

HIP summer student guide 2023 (PDF)

1. Housing

HIP CERN summer students rent the apartment themselves. On the French and Swiss housing markets, [close to CERN](#), there is a plenty of unfurnished and furnished apartments, published by the [CERN Housing Service](#) and [CERN Marketplace](#) (login with CERN account or with any social media account).

On [University of Geneva](#) and [Geneva Tourist Information](#) website, you will find information on almost all student apartments and hostels in the city.

Rental prices for apartments in France and Switzerland: studio in France starting 600 €/month, in Switzerland 950 CHF/month, depending on the location and whether the apartment is furnished or not. In addition to the actual rental costs, you also have to pay separately for water, electricity and heating, unless these costs are included in the rent. Home insurance is compulsory on the French side. The landlord has the right to claim for a rent guarantee; 1 month rent for an unfurnished and 2 months rent for a furnished apartment, paid together with the first month's rent. The rent guarantee will be returned within one month of the handover of the apartment, if the final inspection revealed no deficiencies.

NOTE! The lease is accompanied by a statutory “Constat d'état des lieux” in France, an inspection of the apartment, which is carried out and signed both at the beginning and at the end of the lease. You should require a copy of this document for yourself. The handing over and return of the keys should always be done in the presence of the landlord or a trustee and confirmed in writing. To avoid problems, always handle payment by bank transfer if possible. When paying in cash, require a receipt of the payment.

The most affordable form of housing is a “shared apartment”. It is worthwhile to form groups and explore the housing markets well before coming to CERN. The most popular residential area is St. Genis Pouilly in France, just 2 km away from CERN-Meyrin.

Before you find your own or shared apartment, it is possible to book rooms at [CERN hotel and hostel](#). Hotel room rates on CERN's main campus range from 14 to 64 CHF per night. On the French side, St. Genis has a more modest hostel, with room rates ranging from 19 to 33.50 € per night. The easiest way is to make a room reservation using the [hotel and hostel booking form](#) (CERN status: “USER”, Reason for visit: “Experiment / Project Collaboration”, CERN guarantor: “Taina Onnela”, “taina.onnela@cern.ch”). Room reservations can also be made by calling +41 22 767 4481 or contacting cern.hostel@cern.ch. It is worthwhile to reserve a room as soon as you know your arrival date at CERN, as it is difficult to get free rooms at the hotel and hostel during the summer months.

If necessary, the Finnish office assists in housing related questions and offers translation help with French speaking contacts ([Contact Form](#), +41 22 767 9855).

2. Get around

CERN-Meyrin is situated in Switzerland, near the French border, 6 km from the center of Geneva and 3 km from Geneva Airport. The smaller CERN-Prevessin is located on the French side, 4 km from CERN-Meyrin.

St Genis Pouilly (2 km from CERN-Meyrin) has good bus connections to CERN. [Bus 68 runs from St.Genis Pouilly -> CERN](#) 3-6 times/h on weekdays. From Thoiry (7 km from CERN-Meyrin) and Sergy (5 km from CERN) buses run less frequently. [Bus 68 operates between Thoiry – Sergy -> CERN](#) on weekdays only 1-3 times/h. Downloadable “tpgPay” cards of 20, 50 and 100 CHF / €, as well as [“Abonnement” monthly tickets in France](#) can be purchased from several retailers and, of course, from [Switzerland](#). From CERN-Meyrin campus kiosk you can purchase only downloadable cards.

A good means of transport is a bicycle, as the distances are not long. It is possible to [borrow a bike](#) from CERN for the summer. You can reserve a bike as soon as you have activated your computer account. Bicycle rental is 1 CHF / day. You can borrow a helmet, safety vest and lock from the rental company.

Below instructions on how to get to CERN from the airport or city centre:

<http://home.web.cern.ch/directions>

3. Registration and permits

In addition to organizing your housing, registering with CERN is one of your first tasks. The registration process is initiated by the Finnish office 1-2 months before your arrival to CERN and you will be able to activate your computing account prior to your arrival. The process is completed during your first working days in the USERS office and you will be able to get your CERN access card. Holders of a valid passport, together with a valid Finland student residence permit will allow you to stay in Switzerland and France up to 3 months. NOTE! Your passport or ID card must be valid for another 3 months after the end of the trip.

You will be assisted by the Users office (users.office@cern.ch), experiment secretariats, your supervisors, your colleagues and of course the Finnish office (32-1-B20, [Contact Form](#), +41 22 767 9855).

4. Insurance

University of Helsinki's travel insurance covers only persons who belong to the Finnish social security system and have an employment contract. If you do not belong to the Finnish social security system, you will receive a grant, which is calculated to cover your travel insurance. The insurance should cover both accidents and illnesses while in Geneva region, both at work and during your free time. We expect you to acquire the travel insurance yourself. If you need assistance, feel free to contact Finnish office ([Contact Form](#), +41 22 767 9855).

5. Travel arrangements

Flight reservations are handled through CERN's Finnish office for persons with an employment contract. If you wish to use another mode of transport, you will be reimbursed as per the cheapest flight ticket. However, if you are a grant beneficiary, you are expected to organize the flight tickets yourself. The grant is sufficient to cover in addition your flight tickets.

If you need assistance, feel free to contact Finnish office ([Contact Form](#), +41 22 767 9855).

6. Opening hours

CERN's official working day starts 8:30 and finishes 17:30. The Finnish office is open from Monday to Friday 8:30-12:00 and 14:00-16:00, closed on Wednesdays. Lunch hours take place between 12:00-14:00. Coffee breaks at CERN are held around 9:00 and 16:00.

Bank; The UBS bank at CERN is open from Monday to Friday 8:30-12:30, 13:30-16:30. In France, banks are closed on Mondays, but open on Saturday mornings. Mail; The post office at CERN is open on weekdays 9:00-12:30 and 13:30-16:30. In France, the post office is also open on Saturday mornings until 12:00.

CERN Cafeteria / Restaurant; There are two cafeterias / restaurants on CERN Meyrin campus and one on Preessin campus. Restaurant 1 on Meyrin campus is open on weekdays 6:30 – 00:00, weekends 7:00 – 22:00. Hot food is served on weekdays 11:30-14:15 and 18:00-22:00 and on weekends 11:30-14:00 and 18:00-20:00.

Users Office is open on weekdays 8:30-12:30 and 14:00-16:00. Closed on Wednesday mornings.

The kiosk is open from Monday to Friday 6:00-17:00.

7. Other

The universal emergency number 112 operates in Switzerland and France. CERN's internal emergency number is +41 22 767 4444 (74444 when calling from CERN landline phone). Local calls from landlines can be made free of charge to Geneva area (0 +022 xxx xxxx), Vaud area (0 +021 xxx xxxx) and the surrounding France (0+ 0033 450 xx xx xx).

For internal mail addresses you need to mention the division in connection with the person's name, eg Karppinen / EP. The addresses of the offices are abbreviated as follows: building-floor-room, eg Finnish office is 32-1B-20 (B stands for the wing of the building). A [CERN map](#) is necessary as the buildings are not located in any particular order.

CERN has the following services; a travel agency, kiosk, bank, post office, photo machine and a souvenir shop. There are also several [clubs at CERN](#); such as car-, cycling-, music- and volley club to mention some.

In the same building as CERN's main reception (building 33) is the [Microcosm exhibition](#), which is definitely worth a visit. The Microcosm is open from Monday to Friday 8:30 -17:30 and on Saturdays 9:00-17:00. The entrance is free.

The official languages at CERN are English and French. You can cope well with English only. However, in the region, outside CERN, the main language is French and it's recommended to master some basics in the local language.

Food price level in Switzerland is higher than in Finland. In France food prices are quite similar with Finland. French and Swiss supermarkets are similar to the Finnish ones, except that strong liquors are sold in most supermarkets (not in Migros stores).

There is still a lot for you to discover, but hopefully this guide will answer some of your questions!

Welcome to CERN!

8. Links

Housing links

- [CERN Marketplace](#)
- [Geneven turisti-info](#)
- [Geneven yliopisto](#)

Other links

- [Helsinki Institute of Physics](#)
- [CERN home page](#)
- [Users Office](#)
- [CERN Phonebook](#)
- [CERN Departments](#)
- [CERN Staff Association Clubs](#)

Abbreviations

- [Alice – A Large Ion Collider Experiment](#)
- [Atlas – A Toroidal LHC ApparatuS](#)
- [CMS – Compact Muon Solenoid](#)
- [LEP – Large Electron Positron Collider](#)
- [LHC – Large Hadron Collider](#)
- [SPS – Super Proton Synchrotron](#)

CERN Summer student and Student programmes

- [CERN Summer Student Program](#)
- [CERN Student Programmes](#)