

University of Lorraine Master in NLP - Survival Guide to Nancy

2024-2025



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Before your arrival

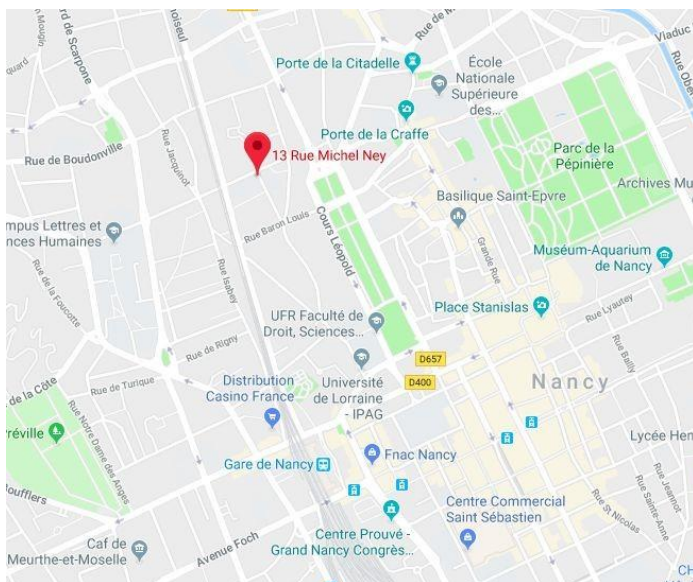
Accommodation

There are a few options for accommodation in Nancy, depending on whether you prefer student housing or private accommodation.

Keep in mind that most of your classes will be at the PLG campus in 13 Rue Michel Ney, so you may want to look for accommodation nearby.

The CROUS

The CROUS¹ is a country-wide organization, providing services, among which are halls of residence and restaurants for students. The Nancy area is served by the CROUS Lorraine¹ branch. There are 14 residences in Nancy, and you can find out more about each of them [here](#) and browse them further [here](#) (under *MON LOGEMENT CROUS 2024-2025*).



The CROUS offers a few different types of rooms ranging from a single 9m² rooms with a shared bathroom and kitchen, to 18-20m² studios with a private bathroom and kitchenette. Prices range from €150 to €450, depending on the type of room and residence. As a student, however (and depending on your age and income level too), you may be eligible for some benefits (check the [CAF](#) section). Furthermore, with the student residence, the rent is all inclusive (water, electricity, heating and free WiFi included).

Before you apply for a residence, however, you will need to request a *dossier social étudiant* (DSE) and get your *Identifiant National Etudiant* (INE). This is done through this website <https://www.messervices.etudiant.gouv.fr/>, so head over there, and once this procedure has been completed, you can start making your residence selection.

The application procedure for CROUS residences typically takes place in a few rounds. The second and further rounds, however, are the ones where leftover rooms are offered. It is still easy to get a room even in later rounds, but ideally you should apply during the first one. If you were not allocated a room during the first round, the second round of applications will start on **11th July 2024**². Accepting a proposal for CROUS accommodation needs to be done within 10 days by paying a deposit of €100 (can be done online).

The [pas-à-pas crous](#) pdf is a short application guideline from CROUS Lorraine.

¹ <http://www.crous-lorraine.fr/>

² All dates are in Paris time

Semi-Private Student Housing

Besides the CROUS, there are semi-private co-operatives that specialize in leasing to students and have slightly higher prices than the CROUS.

[Apheen](#) is private student housing, offering studios, starting from 27m². It is located very close to LORIA (the research laboratory where most of your professors work), but about 5km away from the PLG campus. If you choose to live in this residence, you may also be eligible for [CAF](#) (as long as you meet the age and income level requirements).

You can check out [MGEL](#) for other similar options.

Private Accommodation

Rents in private accommodation range from €300 to €600, depending on the location and the size of the place, but you may be eligible for [CAF](#) too. Private homes typically add about €30-50 per month for utilities. An important thing to note with private homes is that the city has an annual rental tax and this is usually passed on by the landlord to the renter. The tax is due on 1 January no matter how long the rental has been (i.e. if you move in on 1 September 2024 vs another person who moved in on 2 January 2024, the tax is the same amount). The tax is typically a few hundred euros. It is called the *Taxe d'habitation* (housing tax), and you should clarify this beforehand with private homeowners.

Check the [Liste de Logements à Nancy](#) website for more details on some private accommodation that accepts students.

Visale (or Guarantors)

In order to get accommodation, you may be asked for a guarantor. Luckily, however, since last year, the <https://www.visale.fr/> service is accepted too. For non-EU students, you will need to have received your VISA before applying for Visale. It takes a few days (between 24-48 hours to get confirmation), but at least with the CROUS, this is done after you have been accepted to a residence.

Academic Resources

While the summer is meant for you to take a break, if you have some free time on your hands, and want to read up a bit on Computer Science and Linguistics, the resources below may be

helpful. This is, of course, completely voluntary, but if you want to save yourself some time during the semester, check out some of them and see what you are familiar with and what you will need to work on.

Computer Science

- [Unix tools and scripting](#)
- [Simple Latex guide](#)
- [Python and computer science](#)
- [Mathematics for computer science](#)
- [Data science](#)

Linguistics

- [Coursera - Miracles of Human Language: An Introduction to Linguistics](#)
- [NativLang - fun educational videos about language and linguistics](#)

French

You will be living in France and while speaking French is not necessary for your degree, it is always nice to learn at least a bit of the language of the country you live in. You will have French classes during the year, but if you want to get a head start, check out some of these apps:

- [Memrise](#) is an app based on spaced repetition and offers a great selection of [French](#) courses, suitable for different level learners
- [Duolingo](#), as one of the most popular language learning apps, offers a variety of speaking, listening, translation, and multiple-choice exercises
- If you are brave enough and want to practice your language skills with some native speakers (and help them learn a language that you speak too), you can try out [Tandem](#)

After your arrival

After you arrive, there will probably be some administrative hassle to deal with. Our only advice is: be patient as things may take a bit of time, and everything will be alright. :)

Non-EU Students

Once you arrive, make sure you visit the university's International Help Desk, where they will guide you through the procedures for obtaining all the right documents (e.g. social security, etc.).

It is important to note that every non-EU student receives a VLS-TS visa for studying in France, which is given for the period of 1 year. After arrival, it is mandatory to validate that visa in France and get yourself registered in the country. To do that, you need to do an online validation. Validation is done on the [ANEF Platform](#) and costs about €70-80. By completing the procedure, you get your **titre de sejour** which is an important document and required for every bureaucratic procedure.

Opening a Bank Account

You will likely need to open a French bank account. You will need an identification document (ID card or passport), certificat de scolarité (proof of enrollment in the university) and a proof of residence to do this. Once you arrive, ask us (your second years) for advice on which bank to choose.

Health Insurance

Everybody living in France (EU or Non-EU) has a right to have health insurance (Assurance Maladie). You would need to have a carte vitale which can be used for your health appointments. Please note, however, that the carte vitale only covers about 70% of your health cost. You can find more information about the procedure [here](#).

Since the carte vitale covers about 70%, it is advisable to apply for additional insurance (Complementary Health Insurance). You can also find more information on this on the [Ameli Website](#).

SIM Card

Similarly to the bank account, if you need a French SIM Card, ask us for advice on which provider to choose. If you have a SIM Card from another EU country, it may not be necessary for you to get a French one due the free roaming policy (some conditions may apply though, so check with your provider).

CAF

As a student (and provided you meet the age and income level requirements), you may be eligible for some social benefits for your housing, which can vary from around €30 to €170 per month (depending, among other things, on the amount of rent you pay per month, i.e. if your rent is €150 per month, you will probably get around €30 of benefits, while if it is €400, you will probably get around €170 per month). You can apply for social benefits <http://www.caf.fr/>. It is important to note that you should try to send your initial request before the end of September, since benefits are paid starting from the month after the request was sent. Keep in mind that the procedure is rather lengthy, and you will likely need to provide some extra documents before you get the final confirmation, but this is normal, so don't get frustrated. As long as you send your initial request before the end of September, and provide all required documents as they are requested later on, you will get a confirmation eventually. Even if you receive the final confirmation as late as February or March, you will still get benefits for the previous months, they will just be paid at once after your status has been confirmed.

Once you know where you will be living, you can do an online simulation [here](#) to get an idea of the monthly allowance you will get.

Settling in Nancy

Transport

Public Transport

The public transport service in Nancy is [Stan](#). They run the buses in the city. Tickets can be purchased from the machines available at some of the bus stops or from the bus drivers. A single ticket (Pass 1) costs €1.50 from the machines and €1.70 if bought from the bus drivers. A ticket containing 10 rides (Pass 10) can also be purchased from the machines at the bus stops and costs €12.00. You can also download the [MyBus](#) application and purchase tickets and validate them on your phone. You can validate your ticket at the start of your ride on the bus. Once validated, the ticket is valid for 1 hour and can be used on any buses within this period of time. Monthly and Yearly passes are also available and you can find out more about the tariffs [here](#).

Cycling

If you need to travel long(-ish) distances and don't want to spend too much on public transport, a cheaper option, other than walking, is cycling. Nancy is not a very big city and (rather) cyclist-friendly, so cycling is often faster than using public transport. If you want to get a bike, there are a few second-hand options (ask us for more details when you arrive). You could also rent a bike depending on the number of minutes you intend to use it for. You can find more information [here](#). There's no need to worry about bike repairs either, because you can get a yearly membership at [Atelier Dynamo](#) and use their tools to repair your bike whenever necessary (they are also one of the second-hand bike options :P).

Food

The CROUS has a number of restaurants around town, all open for lunch during weekdays and some open for dinner too, so if you are on campus, this could be a good option. The student price for a meal at a CROUS restaurant is €3.20.

If you are not up for lunch at a CROUS restaurant, there are plenty of supermarkets around town, of course, where you can either do your groceries or get a meal deal.

When buying groceries, you can also check out the *Marché couvert*, the central market in Nancy or visit one of the [other markets](#) around town when they are open.

Student Life/Activities

Bureaucracy, transport, food... you've settled everything. Now what?

Well, there is plenty of stuff to do, both in Nancy and outside of it, so there is no way you will get bored here!

In Nancy

Nancy is a very nice city to live in. A large part of the population is made up of students (around 50,000 except maybe during the summer months when it empties a little). So there are vibrant bars and parties every week. Besides IDMC, there are the Law, Business, Arts and Medicine faculties and they party a lot!

The University of Lorraine is also a popular destination for Erasmus Students, so the Erasmus community is very big here, with the [ESN Group](#) organising plenty of lively activities (parties, weekly bar meetings, cross-cultural events like movie screenings, cooking sessions, visits to other French cities etc).

There is also the university's sports department (SUAPS) which offers more than 72 sport activities free of charge to all students. You can find more information on the list of activities on offer and registration available on the [SUAPS Website](#).

There is a weekly [Café des Langues](#) meeting where students and professionals from Nancy and surrounding regions come to a bar for drinks and chat in French and other languages, to exchange ideas as well as to practice our languages.

Other than that, Nancy is surrounded by nature, the Meurthe and Moselle are just 15-minutes cycle outside of the city, there are cycling/walking trails that run across the Lorraine region to nearby towns and cities like Metz, so if you enjoy these things, Nancy is a good place.

Nancy also has the Lorraine National Opera based here, with major operas regularly. There is a ballet and contemporary dance company here too as well as weekly symphonies and recitals in the concert hall. There's a yearly book fair (French mostly) in Nancy around September. It has run more than 20 years and is a major event on the French literary calendar (with big-name authors and many people flocking to Nancy for this).

From Mid-June to September, there is the annual light show at the Place Stanislas. After nightfall, the lights on the square go out and the show begins. The buildings come alive with projected images and special effects, accompanied by a stunning sound system. You can find the scheduling on the [Nancy Tourisme Website](#).

In October there is a major week of jazz here that is a highlight (the [Nancy Jazz Pulsations](#)). In terms of music, there is a concert hall [L'Autre Canal](#) that sees more activity around spring with weekends packed with artists playing. There are plenty of regular events in neighbouring cities too.

From November to January, you have the Saint Nicholas festivities, one of which includes the Christmas market which has numerous stalls including food and activities and attracts a lot of crowds. Rides mounted at the Parc de la Pépinière are free all weekend, as well as entry to the museums of Nancy and the Greater Nancy Metropolis.

There are a few [museums](#) in Nancy too, that organise various events (Student Museum Night for example), but you can just pop for a visit anytime, of course. Many museums in France are free on the first Sunday of each month, so this is usually a very good time to visit them.

Outside of Nancy

If you get bored of Nancy or simply want a getaway, you are in the right place too! Nancy is located very close to a number of major European cities - Paris is just an hour and a half away by train, and so are Luxembourg and Strasbourg. A lot of smaller towns in the area are certainly worth a visit too (Colmar, Toul, Muhouse, to name but a few).

There's also an annual [fantasy movie festival](#) in the beautiful Lake Gerardmer in the Vosges mountains that is a big highlight too.

In terms of transport, the easiest way to travel is either by bus or by train, the latter being usually more costly. [Flixbus](#) has some nice offers and if you book early enough, you can get a ticket for as cheap as €0.99 to Paris (it's a 5-hour bus ride though, but if it's a long weekend and you've got time, it is probably worth it). If you are under 28, you get also get a [Carte Jeune](#) from the French Railway (SNCF). It costs €50, but gives you some really nice discounts, so if you travel a lot, it is worth the investment. If you are tired of busses and trains, you can also check [Blablacar](#) and see if a ride is available to where you plan to go.

If you want to travel a bit farther, there are a couple of airports nearby:

- Metz-Nancy-Lorraine Airport (45km)
- Luxembourg Findel Airport (124km)
- Saarbrücken Airport (130km)
- Zweibrücken Airport (164km)
- Strasbourg International Airport (171km)
- Châlons Vatry Airport (179km)
- Baden Airpark (192km)
- EuroAirport Basel-Mulhouse-Freiburg (209km)
- Frankfurt-Hahn Airport (229km)
- a few options in Paris too

Other Useful Resources

Join our [Facebook Group](#) if you haven't yet and feel free to ask us any question about the Master programme and life in Nancy.

You can also make use of the [Buddy system](#) if you are looking for a friend to meet you in Lorraine. It is most likely a university student and they will answer your questions and help you discover your new life in Lorraine.

You may also find the [Étudiants de Nancy](#) (apart from general posts, people sometimes post about available rooms for rent) and [Erasmus Nancy 2024/25 - International Students Nancy](#) groups useful. Erasmus events are also posted regularly by the [ESN Nancy Mascot](#).

If you need to buy pots, pans, bikes, clothes... or really, anything you need, and don't want to spend too much, [Le Bon Coin](#) is an online platform where you can look for second-hand items. Rental offers are also listed there.

This [Welcome Kit Page](#) also has more information on each procedure (before and during your stay) you would need to do to ensure your stay in France is as smooth as possible.

See you in September!

You are starting your Master's soon and this is very exciting! Before that, however, make sure you get all the administrative work done, so you have more time to enjoy life here in Nancy! Remember to not stress out about anything and if you have any questions, just ask us, we are here to help and we are very much looking forward to meeting you in September! :)

Have a restful summer,
The soon-to-be M2 NLP students! :)