How can I present the École normale supérieure in just a few words? I should speak of its tradition, name some of its Bourdieu, Sartre, Foucault or Jacqueline de Romilly, from Kastler to Cohen-Tannoudji, Ngô Bao Châu and Jean-Pierre Serre); I should mention the charm of its legendary buildings (a school of the French Republic housed in a kind of medieval cloister); I should also mention its singularity, because in spite of its small size (2,400 students, including the doctoral students and international students) the ENS stands out as one of the world’s very best universities. I should also mention its situation at the core of a network of Parisian universities and institutions and its involvement in the setting up of PSL Research University Paris; I should also go back over its tremendous growth during the last decades, thanks to its exceptional of cutting-edge research.

Nevertheless I think that, in spite of all these elements, the essential would be missed: intellectual freedom, customized courses, synergies between Arts and Humanities and Sciences, ad hoc seminars, the priority given to the tutorships, the rich Parisian intellectual life, and, of course, those all-night discussions between the rosebushes and the pond in the Cour aux Ernests (with its legendary goldfish)...

But the École is first and foremost what there make of it. As you prepare to enter this place for the first time, you can be sure of being truly a part of the community of our École, you will help to make it lively, to shape it, to enrich it through your eyes, your ideas, your expectations; and from now on, we rely on you: welcome to the ENS, we hope

Marc Mézard
WHAT IS THE ÉCOLE NORMALE SUPÉRIEURE?

A FRENCH GRANDE ÉCOLE

The École normale supérieure is a French "grande école". It was founded in 1794, during the French Revolution, and its main purpose was to train secondary-school teachers. The present form of ENS dates back to 1985, with the merging of the École normale supérieure de la rue d’Ulm, for young men, and the École normale supérieure de jeunes filles, for young women (founded in 1882 and located in the Jourdan and Montrouge campuses). Now the École normale supérieure is a co-ed school preparing its students to teach and do research, but also to work in the government and even in public firms.

The French élèves normaliens receive a stipend during their four years of studies, but in return they have to work for the French state for six years after they have finished their studies at the École.

Since 2005, the École normale supérieure normaliens étudiants each year, on examination of their application. Most of these students come from universities or the French "classes préparatoires"; they receive no pay and their courses last three years.

THE DIFFERENT STATUS OF THE INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

More than 20% of ENS students are international students, who contribute towards the vitality of the institution. The international students are divided into two groups: those who study at the ENS to obtain a degree, and those who study at ENS without obtaining a degree.

The following students will obtain a degree:

- Elèves normaliens from the International Selection: 20 are recruited each year, after successfully passing two competitive examinations specifically for International Students, one in Arts and Humanities, the other in Sciences. Successful applicants receive a grant from ENS and a room on one of the School’s campuses. Their courses last three years.

- Elèves normaliens étrangers: they have passed one of the national competitive exams – all in French – to gain admission to the École. Successful applicants (all citizens of one of the European countries) benefit from the same status as the French normaliens and are remunerated. They receive a grant from ENS and a room on one of the School’s campuses. Their courses last four years.

- Normaliens étudiants étrangers: they are recruited upon application and a motivation interview. They study here for three years, are not remunerated but they can obtain a room on one of the School’s campuses on social grounds (and if a room is available).

Students who are enrolled in the
School’s Master’s courses.

Doctoral students who prepare a Ph.D. at ENS, in the doctoral school Paris Sciences et Lettres Research University: Physics in the Île-de-France doctoral school, the Interdisciplinary arts and humanities/sciences doctoral school, and the Astronomy and Astrophysics doctoral school.

The following students will not obtain a degree at ENS and do not have to validate ECTS credits:

- *Pensionnaires étrangers* (about 100 each year) are enrolled at their home university (located abroad), and stay at ENS for up to a year. They come to ENS on an exchange program and obtain accommodation on one of the ENS campuses (in most cases).
- *Auditeurs étrangers*, who are at the an exchange program or without an exchange program.

Post-doctoral researchers, who come to ENS after obtaining their Ph.D.

The following students will not obtain an ENS degree but have to validate ECTS credits, under an agreement with their Home universities:

- ERASMUS+ students and interns (about 30 per year).
- Students enrolled in the *History and literature* Master’s at Columbia University (about 10 per year).
LESSONS AT THE UNIVERSITY

The French academic system is made up of different institutions. Among them two are prominent: universities and grandes écoles. The grandes écoles, the basis of the knowledge of a particular field, while universities offer a variety of courses, which are general or specialized.

The École normale supérieure is special in Grande École working with the universities. ENS students are selected on competitive examination or after an interview, but they are obliged to attend courses at ENS and also to be enrolled in a national degree course at the university. Only the Pensionnaires Étrangers under a specific bilateral agreement do not have to attend the university.

Students in Arts and Humanities have to follow a whole program at the university, as soon as they enter the ENS. They thus obtain a Bachelor’s degree and then a Master’s degree. Science students benefit from a tailored program that allows them to validate their Bachelor’s degree with the classes they attend at ENS. Afterwards, they attend their first year of Master’s classes at the ENS in conjunction with the university, while during the second year of Master’s they are at the university and will obtain a degree from both the university and ENS.

LICENCE (BACHELOR), MASTER AND DOCTORAT (PH.D.)

There are three French university degrees: licence (bachelor’s), the master and the doctorat (doctorate). French people count each year separately starting from the year baccalauréat (high school degree) was passed: thus the licence is called “Bac +3”, the master “Bac +5” and the doctorat “Bac +8”. The licence and master programs are strongly differentiated. Under the Bologna process, each successfully-completed semester earns 30 ECTS credits (European Credits Transfer System); consequently, each academic year earns 60 credits. Thus licence degree comprises 180 credits master degree comprises 120 additional credits.

The licence

after obtaining the baccalauréat. These years are known as L1 (first year of licence), L2 (second year of licence) and L3 (third year of licence). The aim of this program is to give students a basic grounding in a given discipline. Most of the students who enter the first year at ENS have already completed the L2 and prepare their L3 at ENS. Universities offer two types of licences: general licences licences professionnelles (professional licence). ENS students may licence professionnelle.

The master

(first year of master) and M2 (second master). In Arts and Humanities, students have to attend lessons each of about a hundred pages, under the supervision of a dissertation director. At the end of each academic year, students have to present their work. The M2 research subject is in most cases the same as the one in M1, although it is still possible to change subjects and even the field of study between the two years of master. In Sciences, students attend lessons during the first semester and do an internship, in France or abroad, during the second semester.

The doctorat

metimes four years. Students are called doctorants (or colloquially thésards) and have to write a doctoral thesis of about 300 pages on a specific subject. They conduct thorough research in a laboratory for Science students and generally in a library for Arts and Humanities students. The thesis is supervised by a doctorants

the outcome of their research during the thesis defense. After the thesis has been submitted and defended, the doctorant becomes a docteur and is able to apply for post-doctoral positions or for maître de conferences (university lecturer) positions. Ph.D. students can prepare their degree either at the university or at ENS.

There are different types of Ph.D. contracts. Some offer remuneration to doctoral students, who in turn have to give lessons, or are assigned to the dissemination of scientific information, or to the development of research results, or receive a consultancy assignment. Doctoral students who receive no remuneration are not eligible for these assignments.

It is also possible to prepare a Ph.D. thesis with joint international tutors. In this case, the thesis is supervised by two directors, one from a French academic institution and the other from a foreign one. Doctoral in both institutions and prepare their thesis alternatively in each institution. The lan-
STUDYING AT ÉCOLE NORMALE SUPÉRIEURE

ACADEMIC STUDIES

All students enrolled at the École normale supérieure must take at least two courses per semester and one modern language course per academic year.

The ENS offers a wide range of courses, spread out in 15 different departments in Sciences or Arts and Humanities: Biology, Chemistry, Cognitive science, Computer science, Earth sciences, Mathematics, Physics, Economics, History, History and theory of art, Geography, Literature and languages, Philosophy, Social sciences.

There are several types of lessons, depending on the public and the department that organizes them.

In the Sciences, lessons are mainly cours magistraux, i.e. lectures, travaux pratiques, i.e. lab work, travaux dirigés, i.e. supervised practical work, and research seminars on a precise subject. Training through research is validated when students do an internship in a laboratory, under the supervision of the ENS or a partner institution.

In the Humanities, lessons can take various forms: induction courses are for students, especially first-year students, wishing to become familiar with a general subject. Research seminars cover a specific subject of view. There are also numerous classes in between. Training through research in humanities is validated by writing and defending a research paper, during each year of their Master’s course.

The French grading system is based mostly on a 20-point grading scale. The lowest mark is 0/20, the highest mark is 20/20 and the pass mark, which allows the validation of the exercise or the semester of the academic year, is generally 10/20 (however it may be 12/20 in some specific cases). The minimal grade for a research paper to be accepted is 14/20.

Numerous foreign languages are taught, including some rare languages. The choice includes Arabic, Bambara, Chinese, Danish, English, French Sign Language, German, Modern Hebrew, Hindi, Icelandic, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Persian, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Swedish, Turkish, and Yiddish. Lessons in French as a Foreign Language are also taught for foreign students wishing to learn French or to improve their level.

The course description book, the Brochure des enseignements, is available on the ENS website.

While the competitive examinations admit students to ENS, the diplôme de l’École normale supérieure (the ENS diploma) signals the end of their studies at the École. To obtain the diploma, graduating students must have been enrolled at least three times for the diploma, must already have obtained their Master’s degree and must have obtained at least 36 credits at ENS. At least one-third of these 36 credits must be which they belonged and as the Master’s degree.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR DOING AN INTERNSHIP

Internship regulations in France are very strict. Only students enrolled on a national university degree or the diplôme de l’École may do an internship supervised by the ENS, generally in a scientific laboratory, a public administration or a firm. Before beginning the internship, students must signed by themselves, the ENS Director and the hosting organization. Interns must be rather than a salary) if the internship lasts more than two months. Nevertheless, the amount of this allowance may not exceed €500 per month.

These conditions are compulsory for internships because the role of insurance. In order to obtain a Service de la scolarité et des concours (SAE).

Students who are not administratively enrolled at ENS but wish to do an internship, in France or abroad, must have their institutions of origin sign the stage.

### UNIVERSITY

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<tr>
<th>Licence (Bachelor)</th>
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<td>Preparatory classes</td>
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Director of studies Representative of the International Affairs Department
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### Économie (Economics)

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### Sciences de l'Antiquité (Classics)

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### Histoire et Théorie des Arts (Art History and Theory)

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### Études Cognitives (Cognitive Sciences)

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Director of studies   Representative of the International Affairs Department

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Dominique COMBE - Director of International Affairs Department, Professor, French Literature and Literary Theory
Stella DOSSA - Head of International Affairs Department, In charge of International Cooperation
Isabelle MISTRAL - International Student Mobility and International Selection

Contact : dri@ens.fr
Tel. +33 1 44 32 31 35

Office Hours :
- Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9:30 to 12:00 / 14:00 to 17:00
- Thursdays and Fridays from 9:30 to 12:00

/ REMINDER OF THE BENEFITS FOR PENSIONNAIRES AND INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Free access to all ENS lessons and seminars. Students may also enroll in a French university (contact the university for information about the lessons).

Academic tutoring (called tutorat). All ENS students should have a tutor. On their arrival foreign students and pensionnaires should contact the representative of the International relations office to find a tutor (if they want to).

Access to the ENS libraries – students must fill out the registration form of each library.

Access to computer facilities (internet in the halls of residence, e-mail address, computer room).

Access to cultural, arts and sports activities organized by the students’ union.

Access to the ENS restaurant at subsidized prices.

NB: Each department has a representative for the International relations office. All foreign students must introduce themselves to one of the two representatives of the departments they have chosen; they must and researchers whose research subject is related to what they are studying. The pensionnaires étrangers and validate them, in accordance with their universities of origin, for the course they follow there.

normaliens, whether French or foreign,
Pensionnaires étrangers can choose one too). Each semester they also have to sign a contrat d’études (learning agreement) on the software called GPS.

The Service de la scolarité et des concours (SAE) is in charge of the relations with the préfecture, in particular for the visas and residence permits.
/ TEACHING AND RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS OUTSIDE THE ENS

Here is a non-exhaustive list of academic institutions in which the normaliens can take lessons, attend seminars or do research.

Information on the detailed lessons program or the library opening hours is available in each institution concerned.

UNIVERSITIES AND HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

- Paris I (Panthéon-Sorbonne)
  12 place du Panthéon
  Paris 75005
  (Law, Economics, Human Sciences)
  .univ-paris1.fr

- Paris II (Panthéon Assas)
  12 place du Panthéon
  Paris 75005
  (Law, Economics, Human Sciences)
  .u-paris2.fr

- Paris III (Sorbonne Nouvelle)
  17 rue de la Sorbonne
  Paris 75005
  (Humanities)
  .univ-paris3.fr

- Paris IV (Sorbonne)
  1 rue Victor Cousin,
  Paris 75005
  (Humanities)
  .paris4.sorbonne.fr

- Paris V (Université René Descartes)
  12 rue de l’École de Médecine, Paris 75005
  (Medicine, Pharmaceuticals, Science and Human Sciences)
  .univ-paris5.fr

- Paris VI (Université Pierre et Marie Curie)
  4 place Jussieu
  Paris 75005
  (Science)
  .umap.fr

- Paris VII (Université Denis Diderot)
  2 place Jussieu
  Paris 75005
  (Humanities and Sciences)
  .diderot7.jussieu.fr

- Paris VIII (Université Vincennes Saint-Denis)
  2 rue de la Liberté
  Saint-Denis (93)
  (Humanities)
  .univ-p8.fr

- Paris IX (Paris Dauphine)
  place du Maréchal de Lattre de Tassigny,
  Paris 75016
  (Economics and Management)
  .dauphine.fr

- Paris X (Nanterre)
  200 avenue de la République
  Nanterre (92)
  (Law, Social Sciences and Humanities)
  .u-paris10.fr

- Paris XI (Université Paris Sud)
  15 rue Georges Clémenceau
  Orsay (91)
  (Science)
  .u-psud.fr

- Paris XII (Val-de-Marne)
  61 avenue du Général de Gaulle
  Créteil (94)
  (Science, Social Sciences and Humanities)
  .univ-paris12.fr

- Sciences Po (Institut d’études politiques et Fondation)
  27 rue Saint Guillaume
  Paris 75007
  (Political Science)
  .sciences-po.fr

- INALCO (Institut national des langues et civilisations orientales)
  2 rue de Lille
  Paris 75007
  (Foreign Languages)
  .inalco.fr
American Library in Paris
10 rue du Général Camou, Paris 75007

Archives nationales
60 rue des Francs-Bourgeois, Paris 75003
(French national archives)

Bibliothèque Forney
1 rue du Figuier, Paris 75004
(Fine arts)

Bibliothèque de l’IEP - Sciences Po
27 rue Saint Guillaume, Paris 75007
(Political Science)

Bibliothèque de l’INHA (Institut national
d’histoire de l’art)
4 rue Vivienne, Paris 75002
(History of Arts)

Bibliothèque Mazarine (Institut de France)
23 quai de Conti, Paris 75006
(Manuscripts)

Bibliothèque de la MSH (Maison des
sciences de l’homme)
54 bd Raspail, Paris 75006
(Human and Social Sciences)

BNF (Bibliothèque nationale de France)
11 quai François Mauriac, Paris 75013

BNF
58 rue de Richelieu, Paris 75002
(Maps, engravings, manuscripts, medals,
music scores)

BNF
1 rue Sully, Paris 75004
(Arts and theaters)

BPI (Bibliothèque publique d’information
du Centre Pompidou)
19 rue Beaubourg, Paris 75004
(All disciplines)

Bibliothèque Sainte-Geneviève
10 place du Panthéon, Paris 75005
(Humanities)

Bibliothèque de la Société de l’histoire du
protestantisme français
54 rue des Saints-Pères, Paris 75007
(French protestantism)

Bibliothèque de la Sorbonne
1 rue Victor Cousin, Paris 75005
(Humanities and Social Sciences)

Bibliothèque de l’UNESCO (Organisation
des Nations unies pour l’éducation, la
science et la culture)
7 place de Fontenoy, Paris 75007

IRHT (Institut de recherche et d’histoire
des textes)
40 avenue d’Iéna, Paris 75016
(Manuscripts)
We are very pleased to welcome you during your stay in Paris, and we hope that the information you find in this short guide will help to make it a profitable and enjoyable one.

The academic year for the normaliens élèves of the International selection starts on Monday, September 4 and Tuesday, September 5.

The academic year for the pensionnaires étrangers, auditeurs étrangers - cable) and ERASMUS+ students of the International selection starts on Wednesday, September 6.

Those students must register on September 6, salle des Actes (45 rue d’ulm, 75005 Paris):

- 9.00 - 12.00: Pensionnaires Étrangers (PE) housed on the Ulm campus
- 12.00 - 16.30: Pensionnaires Étrangers (PE) housed on the Jourdan and Montrouge campuses, ERASMUS+ students and other students

NB: The three campuses open for accommodation from Wednesday, September 6. In order to access the dormitories from this date, you have to inform us of the date and hour of your arrival at the following addresses: hebergement@ens.fr; dri@ens.fr; stella.dossa@ens.fr.

You room key will be left at the reception office of your residential campus.

ORGANIZATION OF THE ACADEMIC YEAR AT THE ENS

- First semester: from September to mid-January
- Mid-Term holidays: end of October
- Christmas holidays: from December 22 to January 2, 2017
- Second semester: January to the end of May
- Winter holidays: one week during February
- Spring holidays: 
- Summer holidays: variable dates, beginning or end of June
BEFORE YOU ARRIVE:

FOR NEW STUDENTS

/ ADMINISTRATIVE FORMALITIES

RESIDENCE PERMIT

Applications for the residence permit are filled out at School during the induction day organized by the International Affairs Department and the SAE (Registrar’s Office), Wednesday, September 6.

Since the beginning of the 2003 academic year, all students who receive their first residence permit must pay a fee of €58 (this may increase) and must take a medical examination by order of the préfecture. This fee must be paid on the date on which the permit is granted: approximately a month and a half after the start of the academic year.

If you are renewing your residence permit made out by the Registrar’s Office, you must pay a fee of €50, when you collect the permit.

NB: A biometric residence permit was introduced in June 2013. You will be requested to supply a fingerprint in order to obtain this.

VISAS

Nationals of countries in the European Union and the Swiss Confederation do not need a visa. In application of the law of 26 November 2003, they no longer need a residence permit.

Students from other countries must request a type D long-term student’s visa (CESEDA R311-3 6°) from the French Consulate in their country of origin or residence. The consulate will give you a VLSTS (long stay visa which acts as residence permit), and an application form for an attestation from the OFII (French Office of Immigration and Integration), which you must take to the Registrar’s office when you register. (Take the letter sent by the Head of International Relations at ENS to your consulate).

LANGUAGE ASSISTANTS

If you intend to ask for a position of language assistant in a secondary school (which is sometimes the case in exchanges with British or American universities), you should contact the French Embassy in your country and ask for a language assistant visa which you must take to the Registrar’s Office on your arrival. They will take care of the application procedures.

We remind you that your first salary will not be paid until three months after you take up your position.
WHAT TO BRING WITH YOU

PAPERS AND DOCUMENTS

Please bring the following documents to be handed in to the Registrar’s Office:

- Passport
- Birth certificate - COMPULSORY (not applicable for nationals within the European Union): this must be translated into French and be certified exact by an official body (the parents’ full names must be included).
- Long-stay visa: the visa stamped on your passport must be a type D long-stay student’s visa or a language assistant’s visa (only for language assistants in schools or universities). On your arrival in France, the ENS will take charge of obtaining your residence permit. This permit is compulsory except for nationals of European Union countries or Switzerland.
- Documents from the French Consulate (OFII)
- Grant certificate (scholarship) or personal or family means test (translated into French)
- Insurance - COMPULSORY (European insurance card, insurance from your university or family)
- Recent identity photos that are an exact likeness: bring at least 4 (taken from the front, head uncovered, size 3.5 x 4.5 cm). There is a photo machine in the ENS
- Letter(s) of recommendation from your university (not compulsory)

ONLY for registration for the ENS Diploma and/or in a university, you must provide:

- the originals of diplomas (from high schools and universities).
- their photocopies certified exact by a qualified body.
- their translation into French, done by a sworn translator.
- the corresponding grade sheets.
- their translation into French, done by a sworn translator.

/ INSURANCE: VERY IMPORTANT!

MEDICAL INSURANCE

Essential EXCEPT for students who receive French state grants.

- You must take out insurance in your country (university or family insurance), BEFORE you leave.

and reimbursement, especially if there is an agreement between France and your country. Remember to bring the certificate translated into French.

NB: If you cannot take out insurance in your country, it is sometimes possible to register with the French social security system provided that you register for a degree course in a Paris university (age requirement: under 28).

THIRD PARTY INSURANCE

It is COMPULSORY to take out insurance covering risks of accident (and fire, etc.). You must do this on the day you register at ENS.

You will be offered a contract with the MAIF. For this you must meet the MAIF representative, who is available during the registration days (from September 4 to September 6 2017).

NB: The premium is very good value:
- about €75 for students under 26
- about €150 for those over 26
/ BEFORE YOUR ARRIVAL

The ERASMUS+ agreement coordinator or the representative of the International Affairs Department receive ERASMUS+ applications in spring for the 1st semester (deadline May 31) and in autumn for the 2nd semester (deadline November 15).

The ERASMUS+ agreement coordinator or the representative of the International Relations Department approves the applications with the International Relations Office no later than June 30 for the 1st semester and December 15 for the 2nd semester.

/ WHEN YOU ARRIVE

On arrival, ERASMUS+ students must go to the International Affairs Department in order to have their attendance sheet signed. Students should contact the IAD to know the openings hours.

ERASMUS+ students must also contact their ERASMUS+ coordinator or representative of the International relations department to finalize their study program.

/ BEFORE YOU LEAVE

All ERASMUS+ students must ask their professors to send an email to the IAD (dni@ens.fr) with the title of the lessons and seminars attended, the grade obtained and the number of ECTS. This email must reach the IAD no later than two weeks before the student’s departure.

One week before leaving, ERASMUS+ students must go to the International Affairs Department to collect a statement of all the courses attended (grades and ECTS) based on the emails received from the professors, addressed to their university of origin.
/ FROM THE AIRPORTS

FROM ROISSY
Take the RER line B and get off:

45 rue d’Ulm  Luxembourg
48 boulevard Jourdan  Cité universitaire
1 rue Maurice Arnoux in Montrouge
Line 4 of the metro, get off at Mairie de Montrouge.

FROM ORLY
Take the ORLYBUS and:

45 rue d’Ulm: get off at Denfert-Rochereau (terminus), then take the RER Luxembourg or the n° 38 bus to Auguste Comte bus stop.
48 boulevard Jourdan: get off at Tombe Issoire (opposite n° 48)
Montrouge: get off at 48 boulevard Jourdan (Tombe Issoire bus stop), then arriving from ROISSY (see above).

/ FROM PARIS
The different campuses are accessible via the following public transport means:

45 RUE D’ULM
Bus 38: Auguste Comte bus stop
Bus 89 and 84: Panthéon Mairie du 5e bus stop
RER B: Luxembourg station

48 BOULEVARD JOURDAN
Tramway T3: Montsouris
Bus 28, 38 and 68: Porte d’Orléans bus
Metro line 4: Porte d’Orléans station
RER B: Cité Universitaire station

1 RUE MAURICE ARNOUX, MONTROUGE
Bus 194 or 195: Dépinoy bus stop (the bus leaves from the Porte d’Orléans)
Metro line 4: Mairie de Montrouge station
YOUR ARRIVAL AT THE STUDENTS’ RESIDENCE

Please inform the person in charge of welcoming you of the date and approximate time of your arrival by e-mailing or phoning any of the following addresses or numbers:

This email address: hebergement@ens.fr
Depending on the students’ residence you will be staying in:

JOURDAN
Tel. +33 1 43 13 61 56

ULM
Tel. +33 1 44 32 32 42
Fax. +33 1 44 32 30 10

MONTROUGE
Tel. +33 1 58 07 65 10
Fax. +33 1 58 07 50 80

Outside the office hours indicated, you will find your room key at reception 45 rue d’Ulm, 48 boulevard Jourdan or 1 rue Maurice Arnoux in Montrouge, provided you have informed the person responsible for your welcome (hebergement@ens.fr) in advance of your approximate time of arrival.

Before you arrive, feel free to write to the following email addresses, to ask any questions you might have about your accommodation, restaurant opening dates, etc.: hebergement@ens.fr dri@ens.fr

OFFICE HOURS

9:00-12:00
14:00-17:00
Monday to Friday inclusive
For French and foreign normaliens étudiants, the School has around 60 rooms. These rooms are attributed for a maximum of one year according to students’ means during the application selection process, and in January between the two semesters. This accommodation is only possible on one of the three ENS campuses or in a studio flat in the dormitory of the Crous (national-managed residences for students). The School can also find accommodation for students in need, depending on the level of urgency. If this is the case, students must inform the Director of studies of their department of their situation.

Students who have to find their own accommodation can call on the Crous residences (NB: you must ask for accommodation in March or April if you want accommodation in September), in private student dormitories or in private accommodation. The School’s website has housing information vademecum du logement, which can help you avoid some traps and find proper accommodation. Foreign students must longer than 4 months) as soon as they receive it.

/RECEPTION AT THE ENS

The ENS halls of residence are closed during the summer holidays. Reception is therefore not possible until Wednesday September 6 for the 3 halls.

International students receiving an accommodation grant from their university of origin MUST by June 30, 2018 if they are only attending the first semester, rooms must be vacated by February 15, 2018.

Only pupils and international students may live in halls of residence. Any incident or accident caused by or to a person not living in the halls is therefore likely to incur the liability of the resident who invited the unauthorized person.

COLLECTING YOUR ROOM KEY

When you arrive during opening hours and days, go to the reception desk at the hall of residence (Ulm, Jourdan, or Montrouge), where you will be given your key and all sorts of practical information.

/ EQUIPMENT

Pupils have a certain amount of equipment to meet most needs. If you intend to bring electrical or electronic appliances (razor, hair dryer, radio, etc.), you should know that domestic electrical current in France is 50 Hertz and 220 volts. Make sure you have the correct adapters (sockets).

In principle, you should have no difficulty bringing personal belongings into France. However, to avoid problems, especially if you bring valuable equipment (photography, video, computers, etc.), bring the original invoices which you can if necessary present to the customs authorities with your passport and your certificate of acceptance to the ENS.

If you have to send heavy objects (books for example), be sure to arrange for them to arrive at the School after September 6th deliveries cannot be taken during the school holidays. Please note that no parcels can be stored: you must therefore be present on red.

The rooms are furnished (but do not have individual refrigerators). Bed linen and towels are not provided.

All the bedrooms have cable (Internet access and e-mail): ask the student representatives or the computer department: cri@ens.fr.

If on your arrival you notice anything wrong with your room, please inform the reception service immediately or send an email to: hebergement@ens.fr and/or logistique@ens.fr.
The ENS has two restaurants, colloquially called pôts: one on the Ulm campus and the other on the Jourdan campus.

The price of a meal for all students, whatever their administrative status, is €3,80.

The two restaurants are open for lunch from 11.50 to 14.00; in the evening, only the Ulm restaurant is open, from 06.15 to 19.30 (please check with the restaurants).

In the morning, the Ulm restaurant serves breakfast from 7.30 to 9.20, for €1.70.

All ENS students have a pigeonhole for mail on the Ulm campus (between the salle informatique (computer room) and the bédéthèque (comic book library). This is where the administration sends the forms to be returned to the registrar’s office (SAE).

The School communicates a lot by e-mail. On their arrival, all ENS students receive an e-mail address in the following form: firstname.lastname@ens.fr. As the administration and the departments essentially communicate by e-mail, you should check your e-mails very regularly.

check it regularly because ENS will send individual or group messages there. If you do not, it will automatically be canceled.
/ BANKS

You will very probably have to open a bank account in France. Most banks have a network of branches in Paris and in the provinces. You can open a non-resident’s account without any particular formalities.

If the bank in your country has a branch in Paris, opening an account and transferring money will no doubt be quicker than in another bank. The School has an agreement with Société Générale, which makes it easy to open an account. This branch will be present on the first day of the semester.

Finally, international bankcards (American Express, Visa, Mastercard, etc.) may be useful in that they enable you to withdraw

/PUBLIC TRANSPORT

If you are under 26, you can get several reductions (Carte jeune, billets BIGE, Inter-Rail Card). Ask at the SNCF or Air France about how to obtain reduced-price tickets.

If you intend to travel widely in France or in Europe, ask for information at an agency in your country specializing in conditions for using the Euro-pass.

FOR TRANSPORT IN PARIS

2 season ticket systems are available:

For people under 26: Carte Imagine R (approximately €300 a year): this will let you travel freely on the RATP networks (metro and bus) and the Paris section of the RER network (RATP and SNCF).

For people over 26: Carte Navigo - approximately €700 a year, paid in monthly installments from your bank account: this will let you travel freely on the RATP networks (metro and bus) and the Paris section of the RER network (RATP and SNCF).

You can also buy tickets singly (about €2) or in booklets of 10 (about €14). The metro runs from 5am until 1:15am (and until 2:15am on Saturdays).

In general the RER runs until 12:30 or 1:00am.

buses however cease to run after 20:30 although certain lines run in the evenings and at night, others on Sundays. Just enquire!
/ ADMINISTRATIVE RECEPTION

Please get in touch with the International Affairs Department as soon as you arrive at dri@ens.fr or +33 1 44 32 31 35.

Go to the administrative reception, 45 rue d’Ulm, on Monday September 4; Tuesday September 5 or for Pensionnaires Étrangers and Erasmus+ students Wednesday September 6 (closed at weekends), to settle a few administrative matters and receive various documents.

- Receive the ENS’ «tug bag» containing all the useful information about classes and life at the School.
- Receive the ENS multipurpose card.
- Prepare the application for a residence permit.
- Pick up your certificate of accommodation (necessary for example to open a bank account).
- Obtain an ENS email address: COMPULSORY Please consult your emails regularly throughout the year: firstname.lastname@ens.fr. If you do not, it will be canceled automatically.
- Open a bank account in France.

/ THE STUDENT’S ASSOCIATION: THE COF

WHEN YOU ARRIVE IN SEPTEMBER

You will meet the ENS student who is informally in charge of showing you around the ENS.

THE INTEGRATION WEEK-END: THE MEGA

In the 3rd week of September the COF organizes a three-day tour somewhere in France to allow newcomers to get to know each other.

The ENS is a very stimulating environment, with its open-access libraries, its numerous conferences on various subjects, and also its several students’ clubs and activities. For further information, have a look at the bulletin boards, read the student’s journal, Bocal, and go to the informal events organized on the Ulm campus in September.

INFORMATION WEEKS

At the beginning of each academic year, the ENS organizes two information weeks. Don’t miss these, as you will learn a lot about classes and life at the École. There will be lectures as well as compulsory tours of the departments, laboratories and libraries.