

MOVING TO FRANCE

The French Embassy and the French Consulate General in Great-Britain are not in a position to help enquirers to find a job and not qualified to issue the work permit which may be required by the French Authorities.

The purpose of this document is to give some key information on immigration regulations and Social Security in France. NEVERTHELESS, THIS CONSULATE GENERAL WOULD ADVISE YOU TO CONTACT YOUR BRITISH REPRESENTATION IN FRANCE TO GET MORE INFORMATION

❶ DOCUMENTS REQUIRED TO STAY (AND WORK) IN FRANCE

➤ *Entry and Residence of EU Nationals.*

British citizens intending to live in France should have a valid passport (only nationals from Belgium, Italy, Luxembourg and Netherlands can seek employment upon production of their national Identity Card). As for other EU nationals, a work permit or a visa is no longer necessary. However, please note that British Citizens native of the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man are not regarded as EU citizens.

The « carte de séjour de ressortissant de l'Union européenne » (resident permit) is no longer necessary unless you want to set up a business. However it is greatly advised to check according to your personal situation at the « Préfecture » of your place of residence.

➤ *Entry and residence of non EU Nationals*

Please visit our website: http://www.ambafrance.org/dev/UK/-Visa.805-?var_mode=calcul or contact the Visa section at visas.londres-fslt@diplomatie.gouv.fr

❷ RETIREMENT

People residing in Great-Britain and wishing to retire permanently in France should first inform their office (see page 3) a few weeks before the intended date of departure. The DWP will set the necessary administrative arrangements in motion. (See address below).

↳ If you are planning to move before you get your state pension (e.g.: you are already in receipt of your private pension).

You should apply for a form S1 to the DWP. Alternatively, a private insurance or voluntary contributions to the French Social Security scheme should be considered when the S1 expires or if you have not reached the age of state retirement (contact your local French social security office).

↳ People receiving a UK state pension only:

If the pensioner does not get a pension from France at a later date, the UK will accept costs. A form E121GB will be issued on request from the pensioner to allow him to register for health care in France.

↳ People receiving both a UK and French pensions:

In this case, the French sickness insurance institution will be responsible for the health care costs and the pensioner will be treated as a French pensioner for health care purposes.

↳ People receiving a UK pension and will eventually receive another EU pension at a later date:

A form E121GB will be issued. When the French (or other European Union Country) pension becomes payable, the health care liabilities will be reviewed. For example, the E121GB may have to be cancelled if insurance periods in the other European Union country were longer than those in the UK. The health care costs will then be the responsibility of this European Union country, which will provide the form E121.

③ HEALTH

Before going to France, you should apply for the European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) issued by the Department of Health on 0845 606 20 30, which gives you cover for emergency medical treatment. As soon as you take up a job or have had your state pension transferred, you need to be registered with the French Social Security.

NB: There are specific regulations for registration with the social security if you work in France:

- for less than 12 months for an employer based in the UK
- as a self employed,
- and members of your family have their residence in the UK
- and in any other member state at the same time.

Department for Work and Pensions

**Overseas Branch
Long Benton
NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE
NE98 1BA
Tel: 0191 213 5000**

Please contact:

➤ Make sure any doctor or dentist you consult is « conventionné » e.g. works with the French sickness insurance scheme. The local Caisse de Sécurité Sociale (or C.P.A.M.) keeps a list of the doctors who charge the official social security rate. You should apply for a refund of your expenses to your local C.P.A.M.

➤ If you are given a prescription, take the « vignettes » (detachable stamps) off the medicine containers, stick them on the « feuille de soins » and send this along with the prescription to your local C.P.A.M. to apply for a refund.

➤ French social security cover for medical treatment is only partial and it may therefore be wise to take out insurance to cover the excess charges you will incur should you need treatment (« mutuelle » or « complémentaire maladie » - contact insurance companies for subscription).

➤ Hospital treatment: If you get treatment in an approved hospital then the Caisse de Sécurité Sociale will pay direct 80% or more of the costs to the hospital. You are liable for the balance and the fixed daily hospital charge (« forfait journalier »).

For further information on sickness benefits and maternity benefits, please contact the DWP, medical Benefit section (see address above).

④ SOCIAL SECURITY

The European Commission has published a guide entitled « Social Security in the European Union » which is available at the DWP- Overseas Branch (see address above).

➤ Revenu Minimum d'Insertion (RMI/RSA)

The R.M.I. is the French equivalent of the British Income Support. You are entitled to claim it if you are 25 years old and when you have a Carte de Séjour. R.M.I. is not transferable to the UK.

➤ Unemployment Benefit

Transferring UK unemployment benefit: If you are entitled to UK unemployment benefit and have been claiming this benefit for at least four weeks, you may continue to receive this benefit for up to 3 months whilst you seek work in France. You should inform, at least 5 working days before you leave, the office where you are claiming unemployment benefit of your intention to look for work elsewhere in the E.C., your local office will then advise the Overseas Branch who will send you a U2 form which you should take to the nearest "pôle-emploi" office within 7 days of your arrival in France.

For further details, please contact the DWP - Overseas branch at the address above.

If you are entitled to French unemployment benefit, the reverse procedure is also possible. For further information on French unemployment benefit, contact your local "Pôle-Emploi".

➤ Family Allowance

If you work in France with your family, such as an allowance is paid after the birth of a second child and until the child is 20 years old.

You are entitled to British family benefits if the members of your family reside in the U.K., provided you are insured in France.

For further information on family benefits whilst in France, contact your local Caisse des Allocations Familiales (C.A.F.).

➔ Pensions

Once working in France, you will pay contributions for a French state pension.

From the age of 62, you will have to contact the Caisse Nationale d'Assurance Vieillesse (CNAV) in order to receive a pro-rata pension according to the time you have been insured in France.

C.N.A.V.
110 Rue de Flandres
75951 PARIS CEDEX 19
Tel: 00 33 971 10 39 60
www.retraite.cnav.fr

For details on how your contributions to the French pension scheme will affect your British state pension, please contact the DWP Overseas Branch at the address above.

Please note that:

- *Unemployment benefit is the only transferable benefit. Income Support, Housing Benefit, Child Benefit, Invalidation Benefit are not transferable. When applying for such benefits in France, a letter from your British Benefit Agency stating that you are not anymore receiving British benefits will be requested.*

- *French Benefits are granted only if you already have a Carte de Séjour.*

⑤ **TAXATION**

France does not have a PAYE system. Amounts automatically deducted from your gross salary on your pay slip are social contributions.

In February, each year, you will have to fill a « déclaration de revenus » (Tax return) asking you to state your income for the previous year. You will have to send this « déclaration de revenus » to your local « Centre des Impôts » (Tax Office). For more information about your taxes in France, contact your local Tax Office or:

Service de la Législation Fiscale
Bâtiment Vauban
139, Rue de Bercy
75574 PARIS CEDEX 12
Tel : 01 53 18 90 16 – Fax : 01 53 18 36 00
www.economie.gouv.fr

or **HM Revenue & Customs Inland Revenue**
Benton Park View
Newcastle Upon Tyne
NE98 1ZZ
www.hmrc.gov.uk
Tel : 0191 203 70 10
08459154811

⑥ **EDUCATION**

If you need information on education from « Ecoles Maternelles » (nursery schools) to « Lycées » (Secondary Schools), contact your Town Hall, the « Inspection Académique » (County Education Office) or :

↳ For State Schools

Ministère de l'Éducation Nationale
Bureau d'Information et d'Orientation
110 rue de grenelle
75007 Paris
Tel : 01 55 35 10 10
www.education.gouv.fr

↳ For Private Schools

Centre d'Information et de Documentation de l'Enseignement Privé
84 bd St Michel
75006 Paris
Tel : 01 53 10 33 20
www.enseignement-prive.fr

For details about Universities and Higher Education in France, contact the French Embassy, Cultural Dept on 0207 073 1300

⑦ ACCOMMODATION/TOURISM OFFICE INFORMATION

Information on short term accommodation is available from any local « Office du Tourisme ». You can also contact:

ATOUT FRANCE
79/81 rue de Clichy
75009 Paris
Tel: 01 42 96 70 00
www.atout-france.fr

Also, you will find long term rented accommodation advertised in local newspapers or Paris daylies such as « Le Figaro », « De Particulier à Particulier » lists properties for sale or rent. Estate Agents (Agents Immobiliers) also provide accommodation to rent or buy. Look in « Les Pages Jaunes » directory for their addresses.

⑧ BRITISH DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIONS IN FRANCE

The British Consulate-General
16 rue d'Anjou
75008 PARIS
Tel: 00 33 1 44 51 31 00

The British Consulate-General
24 avenue du Prado
13006 MARSEILLE
Tel: 00 33 4 91 15 72 10

The British Consulate General
353 Boulevard du Président Wilson
33073 Bordeaux Cedex
Tel: 00 33 5 57 22 21 10

British Trade & Investment Office in Lyon
Le Lugdunum
5 Place Jules Ferry
69006 Lyon
Tel : 00 33 4 72 62 99 55