



École des Ponts
ParisTech

WELCOME GUIDE FOR THE INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

of the École des Ponts Paristech

2024 – 2025



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Introduction

Welcome message

Welcome to the École des Ponts ParisTech **international class of 2027!** This welcome guide has been created to help you with the procedures to follow upon your arrival in France and at the school. It contains practical tips that we hope you will find useful!

This guide is dedicated to all international students, whether you are on a Double Degree, an internship, Erasmus, etc. We hope it will help you.

Are you ready? The best experience of your lives starts now. :)



Inter'Ponts Club

I.2) Who Are We?



Mariana
Président



Tobias
General Secretary



Vincent
Events and Comm.
Coordinator



Alan
Integration
Coordinator



Marina
Projects
Coordinator



Danny
Projects Coordinator



Ana
Respo Inter BDE



Agustin
Respo Inter BDA



Marcelo
Respo Inter BDS

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2.1) Meunier et Perronet Residences

2.1.1. Payment of Fees

On the day of your inventory check, a deposit and administrative fees must be paid to ARPEJ (the association responsible for the residence). It is essential to have paid to receive the keys to your room. You can do this in advance via bank transfer (ask the manager for the RIB and print the payment receipt to show on the day of the inventory) or on the same day of your arrival at the residence by going to the post office (open weekdays from 10 am to 6 pm with a lunch break and Saturday morning) or at the Tabacs (with shorter hours than the post office, check the schedule).

For housing payment, there is the Visale service, which acts as a guarantor (no need for parental signature or a parent with a European bank account). You will also need home insurance, which you can obtain from several platforms such as Etudassur and Luko. There are several types of insurance, and you can choose the option that suits you best. For example, with this contract, you can also get a personal liability certificate, which is useful for school registration each year.

2.1.2. Furniture

The rooms are equipped only with a bed and a mattress, some cupboards, an electric hob, a fridge, and a desk, so it is up to you to provide kitchen tools (microwave oven, pan, plates...), linen, and bedding.



Résidence Meunier



Résidence Perronet

You will find many things to equip your room at Carrefour (the nearest one at Noisy-Champs, one stop on the RER A) and Super U (across the RER station). There is also an IKEA nearby, where there are probably more varieties at a better price. Often, students leaving Meunier sell their belongings, so stay alert.

2.1.3. Groceries

Super U : supermarket 10 minutes' walk from the school (and from the Meunier, Perronet, and Montesquieu residences) near the Noisy-Champs station.

Centre Commercial Les Arcades : quite large, where you will find a large Carrefour and many other stores and restaurants. Directly connected to Noisy-le-Grand station, one stop on the RER A from Noisy-Champs.

Carrefour Champs-sur-Marne : another Carrefour 20 minutes' walk from Meunier, Perronet, and Montesquieu (15 minutes by bus, which may be more comfortable for carrying groceries).

Aldi : market next to the Montesquieu building (Crous). It doesn't have a lot of products, but it is very practical due to its proximity to the residences.

Franprix : Market 10 minutes' walk from the residences in Champs-sur-Marne. Good variety of products but more expensive than other markets mentioned. On Sunday, it's the only one that stays open until later at night (20:00)



Carrefour



franprix 🍏

2.2) Montesquieu (CROUS) Residence

2.2.1. Fees and Initial Procedures

If you are housed in the Montesquieu residence, the procedures are quite similar to those of the Meunier and Perronet residences. You will need to pay a deposit before the inventory check. One of the most important steps when staying at Montesquieu is opening an electricity account as it is not included in your rent. To do this, simply call a consultant from one of the companies (EDF, Engie). They sometimes have English assistance lines.



It is necessary to acquire house insurance, like in the cases of the residences Meunier and Perronet. You can do that through websites such as Etudiassur, etc.

2.2.2. Other information

The rooms are equipped with basic furniture: a bed, mattress, desk, shelf, fridge, and hotplate. A significant difference from other residences is that it doesn't have ceiling lights, so you need to provide lamps for your room. Internet is provided by the residence and it works well. Groceries can also be done in Super U, Carrefour and other markets nearby.



2.3) Maison des Mines et des Ponts

It may happen that some of you will live at MdM in the heart of Paris. This residence is located in the 5th arrondissement, two minutes from the Luxembourg Garden; however, it is not so close to Ponts. You will need to take the RER B from Luxembourg station to Châtelet - Les Halles station, where you will change to the RER A towards Marne-la-Vallée Parc Disneyland; don't forget to get off at Noisy-Champs station to go to Ponts instead of continuing to Disney!

This residence is known for welcoming students from the third year, so you will see yourself surrounded by a lot of students.

2.3.1. Payement of Fees

On the day of your arrival, you will need to pay an amount corresponding to the first two months of accommodation plus a deposit. Furthermore, you will need to write a form signed by your parents as guarantors (this form is included among the contract documents sent by the “piauleurs”) with an empty envelope and a stamp in case it is necessary to notify your parents of any possible inconveniences. You will see that at the Ponts there are plenty of new words that will be useful to you, such as “piauleur.”

The word “piauleur” refers to a student responsible for acting as the link between the students living in the residence and its administration. At Meunier and Perronet, you will have a student “piauleur” who is part of the Student Office (BDE), and at the Maison des Mines, you will have two responsible “piauleurs” (one French and one international).

2.3.2. Furniture

The rooms do not have toilets, but there are a few with a shower; the rest share toilets and showers by floor. In your room, you will find a fridge, an electric hotplate, a microwave (note, unlike Meunier, at the MdM it is forbidden to purchase an electric oven), a closet, some drawers, a table, a desk, and your bed - mattress, pillow, and sheets included.



2.3.3. Internet

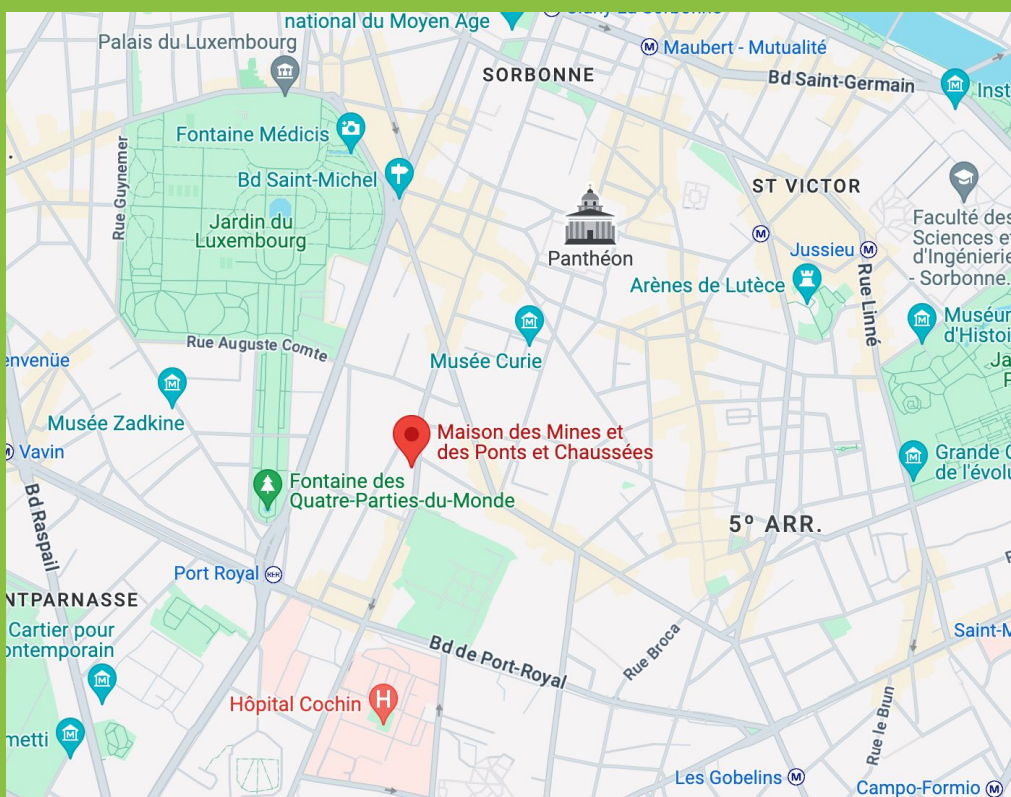
To have access to the Internet, you will need to pay an annual “subscription” to the responsible students. Last year, it was €16 to give you an idea of the price. The “piauleurs” will inform you of the procedures to follow. Generally, the service is free during the first month, and you will receive the password on the day of your arrival.

2.3.4. Groceries

Auchan 2Pas et Carrefour Market : two small shops close to the house (about 3 minutes).

However, it is not recommended to go there often as it is a bit expensive for doing all your shopping.

E.Leclerc : it is considered the best option for shopping - or at least, do it at Super U on the way back from school. You can shop online on the site <https://www.chezmoi.leclerc/> and then pick up your items during the agreed time slot. The delivery store is located 7 minutes from Mdm (36 boulevard Saint-Michel - 75006 Paris), and it is really worth it due to the price difference.



2.4) Housing Assistance

The **CAF** is an organization linked to the French government that provides financial housing assistance to all low-income individuals (students, young workers, low-income families, etc.) living in France, regardless of their nationality. The amount varies greatly depending on rent and each person's financial and family situation, but receiving between €50 and €200 per month is the most common among students residing at Meunier, Perronet, or Maison des Mines.

Applying for this aid is a slow process, and you will be asked for several documents before receiving the money. Be patient, but do not worry, as there is usually a support presentation for administrative procedures conducted by Feel Français (a platform that helps with a lot of bureaucracies). You will receive an invitation by email to create an account on their website upon your arrival.

ARPEJ handles most of the necessary procedures. Additionally, if you have more specific questions, do not hesitate to ask them or even contact Feel Français, which usually responds quickly to your requests. Initially, we advise you to prepare the following documentation:

- Copy of your identity card or passport;
- European Health Insurance Card or medical insurance certificate;
- Copy of the birth certificate translated into French;
- Enrollment certificate (provided by the BVE after paying the school fees);
- Rent certificate (provided for the residence).



Transport

Transport

Transport

Transport

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3.1) Navigo Pass

Transport

We strongly recommend purchasing this pass, especially if you will be living at MdM, as you will need to take the metro every day. For those living in Meunier, the **Passe Navigo - Imagine R** for students **under 26 years old** is the cheapest option for getting around Paris.

This pass allows unlimited travel throughout the Île-de-France region (including airports) on all modes of transport (except Orlyval).

Its annual cost is €382.40 (including a €8 processing fee). You can choose to pay in one installment by credit card or by direct debit over the first nine months.

You can easily apply online, and you will be asked for:

- Personal information (address, date of birth, email, mobile phone number);
- An identity photo;
- An enrollment certificate (provided by the BVE after paying the school fees);
- Personal information about the payer of your pass, including RIB, IBAN. In short, visit the website to learn more!



3.2) Traveling in France

Transport

If you want to get to know France, the train is one of the most appropriate modes of transport. There is an annual travel card that allows young people to enjoy very good discounts on long-distance journeys. If you want to know more, visit the SNCF website and find out about the **Carte Jeune**. It's a great excuse to travel!



Sometimes train prices can be quite high, so there are other options for those who love to travel. You can also use FlixBus services. Normally, you will find the lowest prices, but traveling by bus can take a long time.



Don't forget that the Navigo card allows you to take transportation throughout the Île-de-France region, so feel free to explore the small towns in this area. You will be in Paris, but there are many other nearby destinations that can enchant you. I suggest the medieval town of Provins, a UNESCO World Heritage site. That said, I recommend exploring the regional map to discover new places.

The image shows the FlixBus logo, which consists of the word "FLiXBUS" in a bold, sans-serif font. The "FLi" is in green, the "X" is in orange, and "BUS" is in green.

3.3 Useful Apps

City mapper : Essential for getting around Paris. You'll find minute-by-minute information regarding your journey.

RATP : Or their website; you can find information on routes and schedules for public transport.

Google Maps : *Old but gold*, you can mark places you want to visit on the map and take advantage of other app features.



Citymapper



RATP



Google Maps



Social Security

Social Security

Social Security

Social Security

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4 Social Security

In France, the [Assurance Maladie](#) is one of the four branches of social security; it covers up to 70% of your medical expenses.

If you already reside in Europe, only this paragraph matters. You will need the social security card and therefore the social security number to obtain CAF (housing aid). This number will also be used to log in to your online space.

For the rest of you, visit the website below. Feel Français will help you during their workshops at the School, but you can already start gathering the following necessary documents to apply online:

- Enrollment certificate (provided by the BVE after paying school fees);
- Identity card or passport;
- Your student visa;
- Residence permit (supplement to your visa);
- A complete copy of the birth certificate authenticated by an official seal and translated into French;
- Your precise banking details, specifically the RIB.



**l'Assurance
Maladie**

Agir ensemble, protéger chacun

Bank Account

Bank Account

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Bank Account

5.1 Bank Account

You will definitely need to open a bank account in a French bank due to several necessary procedures where you will often be asked for the "RIB".

The School has partnerships with two different companies: BNP and Société Générale. Thanks to these partnerships, you can benefit from quite interesting offers and conditions. For example, a BNP student account allows you to have a premier card without additional fees.

There is an office for each company less than a 5-minute walk from the School, so get informed and choose the bank that will offer you the best conditions! It takes time to have your account active, so start the process as soon as possible.

During the first two weeks at Ponts, there will probably be stands from these two banks in the hall of the Carnot building, where you can ask the agents all sorts of questions and even start the process of opening your account.

These two banks have applications that can be more practical for finding your information and other services offered to you. Normally, students don't find them very good for controlling expenses because it usually takes a lot of time for the application to show us how much we have spent. Additionally, making transfers can be somewhat impractical. So, there's always the option of having a second bank account if needed, for example, with the bank N26, Wise, or Revolut. These are online banks where you don't pay any fees for having a card, and it can be useful. Just to emphasize: it is not mandatory.

At BNP and Société Générale, it is important to pay attention to the volume of expenses on the card, as they set a default limit of 300 euros in 30 days for card purchases. In case of numerous expenses upon your arrival, if this limit is exceeded, you can extend it for a period via the application or by phone. For the BNP card, you need to use the card once a month, otherwise, a fee will be charged to your account.

Documents and procedures:

- Proof of residence
- Physical passport
- Fill out an account opening application form to provide your information



BNP PARIBAS



**SOCIETE
GENERALE**

Mobile phone

Mobile phone

06

phone

6.1) Mobile Phone

Having a **French phone number** is easy and not expensive. Additionally, all administrative procedures require a French number. Several phone companies offer interesting plans without commitment:

- **Free mobile** : unlimited calls in France and other destinations + unlimited SMS in France + 100 GB internet in France (25 GB abroad) for €19.99/month. You can subscribe to your plan in their Paris store or through an interactive Free terminal available in many shops, tabacs, etc.

In a few minutes, you will have your subscription, which you can easily pay for by credit card, and your active SIM card (note, the SIM card costs €10). Often, in September, there are special deals of 60 GB for €8.99/month, so stay connected! Note: This Free Special Series without commitment is valid for 1 year, then automatically switches to the Free Plan at €19.99. Additionally, international call fees are free with Free (Asia, South America, etc.).

- **RED by SFR** : unlimited calls in France + unlimited SMS in France + 15 GB internet for €15/month or unlimited calls in France and other destinations + unlimited SMS in France + 100 GB internet for €20/month. Subscription is also possible online or instantly in one of their sites in Paris.

- **Orange, Bouygues et La Poste** : also offer subscriptions that might interest you. Visit their websites and find out about the conditions offered!

free
mobile



LA POSTE
MOBILE

RED
BY SFR



Daily Life at Ponts
Daily Life at Ponts

07

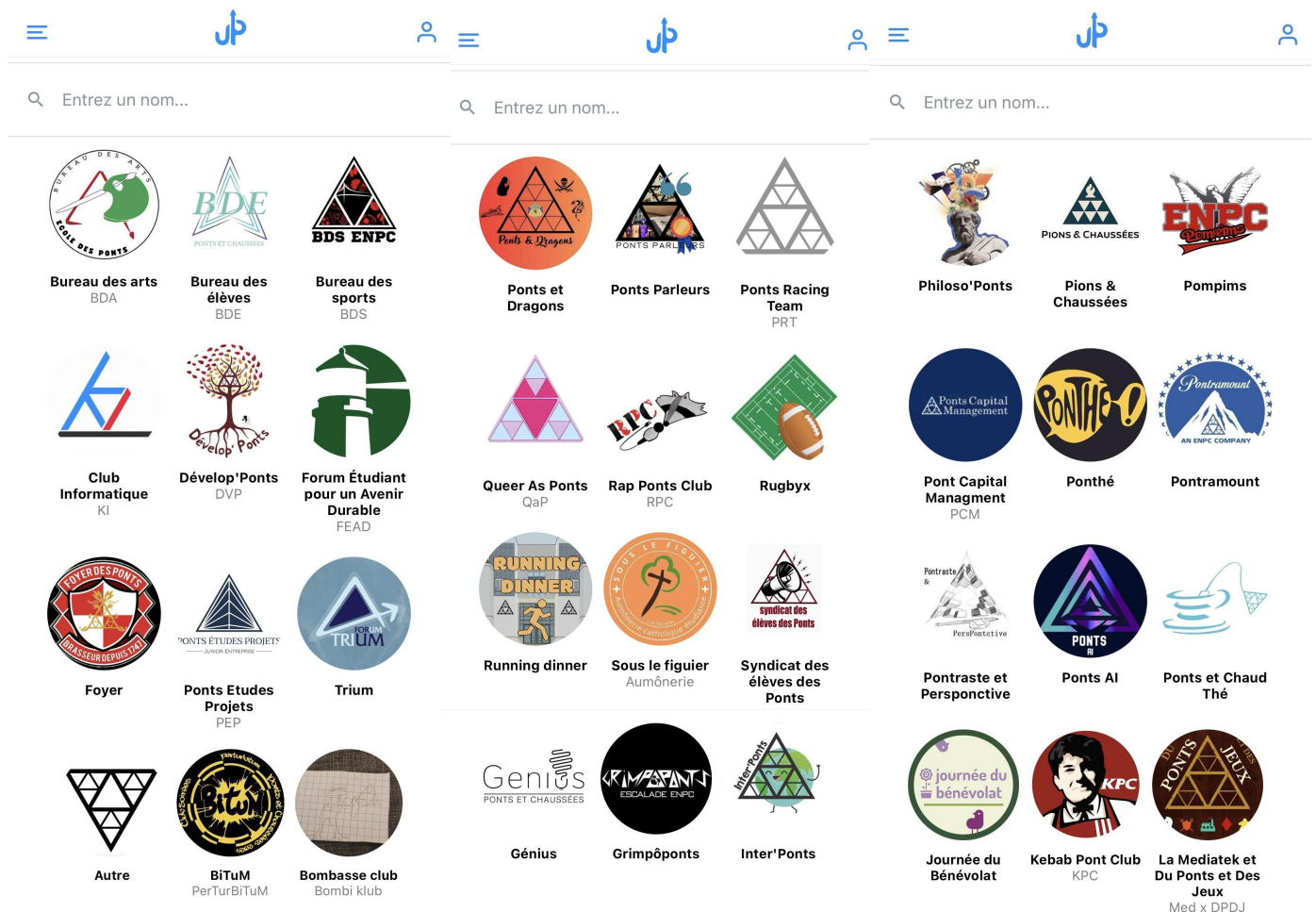
7.1 Associative Life

It's important to know that **associative life** is very significant at Ponts, and you will have the opportunity to connect with other students during various events organized by clubs and associations throughout the year. So, never hesitate to participate in all of these activities.

If life is so vibrant at Ponts, it's largely thanks to the members of the school's associations and clubs, who work hard to create enjoyable moments for everyone in the class. At Ponts, everyone has a place: if you want to create a club, just ask!

Usually, all information about associative life can be found in a Facebook group and on UPont (section 7.3.5), and it's essential to follow the news there. In France, Facebook and Messenger are widely used, and you'll see that it's the best way to stay updated about all events (+ UPont).

Here are some examples of clubs and associations:



7.1.1. Bureau des Élèves (BDE)

The **BDE** (Student Union) is a group of 18 engineering students, each with their own role and responsibilities, representing all the students of the school. It is responsible for representing us to the school's administration. Besides representing students, the BDE also manages various associations and clubs at Ponts.

As you will see upon your arrival at the school, the associative life is very important, with activities and events every week, foyer parties on Mondays and Thursdays, as well as internal parties that will make your experience in France even more complete. Many activities are partly organized by the BDE. There are numerous activities that are generally free or subsidized (meals, parties, trips, training, gala, etc.), so as you can imagine, it is necessary to have sufficient funds to organize all these activities.

This is why the BDE asks for a contribution of €80 from all those who wish to participate in these activities, and we strongly recommend that you do so. There is also the possibility, for those who will only be here for one semester, to pay half of the contribution (€40) to enjoy these activities during their stay at the school.

To make the payment, you can do it via the Lydia app as soon as the relevant information is available, and we recommend downloading it because payments for events are made via the Lydia platform. You can also pay in cash at the School Hall during the first few weeks when the associations hold "permanences".

The BDE is chosen each year during campaigns, an event you will enjoy, and this year it's the Ponts of 1001 Nights who follow the footsteps of the Bloc O'Pont'ratoire and are in charge of the office. You will find more information about each BDE member on UPont, but don't worry, you will have the opportunity to meet us at the residence, at the School, and a little bit everywhere.

Already at the start of the school year, we are preparing many events so that we can meet, talk, and start this year in the best possible way. Be ready!



7.1.2. Bureau des Sports (BDS)

The **BDS** (Sports Association) is also one of the central associations in the life of the School. Composed of 12 students, the BDS not only organizes many sports-related activities but also manages the sports facilities at the School (tennis courts, gym, etc.) and provides necessary equipment such as balls, rackets, etc.

Like the BDE, the BDS also offers you a membership, allowing you to enjoy various activities such as:

Tournaments and internet games at the School;

Inter-school tournaments: TOSS of CentraleSupélec, the Coupe de l'X, Suponts'heros with Supaero, etc.;

Small weekend trips: we-surf, biathlon, whitewater sports, etc.;

Ski weekend;

Ski week.



7.1.3. Bureau des Arts (BDA)

The goal is to promote culture and art within the school by organizing activities both on and off-campus. Throughout the year, they subsidize activities for their members (theater, opera, comedy shows, etc.) at affordable prices.

They organize events for students, such as Question pour un Cham'Ponts (a French TV show), Ponts got talents, The Skult (with the BDE), and Printemps Descartes (a contest for short stories, poems, and for artistic design), Valentine's Day, etc. They have 12 clubs (theater club, musical comedy club - Bridgeway, Musical Club, Decibel music club, Media Library, knitting club, Mix club, Marque Ponts'ge - literature club, Pontramount - cinema club, Ponthé - photography club, Rock club, and the drawing clubs Ponts'raste and Perspective) where you can practice or simply chat with passionate students!



7.1.4. Dévelop'Ponts

Dévelop'Ponts, aka DVP, is the school's ecological, solidarity, and social association. Through its six poles (environment, refugee students, solidarity, equality, social openness, humanitarian), it works on causes that are dear to us, with joy and enthusiasm. The activities and projects led by the association are diverse and varied, reflecting its members.

For example, the association organizes the humanitarian project of the promotion, ensures weekly stalls for selling organic and seasonal fruits and vegetables, and offers tutoring to high school students or organizes school outings.



7.1.5. WEI

As you probably saw in the calendar you received, already in the first week of school, you will experience the richness of associative life at Ponts. During integration week, there will be many activities to welcome you and help you get to know your future classmates. You will meet students who are already at Ponts (2nd-year students and exchange students) as well as those arriving with you (1st-year students and international students of your class).

You will hear a lot about the **WEI**. But what is it? The WEI is the integration weekend, a trip organized by the BDE to better integrate new students before the school year starts (before classes begin). It starts on the Thursday of integration week and is a very important and memorable moment.

Remember that you need to be a BDE member to participate! The BDE will be available during the first week to give you all the necessary information about this trip, and information will also be provided via the Facebook group (I will send you the link soon). We won't go on forever and list (an enormous amount of) everything that will happen; we let you discover the rest for yourself. But **STAY TUNED** so you don't miss the Foyers, Internes (BDE parties at the school), the traditional campaigns, club events, and more...

In short, we can't wait to meet you and accompany you on this new adventure, rich in experiences that you will never forget.



7.2 Internet

Please check in August for an email from the DSI (Direction des Systèmes d'Information) indicating your email address `prenom.nom@enpc.fr`, as you will use it for all procedures at the School. Next, you will find some useful explanations about the internet and where to find certain information.

7.3 Websites

7.3.1. Educnet

Educnet is the intranet where professors publish all the materials for courses. You will need your address `prenom.nom@enpc.fr` and your usual password to log in. In the Engineering Training section, you will find all the courses for your program as well as language courses.

7.3.2. Outlook

Here is the school's email service. All emails concerning your studies will be sent to your `prenom.nom@enpc.fr` mailbox.

The School does not recommend automatically forwarding your school emails to personal mailboxes like Gmail. Additionally, for security reasons, redirecting your school email to an external address outside ENPC is prohibited.

However, you can use another email service (e.g., Gmail) for your mobile phone or computer after following the tutorial created by the DSI.

The settings for configuring your email clients are available on Educnet in the Informatique/Messagerie section: Configuring an email client (link provided: <https://educnet.enpc.fr/mod/resource/view.php?id=31393>).

7.3.3. Emploi du Temps

Your classes will take place in different buildings of the School. To find the room for each class, it's very simple: just go to this link and search for the name of your course along with the corresponding room. Site: <https://emploi dutemps.enpc.fr/>

7.3.4. Scolarité

Once again, you will need to use your prenom.nom@enpc.fr address to access your transcript, your timetable, manage study rooms, or the School's Job Teaser. Site: <https://scolarite.enpc.fr/accueil>.

7.3.5. UPonts

UPonts is the application dedicated to students. All association events are published on the app, and often, you need to use it to register. You will find information about the life of the associations and many other posts.



It will be one of the main communication platforms between associations, clubs, and students. If you want to see what clubs are available at the school and who the members are, you can find them in the app. You can log in using your prenom.nom@enpc.fr address and your password.

7.3.6. Electronic Resources

The site includes electronic libraries. New students can find the electronic resources they need there. Site: <https://bibliotheque.enpc.fr/exl-php/accueil?CMD=CHERCHE&query=1>

7.3.7. JobTeaser

Jobteaser is a website that helps students learn about companies and search for internships. You can access this site directly using your school account and password. On the site, there are company presentations, resume templates, internship offers, and corporate events. You can upload a resume and participate in activities, which can help you choose an internship or job in the future. Site: [JobTeaser](#)



7.3.8. Lydia

Lydia is a mobile application that allows you to send money to individuals using their mobile number or to pay businesses, including the student union (BDE in French), using a QR code. It is widely used at the school to pay for association activities because it is very quick and easy to use, and therefore you will need it if you don't always have cash on you. If you're interested, look into this payment method and download the app online!



7.4 Ponts Alumni

Ponts Alumni is an association that provides students with a range of services and support tailored to their needs. If students encounter problems with internships or job searches, they can turn to the association.

Once on the site, you can join for the year to gain access to the Ponts Alumni directory. This tool is invaluable when searching for internships, as you can search for former students by keyword (such as company, job position, nationality) and obtain their contact information. We've had very positive experiences; they typically respond promptly and are comfortable answering your questions.

Don't forget to register on the platform. They also offer a mentoring service that you shouldn't hesitate to participate in. It's advantageous to have someone experienced to advise you when applying for your internship, or even to help you adapt to life in France.



7.5 Study Rooms

You have two places to study at the school: the library, La Source, and the Ruche. The library is located on the ground floor between the Vicat and Prony wings and provides several study rooms for students as well as a book lending service. You can also print at La Source using your student badge (student card). You can always reserve a space for group work or video conferences at La Source. To take advantage of this service: <https://affluences.com/espaces-projets>.



Affluences

Starting from the beginning of the school year and throughout the year, the study room "La Ruche" remains open from 7 AM until midnight, including weekends, where you can work individually or in groups. It is located on the ground floor between the Prony and Belgrand wings.

7.6 Computer Rooms

On the 3rd and 4th floors of the Prony wing, there are computer rooms that are always open. There, you have printers available for free use.

7.7 The Cantine

At noon, the school provides a dining service from 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM. You can enjoy this by having lunch in the cafeteria or purchasing food at the cafeteria (drinks not included). It typically costs between 3 and 5 euros, depending on the dish chosen and the daily options.

You should mention that vegetables and fries are free. You're allowed to have one extra serving of them at no charge. Therefore, you can eat affordably every day. Your student card also serves as the badge for payment. There are stations to add money with a debit card at the entrance of the cafeteria and on the ground floor of the Prony wing. You can also reload with cash at the cafeteria's cash register.



7.8 Classes

You will have some mandatory courses depending on your departmental choice, as well as elective courses. You received an Excel timetable sheet where you filled in your courses.

Language courses are mandatory, and international students must take French and English courses. If you are a francophone, for example, you can choose another language. In any case, you should approach the language course coordinators to discuss your situation. Additionally, starting from the second semester, you have the option to participate in a Tandem program to validate language courses. This program pairs individuals interested in learning each other's languages. The language department will explain everything at the beginning of the year.

Physical education is also mandatory, once a week. You will have plenty of choices (handball, swimming, tennis, rock climbing, boxing, etc.).





École des Ponts
ParisTech

See you soon !



Inter'Ponts

Internationals' Club at
Ponts