

Advice for Rennes Students

Public Transport

Rennes has an efficient public transport system called [STAR](#). There are various ticket options, so evaluate whether a monthly subscription suits your needs. Additionally, consider the [MaxJeune](#) pass, a monthly subscription for 80 euros, which allows extensive train travel across France (subject to conditions, including a minimum subscription period of three months and a cancellation fee). This is particularly useful if you plan to visit Paris frequently, which is 1.5 hours away. There's also a convenient station near Gif-sur-Yvette, called Massy Palaiseau.

Tip: On the first Saturday of each month, train tickets within Brittany cost just 5 euros, thanks to the [Samedi dingo](#) offer.

Housing

Most rooms are shared (colocs) with two occupants, costing around 390 euros. With CAF assistance, this can be reduced to approximately 220 euros. If you already have a roommate, email the residence to request a room together. Rooms are allocated upon arrival, so specific rooms cannot be reserved in advance. If you're lucky, you might get a room designed for people with disabilities, which are more spacious.

Note: The university is just a 3-minute walk from the residences.

Climate

Summers in Rennes are mild, but winters can be quite cold. Autumn is particularly rainy, so come prepared with a reliable umbrella and waterproof coat.

Shopping

For groceries, there's an Intermarché about a 15-minute walk away. Larger stores are located in the city center and to the south, accessible by public transport. Every Saturday, there's a “marché des lices” near Sainte-Anne, where you can buy fresh fruits and vegetables.

Gyms

There are two gyms near Intermarché: Fitness Park and Basic Fit. Fitness Park is larger but less recommended. Basic Fit is slightly cheaper and offers better value, though it can get crowded after 6 pm. The university also has a gymnasium for basketball, volleyball, and other sports. There are WhatsApp groups for organizing games.

Employment

The library offers two positions for students, requiring at least B1 level French. Other employment opportunities are available through organizations like babysitting agencies. Nearby, KFC and McDonald's may have openings, though proficiency in French is necessary for most jobs.

Entertainment

The most popular spot for socializing is "La rue de la soif," near Sainte-Anne metro station. Be mindful of public transport closing times, which vary by day. If you miss the last bus or metro, you can use STAR bikes, Uber, or walk back (a 1-hour 10-minute walk).

[CMI Rennes](#) is an organization supporting Erasmus students. They host a student fair at the beginning of the academic year to outline upcoming events, including trips to Saint Malo, Auray Carnac, Saint Michel, and affordable classical music concerts.

At the start of the academic year, there's a significant event called WEI for newcomers, with an entry fee of around 120 euros. For information, contact the BDi.

Tip: Join WhatsApp groups for your cohort at Gif-Sur-Yvette and the Erasmus students for your semester (BDi will send links or contact us if they don't). Major events are usually held on the Gif-Sur-Yvette campus, and information may not always reach other campuses. BDi also organizes various events throughout the year and it is necessary to mention the large university

parties called BANGS (attend at least one). The MaxJeune subscription will be an amazing combo, helping you participate in activities at Gif-Sur-Yvette.