

Long-stay student visa - two distinct visas:

- Temporary long-stay visa (4 to 6 months)
- Long-stay visa valid as residence permit (7 to 12 months)

When a student's stay in France is for a duration varying between 4 to 6 months, the visa that will be issued henceforth will be a "temporary long-stay visa", which exempts its holder from undergoing OFII formalities.

There are several differences between the long-stay visa valid as residence permit issued to a student for a stay in France lasting between 7 and 12 months, and the temporary long-stay visa (4-6 months validity). In the case of the latter,

- the holder's visa bears the words "exempted from obtaining residence permit" (OFII formalities not required);
- the holder is not allowed to seek employment;
- the holder may not have access to social services in France (e.g. APL for housing aid). However, medical coverage is assured upon arrival.
- the holder may not extend their stay in France beyond the validity period of the visa originally issued (they may not approach the Prefecture for visa renewal application and must return to their country to submit a fresh visa application).

Movement in Schengen Area

- A **student holding a temporary long-stay visa** can freely move through the Schengen area for a maximum period of 90 days over a 6-month period (that is 90 days in all for the entire validity period of their visa), apart from France, where stay is authorised for the entire duration of the visa.

- A **student holding a long-stay visa valid as residence permit and subject to OFII formalities** (period of stay between 7 and 12 months) can also move freely through the Schengen area during the first three months with effect from their entry in France (time given for completing OFII formalities). At the end of these first three months, the student may continue to move through the Schengen area only if they also carry, apart from their passport and visa, an attestation from the OFII stating that the student has commenced the procedure for obtaining the OFII vignette (which is affixed once the formalities are completed). Again, the student is not allowed to stay in other Schengen countries (except France) for more than 90 days over a 6-month period.