



Come and discover the Catholic University of the Vendée





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What is ICES ?

A selective and mid-sized catholic institution

ICES is a private catholic university created in 1990 by the bishopric of Luçon, a small city of the Vendée. It is a mid-sized institution in which students prepare official degrees. It was conceived as a private, selective establishment in which class groups are small, professor-student relationships are personalized and assiduity is compulsory. With about 1000 students from all over France, as well as international students, the university offers an intimate environment. It's easy to know the faculty and for them to know you. It shouldn't take long to interact with French students, and to make new friends.

Nine areas of studies, Bachelor and Master degrees

- **Biology (BA)**
- **Law (BA & MA)**
- **History (BA & MA)**
- **Languages (BA)**
- **Literature (BA)**
- **Mathematics (BA)**
- **Physics/Chemistry (BA)**
- **Political Sciences (BA & MA)**
- **Catholic Studies (MA)**

Each department consists in a small team of permanent faculty and a number of adjunct professors from all over France and from all around the world. This allows to modulate the respective syllabus through invitations to top experts and internationally renowned professors, for specific conferences and lectures in French and English.

More information about the faculties and courses at <http://www.ices.fr/index2.php>

Excellence & research

ICES research department organises a number of conferences during the academic year. Research results are published through ICES own publishing house and through various partnerships with famous publishing houses. Research and publishing contribute to ICES' reputation of excellence

International network

ICES develops from several years a large network of partners all around the world.

Erasmus + 2014-2021 charter and specific agreements with worldwide universities enables ICES to send each year a large number of students abroad and to welcome international students.

ICES is a member of ICUSTA (International Council of Universities of Saint Thomas Aquinas) and works with 65 institutions from all over the world.



Come to ICES and experience :

- ⇒ customized programs
- ⇒ small sized classes and personal support
- ⇒ intensive French classes
- ⇒ orientation week and "Buddy program"
- ⇒ large campus facilities

At the beginning of the semester you will meet with the Heads of Departments to discuss the classes you have chosen, the level you have previously acquired in the discipline, and your language skills. You will choose from a number of classes in English and in French, and of course study French language.

More information on courses at http://www.ices.fr/PA_students.php?a=ST_ProgramsCourses.htm

Important : the classes offered at ICES may vary at any time

International students participate in French workshops that will either introduce, or strengthen, their French language. So from the very beginning, whether you come to ICES to study Political Science, Law, History, or any other discipline, French language will be a part of your studies.

ICES campus consists in a university library with 90,000 works, a multimedia center, wireless internet access on campus, the latest generation of computer, lab equipment, amphitheatres and nomad language laboratory.





Come to ICES and discover a very nice & attractive region

Vendée

Orientation week

ICES organizes a special immersive week for international students before the start of each semester. During this week, you will attend French classes and discover the main places of interest of the region. You will be accompanied with French students who take part in a buddy program and will also help you in your daily life throughout the semester.

La Roche sur Yon, a pretty historical city

The City of La Roche sur Yon is located close to the Atlantic coast, in a region called "la Vendée". The city of la Roche-sur-Yon was created by Napoleon after the French Revolution and is rich with history. It is a small city of 50 000 people which makes it easy to navigate and easy to get around. Public transportation is well established, frequent, clean and inexpensive.

La Roche sur Yon is :

3 h from **Paris**

3 h from **Bordeaux**

1h from **Nantes**

2h30 from the **Loire Castles**

Discover more on http://www.vendee-tourism.co.uk/?utm_source=vendee-tourism.com&utm_medium=web

The Vendée is a cultural region with very nice historical places.

You will discover :

City of Nantes (guided tour)

City of Angers (guided tour) <http://www.angers.fr>

Paris (weekend)

the Puy du Fou, historical theme park www.puydufou.com

the Venise Verte (boat ballad on the Poitevin marsh) <http://www.la-venise-verte.com/>

La Chabotterie <http://chabotterie.vendee.fr/>

Historial/Memorial de la Vendée <http://historial.vendee.fr/>

City of Les Sables d'Olonne, city of the famous "Vendée Globe" round-the-world single-handed yacht race. The Vendée Globe race departure takes place each 4 years. It is a famous world race that represents over 24,000 miles.



La Chabotterie



Les Sables d'Olonne



Les Machines de Nantes



Le Puy du Fou



Paris



La Rochelle



L'abbaye de Maillezais



L'Historial

Campus life and events

All along the semester, the Board of Students (BDE) organises events : « ICES show », ICES annual celebration, Gala reception at the end of the academic year, skiing week excursion...



Get to know more about our activities & join ICES group

<https://www.facebook.com/ices.univcatho?fref=ts>

and ICES International Students Group on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ICES.international.students/>

Application & informations

Academic calendar

The academic year consists of two semesters :

- 1st semester : from beginning of September to beginning of January*
- 2nd semester : from mid-January to beginning of June*

Two exam sessions :

- 1st exam session : from end of December to beginning of January*
- 2nd exam session : from mid-May to beginning of June*

Holidays breaks : Christmas break in December, Winter break in February, Spring break in April/May.

The orientation week for international students is organized a few days before the beginning of each semester.

Application

Once you are selected by your home university please complete our application form and send it to us with all the required documents within the following deadlines:

- no later than June 30th for the 1st semester or academic year
- until November 30th for the second semester

Incomplete application documents will not be considered.

Once you have been accepted at ICES, you will receive an official Letter of acceptance.

Registration

As soon as possible after your arrival at ICES make sure to go and be officially registered through the "Secrétariat des Etudiants" (Students office, ground floor). Make sure to bring one id photo. This will allow you to get your student card and have access to all students services such as computer services, library, special fare for transportation and cinema, etc.





Visa, Immigration Regulations

Students from outside the European Union will need a visa. As immigration regulations are subject to frequent change we encourage you to check with the French Embassy in your home country and find out what kind of visa you need. Make sure to start the visa application well in advance as it may take a long time before you obtain your visa.

Depending on your nationality and upon your arrival in France you will have to register with the OFII (French Office of Immigration and Integration) in Nantes.

Registration can be done by sending the form that you have been given by the French Embassy in your home country (+ one photocopy of your passport and one photocopy of your visa stating the date of entry in France or Schengen Space).

Then you will be sent an acknowledge receipt by the OFII as well as a letter to go for a medical examination in their offices in Nantes. They will also ask you to pay a fee of 58 euros. Once everything is done the OFII will display a security label in your passport.

More information about OFFII <http://www.ofii.fr/>

Accommodation

You are looking for accommodation in La Roche sur Yon ? ICES International Relations office can help you to find your best living option, but note that it is your responsibility to book your room or flat. Here are the living options in La Roche-sur-Yon :

1 - ICES' Catholic residence...if you wish to live a spécial experience :

Nearby the university, the ICES freshmen's residence "Foyer Sainte Thérèse" welcomes about 40 students (boys & girls). Rooms are reserved for international students. The residence is very comfortable (single rooms with bathroom, laundry, and kitchen to share with the other students). It is not only a residence, it is also a place where you will share a community life, with an important christian dimension. Special evenings, dinners, célébrations, give rythm to the life of this residence.

For this residence : Being a catholic is not compulsory, but you need to be interested and to accept to discuss and to share this dimension of life. Students of this residence will share an immersive weekend during Autumn semester and a 2 days spiritual retreat during Spring semester.

The goal of living in Foyer Sainte Thérèse is twofold : first improving integration at ICES and french language learning, secondly experiencing a Christian life by building links of friendship and deepening one's faith.

These accomodations are selective : if you are interested in living there, you will have a small skype interview with the director of the two households. Monthly rent : 300 €.

To get further informations, please email : edc@ices.fr



2 - Escale Rivoli :

A n independant residence for students and Young workers, located 10 mn walk from ICES.

2014 monthly rent = 300 € (including gas, water, electricity & internet)

All rooms are equipped with individual bathroom.

Shared kitchen at the last floor (open everyday at lunchtime and on weekends).

During the week meals can be taken at the Restaurant Universitaire which is next to the residence building.

Deposit (refundable if no damages) = 1 month's rent

Application fees = 20 €

20 Breakfast package = 25,50 € (compulsory and non refundable). It can be used for lunch too.

<http://www.escalesouest.com> animateur.rivoli@escalesouest.com

3 - Room in a private flat (individual or roommate) via real estate agencies :

. FONCIA

57 rue du Président de Gaulle, La Roche-sur-Yon

<http://fr.foncia.com/>

. NEXITY

35, Boulevard Aristide Briand, La Roche-sur-Yon

<http://www.nexity.fr/>

Average monthly rent = 280 € - 350 € (electricity, gas, water & internet excluded) Deposit (refundable if no damages) = 1 month's rent

http://www.ices.fr/PA_viedecampus.php?a=viedecampus_seloger.htm

<http://www.leboncoin.fr>

4 - Host families :

You can choose living in a host familiy to have an immersive living experience. The host families are selected by our services. If interested please email : international@ices.fr

Note that you have the possibility to apply for a grant from the French Government that may cover up to 30% of the monthly rent. In order to apply for it – and among other documents - students must show evidence of Financial resources (minimum 500 euros /month) and provide with a birth certificate translated in French.

Note that this grant is not automatic so keep in mind that you may not receive it.

Due to a high number of demands we encourage the students to look for their accommodation as soon as possible.



Meals

In la Roche sur Yon students can have lunch at Escale Rivoli Restaurant that is located only 5 minutes walk from ICES. Rivoli 2014 costs : 5,25 euros for 1 meal

41 euros for 10 meals

Express menu : 3,10 euros for 1 meal (starter and dessert)

Or you may also decide to bring your own lunch bag at ICES cafeteria that is equipped with microwave and coffee/snack machines.

Bank

We highly encourage you to open a bank account in France as it will be useful in your daily life (payment of your rent among others). Also through the bank you will have the opportunity to get an insurance / civil liability that covers your room (this insurance is compulsory in France and it costs about 6 euros / month). ICES will assist you with the opening of a French bank account.

Health Insurance

If the study period in France is longer than 3 months, the French Social Security is compulsory. All students under French Social Security must pay a fixed fee of 211 € (2013 cost), regardless of the length of his or her study.

However, if the student can present one of the following original documents (which does not state the exclusion of any particular medical service) that covers the entire length of his or her study period in France, then the student is exempt from the fee :

- a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC)
- an SE401Q102 or SE401Q106 from the R.A.M.Q. (Québec)

Upon arrival at ICES, you must register at the administrative office (Secrétariat des Etudiants) at which time you will be asked either to provide one of the above mentioned documents (justificatif du régime de sécurité sociale), or to take care of the necessary form and fee needed for your coverage in the French system. The French Social Security medical coverage begins on October 1st of each year, thus, for non-European students arriving in France before this date, it is recommended that they subscribe to a personal medical insurance for the period preceding the French coverage.

Also, please note that the French Social Security will not cover 100% of your medical bills. It is possible to subscribe to a personal medical insurance to cover the rest.

Personal medical insurance can be subscribed upon arrival at :

SMEBA, 2 place du Marché, La Roche sur Yon +33 2 40 35 93 53, laroche@smeba.cimut.fr

More information on <http://www.smeba.fr/foreign-students.h>



Arrival

Recommended points of entry into France :
Paris Charles de Gaulle Airport (CDG) or Nantes Airport (NTE)

1) Arrival from Paris Charles de Gaulle Airport :

The SNCF* is the French train system that provides high-speed train (TGV) direct from Paris CDG Airport (or city center Montparnasse station) to Nantes and la Roche sur Yon.

You may access SNCF train schedules and purchase your ticket at <http://www.voyages-sncf.co.uk> (for English) or <http://www.voyages-sncf.com> (for French)

Important : *the same credit card used to purchase your ticket online is required to retrieve your ticket from one of the yellow SNCF machines in the train station - unless you have purchased and printed out an e-ticket.*

Arriving from Paris – if you have not taken a direct train to La Roche sur Yon - you might need to change train in Nantes. Allow at least 20 minutes to change platforms. The trip from Paris to Nantes takes just under three hours and Nantes to La Roche sur Yon is one hour.

2) Arrival via Nantes Atlantique Airport :

Nantes Airport is located one hour far from La Roche sur Yon.

From the airport you might need to reach Nantes train-station and take a train to La Roche-sur-Yon.

Nantes airport shuttles : from Monday to Saturday (6.15 am to 11.15 pm) a TAN Air shuttle bus leaves the airport every 30 minutes and takes you to the train station in only 20 minutes.

On Sunday the shuttle runs every 30 minutes from 7.00 am to 11.15 pm. Ticket : 7,50 € (one way).

More information on : <http://www.nantes.aeroport.fr/acces/navettes>

If you need it ICES can organize your picking up at La Roche sur Yon train-station.



With the Jeune 18-27 SNCF Card you can get low fares

- between 25% to 60% off on TGV, TER & Intercité trains
 - Eligible from age 18 to 27
 - Annual card fee : €50
 - Buy it online
- <http://www.sncf.com/en/reductions/carte-jeune>

If you have any further question feel free to contact :

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*See you soon at ICES
The Catholic Institute of the Vendée !*

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