



## KENYA EMBASSY IN PARIS

### INFORMATION GUIDE FOR KENYAN STUDENTS IN FRANCE

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## **Message from H.E. the Ambassador**

I wish to welcome all Kenyan Students to France on my behalf and that of my members of Staff. I strongly hope that you will all exploit the richness of the French cultural and multicultural diversity during the course of your studies.

The challenges that you may face in studying abroad should be regarded as one of the positive factors that motivate your enthusiasm and self-discipline in making your choice of discipline.

I would further like to emphasise that despite the language barrier encountered and different system of education, that Kenyan Students turnover in France, remains relatively high.

I wish you all good luck in all your students and in your future endeavours.

Good luck to you all.

**AMBASSADOR**

## **Aupair Programme**

The Aupair Programme attached Kenyan students to some French families to work for limited hours a day, in exchange for accommodation while studying on part time basis, with little or no payment from the family.

It is important to note that the Embassy would not be in a position to intervene in case of any difficulty encountered by the student, regarding the change of his/her status, as such private arrangements and contracts are usually only for a period of 18 months, hence without guarantee.

## **Resident Permit**

Kenyan students should note that resident permit issued only allows them to study in France as provision is yet to be made between the two governments on this matter. As a result, students are still strongly advised to seek financial help back home before coming to France to avoid the problems of having to look for employment which is very scarce, to finance their studies.

## **Accommodation**

The Embassy is aware of the problems faced by many Kenyan students concerning accommodation. It is important to note that foreign students registered in any institution of higher learning in France can apply to *Centre Régionale des Oeuvres Universitaires (CROUS)*, for university residence. It is advisable to students to contact directly the CROUS Students Service for a quick follow-up of their dossier. More information can be obtained from the CNOUS-CROUS website: [www.cnous.fr](http://www.cnous.fr)

## **Employment**

With regards to employment, it is to be noted that the two governments are yet to resolve the issue of work permits, which would open enough opportunities for Kenyan students to study and maintain themselves without having to revert to their parents for financial assistance.

Although, only holders of certain categories of resident permit are allowed to work and majority of Kenyans who came to France with the intention to study do not fall within these categories. On the other hand, students opting for voluntary work programs would need to request for required visas for these jobs before entering France. Students are allowed to work 20 hours but that is applicable to only those students with resident permit that allows them to do so, which depends on the agreement between the two countries concerned.

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### ***Registration of Kenyan Students***

All students as soon as they arrive in France are required to register with the Embassy for record purposes. A detailed form which, should be duly completed and returned together with a passport size photograph to the Mission, is available at Embassy Reception Desk.

### ***Actualisation of Records***

Students are invited to keep the Embassy informed of any change of situation as soon as possible to enable the Embassy update its records accordingly.

### ***Services offered to students by the Embassy***

#### ***Translation Services***

Apart from Educational Counselling, the Counsellor (Education) offers students translation services (***at the fee of 12 Euros per page***), particularly for their Kenyan Certificates of Education and Diplomas required by Universities and prospective French employers, depending on individual cases.

#### ***Attestation of Funds***

Attestation of funds are issued to needy students to enable them obtain their resident permit. In order to obtain attestation the followings are required:

- Written request to the Counsellor (Education).
- Subsistence allowance received from the parents of at least **450 Euros**.
- Current home address and institution attending.
- Enclose school 's admission letter or student card.

***Provision of the above-mentioned documents does not guarantee issuance of attestation.***

***Attestation may be issued at the discretion of the Education Counsellor.***

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## **SUPPORT FUNDS**

There are no funds in the mission for students for any financial support, in order to avoid myriad of financial problems faced by Kenyan students, needy students, are strongly advised to formally apply directly to the ***Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education, Science & Technology*** for consideration back home. Students can also channel their applications through the Education Counsellor, Kenya Embassy in France, for onward transmission to Nairobi. Recommendations could be made if necessary but that does not guarantee the award of bursary by the Ministry of Education.

## **French Government Bursary**

The French government bursaries are allocated by the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and majority are through Co-operation Services or Cultural Services of French Embassies abroad. Whatever the case might be and before coming to France, students in need of bursary are advised to contact directly the French Embassy in Kenya, well in advance to

obtain necessary information concerning the French Government bursary. The need for earlier consultation is pertinent as that will assist in alleviating the problems faced by students in financing their studies while in France.

## **French Universities Financial Aids**

France offers one of the cheapest systems of education and even free in some public institutions, students already registered in of the French public institutions are also advised to contact the ***Centre Régional des Oeuvres Universitaires et Scolaires (CROUS)***, for financial assistance.

## **Orientation of Students**

It is evident that majority of Kenyan students is encountered with difficulty in orientation due to language problems and a totally

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different system of education offered in France. Consequently, students faced with problem of choosing a discipline are strongly advised to contact the Education Counsellor for guidance.

The list of published information booklets on the organisation of French Higher Education on various disciplines can obtained by applying to the Department for Foreign Students' Careers and Integration on the system of education offered in France. Consequently, students faced with problems of choosing a discipline are strongly advised to contact the Education Counsellor for guidance.

## **Recognition of Diplomas**

For recognition of foreign diplomas in France: contact the French Ministry of Education, 61/65 rue Dutot, 75732 Paris Cedex 15. Tel. 01 40 65 65 40 website [www.education.gouv.fr](http://www.education.gouv.fr)

OR the Centre d'Etudes Pédagogiques (CIEP), a public institution within the French Ministry of Education, Higher Education and Research website: [www.ciep.fr](http://www.ciep.fr)

The Cultural Service of the French Embassy in Nairobi can be contacted and Information booklet on student life in France entitled **Je vais en France** published by the Cnous by can be obtained. More details available on [www.cnous.fr](http://www.cnous.fr) or [www.diplomatie.fr](http://www.diplomatie.fr)

***For further information on education in France:***

**EduFrance:** is a also public body created by the French Ministries of Education and Foreign Affairs. It provides free information to international students seeking objective and reliable answers to their questions about living and studying in France, they can be reached on their website: [www.edufrance.fr](http://www.edufrance.fr) email: [edufrance@edufrance.fr](mailto:edufrance@edufrance.fr)