

Essential Phone Numbers

- 15 *SAMU* (paramedics)
- 17 Police
- 18 *Pompiers* (fire department)

Enter the following phone numbers in your French cell phone using the quick-dial function:

- # 1 Your Host Family
- # 2 AUCP Director
- # 3 AUCP Administrative Assistant

Theft

As a precaution, empty purses and wallets of all unnecessary cards, documents, and sentimental items. Limit their content to:

- International Student ID card
- Your Debit/Credit Card, if necessary
- Pocket money, enough for the day

Use Common Sense:

- Do not dangle purses on the backs of chairs in cafés, carry wallets in your back-pockets or leave wallets in the outside pocket of your backpacks.
- Lock doors and windows following host family instructions.
- Do not leave wallets or valuable items unattended at anytime.
- Do not enter your PIN code with anyone close-by. Cover the keyboard with one hand while entering it.

Street Safety

While Aix and Marseille are considered to be safe, female students may enjoy the cities more freely once they learn how to avoid attracting undesired male attention:

- Do not smile at strangers; a smile may be interpreted as a come-on in France.
- Do not walk alone in “enticing attire” at night.
- Do not engage in conversation with unknown men.
- Avoid dark, isolated streets.
- Avoid walking alone in front of groups of loitering men.
- If you attract “wolf calls” ignore them completely; if they persist and you are followed, stop and firmly demand to be left alone. Do not smile while doing so.
- If you cannot shake unwanted company, walk calmly toward populated areas and ask for help or stop at the nearest home or apartment, ring all the buzzers, and ask for help over the inter-phone. Dial the Police (17).
- Do not hitch-hike under any circumstances, even in a small group.

Personal Illness

The AUCP provides full medical coverage for personal illness.

In case of minor illness, inform your host family and the AUCP. If at home, follow host family guidance and medical recommendation. If at school, speak with the designated administrative assistant who will help you with a medical appointment if necessary.

If you see a doctor, you must advance the cost of the visit (25-60€). Be sure to receive the *Feuille de Soins* (health care receipt of payment) for your reimbursement.

In case of illness requiring emergency care, call the *SAMU* (15) and your host family, who will then contact the AUCP.

Accident

The AUCP provides full medical coverage for accident. If you are alone and are victim of an accident, call the *SAMU* (15). Inform the AUCP director as soon as possible.

Nightlife and Dating

The art of seduction is more or less codified in France: a few things to remember for dating or interaction in bars, pubs, or nightclubs:

- Dress code: prefer elegance or casual style to overtly enticing outfits.
- If someone offers you a drink and you accept, it means you are open to at least a conversation. If you are not interested, just say politely “Non, merci”; if needed “Je suis avec quelqu’un” is usually efficient to be left alone.
- If attracted to someone, be clear yourself about what you want and do not want, and act accordingly:

If you dance with someone quite closely and/or French kiss, the person may expect more. If this person then invites you to his/her place and you accept, he/she may expect more.

- Ask French friends for advice if dating in France.
- Avoid going out in American-student bands; the company and guidance of your French language partners will help you adapt successfully and integrate local nightlife with no hazardous misunderstandings.

