



BOULOGNE
BILLAN COURT

Guide for foreign students



Dear International Student

The Regional Conservatory of the city of Boulogne-Billancourt welcomes you to share with us a few weeks, a few months, or even a few years of music, discovery, and artistic dialogue.

From Leipzig to Seville, Rome to Malmö, from Helsinki to Boulogne-Billancourt, we all speak the same language: the Language of Music.

The country we come from offers us a unique and original way of pursuing our passion, widening our skills, and learning a little more each day. The different musical perspectives we have to offer are a great commodity, a commodity which it would be shame not to share.

For this reason, the Conservatory – Centre Georges-Gorse has already welcomed many international students for several years.

We hope that with this guide you will be able to organize your stay as easily and as stress-free as possible. It will tell you step-by-step how to arrive and get set up in France.



S u m m a r y

The Regional Conservatory of Boulogne-Billancourt (Conservatoire National à Rayonnement or CRR) at Centre Georges-Gorse **7**

1 - Boulogne-Billancourt, a pleasant town at the gates of Paris:	8
2 - Conservatory Overview	9
Its History	9
Programmes of study	9
Calendar	9
3 - Enrolling in the Conservatory	10
How to apply	10
Having a successful audition	10

Practical Information **11**

1 - Before leaving home	12
Obtaining a student visa	12
Funding your stay: predict your budget, scholarships available	13
Finding housing	14
Learning French	16
2 - Upon arrival	17
Long-stay visa (titre de séjour) and Social Security	17
How to get to Boulogne-Billancourt	18
Opening a bank account	18
3 - During your stay	19
Travel/Transport	19
Healthcare	19
Working	19
Enjoying yourself	20

Important Contact Information **21**



The Regional Conservatory
Centre Georges-Gorse



1. Boulogne-Billancourt, a pleasant town at the gates of Paris

Boulogne-Billancourt is one of the liveliest towns in the region of Ile-de-France, second to Paris. Located southwest of Paris between the Seine, the Bois de Boulogne, and the 16th arrondissement of Paris, it is the home of just over 100,000 people.

Known for its long history of investment in culture and arts, Boulogne-Billancourt has numerous cultural facilities (theatres, museums, cultural centres, independent movie theatres and art galleries) as well as sports facilities (stadium, tennis courts, ice skating rink, swimming pool, gymnasias, race tracks, and water sports). It also offers many parks, including the Parc Rothschild, the Bois de Boulogne, and the Jardins Albert Kahn. The Conservatory is located on the high street of Boulogne-Billancourt, within a stone's throw of Cinéma Pathé (7-screen movie theatre), a shopping mall, and many other small shops – just some of the city's commercial attractions.

The city is easily accessible by train and is connected to Paris as well as the neighbouring towns, by Metro lines 10 and 9, or by bus. Boulogne-Billancourt is about a 15 minutes metro-ride from the Eiffel Tower and about a 35 minutes ride from the Louvre or the Latin Quarter.

The best times of year to take advantage of Paris (and Boulogne-Billancourt) are spring and autumn, when the temperature stays between 15 and 25°C (60 and 78°F). The winter is not too cold, between -5 and 10°C (23 and 50°F) but often it is cloudy and rainy. During the summer it is often above 30°C (86°F) and humid.

■ For other information, visit www.boulognebillancourt.com



2. Conservatory Overview :

● Its History

Located at the Cultural Centre Georges-Gorse of Boulogne-Billancourt, the Conservatory was created by an endowment from Marcel Landowski in 1959.

1400 students make up the conservatory's student body, of which 400 are completing pre-professional studies. These students are taught by over 100 professors and assistants in a wide variety of fields. The Conservatory is part of the National French Conservatory system for Music and Dance.

Under the pedagogical direction of the National Ministry of Culture and Communication, it grants national diplomas.

The Conservatory pursues three different goals as part of its Mission:

- > Initiation and artistic education of children
- > The training of future professional musicians and dancers
- > Promotion and performance of the arts

Holding to its long tradition of openness and exchange, the conservatory maintains partnerships with other institutions, including schools of music and conservatories in the European community through the ERASMUS programme and "Rencontres Internationales", as well as establishments in the Maghreb, the Middle East, the United States and Japan through bilateral accords and international conventions.

Each season, the conservatory holds a wide variety of public events. Professional artists are regularly invited to give recitals, masterclasses, seminars,

and concerts. Open to the public, these events provide enriching encounters between students, professors, the artists themselves, and the public.

● Programmes of Study

The objective of these programmes is to give students the opportunity to benefit from the finest faculty available before entering the professional world. They are divided by instrumental disciplines or departments:

- Harmony, Ear Training, and Analysis
- Instrumental Performance
- Vocal Performance
- Ensemble Performance
- Early Music
- Theoretical Disciplines
- Dance
- Sound Engineering

Visit our website for more information at:
[www.bb-cnr.com/
content/BBCNR/Enseignement/Disciplines](http://www.bb-cnr.com/content/BBCNR/Enseignement/Disciplines)

● Calendar

Classes at the conservatory begin in September and continue until the end of June. There are four breaks during the school year: one week for All Saints' Day (October/November), two weeks for Christmas, two weeks in February and two weeks for Easter (April). Otherwise the Conservatory is open except for the following holidays: November 11th, May 1st, May 8th, and Ascension Day.

■ For more information, visit our website at : www.bb-cnr.com, link "enseignement", then "actualités, scolarité".



3. Enrolling in the Conservatory

● Things to do before you leave home:

- Visit the conservatory's website to find your audition date (posted online by the end of June).
- Ask the Application for Enrolment form ("dossier d'inscription") to Mme Ivan (laurence.ivan@mairie-boulogne-billancourt.fr) or to Mme Lancelin (michele.lancelin@mairie-boulogne-billancourt.fr)
- When you receive it, fill it out as promptly as possible and send it by email to the same person you've asked it.
- Wait for the Convocation to be sent to you by the conservatory
- Go to your nearest designated French Consulate and obtain an "étudiant-concours" Visa (for more information, visit our website and click on "informations pratiques")

For ERASMUS students the audition requirement is waived. However, they need to send a packet including a Learning agreement, an Application form, a CV, and a press kit on CD including recordings of musical performances. Acceptance depends in part upon the availability of places at the conservatory.

It is highly recommended that the student come one or two weeks before his or her audition to meet his or her professor – generally mid-September (exact dates are indicated on the website at www.bb-cnr.com). At this time the students can also enrol in Harmony, Ear Training, and Ensemble courses as well.

Students have to bring copies of their diplomas and recompenses certificates, including those of complementary disciplines.



Practical Information



1. Before Leaving Home

● Obtaining a Visa

As a student, if you are not an EEA (European Economic Area) national, you should consult your designated French Consulate in your home country to find out how to obtain a visa. It can take up to two weeks to process the request and obtain the visa. A "visa étudiant" is required for a stay of longer than 3 months.

The visa "étudiant-concours de court séjour" is a visa that allows the possibility of a full-stay visa upon passing an entrance exam or audition. This lets you take your entrance exams and then enroll in the institution directly – depending on your result – without needing to return to your home country to get a new visa. To obtain the visa "étudiant-concours" you must submit the convocation received after having applied to the conservatory to your designated French Consulate. To receive this convocation, the application ("dossier d'inscription") must be done as quickly as possible, before your audition date.

A full-stay visa, called "titre de séjour," is always necessary and granted through the Prefecture de Police in France or its satellite agencies.

Important! A tourist visa, long or short term, can never turn into a student visa, neither in France nor any other country in the European Union

■ For more information :

<http://vosdroits.service-public.fr/particuliers/F2231.xhtml#titreN10088>

www.campusfrance.org

(English, Spanish, French)

www.etudiantdeparis.fr (French)



● Financing your stay:

> Projected Budget

Below is an estimated monthly budget for a foreign student staying in or around Paris (the first month may cost more due to moving expenses).

Housing	400 to 800 €
Food	About 250 €
Health Care	Depending on the needs of the student- it is normally 186 € (for the year) and higher for a supplementary mutual health care programme
Transportation	A monthly Metro pass (Carte Imagine Air, Carte Orange) : 31,50 to 70 €, depending on the zones covered (cf. http://www.ratp.fr)
Monthly Total	Min.900 €

> How much does this cost... ?

Newspaper	1.60 €
A Movie Ticket	Full price: 10,60 €, 6 or 7 € Student rate
Entrance to the Louvre	Free up to 25 years old, except for temporary collections ; between 6 and 11€ for age 25 and over) Youth Louvre Card : 15€/year for unlimited access between 7.99 and 18 €
A CD	
A packet of 10 Métro tickets (within Paris)	11,60 € (visit http://www.ratp.fr)
A baguette (bread)	0,90 cents to 1.15 €
A croissant	0,90 cents
A stamp	0,56 cents
A sandwich	4 €
A coffee	1,50 €

Important! French Law requires that all foreign students must show (by providing official documentation) that they have the resources to study in France without needing to work, i.e. a minimum monthly income of 430 Euros (5160 Euros/year).

The Conservatory doesn't require this documentation.



> Available Scholarships:

Depending on your country of origin, there are different types of Scholarships available to you:

- **Scholarships granted by your country of origin:** for more information, contact your country's Minister of Education and your current educational institution..

- **Scholarships granted by the French Government:**

These scholarships are granted by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and are available to citizens of countries who have signed bilateral treaties with France. To apply, you must contact the Cultural Cooperation and Activities Services (services de coopération et d'action culturelle) of your home country's French Embassy or Consulate.

■ For more information:

http://www.cnous.fr/_vie_47.htm

http://www.cnous.fr/_etudier_77.htm

ERASMUS students may also apply to the National Agency for the European Programme of Education and Training (ANEFORE) in their home country for a European-funded Scholarship. For more information, contact the International Relations Department of your institution.

● Finding Housing

> **The Association of Student's Parents of the National Regional Conservatory of Boulogne-Billancourt:**

Music and Partners in Boulogne (contribution of 15^e a year) will help you for accomodation: some rents could be reduced by half in exchange for five hours of favour a week (music courses, babysitting...)

Website : <http://www.mpb.fr.st>

> Contact Mme Martel: +33 6 71 43 85 89, who will guide you for:

- Finding a job
- Transport: Obtaining a student travel pass requires a conservatory's stamp
- Food services: Resto'U offers meals at price of 2,90 €

- Restaurant Universitaire
71, avenue Edouard-Vaillant
92100 Boulogne-Billancourt

- Information regarding the student life at the conservatory:

- functioning of music studios
- consolidated orders of music scores and manuals
- registration for the complementary disciplines, which isn't automatic.

- See also the following websites:

CIDJ : <http://www.cidj.com>

OSE : <http://www.leclubetudiant.com/>

ADELE : <http://www.adele.org>

EGIDE : <http://www.egide.asso.fr>

MAPIAULE : <http://www.mapiaule.com>

FUSAC : www.fusac.fr

> Organizations providing aid for housing:

There are a number of organizations that help students find affordable housing in Paris. The price through these organizations usually begins at 400 € (up to 800 €).

For most of these residencies, you may also file for housing financial aid (from the government) at the CAF (Caisse d'Allocation Familiale): www.caf.fr

La CITE INTERNATIONALE

UNIVERSITAIRE of Paris

19, Boulevard Jourdan

75014 Paris.

Tel 01 44 16 64 00

Internet site: www.ciup.fr

Prices: between 350 and 450 €.

This organization is uniquely designed to help foreign students. Applications should be acquired before June.



> **The Citadines:**

These types of residences offer lodging. Sixteen of these lodgings can be found in the Parisian area, appealing mainly to students but they have an overall appeal to foreigners who may be passing through for professional or touristic reasons.

website: <http://www.citadines.com>

> **Private Dormitories:**

Either religious or secular, these dormitories generally have specific admissions criteria : students between 20-30 years of age, exclusively women, exclusively men, or co-ed. Therefore, you should read their guidelines carefully. Prices also vary. To apply: write to the UNME (Union Nationale des Maisons d'Etudiants), which coordinates these organizations:

UNME

2, rue de la Roquette

75011 Paris

Tél. : 01 48 05 73 62

Website: <http://www.unme-asso.com>

> **For students with scholarships:**

Certain countries have made agreements with France giving scholarships that also grant special priority access to the services of CNOUS (Centre National des œuvres universitaires et scolaires) and CROUS (Centres Régionaux des Œuvres universitaires et scolaires). You must apply BEFORE leaving your home country at your designated French Embassy or Consulate. CROUS and CNOUS will thus handle your application, help you with administrative responsibilities (university enrolment, administrative tasks). These organizations may also give you a priority status to be considered for university residences. Other students not on scholarship can only find housing in

such university residences if there is remaining space.

To fill out an application, only ERASMUS students have to contact:

L'Accueil International Universitaire (AIU)

Boulogne-Billancourt-Tourisme

202, Boulevard Jean-Jaurès, 92100

Boulogne-Billancourt

Tél. : 01 55 18 50 50 /

+ 33 (0)1 55 18 50 50

Responsable : Helena ALFARO.

CROUS :

This organization can find you a place in university residences for a small fee. Please note: with subsidized costs, but TAKE NOTE applications should be downloaded starting in January:

Website:

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

CNOUS :

General Website of CNOUS :

<http://www.cnous.fr>

CROUS VERSAILLES (Boulogne-Billancourt is under this town) :

<http://www.crous-versailles.fr>

Tel. : 01 39 24 52 00

CROUS in Paris :

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

Tel. : 01 40 51 55 55

Also see the following pdf:

http://www.paris-sorbonne.fr/fr/IMG/pdf/Logement__Paris.pdf, which gives a list of the residency addresses.



● Studying French

It is recommended that you have at least a minimal use of the French language and that you begin studying the language well before you arrive.

For more information, you may contact your designated French Embassy or Consulate in your home country: French courses may be offered in your country through a French institute, cultural centre, or the Alliance Française.

■ Useful links:

<http://www.alliancefr.org>

<http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/annuaire>

<http://www.loffice.org>

Upon arriving in France, you can enroll in several different programs to improve your French:

In Boulogne-Billancourt :

• GERMAE

Evening classes for adults

Espace Forum

131-141, Allée du Forum

• Association Philotechnique

30, rue de l'Ancienne-Mairie

Tél. : 01 48 25 44 02

Website Internet :

<http://www.asso-bb.net/philotechnique>

In Paris :

• **Universities** : most universities have centers offer French language instruction.

• **Alliance Française**: Year-round application and enrollment offering a variety of courses and activities to discover the French Language and Culture - (cf. <http://www.alliancefr.org>)

• **Linguistic Centers**: curriculum information available on the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs: (cf. <http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr> et <http://www.fle.fr>).



2. Upon arrival

● Social Security (Health Care)

> Non-European nationals:

Health Care is required regardless of nationality and is acquired by enrolling as a student in the Social Security Program. It allows you to be entirely or partially reimbursed for health care costs. This enrolment is made simultaneously with the enrolment in your institution (the conservatory). For this, you need to provide your long-stay visa and a payment of 186 €.

If you are staying for less than three months, this enrolment is not required. You must instead buy private insurance and obtain a detailed statement in English or French certifying the period of coverage.

> European Economic Area (EEA) nationals:

You should have a European Insurance Card certifying your coverage. It permits you during your stay to have your necessary medical expenses taken care of. This card is issued to individuals and is free and valid for one year.

It is not necessary to have supplementary insurance (*mutuelle*), but it could be helpful in covering extra medical expenses not covered by Social Security. It concerns only those planning on staying in France at least 10 months, since the contracts and payments are yearly.

- The major supplementary insurance companies for students:

LMDE - La Mutuelle des Étudiants :
<http://www.lmde.fr>

SMEREP (Société Mutualiste des Étudiants de la Région Parisienne) :
<http://www.smerep.fr>



● Coming to

Boulogne-Billancourt

CRR's Address:

Conservatoire à Rayonnement Régional
– Centre Georges-Gorse
22, rue de la Belle-Feuille
92100 BOULOGNE-BILLANCOURT

• The RER/métro:

Station Boulogne-Jean-Jaurès on the Line 10, towards Boulogne-Pont-de-Saint-Cloud

or

Station Marcel-Sembat on line 9, towards Pont-de-Sèvres.

• Airports

> From Roissy (Charles-de-Gaulle Airport):

- Take the RER B towards Robinson-Antony-Saint-Rémy-Les-Chevreuse to the centre of Paris

- get off at the station Saint-Michel Notre-Dame. Then, switch to Metro Line 10, station Cluny-La-Sorbonne, towards Boulogne-Pont-de-Saint-Cloud.

- if you missed the station Saint-Michel Notre-Dame of the RER B, get off at the station Denfert-Rochereau and switch to Metro Line 6, towards Charles-de-Gaulle-Étoile. Then, change to line 10 (station La Motte-Piquet-Grenelle, direction Boulogne-Pont-Saint-Cloud or line 9 (station Trocadéro, direction Pont-de-Sèvres).

> From Orly:

-Take the Orly bus to the Antony station of the RER B direction Aéroport Charles-de-Gaulle-Mitry-Clay, then proceed as above.

• From the train stations: Simply take the Metro and change to lines 9 or 10.

- **By Taxi:**

Fares range from between 80 to 90 € from Roissy (CDG), 60 € from Orly. From the train stations, the trip costs between 30 and 50 € depending on which station you arrive at.

- **Opening a bank account**

Students planning to stay in France for more than three months may open a bank account.

To open an account, three documents are required:

- Your passport (or Identity Card for EEA nationals)
- Your resident card
- A proof of address (telephone bill, electric bill, receipt for payment of rent, etc.)

After opening a bank account you will have a check book and a bank card. Check books are generally free, but bank card usually costs between 15 and 40 € per year depending on the bank and the type of bank card.

It is highly recommended that you consult your local bank to find out if it has a partnership with a French bank, which could facilitate meeting your banking needs.

■ For more information, visit:
www.eduparis.net
ou
www.egide.asso.fr



3. During your stay

● Transportation

The Paris metropolitan area is very well connected by metro lines, bus lines, and tram lines.

Visit the website of the RATP, <http://www.ratp.fr> to find the price details (student, youth rates, Carte ImagineR, zones 1-5, etc)

● Health Care

> For General Care:

- The General Practitioner: To be seen by appointment for mild illnesses and pains (sore throat, cold/flu...). There are several medical offices in Boulogne-Billancourt, and the wait time is generally short. The starting rate is 22 €.

- The Specialist: To be seen for a particular part of the body, in cases of more severe or targeted health issues. Prices vary starting around 35 €, and in general they are more expensive.

> In Cases of Emergency:

- SOS médecin : 01 47 07 77 77

- Hôpital Ambroise-Paré :

9, avenue Charles-de-Gaulle

92100 BOULOGNE-BILLANCOURT

Tel 01 49 09 50 00

> Numbers to know:

- SAMU (ambulance team):

dial 15 (In case of medical emergency)

- Firemen: dial 18

- Police: dial 17

EEA Nationals: Whether paying for health services (appointments for example) or medication, always keep your European Health Insurance Card with you so you can be automatically reimbursed.



● Working

> Terms for working:

- Any student, as soon as he or she is enrolled in a university and Social Security in France, has the right to work.
- French law allows foreign students to work for a maximum of 964 hours/year. This figure corresponds to a part-time work-week (19.5 hours/week) during the year with the possibility of working full-time during vacation periods.
- Students wishing to have a salaried position need to obtain a work permit (autorisation provisoire de travail, or ATP). Exceptions include EEA Nationals and students from Algeria and Togo.

> Obtaining a Work Permit

(autorisation provisoire de travail, or APT) To obtain a work permit, you need to apply at the DDTEFP (Direction Départementale du Travail, de l'Emploi et de la Formation Professionnelle), or "Main d'Oeuvre Etrangère" nearest to where you live.

For residents of Boulogne-Billancourt: Hauts-de-Seine:

Direction Départementale du Travail et de la Formation Professionnelle

13, rue de Lens

92022 Nanterre

Tel: 01-47-86-40-00

www.hauts-de-seine.pref.gouv.fr/dnlpage.php?id=231&pg=1434

From Monday to Friday

9:00AM–12:00PM; 1:30PM–5:00PM

Paris:

Bureau de la Main d'œuvre étrangère

127, boulevard de la Villette

75010 PARIS

Tel : 01 44 84 42 86

■ **Websites to visit:**

<http://www.service-public.fr>
http://www.cnous.fr/_etudier_95.htm
<http://www.zetud.net/home/etudiants-etrangers/travailler-quand-on-est-etudiant-etranger-article91.html>
<http://www.eduparis.net>

● **Enjoying yourself**

Boulogne-Billancourt has numerous athletic and cultural activities available. For more information you can visit the Office of Tourism of Boulogne-Billancourt.
Tourism Office of Boulogne-Billancourt:
202, boulevard Jean-Jaurès.
Tel: 01 55 18 50 50.
Email : tourisme@mairie-boulogne-billancourt.fr

To keep up with the latest of numerous Parisian activities, several guides are available, in kiosks (newsstands) and bookstores:

- Pariscope
- L'officiel des spectacles
- Free publications:

Metro (<http://www.metrofrance.com>),
20min (<http://www.20min.fr>) and A nous Paris (<http://www.anous.fr/paris/>)

■ For more information on life in Paris:

Tourism Office of Paris :
<http://www.parisinfo.com>
The City of Paris:
<http://www.paris.fr/fr/culture>

And also:

Magazines : Jeunes à Paris, Studyrama and l'Étudiant

Internet sites:

Evene.fr - <http://www.evene.fr>
Sortir à Paris -
<http://www.sortiraparis.com>
Que faire le week-end ? -
<http://www.52wends.com>



Conservatory Contact Information

Conservatoire à Rayonnement Régional Centre Georges-Gorse
22, rue de la Belle-Feuille
92100 Boulogne-Billancourt

The building is open to the public from Monday to Saturday
from 9AM to 9PM.

Reception Desk

Monday to Saturday from 9AM to 8PM:

Tel: (+33)1 55 18 45 85 (+33)1 55 18 45 65

Fax: (+33)1 55 18 45 86 (+33)1 55 18 45 53

Academic Affairs: (+33)1 55 18 45 81

International Relations and ERASMUS

Coordinator: Michèle Lancelin

Contact: michele.lancelin@mairie-boulogne-billancourt.fr

Tel : (+33)1 55 18 46 04

The Director of the Regional Conservatory
Centre Georges-Gorse

Alain LOUVIER





Conservatoire
à rayonnement
régional

CENTRE GEORGES-GORSE
BOULOGNE-BILLANCOURT

**22, rue de la Belle-Feuille
92100 Boulogne-Billancourt**