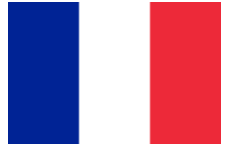


# FRANCE RISK ASSESSMENT



## City & Country

France, various

## Prepared by

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### **Before you go –**

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office provides travel advice by country. It covers safety and security, local laws and customs, entry requirements, health and natural disasters along with a host of other useful information. We strongly recommend that students read the section related to their destination prior to departure and before undertaking any trip to another part of the county/region.

<http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/travel-advice-by-country/>

### **VISA REGULATIONS**

Your passport should be valid for the proposed duration of your stay; you don't need any additional period of validity on your passport beyond this.

The French authorities have confirmed they will accept British passports extended by 12 months by British Embassies and Consulates under additional measures put in place in mid-2014. If your passport describes you as a British Citizen you won't need a visa to enter France. If you have another type of British nationality, you should check the current entry requirements on the website of the French Foreign Ministry's website. \*\*\*Please note that due to Brexit, these regulations are subject to change. Keep up to date with the information provided on the FCO website\*\*\*

### **HEALTH**

The Emergency phone number in France is 112. You should apply for a free European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) before you travel as your host university may require to show this upon arrival. If you already have an EHIC, make sure it hasn't expired. The EHIC won't cover medical repatriation, ongoing medical treatment or non-urgent treatment, so you should make sure you have adequate travel insurance and accessible funds to cover the cost of any medical treatment and repatriation. If you require

medication while in France, remember to bring a prescription with you. \*\*\*Please note that due to Brexit, these regulations are subject to change. Keep up to date with the information provided on the FCO website\*\*\*

## **TERRORISM**

Terrorists are very likely to try to carry out attacks in France. Due to ongoing threats to France by Islamist terrorist groups, and recent French military intervention against Daesh (formerly referred to as ISIL), the French government has warned the public to be especially vigilant and has reinforced its security measures. Check the French government's advice about [what to do if a terrorist attack occurs](#).

There have been a number of high profile terrorist attacks since 2015 across France. On 13 November 2015 terrorist attacks killed 130 and injured hundreds more at multiple sites across Paris. On 14 July 2016, 84 people were killed when a truck was driven through a crowd of people on the promenade in Nice. On 3 February 2017, a knife attack inside the Louvre museum complex in Paris injured a French soldier. The attacker was arrested. On 6 June 2017, police shot a man after he attacked a police officer with a hammer outside the Notre-Dame Cathedral in Paris. On 23 March 2018, a man carried out various attacks in the Carcassonne area of southern France, killing 4 people. The police shot and killed the attacker.

## **PROTESTS**

Protests linked to the yellow vest (gilets jaunes) movement continue across France, generally taking place on Saturdays. A number of previous demonstrations have led to violence and extensive damage to property in Paris and in other cities across the country. If demonstrations do turn violent, a heavy police/gendarmerie presence is to be expected. Motorists travelling through France may continue to experience some delays or blockages caused by local demonstrators - you should drive with caution as protestors may be present on roads, motorways and toll booths. In all cases, you should avoid demonstrations wherever possible and follow the advice of the local authorities.

Type	Nature of the Hazard	Procedures to Minimise Risk
<p><b>CRIME</b></p>	<p>Thieves and pickpockets operate on the Paris underground, RER lines and at mainline stations, for example Gare du Nord.</p> <p>Pickpockets can work in gangs: one to distract you while the other one goes into your bag.</p> <p>There have been several victims of serious assault on the RER line B, which serves Paris Charles de Gaulle and Orly airports and Paris Gare du Nord Eurostar terminus. There have also been serious assaults on RER line D, which serves the Stade de France.</p>	<p>Take sensible precautions against street and car crime. Don't keep your passport, credit cards and other valuables in the same place; use the inside compartments in bags where possible. Carry your bag across your body rather than on your shoulder.</p> <p>Keep your belongings close to you in restaurants and bars. Don't be distracted around tourist attractions and cash points.</p>
<p><b>HIKING, WINTER SPORTS AND OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES</b></p>	<p>Weather conditions in mountainous areas can change rapidly and mean that inexperienced skiers and walkers can become stranded.</p>	<p>Check weather forecasts and conditions and make sure you're properly equipped. Don't undertake any activity alone, and consider hiring a guide for expert advice. Always leave copies of your itinerary with someone. For travel to mountainous areas, make sure your insurance covers you for extra medical costs, repatriation to your country of residence and in the départements of Savoie and Haute-</p>

		<p>Savoie possible transfer to Switzerland for treatment.</p> <p>Observe all warnings regarding avalanches and where appropriate consider carrying avalanche search equipment. You can check the latest avalanche risk areas on the <a href="#">Meteo Alarm website</a>. Conditions on roads in mountainous areas can quickly become difficult in winter. You should carry water, food, warm clothing and medicines in your vehicle</p>
<b>NATURAL DISASTER</b>	<p>Forest fires can occur anywhere in southern France during the summer months but especially along the Mediterranean coast and on Corsica. French Authorities may evacuate areas and close roads for safety reasons.</p> <p>There can be risks of flooding in various areas of France, and avalanches in the mountainous areas.</p>	<p>Be vigilant, make sure you're familiar with local emergency procedures and follow the advice of local authorities</p> <p>If your accommodation is near a river, check the <a href="#">vigicrues website</a> to be kept informed of any potential flood risks. If you plan a skiing or hiking trip, check <a href="#">weather conditions</a> and follow local advice before going.</p>

**Please also note and be sensitive to the following:**

- You must be able to [prove your identity](#) either by providing documents when asked or within 4 hours at a police station. Identity documents can be a passport, a photo driving licence or other documentation provided by a government body.

- Concealing the face in public places in France is illegal. This includes balaclavas, full veils or any other garment or mask that is used to conceal the face. Failure to comply with the ban is punishable by a maximum fine of €150. Under this law, forcing someone to hide their face is also a crime and is punishable by a year's imprisonment and a fine of up to €30,000. If the person forced to hide their face is a minor, the sentence is doubled. The law does not provide any exemption for tourists.