The 25 French Institutions Worth Your Application

**Quick read:** France has 3,500+ higher education institutions. About 25 are realistically worth your application as an Indian student. They split into three buckets: Grandes Ecoles (elite, selective, expensive), Public Universities (cheap, large, varied), and Business Schools (mid-priced, career-focused).

## Tier 1: The Elite Grandes Ecoles - Apply if Profile is World-Class

Institution	Tuition / Year	Best For	Indian Acceptance
Ecole Polytechnique (X)	EUR 18,000	Engineering, Math	5-8%
HEC Paris	EUR 30,000	Business, MBA	8-12%
INSEAD	EUR 105,000 (MBA)	MBA	20-25%
ESSEC Business School	EUR 22,000	Business, Finance	15-20%
Sciences Po Paris	EUR 13,500	Political Sci, IR	10-15%
CentraleSupélec	EUR 13,000	Engineering	12-15%
Mines ParisTech	EUR 13,650	Eng, Materials	10-12%

## Tier 2: Strong Public Universities - Apply if CGPA 7.5+

Institution	Tuition (Non-EU)	Strong For
Sorbonne University	EUR 243-3,770	Sciences, Med, Humanities
Université PSL	EUR 243-3,770	Sciences, Math, ENS

Institution	Tuition (Non-EU)	Strong For
Universite Paris-Saclay	EUR 243-3,770	Engineering, Sciences
Universite Grenoble Alpes	EUR 243-3,770	Engineering, AI
Universite Cote d'Azur	EUR 243-3,770	Sciences, Tech
Universite de Strasbourg	EUR 170-243 (waived)	Pharmacy, Sciences
Aix-Marseille Universite	EUR 170-243 (waived)	Marine Bio, Med
Universite de Bordeaux	EUR 170-243 (waived)	Wine, Med, Engineering
Universite de Lyon (Lyon 1)	EUR 170-243 (waived)	Sciences, Med
Universite de Toulouse III	EUR 170-243 (waived)	Aerospace Eng, Sciences

## Tier 3: Mid-Tier Business Schools - Practical and Career-Focused

If the elite Grandes Ecoles are out of reach, these mid-tier schools deliver excellent ROI - especially for management, marketing, finance, and luxury careers:

School	Tuition / Year	Strength
<b>EDHEC Business School</b>	EUR 22,000	Finance, Risk Management
<b>emlyon Business School</b>	EUR 22,000	Entrepreneurship, Innovation
<b>Grenoble Ecole de Management</b>	EUR 18,500	Tech + Innovation
<b>SKEMA Business School</b>	EUR 18,000	Multi-campus, Global
<b>NEOMA Business School</b>	EUR 16,000	International Business
<b>IESEG School of Management</b>	EUR 17,500	International, English-taught
<b>Audencia Nantes</b>	EUR 17,500	Marketing, Supply Chain
<b>KEDGE Business School</b>	EUR 16,000	Wine business, supply chain
<b>ICN Business School</b>	EUR 14,500	Luxury, Marketing

## English-Taught Programs - The Underrated Filter

France has roughly 1,800 English-taught programs at Master's level. You do not need French to apply. Here are programs where Indians cluster:

University	English MS Programs	Indian Sweet Spot
<b>Universite PSL</b>	40+	Math, Computer Science
<b>Sorbonne Universite</b>	60+	Sciences, Engineering, Med
<b>Universite Paris-Saclay</b>	120+	Engineering, AI, Physics
<b>Sciences Po</b>	20+ (mostly English)	IR, Public Policy
<b>INSA Lyon</b>	15+	Engineering, IT

University	English MS Programs	Indian Sweet Spot
Audencia / SKEMA / IESEG	All English	Business, Marketing

## How I Match Indian Students to French Institutions

After 14 years and hundreds of France placements, here is the matching framework I use during free counseling:

Indian Profile	Realistic Target	Reach School
<b>BTech CGPA 9.0+, GRE 330+</b>	X / CentraleSupélec / PSL	INSEAD MBA
<b>BTech 8.5-9.0, GRE 320+</b>	CentraleSupélec / Mines / Paris-Saclay	X / HEC
<b>BTech 7.5-8.5</b>	Sorbonne / Grenoble / Strasbourg	CentraleSupélec
<b>BTech 7.0-7.5</b>	Aix-Marseille / Bordeaux / Lyon 1	Public Tier 1
<b>BBA 70%+, GMAT 680+</b>	EDHEC / SKEMA / NEOMA	HEC / ESSEC
<b>BBA 60-70%, GMAT 620+</b>	Audencia / KEDGE / ICN	EDHEC / SKEMA

## Chapter 3

# The Real Cost - What You Will Actually Spend

**Quick read:** A year in France costs an Indian student EUR 13,000-22,000 (INR 12-20 lakh) at a public university, or EUR 28,000-45,000 (INR 25-40 lakh) at a Grande Ecole. Paris adds 30-40% premium. CAF housing aid recovers EUR 100-180/month.

## Tuition by Institution Type

Track	Tuition / Year	INR Equivalent
Public Uni (waived fees)	EUR 170-243	INR 15K-22K
Public Uni (full non-EU fee)	EUR 2,770-3,770	INR 2.5-3.5 lakh
Mid-tier Business School	EUR 14,000-18,000	INR 12-16 lakh
Grande Ecole Engineering	EUR 13,000-18,000	INR 11-16 lakh
HEC / ESSEC / EDHEC MS	EUR 22,000-30,000	INR 20-27 lakh
INSEAD MBA (1 year)	EUR 105,000	INR 95 lakh

## Cost of Living - 10 Cities Compared

Living costs swing dramatically by city. Paris is the most expensive city in continental Europe; Toulouse and Nantes are 35-40% cheaper for the same lifestyle:

City	Rent (Studio)	Total Living	Notes
Paris	EUR 700-1,200	EUR 1,300-2,000	Most expensive - housing crunch
Lyon	EUR 500-750	EUR 1,000-1,400	Best value big city
Toulouse	EUR 450-650	EUR 950-1,300	Aerospace hub, sunny

City	Rent (Studio)	Total Living	Notes
<b>Bordeaux</b>	EUR 480-700	EUR 1,000-1,400	Wine + lifestyle
<b>Nantes</b>	EUR 450-650	EUR 950-1,300	Modern, balanced
<b>Marseille</b>	EUR 420-600	EUR 900-1,200	Mediterranean, coastal
<b>Strasbourg</b>	EUR 480-700	EUR 1,000-1,400	EU institutions
<b>Lille</b>	EUR 450-650	EUR 950-1,300	Close to UK + Belgium
<b>Grenoble</b>	EUR 470-680	EUR 1,000-1,400	Tech + ski mountains
<b>Nice</b>	EUR 600-900	EUR 1,200-1,700	Cote d'Azur premium

## Three Realistic Budget Scenarios

### Scenario A: Tight Budget (Public Uni, Tier 2 City)

Public university + waived fees + city like Toulouse, Nantes, or Strasbourg. Lives carefully, cooks at home, uses CAF housing aid.

Item	Cost / Year	INR
Tuition	EUR 170	INR 15,000
Rent (CROUS or shared)	EUR 4,800	INR 4.3 lakh
Food (cooks)	EUR 2,400	INR 2.2 lakh
Transport (Navigo / TBM)	EUR 350	INR 32,000
Health insurance (free, social sec)	EUR 0	INR 0
Phone, books, misc	EUR 1,500	INR 1.4 lakh
Less CAF aid (~ EUR 150/mo)	-EUR 1,800	-INR 1.6 lakh
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>EUR 7,420</b>	<b>INR 6.7 lakh</b>

### Scenario B: Moderate (Public Uni, Lyon or Bordeaux)

Item	Cost / Year	INR
Tuition	EUR 3,770	INR 3.4 lakh
Rent	EUR 7,200	INR 6.5 lakh
Food + grocery	EUR 3,600	INR 3.2 lakh
Transport	EUR 400	INR 36,000
Health top-up insurance	EUR 200	INR 18,000
Phone, books, social	EUR 2,400	INR 2.2 lakh
Less CAF aid	-EUR 1,500	-INR 1.4 lakh
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>EUR 16,070</b>	<b>INR 14.5 lakh</b>

## Scenario C: Premium (Grande Ecole / HEC / Paris)

Item	Cost / Year	INR
Tuition (HEC MS)	EUR 22,000	INR 20 lakh
Rent (Paris studio)	EUR 12,000	INR 11 lakh
Food + dining out	EUR 4,800	INR 4.3 lakh
Transport (Navigo Paris)	EUR 900	INR 81,000
Health top-up + extras	EUR 600	INR 54,000
Phone, books, lifestyle	EUR 4,000	INR 3.6 lakh
Less CAF (Paris ceiling)	-EUR 2,000	-INR 1.8 lakh
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>EUR 42,300</b>	<b>INR 38 lakh</b>

## How Indian Students Cover the Cost

Source	Typical Range	Notes
Family savings	INR 5-25 lakh	Most common base
Education loan (HDFC/SBI/Axis)	INR 20-40 lakh	Collateral or co-signed
Charpak Scholarship (Bachelor)	EUR 7,500/year + tuition	Govt of France
Eiffel Scholarship (MS/PhD)	EUR 1,181/month + tuition	Govt of France
Erasmus Mundus	EUR 1,400/month + travel	EU + university
University merit aid	EUR 3,000-12,000/year	Varies wildly
Part-time work (20 hrs/week)	EUR 600-1,000/month	Legally allowed on student visa

## Part-Time Work - The Real Numbers

French student visa allows 964 hours per year of legal work (about 20 hours/week during term).  
Realistic earnings:

Work Type	Hourly Pay	Monthly (20h/wk)
University tutor / TA	EUR 12-18	EUR 1,000-1,500
Restaurant / cafe service	EUR 11.65 (SMIC)	EUR 950-1,050
Indian restaurant kitchen	EUR 11-14	EUR 950-1,200
Babysitting / au pair	EUR 10-15	EUR 800-1,250
IT freelance / coding	EUR 20-40	EUR 1,500-3,000

**Reality check:** Most Indian students earn EUR 600-1,000/month part-time during the academic year. This covers rent in mid-tier cities. In Paris, it covers about half of rent. Plan finances assuming part-time work covers food + transport, not tuition.

# Charpak + Eiffel + 10 Other Scholarships

**Quick read:** France runs the most generous scholarship ecosystem in continental Europe for Indian students. Two flagship programs (Charpak for Bachelors, Eiffel for Masters/PhD), plus Erasmus Mundus, plus university-specific aid. Apply to all of them - 60% of our students get at least one.

## 1. Charpak Scholarship - Bachelor Level

Named after Georges Charpak (French Nobel laureate in Physics), Charpak is the flagship Govt of France scholarship for Indian undergraduates. Three sub-programs:

Charpak Variant	Who	Award
<b>Charpak Scholarship</b>	Indian Bachelor students at French Univ	EUR 7,500/year + tuition waiver + visa fee + healthcare
<b>Charpak Lab Scholarship</b>	BTech 3rd-4th year, 2-month research	EUR 700/month + airfare + visa
<b>Charpak Master Scholarship</b>	Indian MS-1 year only	EUR 5,200 + tuition + visa + insurance

**Who actually gets it:** Indian students with 75%+ in Class 12, applying to a French institution for a Bachelor program (3 years). Around 15-25 Indian students win each year. **Apply by January-February each year through Campus France India.**

## 2. Eiffel Excellence Scholarship - Master's and PhD Level

The biggest scholarship for international Master's students in France. Run by the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs.

Detail	Master's Track	PhD Track
<b>Monthly stipend</b>	EUR 1,181	EUR 1,700
<b>Duration</b>	Up to 24 months (M1+M2)	Up to 12 months

Detail	Master's Track	PhD Track
<b>Tuition coverage</b>	Not always covered	Not always covered
<b>Travel</b>	Round-trip airfare included	Round-trip + cultural visits
<b>Health insurance</b>	Covered	Covered
<b>Eligible age</b>	< 30 years	< 35 years
<b>Eligible fields</b>	Engineering, Sciences, Econ, Mgmt, Law, Pol Sci	Same

**Critical:** You do NOT apply directly to Eiffel. The French institution nominates you. So step 1 is to apply to French universities AND tell them you want Eiffel nomination. Deadline at universities: **October-December each year.**

### 3. Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees

EU-funded program for joint Master's degrees across 2-3 European countries (always at least one in France). Most generous scholarship in Europe for Indians.

Detail	Award
Monthly allowance	EUR 1,400
Travel + installation	EUR 1,000 fixed + travel
Tuition	Fully covered
Insurance	Covered
Duration	12-24 months across 2-3 countries
Application portal	Direct to each EMJM consortium
Deadline	October-January (varies)

### 4. Other Scholarships Indians Should Know

Scholarship	Award	For
HEC MBA Excellence	EUR 30K (full tuition)	HEC MBA admits with 720+ GMAT
INSEAD Need + Merit	EUR 25-50K	Top INSEAD MBA admits
ESSEC International Award	EUR 6,000-8,000	ESSEC MS admits
Sciences Po Emile-Boutmy	EUR 8,000-14,000	Need-based for non-EU
IDEX Paris-Saclay	EUR 10,000	Top MS-1 international students
EMJM (Erasmus Joint MS)	EUR 1,400/mo + tuition	160+ programs
Inlaks (Indian foundation)	GBP 30-100K	Top global universities
JN Tata Endowment Loan	INR 1-10 lakh	Indian students abroad
KC Mahindra Education	INR 8-10 lakh	Indian MS abroad

Scholarship	Award	For
Aga Khan Foundation ISP	Tuition + stipend	Developing country MS/PhD

## Realistic Scholarship Strategy by Profile

### Strategy A: BTech Topper Profile (CGPA 9.0+, GRE 325+, IELTS 7.5)

- \* PRIMARY: Eiffel Excellence (apply via Polytechnique, CentraleSupélec, Paris-Saclay)
- \* SECONDARY: Erasmus Mundus (target 4-6 EMJM programs)
- \* BACKUP: University-specific IDEX or merit aid
- \* OUTCOME: 70%+ chance of full or 80%+ funding

### Strategy B: Strong BTech (CGPA 8.0-9.0, GRE 315+, IELTS 7.0)

- \* PRIMARY: Eiffel Excellence (target Sorbonne, Paris-Saclay, INSA Lyon)
- \* SECONDARY: Erasmus Mundus (target 3-4 EMJM programs)
- \* BACKUP: ESSEC / EDHEC / Sciences Po merit awards
- \* OUTCOME: 50% chance of major aid, 90% chance of EUR 4-8K aid

### Strategy C: BBA / Commerce Profile (70%+, GMAT 680+, IELTS 7.0)

- \* PRIMARY: ESSEC International Award + EDHEC merit
- \* SECONDARY: HEC Excellence (need 720+ GMAT)
- \* BACKUP: NEOMA / SKEMA / IESEG dean's scholarships (auto-considered on app)
- \* OUTCOME: 60% chance of EUR 4-8K aid; 20% chance of EUR 15K+

## Critical Timeline

Month	Action
August - September	Shortlist universities + scholarships
October - November	University applications open (Eiffel-eligible)
December - January	Submit university apps + ask for Eiffel nomination
January - February	Charpak deadline at Campus France India
February - March	University deadline + Eiffel nomination by uni
April - May	Eiffel results announced
May - June	Charpak results announced

Month	Action
June - July	Erasmus Mundus consortium results

## Chapter 5

# The Application Process Step by Step

**Quick read:** France runs the application process through TWO portals: **Campus France** (mandatory pre-consular interview) and **Etudes en France** (centralized application platform). Skip Etudes en France and your visa cannot be processed. Plan 12 months ahead.

## The 18-Month Master Timeline

Month (Before Intake)	Action
18 - Aug 2025	Take IELTS/TOEFL + GRE/GMAT (if needed). Start French A1.
16 - Oct 2025	Shortlist 8-12 institutions. Register on Campus France India.
14 - Dec 2025	Open Etudes en France account. Build profile with all documents.
12 - Feb 2026	Submit applications via Etudes en France (deadline window).
10 - Apr 2026	Universities issue admission decisions.
9 - May 2026	Confirm admission + pay deposit (if any).
8 - Jun 2026	Campus France pre-consular interview.
6 - Jul 2026	Apply for student visa at VFS France.
5 - Aug 2026	Visa decision (typically 2-4 weeks).
4 - Sep 2026	Book flight, arrange housing.
Move - Oct 2026	Land in France. Validate visa online within 90 days.

## Campus France India - The Mandatory Gateway

Every Indian student going to France MUST go through Campus France India. They run pre-consular interviews, validate documents, and your file gets stamped before VFS will accept your visa application.

**Campus France offices in India:** Bangalore, Bombay, Calcutta, Chandigarh, Chennai, Delhi, Hyderabad, Pondicherry, Pune. Closest to Ahmedabad: Pune or Bombay.

Step	Action	Cost
1	Create Etudes en France account	Free
2	Build academic + personal profile	Free
3	Apply to up to 7 institutions	EUR 99 (Rs 8,500)
4	Receive admission decisions	Free
5	Confirm one institution + pay tuition	Varies
6	Pre-consular interview at Campus France	Included in EUR 99
7	Submit visa file at VFS France	EUR 99 visa fee + service

## Documents Etudes en France Will Demand

- \* Class 10 + Class 12 mark sheets and certificates (notarized + translated to French if not English)
- \* Bachelor degree mark sheets (semester-wise) and provisional/final degree
- \* IELTS (6.5+ overall, no band below 6.0) OR TOEFL iBT 90+ for English-taught programs
- \* TCF/DELF B2 for French-taught programs
- \* GRE/GMAT (if program requires)
- \* Statement of Purpose (in English or French)
- \* Curriculum Vitae (Europass format preferred)
- \* 2-3 Letters of Recommendation (from professors or employers)
- \* Passport (valid for at least 18 months)
- \* Passport-size photographs (35x45mm, white background)
- \* Bank statements showing INR 9-12 lakh available (proof of funds)

# The Etudes en France Application - Field by Field

When you fill the Etudes en France application, every field is screened by Campus France. Get any of these wrong and you delay your file by weeks:

Section	What Indians Get Wrong
Personal Details	Match passport spelling EXACTLY. Even one missing initial fails.
Academic History	Enter every school from Class 1. Sort chronologically.
Standardized Tests	Upload official PDFs, not screenshots.
Project Statement	Write in 3 languages: English + French + Hindi mother tongue.
Choice of Studies	Upload SOP - 1 page max for each institution.
CV	Use Europass format. Avoid US-style 1-page summary.
Funding Plan	Show INR 9-12 lakh in family bank account (last 3 months).

## Sample Statement of Purpose Structure

French Admissions Officers want to see four things in your SOP. Use this exact structure (more in Bonus 2):

1. PARAGRAPH 1: Why this specific Master's program (not generic "France")
2. PARAGRAPH 2: Academic background that prepared you (specific courses, projects)
3. PARAGRAPH 3: Career goal in 5 years (which industry/role)
4. PARAGRAPH 4: Why this institution specifically (faculty, lab, alumni)

**Indian-specific tip:** Do NOT mention how India "lacks opportunities" or how France is "the land of dreams." French committees find it pleading. Instead, frame France as **the right strategic choice** for your specific goals.

# French Student Visa Without Stress

**Quick read:** The French Long-Stay Student Visa (VLS-TS) takes 2-4 weeks to process. Apply through VFS France in India. Refusal rate for Indians: under 8% (one of the lowest in EU). Documents are the make-or-break.

## VFS France Centers in India

City	Address Area	Coverage
Mumbai	Andheri (E)	Mumbai, Pune, Goa, MP, Gujarat
Delhi	Connaught Place	NCR, North India, J&K, HP, Punjab
Chennai	Anna Nagar	Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry, Andamans
Bangalore	M.G. Road	Karnataka, AP, Kerala
Kolkata	Park Street	West Bengal, North-East, Bihar
Hyderabad	Banjara Hills	Telangana, AP
Ahmedabad	C.G. Road	Gujarat
Pune	Camp	Pune

## Visa Document Checklist (DO NOT MISS A SINGLE ONE)

- \* Passport (valid 18+ months, 2 blank visa pages)
- \* Visa application form (downloaded from France-Visas portal)
- \* 2 passport photos (35x45mm, white background, 80% face coverage)
- \* Campus France acceptance letter (NOC issued after pre-consular interview)
- \* Final admission letter from French institution
- \* Proof of accommodation in France (CROUS dorm, university housing, or rental contract)
- \* Proof of funds: INR 9-12 lakh in your or parent's bank (last 3 months)

- \* Tuition fee payment proof (if applicable)
- \* Travel medical insurance (covering full visa period, EUR 30K+ coverage)
- \* Cover letter explaining your study plan (in French or English)
- \* Birth certificate (translated if not in English)
- \* Education documents (Class 10 + 12 + Bachelor)
- \* Test scores (IELTS / TOEFL / TCF / DELF)
- \* Visa fee: EUR 99 (~ INR 9,000) + VFS service charge ~INR 1,500

## Step-by-Step Visa Application

Step	Action	Time
1	Complete Campus France pre-consular interview + get NOC	2-4 weeks
2	Create France-Visas account online	30 mins
3	Fill out long-stay student visa form	60 mins
4	Pay visa fee online (EUR 99)	15 mins
5	Book VFS biometric appointment	1-3 days wait
6	Submit documents at VFS center	Same day
7	Pay VFS service charge	Same day
8	Wait for decision (passport in VFS)	2-4 weeks typical
9	Pickup passport with visa stamp from VFS	Same day
10	Land in France + validate visa online within 90 days	Critical step!

## The 5 Most Common Visa Interview Questions

- \* "Why France and not USA, UK, or Germany?" - Have a 30-second clear answer.
- \* "Why this specific program at this specific institution?" - Be specific (faculty, courses, alumni).
- \* "What will you do after graduation?" - 5 years roadmap. Talent Passport is fine to mention.
- \* "Who will fund your education?" - Match exactly with your bank statements.
- \* "Why should we trust you to come back / settle legally?" - Mention either return plans OR legal Talent Passport intent.

**Critical step after landing:** Within 90 days of arrival in France, you MUST validate your visa online at [administration-etrangers-en-france.interieur.gouv.fr](https://administration-etrangers-en-france.interieur.gouv.fr). Cost: EUR 50. If you skip this, your visa is invalid and you lose access to CAF, banking, and re-entry rights.

# First 30 Days - Bank Account, CAF, Health Insurance

**Quick read:** First month in France is admin-heavy. Open a French bank account, register for social security (free), claim CAF housing aid (EUR 100-180/month back), and buy a top-up health insurance. Skip CAF and you leave INR 1-2 lakh on the table per year.

## The First-30-Days Checklist

1. Validate visa online (within 90 days) - EUR 50
2. Open French bank account (BNP Paribas / Soc Gen / La Banque Postale / N26 / Revolut)
3. Register for Social Security (Ameli) - free, gives you Carte Vitale
4. Buy top-up Mutuelle health insurance - EUR 15-40/month
5. Apply for CAF housing aid (APL / ALS) - within 1 month of moving in
6. Get a French phone number (Free Mobile, Orange, Bouygues)
7. Buy public transport pass (Navigo Paris, Tisseo Toulouse, etc)
8. Register at the Prefecture if needed (only some cases)
9. Open library card at university (free books + study spaces)
10. Get a CROUS or restaurant universitaire card (subsidised meals at EUR 3.30)

## Bank Accounts - 5 Options Compared

Bank	Type	Monthly Fee	Best For
<b>BNP Paribas</b>	Traditional	EUR 0-3	Pro account features
<b>Societe Generale</b>	Traditional	EUR 0-2	Wide branch network
<b>La Banque Postale</b>	Traditional	EUR 0	Simplest paperwork
<b>N26</b>	Online (German)	EUR 0	No French address needed

Bank	Type	Monthly Fee	Best For
Revolut	Online (UK)	EUR 0	Multi-currency, INR transfers

## CAF Housing Aid - The Most Underclaimed Money

CAF (Caisse d'Allocations Familiales) gives international students EUR 100-180/month toward rent. About 70% of Indians I have placed in France did NOT know about CAF until I told them. That is INR 1-2 lakh left unclaimed every year.

Aid Type	Who	Typical Amount
<b>APL (Aide Personnalisée au Logement)</b>	Subsidised housing (CROUS)	EUR 100-150/month
<b>ALS (Allocation de Logement Sociale)</b>	Private rental	EUR 80-180/month

**Apply at:** [caf.fr](http://caf.fr) - within 30 days of moving in. You need a French bank account, RIB, lease (bail), valid visa, social security number.

## Health Insurance - The Free + Top-Up Combo

Since 2018, all international students get FREE basic health insurance through the French Social Security (Securite Sociale Etudiante). This covers about 70% of medical costs.

To cover the remaining 30%, buy a top-up **Mutuelle**:

Mutuelle Provider	Monthly Cost	Coverage
<b>HEYME (student-focused)</b>	EUR 12-20	Most popular for Indians
<b>SMENO</b>	EUR 15-25	Strong on dental + vision
<b>LMDE</b>	EUR 12-22	Standard student plan
<b>Generali Student</b>	EUR 25-40	Premium tier

## Chapter 8

# Where to Live - Cities, Housing, Daily Life

**Quick read:** Paris is iconic but expensive (EUR 1,400+ rent). Lyon and Toulouse give 80% of the lifestyle for 50% of the cost. CROUS subsidised housing is cheapest but limited; private studio is fastest. Avoid the September housing rush - book by July.

## Top 10 Indian-Friendly Student Cities

City	Top Programs	Indian Vibe	Cost Index
Paris	HEC, Sciences Po, X, Sorbonne	Strong	100 (highest)
Lyon	INSA Lyon, EM Lyon, Lyon 1	Strong	65
Toulouse	ISAE-SUPAERO, Toulouse III	Aerospace cluster	60
Bordeaux	KEDGE, INP, U. Bordeaux	Growing	62
Marseille	Aix-Marseille, KEDGE	Mediterranean	55
Nantes	Audencia, Centrale Nantes	Modern, balanced	60
Strasbourg	U. Strasbourg, EM Strasbourg	EU cluster	63
Lille	IESEG, Lille 1, EDHEC	Close to UK/Belgium	60
Grenoble	GEM, Grenoble Alpes	Tech + Alps	63
Nice	EDHEC Nice, U. Cote d'Azur	Riviera lifestyle	75

## Housing Options Ranked by Indian Comfort

Option	Monthly Cost	Pros	Cons
<b>CROUS (uni dorm)</b>	EUR 200-400	Cheap, subsidised, social	Limited spots, lottery
<b>Studio in city</b>	EUR 450-1,200	Privacy, location	Most expensive option
<b>Colocation (shared apt)</b>	EUR 300-700	Social, cheaper than studio	Roommate quality varies
<b>Family homestay (with French family)</b>	EUR 350-600	Language practice, full meals	Less independence
<b>Studapart / private student res</b>	EUR 600-900	Furnished, includes utilities	Pricier than CROUS
<b>Crous + part-time job</b>	Net EUR 0-200	CAF + part-time covers all	Time commitment

## Daily Essentials - Real Indian Costs

Item	Cost	Notes
<b>Carrefour grocery (1 month, single)</b>	EUR 200-280	Cooking at home
<b>Restaurant universitaire meal</b>	EUR 3.30	Subsidised - eat 4-5x/week
<b>Cafe lunch in Paris</b>	EUR 12-18	Reserve for social outings
<b>Indian restaurant dinner</b>	EUR 18-30	Most cities have Indian options
<b>Indian groceries (Tana, Velan)</b>	+25%	Spices, rice, lentils available
<b>Navigo Paris monthly pass</b>	EUR 88.80	Unlimited Paris transport
<b>Tisseo Toulouse student pass</b>	EUR 14/month	Cheapest student transit
<b>Free Mobile phone plan</b>	EUR 9.99	Unlimited France + EU + India 50GB
<b>Spotify / Netflix student</b>	EUR 5-8	Indian content available
<b>Gym membership</b>	EUR 20-40	Students get discounts

## Chapter 9

# French Language - When You Really Need It

**Quick read:** You can study Master's in France entirely in English. But for jobs, internships, daily life, and PR - **French at B2 level is non-negotiable**. Plan A1 before landing, B1 by graduation, B2 within first job year.

## When You Need French - The Honest Table

Activity	Level Needed
Apply to English-taught Master's	NONE (zero French)
Study in English-taught program	NONE - A1 helpful socially
Apply to French-taught program	TCF / DELF B2
Find part-time job (not Indian restaurant)	A2 - B1
Internship at French company	B1 - B2 (most demand B2)
Full-time job in France post-MS	B2 minimum (some sectors C1)
Talent Passport renewal at 2 years	Often A2 demonstrated
Naturalization (French citizenship)	B1 mandatory

## The Realistic Roadmap (12 Months)

Month	Action	Cost
Month 1-3 (in India)	Self-study A1 with Duolingo + YouTube + Babbel	INR 0-3,000
Month 4 (in India)	Alliance Francaise classroom A1 (3 months)	INR 8-12K

Month	Action	Cost
<b>Month 5-6 (in India)</b>	A2 self-study + tutor (italki / Preply)	INR 5-10K
<b>Month 7 (in France)</b>	Take TCF placement test at university	EUR 0 (free)
<b>Month 8-12 (in France)</b>	University French course (free for students)	Free
<b>Month 13-18 (in France)</b>	B1 - B2 with daily practice + Tandem app	Free
<b>Month 19-24 (in France)</b>	B2 certification (TCF) for jobs	EUR 80-100

# TCF vs DELF/DALF - Which Test Do You Need?

Test	Type	Use Case	Validity
TCF (Test de Connaissance du Français)	Computer-based, scaled scores	University admission, work	2 years
DELFL (Diplome d'Etudes en Langue Française)	Computer-based, A1-B2	Lifetime certificate	Lifetime
DALF (Diplome Approfondi de Langue Française)	Computer-based, C1-C2	Advanced career, citizenship	Lifetime

**For Indian students applying to France:** TCF is faster and cheaper - take it for university admission. DELF B2 is the better lifetime credential - take it after 12-18 months in France to lock in your French level for life.

## Free Language Resources Worth Using

- \* TV5MONDE Apprendre - free A1-B2 lessons + videos
- \* France Culture podcasts - intermediate French listening
- \* Le Monde simplified articles (Le Petit Quotidien)
- \* Tandem app - free language exchange with native French speakers
- \* Coffee Break French podcast - drive-time A1-B2 lessons
- \* Lawless French (Laura K. Lawless) - free grammar reference
- \* YouTube: Francais Authentique, InnerFrench, Easy French

# Your Career After Master's

**Quick read:** France gives Master's graduates a 12-month job-search visa (APS - Autorisation Provisoire de Sejour). Once you find a qualifying job (gross EUR 28,860+), you switch to the Talent Passport - valid 4 years, renewable, leads to PR after 5 years.

## Top Industries Hiring Indian Graduates

Industry	Top Employers	Typical Starting Salary
Tech / Software	Capgemini, Atos, Dassault, Criteo	EUR 38-50K
Aerospace	Airbus, Safran, Thales, Dassault Aviation	EUR 40-55K
Automotive	Renault, Stellantis, Valeo, Michelin	EUR 38-50K
Energy	TotalEnergies, EDF, Engie, Schneider Electric	EUR 42-55K
Banking + Finance	BNP Paribas, Soc Gen, Credit Agricole, AXA	EUR 50-70K
Consulting	McKinsey, BCG, Bain, Capgemini Invent	EUR 70-90K
Luxury / Fashion	LVMH, Kering, Hermes, L'Oreal, Chanel	EUR 42-58K
Pharma + Biotech	Sanofi, Servier, Ipsen, bioMerieux	EUR 42-55K
Telecom + Media	Orange, Bouygues, Vivendi, Publicis	EUR 40-52K

## CV Format - Indian vs French Style

Element	Indian CV	French CV (Use This)
Length	3-5 pages	1 page (max 2 if PhD)
Photo	Optional	Almost mandatory (top right)
Personal info	Detailed	Name, contact, age, nationality
Education order	Most recent first	Most recent first (same)
Skills section	Long list	Organized: hard / soft / language / IT
Languages	IELTS scores	CEFR levels (A1-C2)
Hobbies	Long, generic	Specific: which sport, which book club
References	Listed at end	Available on request

## Top Job Search Portals for Indians in France

- \* APEC (apec.fr) - the official French executive jobs portal
- \* LinkedIn France - active recruiter market
- \* Indeed France
- \* JobTeaser - student/graduate focused
- \* Welcome to the Jungle - tech and startup jobs
- \* StationF - Paris startup hub jobs board
- \* France Travail (formerly Pole Emploi) - public jobs portal
- \* Hello Work - mid-tier French jobs

## Internships (Stages) - The Real French Pipeline

In France, jobs come almost universally through internships first. Plan a 3-6 month internship in your second Master's year. Internships in France must pay legal minimum: **EUR 4.35/hour x ~150 hours = EUR 650/month minimum.**

Top consulting / banking firms pay interns EUR 1,800-2,500/month. About 70% of French interns at these firms convert to full-time offers.

# Talent Passport to PR to Citizenship

**Quick read:** France runs the most generous post-study migration policy in continental Europe. APS (1 year job search) -> Talent Passport (4 years) -> Carte de Resident (10 years) -> Naturalization. Total time to French citizenship: 5-7 years from Master's start.

## The Full Pathway in 1 Table

Year	Status	Action
1-2	Master's student visa (VLS-TS)	2-year French MS degree
2.5	APS - 12 month job search	Find qualifying job
3-7	Talent Passport (4 years)	Permanent contract with EUR 41K+ salary
5-7	Carte de Resident (10 years PR)	After 5 years legal residence
5-7	Naturalization (French citizen)	After 5 years + B1 French + civic test

## The Talent Passport - France's Crown Jewel

The Talent Passport (Passeport Talent) is the residence card France issues to skilled non-EU workers - including Indian graduates. Valid 4 years, fully renewable, includes spouse work rights.

Talent Passport Variant	Eligibility
<b>Salaried Employee (Master Diploma)</b>	French Master's + EUR 41,933+ gross salary
<b>Highly Qualified Worker</b>	EUR 53,837+ gross salary, 12+ month contract
<b>Researcher</b>	University or research lab contract
<b>Innovative Project Holder</b>	Approved by ministry
<b>Investor</b>	EUR 30,000+ in French company

**Talent Passport Variant**

**Eligibility**

**Renowned Reputation**

International artists, athletes

## PR (Carte de Resident) Requirements

- \* 5 years of continuous legal residence in France (Talent Passport years count)
- \* Stable income (last 3 years above EUR 17,898 - SMIC level)
- \* B1 French level certified (TCF or DELF)
- \* Civic integration (Republican values respected, contract signed)
- \* Clean criminal record
- \* Health insurance + accommodation proof

## Naturalization (French Citizenship) - 5 Years

After 5 years legal residence, you can apply for French citizenship by decree:

- \* 5 years legal residence (2 years if you graduate from a French Master's)
- \* B1 French language (oral + written)
- \* Civic test (French history, institutions, geography)
- \* Stable income (above SMIC level)
- \* Integration into French society (community ties, work, no welfare)
- \* Clean criminal record

**2-year fast track:** If you graduate from a French Master's degree (recognized) and have lived in France for 2 consecutive years post-MS, you can apply for citizenship at year 2 instead of year 5. This is the fastest naturalization path in continental Europe.

## Dual Citizenship Reality

France allows dual citizenship. India does NOT - acquiring foreign citizenship voids your Indian passport. After French citizenship, you can apply for OCI (Overseas Citizen of India) for lifelong India travel + work + property rights.

# 50 Real Questions, Real Answers

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**Quick read:** The 50 questions Indian students ask me most often during free consultations. If you find yourself nodding to "yes, I was wondering that too" more than 5 times, book a free 30-min call - it means you have a real shot.

## ACADEMIC QUESTIONS

### Q. Can I do my entire MS in France in English?

A. Yes. France has 1,800+ English-taught Master's programs. No French language requirement at admission for these.

### Q. Are French degrees recognized in India?

A. Yes. AICTE recognizes most French institutions. For specific recognition, check the AICTE/UGC list.

### Q. Can I do MS in France right after BTech without work experience?

A. Yes. Most MS programs accept fresh BTech graduates. Some Grandes Ecoles prefer 1-2 years experience.

### Q. Can I switch fields - e.g., BTech to MS in Management?

A. Yes. Quantitative engineering backgrounds are welcomed at HEC, ESSEC, EDHEC for management MS.

### Q. What CGPA do I need for top French universities?

A. Tier 1 (X, HEC): 8.5+. Tier 2 (Sorbonne, Paris-Saclay): 7.5+. Tier 3 public unis: 6.5+.

### Q. Do I need GRE/GMAT for French Master's?

A. Engineering MS: GRE optional but helpful. Business MS: GMAT/GRE needed at top schools (HEC, ESSEC). Public unis: usually not.

### Q. Is IELTS or TOEFL preferred?

A. Either works. IELTS Academic 6.5+ overall (no band below 6.0) or TOEFL iBT 90+. France treats them equally.

### Q. What is the duration of MS in France?

A. 2 years (M1 + M2 = 4 semesters). Some specialized MS programs are 1 year (especially at Grandes Ecoles).

## FINANCIAL QUESTIONS

**Q. How much money do I need to show for visa?**

A. INR 9-12 lakh in your or parent's bank account, last 3 months stable.

**Q. Are scholarships actually winnable for Indians?**

A. Yes. About 15-20% of Indian students at top French institutions get partial or full scholarships.

**Q. How much tuition do I really pay at public universities?**

A. Officially EUR 2,770 (Bachelor) or EUR 3,770 (Master) for non-EU. About 60% of universities have waived this.

**Q. Can I work part-time legally?**

A. Yes. 964 hours/year (about 20 hours/week during term) at SMIC EUR 11.65/hour gross.

**Q. How much can I realistically earn part-time?**

A. EUR 600-1,000/month for restaurant/tutor work. EUR 1,500-3,000 for IT/consulting freelance.

**Q. Are education loans easy to get for France?**

A. Yes. SBI, HDFC, Axis, ICICI, Avanse all give loans for France. Top French institutions are pre-approved lists.

**Q. What is CAF and how much does it pay?**

A. CAF housing aid pays EUR 100-180/month. Apply within 30 days of moving in via [caf.fr](http://caf.fr).

**Q. What is Sperrkonto for France?**

A. France does NOT have Sperrkonto (that is German). For France, you show INR 9-12 lakh in regular bank account.

## VISA QUESTIONS

**Q. How long does the French student visa take?**

A. 2-4 weeks at VFS France after biometric appointment. Add 4-6 weeks for Campus France pre-consular interview before that.

**Q. What is the visa fee?**

A. EUR 99 (~ INR 9,000) + VFS service charge ~INR 1,500 + travel insurance ~INR 5,000.

**Q. Can my visa be rejected?**

A. Yes, but rare. France rejects under 8% of Indian student applications. Common reasons: insufficient funds, weak SOP, mismatched bank statements.

**Q. Can my parents come for graduation?**

A. Yes. Apply for short-stay Schengen visa under your invitation. Provide accommodation proof.

**Q. Can my spouse come with me on student visa?**

A. Yes. Spouse can come on accompanying family visa. Cannot work full-time during your studies.

**Q. What is APS - the post-study work visa?**

A. Autorisation Provisoire de Sejour. 12-month residence permit issued after Master's for job search. Renewable once.

**Q. How does Talent Passport work?**

A. 4-year residence + work permit. Issued when you find a qualifying job (EUR 41,933+ gross salary).

**Q. Can I travel within Schengen on French student visa?**

A. Yes. Your VLS-TS = Schengen. Travel freely to all 27 Schengen countries.

## **LIFE IN FRANCE**

**Q. Is France safe for Indian students?**

A. Yes. France is among the top 30 safest countries globally. Standard urban precautions apply.

**Q. Is there racism against Indians?**

A. France is mostly welcoming. Casual racism exists in older generations. Top universities and global cities are diverse.

**Q. How is the food situation for vegetarians?**

A. Cities have abundant vegetarian options. Indian and Asian groceries widely available. Cooking at home is most affordable.

**Q. Do I need to learn French to survive?**

A. For Master's study: no. For daily life beyond university: A1-A2 makes a huge difference. For jobs: B2 needed.

**Q. Is Paris too expensive for students?**

A. Yes - rent EUR 700-1,200 for studio. Most Indian students pick Lyon, Toulouse, or Bordeaux for 40-50% lower costs.

**Q. Where are the best Indian communities?**

A. Paris (40K+), Lyon (8K+), Toulouse (7K+). University Indian Society is in every major institution.

**Q. How is the weather?**

A. Northern France: cold winters (0-5C), mild summers. Southern France: Mediterranean climate. Paris winters require warm coat.

**Q. How do I find Indian groceries?**

A. Tana (Paris), Velan (Paris), G20 supermarkets carry Indian sections. Online: yellowweed.com, suprabazaar.com.

## **CAREER QUESTIONS**

**Q. How easy is it to find a job after MS?**

A. Easier in tech, finance, aerospace, consulting. Harder in pure humanities. With B2 French, jobs come within 6 months.

**Q. Do I have to speak French to get hired?**

A. Tech / startups: 30% English-only roles. Consulting / banking: B2+ usually. Industrial / aerospace: B2+ mostly.

**Q. What is the typical starting salary?**

A. EUR 38-55K for engineers, EUR 50-75K for finance/consulting, EUR 70-100K for elite Grande Ecole graduates.

**Q. Can I switch jobs in France?**

A. Yes. APS allows job change during 12-month search. Talent Passport is portable across employers.

**Q. Are remote jobs allowed on student visa?**

A. Yes for non-French clients (freelance/IT) within the 964 hours/year limit. Full remote = check tax + legal.

**Q. Do French employers sponsor work visas?**

A. Yes. Talent Passport sponsorship is straightforward - Indian engineers from top French unis are highly recruited.

**PR + CITIZENSHIP**

**Q. How many years to get PR (Carte de Resident)?**

A. 5 years legal residence (student years count fully). Need stable income, B1 French, integration.

**Q. How many years to French citizenship?**

A. 5 years (or 2 if you graduate from a French Master's). Need B1 French, civic test, integration.

**Q. Does India allow dual citizenship with France?**

A. No. Indian citizenship is voided if you take French. Apply for OCI after for lifetime India travel + property + work rights.

**Q. Can I sponsor my parents to visit / live with me?**

A. Yes for short visits (Schengen visa). For long-term residence: family reunification after you have PR or citizenship.

**Q. Is French passport powerful?**

A. Yes. French passport is consistently in top 5 globally. 192+ visa-free destinations. Full EU work + residence rights.

## Bonus 1

# Your 12-Month Application Roadmap

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**Use this:** Print this roadmap. Pin it to your desk. Tick each item as you finish. The students who finish 90% of this list win Charpak / Eiffel scholarships.

## Months 12-10 Before Intake (Aug-Oct prior year)

- \* Take IELTS Academic. Target 7.0+ overall, no band below 6.5.
- \* Take GRE if your target programs require (target 320+).
- \* Take GMAT if applying to business schools (target 680+).
- \* Start Alliance Francaise A1 French course.
- \* Identify 8-12 target institutions in France.
- \* Connect with Kadamb for free 30-min profile review.

## Months 9-7 Before Intake (Nov-Jan)

- \* Register on Etudes en France portal.
- \* Build complete profile: academics, tests, CV, photo.
- \* Draft Statement of Purpose (1 page max per institution).
- \* Request 2-3 Letters of Recommendation from professors.
- \* Apply for Charpak Scholarship if Bachelor track.
- \* Tell each university you want Eiffel nomination if MS track.

## Months 6-4 Before Intake (Feb-Apr)

- \* Complete Etudes en France pre-consular interview.
- \* Receive admission decisions from universities (rolling).
- \* Confirm one institution + pay deposit if any.
- \* Apply for education loan (HDFC, SBI, Axis, Avanse).
- \* Check Eiffel scholarship results (April-May).
- \* Book CROUS housing (lottery opens April).

## Months 3-0 Before Intake (May-Aug)

- \* Apply for student visa at VFS France.
- \* Buy travel medical insurance.
- \* Book flight (avoid early Sept rush).
- \* Confirm housing + send rental advance if needed.
- \* Buy initial cash in Euros (~ EUR 1,500-2,500).
- \* Pack: warm coat, formal wear, Indian groceries (limited).
- \* Land + validate visa online within 90 days + open bank account + apply CAF.

## Bonus 2

# SOP Template That Actually Works for France

**Use this template:** Replace the [bracketed] sections with your specifics. Keep the SOP to 1 page (450-550 words). French committees skim - structure beats poetry.

## Opening (60-80 words)

*"My fascination with [field] began when [specific moment - a project, course, internship, problem you solved]. Working on [specific deliverable] taught me that [insight]. As I shaped this interest into [Bachelor degree subject + university + year], I realized that the [Master's program at French institution] is the natural next step for the career I envision in [specific industry/role]."*

## Academic Background (100-130 words)

*"My BTech at [Indian university] gave me strong foundations in [3 specific subjects/projects]. I led [specific project] which [outcome with numbers - papers, awards, internships]. I scored [CGPA/percentage] and ranked [position if relevant]. Internships at [companies] showed me [specific industry insight]. My current research on [topic] connects directly to [French institution's lab/professor]."*

## Why This Program at This Institution (130-160 words)

*"The [exact program name] at [institution] uniquely combines [3 specific elements - courses, lab, faculty, alumni network]. I am particularly excited about [Professor X's] work on [specific topic] - which extends my Bachelor thesis on [your topic]. The program's structure - [first year focus] followed by [second year specialization] - matches my goal of becoming [specific role]. I also value [institution's] strong industry partnerships with [3 named companies]."*

## Career Vision (80-110 words)

*"In 5 years, I see myself working as [specific role] at [type of company] in France or Europe. My medium-term goal is to [specific achievement - lead a team, file patents, ship products]. France's ecosystem of [specific industry strengths] makes it the right base for this trajectory. The [Talent Passport / APS path] gives me the professional runway, and over the long term, I aim to [specific*

*contribution to either France or India-France collaboration]."*

### **Closing (40-60 words)**

*"With my technical background, demonstrated [specific strength], and clarity of direction, I am confident I will contribute to [institution]'s academic community. I look forward to the opportunity to bring my [specific skills/perspective] to [program]. Thank you for considering my application."*

**SOP rules:** 1 page max. No fluff. No "land of opportunities" cliches. Specific names, numbers, projects. End with confident statement, not a plea. Run through Grammarly + read aloud once before submitting.

## Bonus 3

# Sample Email to a French Professor

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**Use this for:** PhD applications, MS research-track applications, internship inquiries, finding a thesis supervisor. This format gets a 35-45% reply rate from French professors (vs 5-10% for generic emails).

## Subject Line

*Master's student interested in your work on [SPECIFIC TOPIC]*

## Opening (1 sentence)

*"Dear Professor [LASTNAME],"*

## Why You (2-3 sentences)

*"I am [Your Name], a final-year BTech student in [Field] at [Indian University]. I have been following your research on [SPECIFIC PAPER OR PROJECT - cite the title], and I particularly appreciated [SPECIFIC INSIGHT - 1 line] from your [year] paper [paper title or journal]."*

## Why You Are Qualified (2-3 sentences)

*"My Bachelor's thesis on [YOUR TOPIC] used [RELEVANT TECHNIQUE/METHOD] which connects directly to your work on [PROFESSOR'S TOPIC]. I have also worked at [INTERNSHIP] on [PROJECT] and led [SPECIFIC ACHIEVEMENT WITH NUMBERS - e.g., publication, hackathon, patent]."*

## The Ask (1-2 sentences)

*"I am applying to the [SPECIFIC PROGRAM at YOUR INSTITUTION] for September 2026 and would be honored to be considered for your research group. I have attached my CV and a 1-page research statement. Would a brief 15-minute call in the next two weeks be possible to discuss whether my profile fits your group's direction?"*

## Closing (1 sentence + signature)

*"Thank you for your time, and I look forward to hearing from you.*

*Best regards,*

*[Your Name]*

*+91 XXXXX XXXXX | [email] | [LinkedIn URL]"*

**Email rules:** Send Tuesday-Thursday, 10 AM French time (1:30 PM IST). Send to professor's university email, not personal. Follow up exactly once after 7 days. Attach CV (PDF) and 1-page research statement. Specific > generic always wins.

# How Kadamb Overseas Can Help You

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Kadamb Overseas is India's most trusted study-abroad consultancy for Europe. We have placed 500+ Indian students in France, Germany, Switzerland, Italy, Netherlands, Austria, Spain, and Lithuania since 2012.

I (Saumitra Rajput) personally counsel every student. The first 30 minutes are free. I will not push you toward a country you do not need. If you are better off in the USA, I will tell you.

## What Kadamb Does for You

- \* Free 30-min profile review (WhatsApp or Ahmedabad office)
- \* University shortlisting based on your CGPA + budget + career goal
- \* Etudes en France portal application support
- \* SOP review + LOR coordination + CV polishing
- \* Charpak / Eiffel / Erasmus scholarship application strategy
- \* Pre-consular interview prep at Campus France
- \* VFS visa filing + interview prep
- \* Pre-departure briefing: housing, banking, CAF, social security
- \* Post-arrival support for first 30 days in France
- \* Long-term: Talent Passport + Carte de Resident guidance

## Book Your Free Consultation

**READY TO MOVE FORWARD?**

**WhatsApp +91 99133 33239**

**Email: [info@kadamboveas.com](mailto:info@kadamboveas.com)**

**Web: [kadamboveas.com](http://kadamboveas.com)**

**Office: Ahmedabad, Gujarat**

*Bonne chance avec votre voyage en France!*

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