

Career Advancement **Paris City Guide:**

How to Prepare for a Successful Summer in Paris

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Paris Housing Overview

If you enjoy taking architectural tours, discovering cozy hole-in-the-wall cafés, exploring art or history museums, and experimenting with high-quality gastronomy, then Paris is the city for you to be this summer!

Many University of Chicago students choose internships based in Paris every year. The summer break provides students with the opportunity to explore the city and take advantage of the fun activities it has to offer. Whether you opt to live in Paris or in the surrounding areas, there are plenty of housing options for every preference.

The type of housing you're looking for, your budget, and your connections in Paris are all factors that should help determine where you begin your housing search. The earlier you begin looking, the more options you will have and the easier it will be to choose exactly where you want to live for the summer. In the end, it is best to find housing that is near your job location with easy access to public transportation. This should be a priority when looking for housing—it will make your commute to and from work much easier and it will save you a lot of time and money.

Finding Summer Housing

Steps you should take when looking for housing:

1. *Consider finding a roommate.* You may end up spending a good amount of your summer income paying for rent. If you can find classmates, friends,

or relatives willing to room with you, this could be your best option for saving some money.

2. *Location is everything.* One strategy is to search for housing that is close to your workplace or near transportation that will get you to work quickly. Paris has a variety of public transportation options for navigating the expanse of the city.
3. *Decide what is important to you.* Once you've decided on what neighborhoods would be convenient for you, it's always helpful to explore what attractions they have to offer. Whether you love trying new restaurants, shopping, or visiting cultural institutions, find a place that will give you the most time to explore your favorite things.
4. *Politely ask your employer about housing resources.* Your employer may have suggestions for where to live or be able to give you the contact information of other interns who are searching for housing so that you can room together or get advice.

Online Housing Resources

There are a variety of online housing resources that provide short-term housing vacancies, including:

- <https://www.airbnb.com/>
- <https://www.thehomelike.com/>
- <https://www.lodgis.com/en/>
- <https://www.parisattitude.com/>
- <https://www.paris-housing.com/>

In addition to the links above, Facebook groups are good places to look for short-term housing or roommates.

Student Housing Organizations

Student Housing Organizations are corporations that own large residential buildings and rent out rooms to students. Sometimes the buildings are set up like dormitories with single rooms and collective bathrooms, and other times the rooms are more like studio or one-bedroom apartments. It is important to look and apply for housing as soon as possible. There are pros and cons to living in student housing, just as there are for living in a dormitory.

Pros

- Amenities such as security, maintenance, etc.
- Opportunity to easily meet other students.
- Several options ranging from economical setups to ones with more amenities: prices can range between \$1,277 and \$4,956 for the entire summer.

Cons

- Possibility you'll be matched with a roommate.
- There are rules and regulations in most of these places that you will have to abide by.

These institutions offer summer housing:

Fac-Habitat Association:

<https://www.fac-habitat.com/en/>

Non-profit organization that provides housing for students under 30 years of age. Available accommodations range from studios to 2-bedroom apartments. Fac-Habitat has six locations throughout the city of Paris. This organization can be reached at (+33) 1 64 11 14 07.

Foyer International des Etudiantes:

<https://www.fie.fr/en/>

Rooms include a bed, desk, lamp, table, chair, and refrigerator. In addition, each room is equipped with ample storage space and a sink with running water. Charges also include pillows and blankets. The Foyer is located near the Luxembourg Gardens in the 6th arrondissement. Telephone: (+33) 1 43 54 49 63.

Nexity Studéa:

<https://www.nexity-studea.com/en/>

Single rooms and studios available. Charges include Wi-Fi, access to a cafeteria, and laundry services. Studio apartments are furnished and fully equipped for use. Nexity Studéa has multiple locations around Paris. They can be conveniently contacted at (+33) 1 85 55 13 12.

Paris Neighborhoods

Many students with summer internships in Paris choose to live in different neighborhoods based on their internship location. Below is a composed list of affordable neighborhoods that could be suitable housing options:

The **5th Arrondissement** is a popular place to live among international students. The Luxembourg Gardens and the Panthéon are both in this neighborhood, but the area also includes many bookstores and restaurants.

The **10th Arrondissement** hosts two of the city's major train stations, Gare de l'Est and Gare du Nord. Beyond being a very culturally diverse neighborhood, this area of Paris features many boutiques and eateries.

The **11th Arrondissement** houses many students, resulting in a very active nightlife. As a result, this district in Paris is packed full of trendy restaurants and bars.

The **20th Arrondissement** features many flats, lofts, and studios perfect for student interns. Not only does this neighborhood offer a wide range of brasseries and cafés, but it also hosts a weekly local farmer's market.

Rental Tips and Expectations

Applying for a Rental Unit

Most landlords will ask you to complete a rental application form. The application will typically ask for:

- Name, address, and telephone number
- Current and past landlords

- Financial information regarding your ability to pay the rent, like monthly or annual income
- Names of people who will be living in the unit

Cost of Living

A few notes to remember while considering housing costs:

- The average monthly rent for a studio or 1-bedroom apartment ranges from \$847 to \$3,178 per month or \$2,331 to \$6,356 per month for a 2-bedroom or 3-bedroom apartment.
- While researching for apartments to rent, be aware of scammers on rental websites. A common tactic used by the seller is stating that they will be out of the city for months, limiting their accessibility. According to two students trying to find housing over the summer, “[they] also noticed that a lot of the scam responses were the same, someone leaving the city for 3 to 9 months for a job.”
- Be sure to get in contact (via phone, Zoom, etc.) with your landlord or leaser before agreeing to rent the vacancy. When possible, visit the space or do a video tour before signing the lease.

Paris Transportation

Paris Métro

These trains run from 6:00 AM to 1:00 AM on weekdays and 6:00 AM to 2:00 AM on weekends. One ticket for the metro is valid for one journey, including line changes.

RATP Bus Network

A single journey costs about \$2 and is valid across lines. The RATP also offers nighttime buses that run between the hours of 12:30 AM and 5:30 AM.

Réseau Express Régional

The RER is a metro-rail hybrid with double-decker trains that connect Paris to its outlying suburbs.

Taxis and Shared Ride Options

Fares are mostly paid in cash and are based on distance and time using the meter inside the car. You can also e-hail a taxicab through various mobile apps such as Uber (<https://www.uber.com/>), Lyft (<https://www.lyft.com/>), or Chauffeur Privé (<https://www.chauffeurprive.mu/>).

Monthly Transportation Cost

- Navigo Monthly Travel Passes

The Navigo monthly travel passes allow you unlimited use of the public transport networks in Paris. You may travel on all of the public transport networks in the Île-de-France region, such as the metro, RER, bus, tramway, and train—with the exception of Orlyval, SNCF train lines with reserved seating, and the Optile special fare lines.

Depending on the zones you choose to purchase, this pass ranges from \$77 to \$89 in monthly costs.

<https://www.ratp.fr/en/titres-et-tarifs>

Paris Safety

After living in Chicago for school, you should be well-versed in safety precautions for a big city. However, here are some basic tips you should be reminded of before your internship. Using common sense is good advice and you should read the following tips for a quick refresher.

General Safety Tips:

- Always remember that there is safety in numbers. Walk with friends or take populated routes when going places. Be especially careful at night.
- Plan your route in advance, walk with a purpose, and be alert at all times, especially when talking on a cell phone or using headphones in public.
- Avoid deserted areas such as parks and alleys.
- If you think you are being followed, cross the street, change direction, or go to a public place.

- Never display large amounts of cash or other valuables in public. If you need to organize your wallet, duck into a store or wait until your home.
- Don't keep your wallet in the back pocket of your pants or backpack, and be aware of your wallet or purse in commotions. Pickpockets often employ helpers to create disturbances nearby.
- Use caution when using ATMs and don't carry too much cash around with you. Most places accept credit cards and ATMs are everywhere. Just make sure you choose one that is in a busy area.
- Avoid empty railway cars. Ride with many people or in the conductor's car if possible.

Connect with Alumni

While you're in Paris this summer, take advantage of the opportunity to connect with another great resource: University of Chicago alumni! Whether you're interested in working in Paris after graduation, or you wish to find out more about certain career paths, networking with alumni may be one of the most beneficial things you do during your summer. Research alumni who are currently working in Paris, through the UChicagoWisr Network, an alumni mentoring platform: <https://uchicago.wisr.io/signup> and the online alumni directory: <http://www.uchicagoalumni.org>.