



PARIS
VAL DE
SEINE
ÉCOLE NATIONALE SUPÉRIEURE
D'ARCHITECTURE

International student guide 2025-2026



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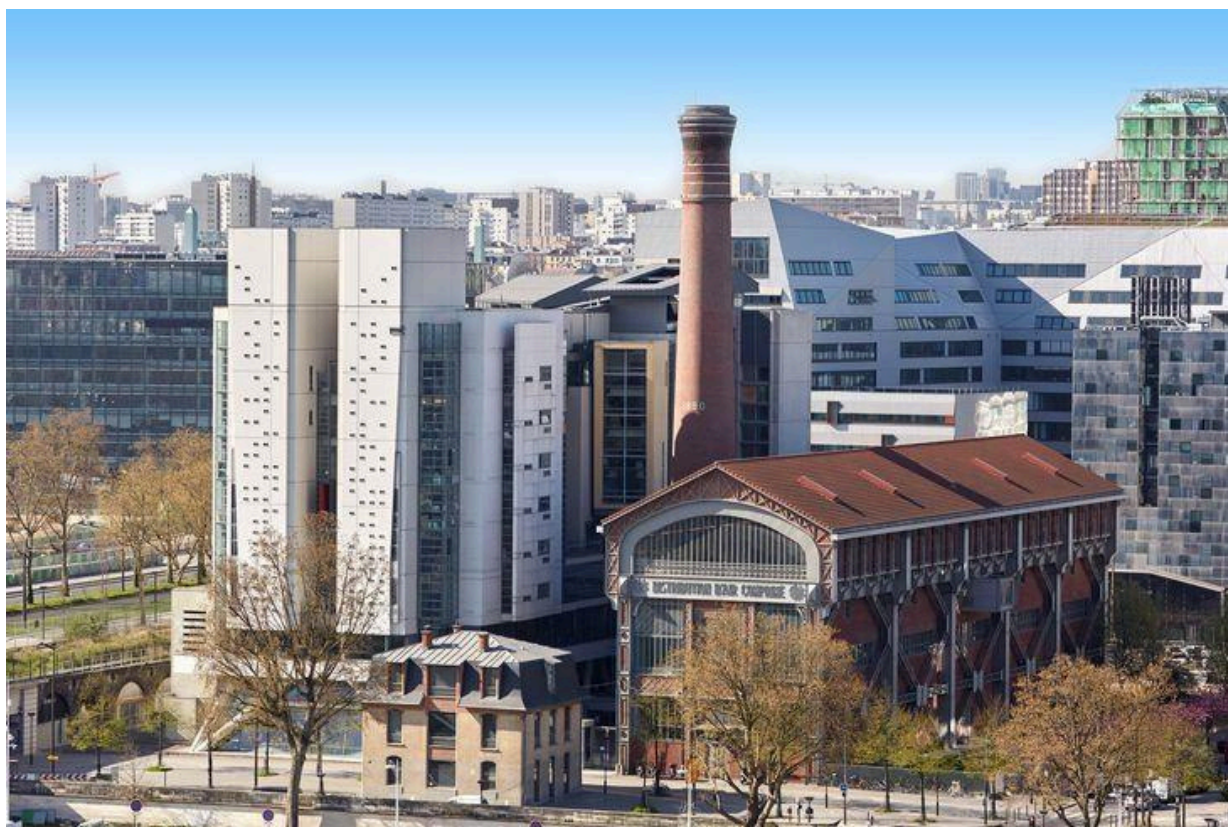
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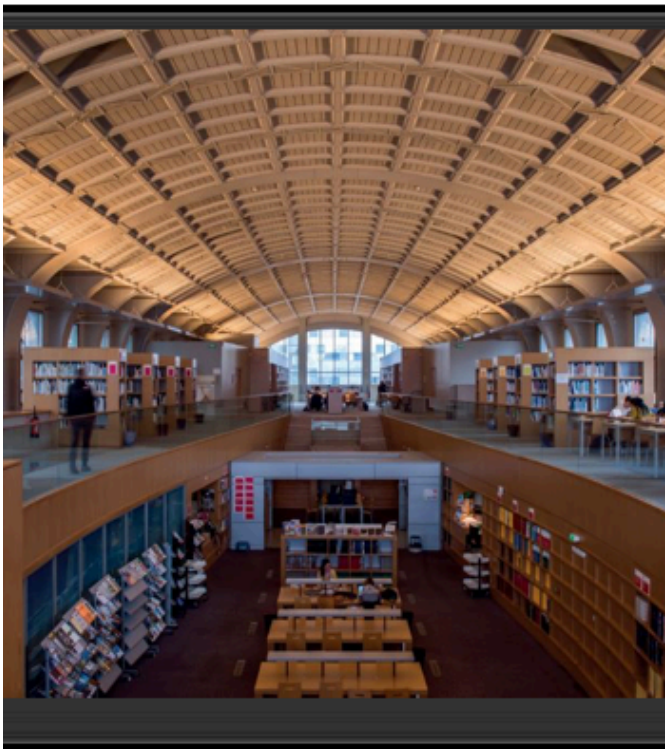
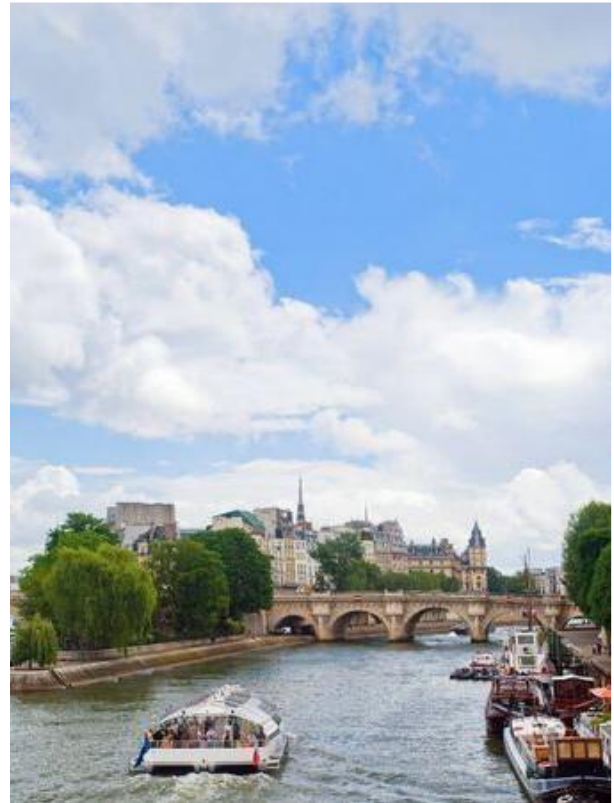
PRESENTATION

Welcome to the ENSA Paris-Val de Seine

The École Nationale Supérieure d'Architecture Paris-Val de Seine is a vibrant community of 2,000 students and 250 faculty members. The campus itself is an architectural statement: a modern seven-story building standing alongside the SUDAC, a repurposed 19th-century compressed air plant.

What sets ENSAPVS apart is its **rich educational diversity**.

By bringing together teaching teams from varied backgrounds, the school offers a wide spectrum of methods and perspectives, ensuring students are uniquely prepared for the complexities of professional practice



As an associate member of Université Paris Cité, ENSA Paris-Val de Seine sits at the heart of a multidisciplinary campus of over 60,000 students. The perfect environment for cross-disciplinary projects and a rich student life.

With a strong international outlook, the school boasts **70+ partnerships across 33 countries**. Each year, we welcome nearly **100 international** exchange students, fostering a diverse and multicultural studio atmosphere that prepares everyone for the global stage.

BEFORE DEPARTURE

VISA APPLICATION

If your stay in France exceeds 3 months, you must obtain a Long-Stay Student Visa (VLS-T or VLS-TS) before your departure.

- **Where to apply:** At the French Consulate or through the "Etudes en France" (Campus France) procedure in your country of residence.
- **When:** We strongly recommend starting the application process at least **3 months prior to your arrival**.

Checklist :

- **proof of admission**
- **proof of financial means (615€ per month)**
- **valid passport**
- **proof of accomodation in France**
- **ID photos**



Citizens from a country of European Economic Area or from Andorra, Monaco, Switzerland, San Marino or the Vatican are exempted from visa requirements.



Non-EU Erasmus Students

Please note: Even if you hold a residence permit from another EU country, it only allows for short visits (up to 90 days) within the Schengen Area. To study in France for a full semester or year, you must apply for a French long-stay visa.



BEFORE DEPARTURE



Please note: Admission to ENSA Paris-Val de Seine does not guarantee a student room. The school has a very limited number of spots available. We strongly recommend starting your search as soon as you receive your acceptance letter.

Recommended Student Residences

The following private residences are located near the school or well-connected by transport:

- Residhome Apparthotel (Quai d'Ivry)
- Nexity Studéa (Paris Grande Bibliothèque)
- Studélites (Le Capitole)
- KLEY (Ivry)
- MIS Residence (For students and young professionals)
- Independent Search

Finding a flat in the Paris region can be highly competitive. To maximize your chances, consider looking in Ivry-sur-Seine or Vitry-sur-Seine, which are often more affordable and just a short bike ride or tram trip from the school.



Beware of scams : do not pay anything before visiting or signing a contract



BEFORE DEPARTURE

ESSENTIAL HOUSING STEPS

1. No Guarantor? Use VISALE In France, landlords almost always require a "garant" (someone living in France who pays if you can't). If you don't have one, you can apply for a free guarantee through the government-backed system:

Apply at: www.visale.fr

Make sure to do this before signing your lease!

2. Mandatory Housing Insurance It is legally required to have home insurance (Assurance Habitation) in France. It covers you against fire, water damage, and third-party liability.

Pro-tip: You can easily subscribe to one through your French bank or specialized student insurers (SMERRA, Heyme, etc.).

3. Ending Your Lease (Notice Period) When you are ready to move out, you cannot just leave. You must officially notify your landlord:

Notice period: Usually one month for furnished student rentals.

How: Send a formal letter via registered mail with acknowledgement of receipt (Lettre Recommandée avec Accusé de Réception - LRAR). The one-month countdown starts when the landlord receives the letter.



Useful websites

CROUS of Paris

<https://www.crous-paris.fr/>

lokaviz.fr

adele.org

leboncoin.fr

seloger.com

BEFORE DEPARTURE

Budget

To prepare your stay in France, it is important to plan your budget. Here is a rough estimate of the expenses you may have to make:



Private flat rent : **800-900€** per month
(without charges)

Electricity : **20-60€** per month

(depending
on the accommodation)

Internet : **20-30€** per month



Navigo monthly pass : **88.80€** per month
or Imagine'R student pass : **392.30€** per
year, for students under 26 (more
convenient for one-year stays)



Meal at the CROUS cafeteria : **3,30€**

Baguette : **1.02€**



Cinema ticket : **8€** (student rate)

Museum ticket : **8-20€**

→ Some are Free under 26 years old





BEFORE DEPARTURE

Insurances: In France, healthcare is high quality but involves a specific two-tier reimbursement system.



You must obtain a **European Health Insurance Card (EHIC)** from your local health authorities before leaving your home country. This card allows you to access the French healthcare system directly.



Affiliation with the French Social Security (L'Assurance Maladie) is free and mandatory. Enroll: Once you have officially registered at ENSA Paris-Val de Seine, you must sign up at **etudiant-etranger.ameli.fr**. Refunds: This covers approximately **70%** of most medical expenses.

SUPPLEMENTARY INSURANCE: THE "MUTUELLE"

Since Social Security only provides partial refunds, we highly recommend taking out a Mutuelle (Complementary Health Insurance).

Is it compulsory? No, but it is the only way to get the remaining 30% of your costs reimbursed (including expensive items like dental, optical, or hospitalization).

How to choose? Compare offers from student-specific providers like Heyme or SMERRA, or general insurers. Ask for a "quotation" (devis) to find a plan that fits your budget.

Useful websites

etudiant-etranger.ameli.fr

doctolib.fr

planning-familial.org

[SMERRA - Mutuelle étudiante](#)

[La Mutuelle Des Etudiants - Devis et souscription en ligne](#)
[Mutuelle et assurances - étudiant et jeune actif | HEYME](#)

BEFORE DEPARTURE



Civil liability

Civil liability insurance is compulsory and will be requested to you upon registration. This insurance covers the damages that you may cause to others (broken materials, injuries...).

UPON ARRIVAL



Validation of your VLS-TS Visa

If you hold a VLS-TS visa, you have one final (and vital) step: you must validate it within 3 months of your arrival in France.

Where: Visit the ANEF platform:

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

Warning: Failure to validate your visa within the timeframe will make your stay in France illegal and may prevent you from re-entering the Schengen area.

Opening a Bank Account

While not always strictly mandatory, a French bank account is highly recommended to:

Receive your CAF subsidies and health insurance refunds.

Pay your rent and utility bills (electricity, internet) via direct debit.



Our advice: Compare different banks (traditional vs. online banks) and check for "student offers" which often include low-cost services or a small welcome bonus.

Financial Aid: The CAF (Housing Assistance)

The **Caisse d'Allocations Familiales (CAF)** provides a personalized housing subsidy called APL (Aide Personnalisée au Logement) to help reduce your rent.

- Eligibility: Based on your rent amount and financial resources. There is no age limit.
- How to apply: The process is 100% online.
- Pro-tip: Use the CAF simulator on their website to estimate how much you could receive before you apply.

STUDENT LIFE

ENROLLMENT PROCESS

The registration process at ENSA Paris-Val de Seine is divided into two distinct steps.

1. Pedagogical Registration (Course Selection)

To help you choose your courses for the upcoming semester, the International Relations Office will send you digital forms via email.

Course Catalog: You can browse the full teaching program in advance on our website:

Incoming Students Program

2. Administrative Registration (Official Status)

Following the mandatory welcome meeting, you will be asked to complete your administrative file.

School Certificate (Certificat de Sclolarité): Once your file is processed, you will receive this document. It is essential for opening a bank account or applying for the CAF.

Student Card: You will be notified by email as soon as your physical student card is ready for pickup.

Checklist :

- *copy of ID card or passport*
- *civil liability insurance certificate*
- *copy of the European Health Insurance Card (Europeans only)*
- *copy of visa (non-Europeans only)*



STUDENT LIFE

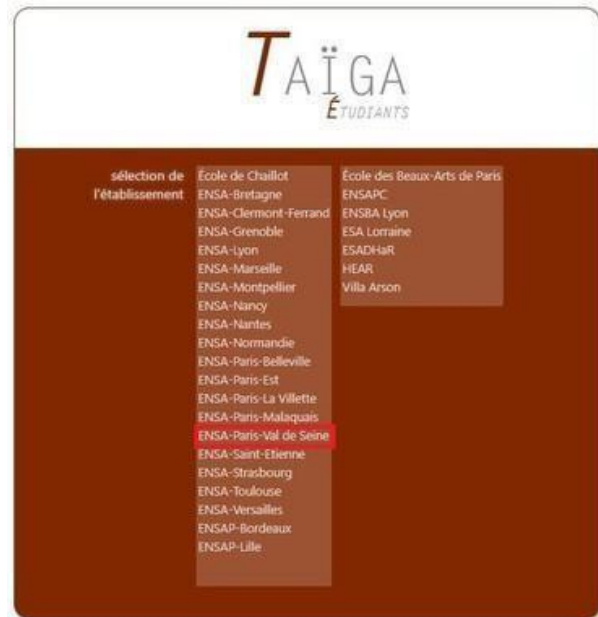
DIGITAL TOOLS: TAÏGA

Taïga is the central student portal for all French architecture schools. You will use it daily to check your schedule, view your grades, and communicate with your professors.

How to Access your Account:

1. Go to the portal: taiga.archi.fr/taiga/etd/
2. Select your school: Choose "ENSA Paris-Val de Seine" from the dropdown menu.
3. Log in: Use the credentials provided by the IT department or the International Relations Office during your orientation.

Check it often! In architecture school, studio rooms or lecture times can sometimes change at the last minute. Taïga is the official reference for your timetable.



- 4- Click on « envoi mot de passe ».



5- Enter your username, which is firstname.lastname (example: julie.martin). Then enter the code to copy.

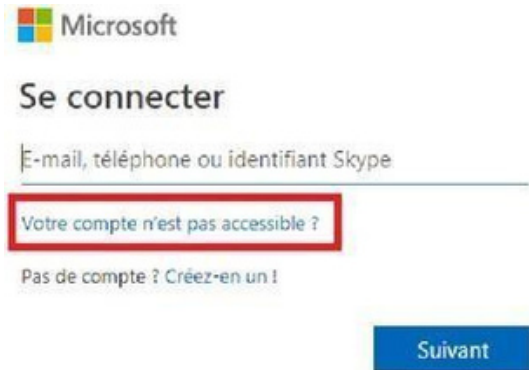
6- You will receive a message on your personal email address allowing you to reset your password. Remember to check your spam.

STUDENT LIFE

STUDENT LIFE: YOUR INSTITUTIONAL EMAIL

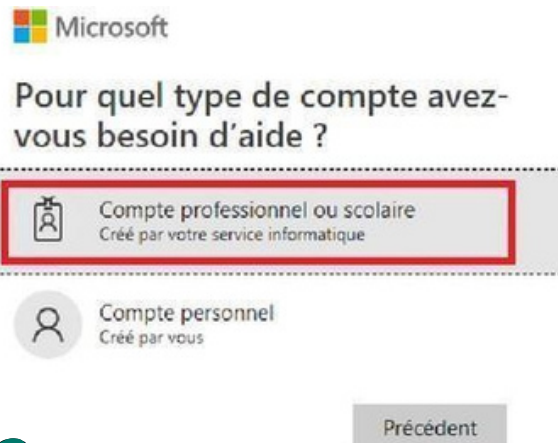
Once your administrative registration is complete, you will receive an institutional email address via Office 365.

This address is essential for receiving official newsletters, internship offers, and school updates.



1 How to Activate Your Account:

- Go to: **www.office.com** and click on Sign In.
- Select Account Type: Choose "Work or school account" (Compte professionnel ou scolaire).
- Enter your Email: Your address follows this format: **firstname.lastname@parisvaldeseine.archi.fr**
- **Note:** If you have a compound name, the parts are linked without spaces (e.g., John Smith Ford becomes john.smithford@...).



2 First Connection / Reset:

- Since you don't have a password yet, click on "Can't access your account?" (Votre compte n'est pas accessible ?).
- Verification: Follow the prompts to receive a security code on your personal email address (the one you used for registration).
- Set Password: Enter the code to create your new password and access your Office 365 dashboard.

Retournez sur votre compte

Qui êtes-vous ?

Pour récupérer votre compte, commencez par saisir votre ID d'utilisateur sous les lettres situées dans l'image ou la bande son ci-dessous.

Identifiant utilisateur

Exemple : utilisateur@contoso.onmicrosoft.com ou utilisateur@contoso.com



Saisissez les caractères de l'image ou les mots du fichier audio.

Suivant Annuler

STUDENT LIFE

RESOURCES & FACILITIES

ENSA Paris-Val de Seine provides professional-grade tools and spaces to support your creative journey.

The Library

A quiet hub for research and inspiration.

Collection: Nearly 18,000 books and hundreds of French and international journals.

Archives: Access to student essays, theses, and the online database via the school website.



IT & Printing Lab

Workstations: 150 computers equipped with professional architecture and design software.

Output: Access to high-quality plotters, photocopiers, scanners, and printers for all your project needs.

Photo & Video Studios

Professional equipment available for documenting your projects:

Gear: Canon and Nikon digital cameras.

Studio: Professional backdrops (black, white, green), studio flashes, continuous lighting, and reflectors.

The Material Library (Matériauthèque)

A bridge between school and the professional world, this technical center showcases 15,000+ products and materials.

Consultation: 26,000 technical references and 600 CD-ROMs regarding construction and implementation.

Samples: Explore physical samples to understand the texture and reality of the materials you specify in your designs.



The Model Workshop (110 m²)

The heart of the "making" process.

Machinery: Large cutting and woodworking machines are available free of charge.

Tool Loan: You can borrow small tools such as drills, wood routers, hammers, and pliers.

Note: While machines are free, students must provide their own modeling materials (cardboard, wood, etc.).



CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

ARCHITECTURE IN PARIS: MUST-VISIT PLACES

Paris is your open-air classroom. Beyond the school walls, two institutions are essential for your architectural journey:

Cité de l'Architecture et du Patrimoine

Located in the Palais de Chaillot (Trocadéro), this is the largest architecture center in the world. It's famous for its life-size casts of French cathedral portals and its incredible collection of modern and contemporary models.

Why go: To study the history of French architecture and enjoy one of the best views of the Eiffel Tower from the library.

Link: citedelarchitecture.fr

Pavillon de l'Arsenal

Situated in the 4th arrondissement, this center is dedicated to the urban planning and architecture of Greater Paris. It hosts amazing temporary exhibitions on the future of the city.

Why go: To understand how Paris has evolved and to consult their specialized bookstore, which is a goldmine for students.

Link: pavillon-arsenal.com

EXPLORING PARIS & ÎLE-DE-FRANCE

The Paris region is a living museum of architectural history, from Roman ruins to radical contemporary experiments. While many sites will be visited during your supervised field trips, we strongly encourage you to explore the city on your own.



Villa Savoye, le Corbusier



Fondation Louis Vuitton, Frank Gehry



La Seine Musicale, Shigeru Ban & Jean de Gastines



Grande Arche de la Défense, Johan Otto von Spreckelsen

More : The Institute of the Arab World, the Pompidou Center, the Quai Branly Museum, the Philharmonie of Paris, the National Dance Center in Pantin, the Choux in Créteil, the Etoiles in Ivry-sur-Seine, the MAC-VAL, the Espaces d'Abraxas in Noisy-le Grand, the Cité de la Mode et du Design...

CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

MUSEUMS AND MONUMENTS

Paris offers exceptional access to culture. As an architecture student, take full advantage of these benefits:

Year-Round Free Access

National Museums & Monuments: Admission is free for all EU citizens under 26 and for non-EU students holding a long-stay visa (VLS-TS). This includes the Louvre, Centre Pompidou, and the Palace of Versailles.

City of Paris Museums: Access to permanent collections is free for everyone at museums like the Musée Carnavalet or the Petit Palais.

—

Note: This does not include the Catacombs or the Archaeological Crypt.

Official Link: parismusees.paris.fr

Special Events: European Heritage Days

Every year during the third weekend of September, the Journées Européennes du Patrimoine open doors that are usually closed to the public.

What to see: Government buildings, private mansions, and historic industrial sites (including some architecture firms!).

Cost: Most visits are free or offered at a significantly reduced rate.

Our advice: Some popular sites require booking weeks in advance.



The Louvre

Many museums offer Architecture students an approach to Art, Design and innovations:

- Orsay Museum
- Museum of Fashion and Design
- Louvre Museum
- Museum of Modern Art
- Museum of Decorative Arts
- National Museum of Asian Arts Guimet
- Georges Pompidou National Center for Art and Culture
- Palais of Tokyo

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Opening hours
9h-17h

Contact



International Relations Office

relations.internationales@paris-valdeseine.archi.fr

HOLIDAYS :

- All Saints Holidays (1 week in early November)
- Christmas (2 weeks end of December/beginning of January)
- Easter vacations (1 week end of April)
- Summer vacations (5 weeks July/August)

Bank holidays:

- 1st November (All Saints) -11th November (Armistice 1918)
- 25th December (Christmas) -1st January (New Year) -Easter
- 1st May (Labour Day)
- 8th May (Victory 1945) -14th July (National Day)
- 15th August (Assumption Day)



PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Access

Metro and RER

« Bibliothèque François Mitterrand »
station Line 14 and RER C 10 minutes
walk from the school

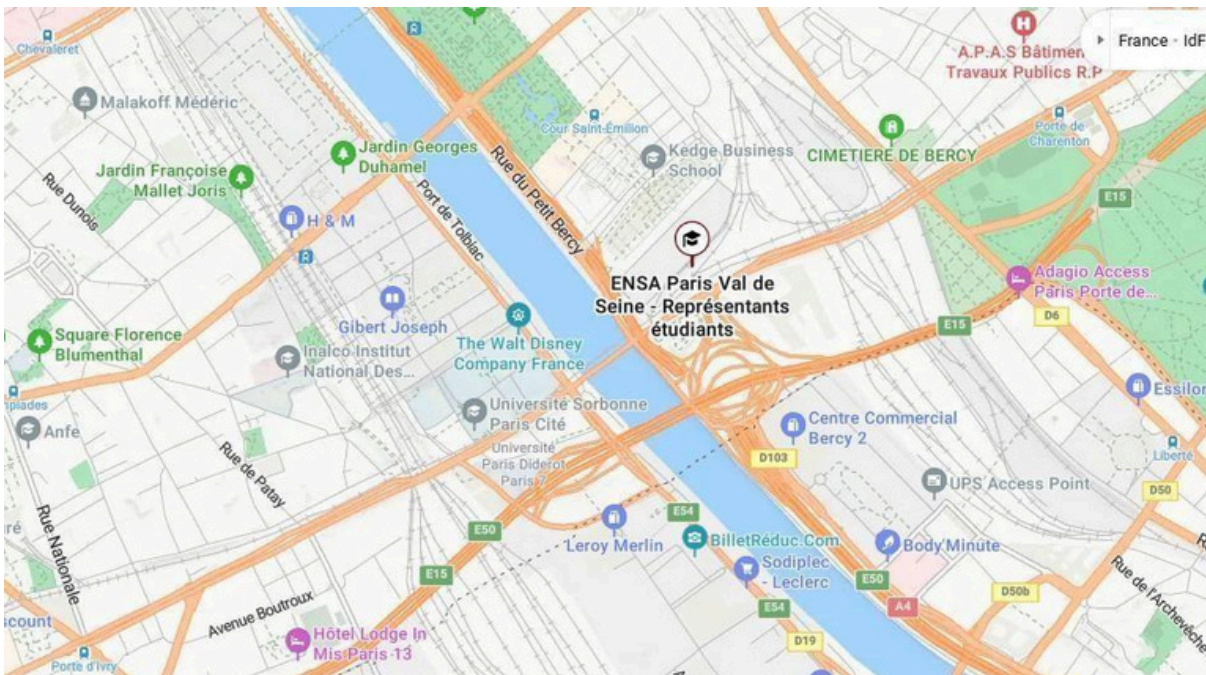
Bus

« Watt » stop Line 325 – Château de Vincennes > Bibliothèque François
Mitterrand

« Porte de France » stop

Line 62 – Porte de Saint-Cloud > Porte de France

Line 89 Gare de Vanves > Porte de France



EMERGENCY NUMBERS

European emergency number : 112 SAMU : 15

Police : 17

Firemen : 18

Emergency number for deaf persons : 114 (accessible by SMS or fax)