

# Your move to France checklist

From the decision phase to your arrival in France, this checklist will help you to ask yourself the right questions to plan your move to France.

Anticipation and precise preparation will put you on track for a successful expatriation!

The comprehensive list of visa motives will also help you find the visa type matching your situation



My name is Guillemette, alias Guiga. I'm a French serial expat and also a Global Mobility professional.

You will also find many detailed free resources to help you with your move to France [on the blog](#).

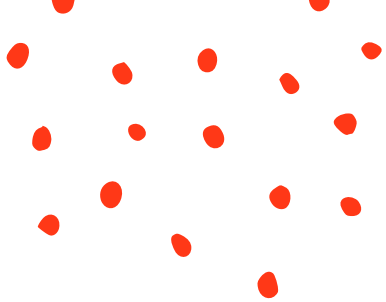




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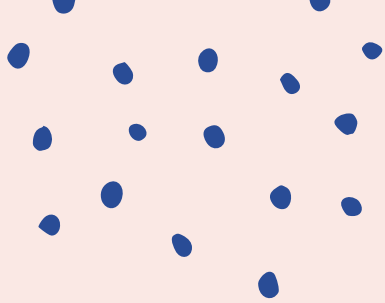
## PART# 1 - THE DECISION PHASE

- Do I want to move temporarily (1 year max.), long term, or indefinitely?
- How a move abroad can impact my career?
- Take into account the emotional impacts of an international move (opposed to an international vacation) for all the family members
- What income will I generate while living in France?
- Is this income level sufficient to keep my quality of living and return home?
- How can I have the authorisation to work depending on my income plan?



## PART #2 - THE PLANNING PHASE

- How much do I need to save for my international move?
- Based on my savings and needs, when would be a realistic move date?
- What visa type to apply for according to my situation?
- Is the visa I'm planning to apply for in line with my long term goals? (pathway to residency and/or naturalization)
- What is a realistic target move date taking into account the visa process?
- Adjust my savings plan according to this moving date.
- Sources schools for my children (international or local and also public or private schools).



## PART# 3 - THE PREPARATION PHASE

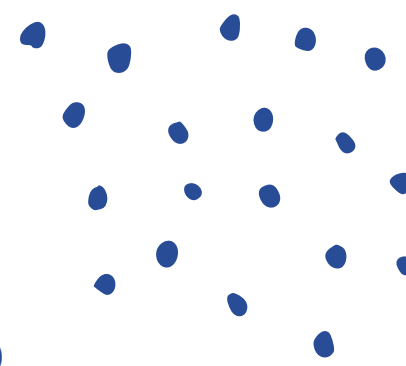
- Prepare the households goods move, storage or sale.
- Organise the lease termination or property sale.
- Book my ticket to France.
- Book international private health insurance for my first 6 months in France minimum.
- Check entitlement to the French public healthcare and plan the private healthcare coverage accordingly.
- Start French housing market research.
- Prepare the administration documents I will bring with me & prepare visa application.
- Anticipate the essential administrative tasks required on arrival.



## PART #4 - THE ARRIVAL PHASE

- Find a long-term rental
- Open a French bank account
- Validate entry visa or request residence permit
- Register with the French Healthcare
- Take the necessary local insurance
- Finalise the children school registration & buy school supplies
- Look for a job (if authorised)

# THE COMPREHENSIVE LIST OF VISA MOTIVES

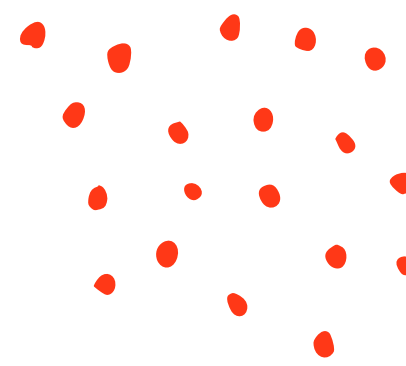


## THE WORK VISAS

- Seconded employees on intra-company transfer (*Salarié détaché ICT*)
- Employee (*Salarié*)
- Temporary Worker visa (*Travailleur temporaire*)
- Seasonal worker visa (*Travailleur saisonnier*)
- Entrepreneur Visa (*Entrepreneur - Profession libérale*)
- Jeune Au Pair
- Working holiday visa for young eligible nationals (*Vacances-Travail*)
- Talent Passport visas (*Passeport Talent*) and its 10 mentions:
  - Salarié qualifié* (French higher diploma)
  - Employee of an innovative company (*Salarié d'une entreprise innovante*)
  - EU Blue Card (*Carte bleue Européenne*)
  - Expatriate assignment (*Salarié en mission*)
  - Researcher (*Chercheur*)
  - Company founder (Créateur d'entreprise)
  - Innovative business project (*Porteur de projet économique innovant reconnu par un organisme public*)
  - Business investor (*Investisseur économique*)
  - Company Officer (*Mandataire social*)
  - Profession artistique et culturelle & Internationally renowned personality*



# THE COMPREHENSIVE LIST OF VISA MOTIVES



## THE FAMILY VISAS

- French spouse-visa (*Vie Privée et Familiale*)
- Parent of a French citizen (*Vie Privée et Familiale*)
- Family reunification (for the family of foreign nationals living in France: *Vie Privée et Familiale*)

## THE NON-WORK VISAS

*for tourist, family or private visits or even business trips or volunteering)*

- Temporary visitor visa (*Long séjour temporaire: non-renewable*)
- Long-stay visitor visa (*Long séjour visiteur: renewable*)
- Long-stay retiree visa (*Long séjour retraité: renewable*)

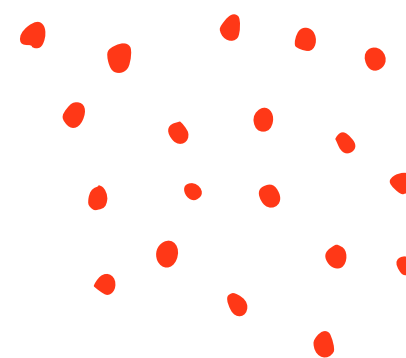
## THE STUDY VISAS

- Student (*Etudiant*)
- School aged minor (*Mineur scolarisé*)
- Trainees or young professionals in training (*Stagiaire*)
- Transition between study and work: Recherche d'emploi, création d'entreprise





## THE 4 MOST COMMON MISTAKES TO AVOID WHEN MOVING TO FRANCE



### #1 - NOT MAKING FRENCH LANGUAGE LEARNING A PRIORITY

Learning a foreign language as an adult is a challenge! And even more, if this is the first foreign language learnt.

Mastering English isn't sufficient to get by in France, even in Paris.

Working towards an intermediate level in French will make your life easier. And also open you doors that wouldn't exist otherwise (such as negotiating a fee, managing your French red tape, making French friends, or getting a promotion at work...).

### #2 - NOT ANTICIPATING THE MOVE AND THE RED TAPE

Bureaucracy is difficult and the French one could compete on the world podium if it was a sport!

Anticipation and organisation is the only way to overcome this challenge.

Finding out at the last minute that the process is longer than expected or different than what you know is something you want to avoid. And can hardly be a good argument to get special treatment from the French administration for a fast-track process (spoiler alert: There is no fast-track treatment!)

Always assume it is different and that you don't know is the key to looking for real answers and moving forward.





### **#3 - REQUESTING THE WRONG VISA & THINKING A CHANGE IS POSSIBLE OR EASY**

For most, the visa request is the first step to move to France, and an essential one!

Planning to come with an "easy visa" like a short-stay tourist visa or a long-stay tourist visa to switch to the real motive of your move to France is the worst strategy to have if you want to stay more than a year in France.

This change of status is very difficult, if not impossible (unless you marry a French citizen, and you will still get scrutiny).

The 4 families of visa motives above certainly include the solution for you. It is worth working towards finding solutions to meet the requirement of your real motive to come to France rather than jeopardizing your chance to settle in France.

### **#4 - ASSUMING IT WILL BE THE SAME ABROAD**

France has a lot of charm (and knows how to broadcast it!), but it also has a lot of unexpected inconveniences.

Each country is different. Observing and letting go of expectations is the key to adapting abroad and helping with the culture shock.

Culture shock is a part of the expatriation cycle. Every expat experiences it in a different way. Being kind to yourself and not focusing on what seems wrong to you or difficult will help you to adjust to your new home.