

HIP summer student guide 2023 (PDF)

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1. Housing

HIP CERN summer students organize their own accommodation. [CERN Housing Service](#) provides you with different accommodation options and practical advice.

In France, [close to CERN](#), there is a plenty of furnished rooms and apartments, published by [CERN Marketplace](#) (login with CERN account or with any social media account). The most affordable form of housing is a room in a shared apartment. The most popular residential area is St. Genis Pouilly in France, just 2 km away from CERN-Meyrin.

For rooms in Geneva pay a visit to [CAGI housing platform](#). In their [housing types](#) section, you'll find some references and a [directory of student residences](#) to contact. You can rent a room and, in some student residences, conclude a [sublease contract](#) with the resident.

Rental prices for apartments in France and Switzerland: room in a shared apartment in France starting 600 €/month, in Switzerland 700-1200 CHF/month. In some cases, you must pay separately also for water, electricity, and heating, unless these costs are included in the rent.

The rental agreement should be accompanied by a statutory “Constat d'état des lieux”, an inspection of the apartment. It's carried out and signed by both parties 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. Home insurance is compulsory in France, in Switzerland it's recommended.

The landlord has the right to require a rental guarantee. In France it equals to max 2 month's rent, In Switzerland to max 3 month's rent. But the most common practice for landlords is to ask for 1 month's rent as a guarantee. The rental guarantee is returned within 1-2 month of handing over the apartment if there are no material damages. Normally the guarantee should be paid at the same time as the first month's rent. However, there are several landlords who ask you to pay the guarantee in advance.

ATTENTION! Be very cautious, especially in Geneva where scams are frequent! Always get as many details as possible from the person or entity renting the accommodation. Check the housing location. Always pay using bank transfer and only to established banks! It's best if you do not make any money transfers before you have been able to visit the property and draw up a proper rental agreement.

Before you find your own or shared apartment, it's 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. In Saint Genis Pouilly, France, there is a more modest hostel, “foyer residence Schuman” with room rates ranging from 19.90 to 32.50 € per night. The easiest way to make a room reservation is 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.

We recommend reserving a room as soon as you know your arrival date at CERN. It's difficult to get free rooms as summer approaches. Finnish office assists in housing related questions and offers French translation help ([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 in France, 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](#) 3-7 times/h on weekdays, ticket price 2 €. 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 1-3 times/h, ticket price 4.10 €. More detailed information from tpg.ch.

A good means of transport is a bicycle, as the distances are not long. It's 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. Reflectors are very important when cycling in the dark!

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, calculated to cover the cost of 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. Some travel insurance options: [SIP Integral](#), [Aon Student Insurance](#), [Assurances Courtages Services \(ACS\) of France](#), and [Swisscare of Switzerland](#). If you need assistance, feel free to contact Finnish office ([Contact Form](#), +41 22 767 9855).

5. Travel arrangements

CERN's Finnish office arranges flight tickets only for persons with an employment contract. If you are a grant beneficiary, please buy your flight tickets yourself. The grant covers also the cost of 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. Lunch hours take place between 12:00-14:00. Coffee breaks at CERN are held around 10:00 and 16:00.

CERN has [Restaurant 1](#) and [Restaurant 2](#) on Meyrin campus, and [Restaurant 3](#) on Preveessin campus. Restaurant 1 is open 6:30-21:00 every day. For more information see [CERN restaurants, cafeterias and vending machines](#),

[Users Office](#) is open on weekdays 8:30-12:30 and 14:00-16:00. Closed on Wednesday mornings. [Kiosk / Post office](#) is open on weekdays 7:30-16:00.

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). Your postal address is your name + CERN / EP, CH-1211 Geneva 23, Switzerland. To find your way you can use [CERN map](#).

In addition to restaurants, cafés, kiosk, and post office CERN has also a bank, travel agency, photo machine and a souvenir shop. There are also several [clubs at CERN](#): such as Frisbee-, climbing-, and tabletop games club to mention some.

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 the same as in Finland. French and Swiss supermarkets are similar to the Finnish ones. The only difference is that you can buy strong liquors in all of them except in the Migros stores.

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

Welcome to CERN!

8. Links

Housing links

- [CERN Marketplace](#)
- [AGLAE directory of student residences](#)
- [Geneva University housing](#)
- [Student Residence St Justin](#)
- [Student Residence IHEID](#)
- [Résidence Universitaire Internationale](#)
- [Geneva Tourist info](#)

Other links

- [Helsinki Institute of Physics](#)
- [CERN home page](#)
- [Users Office](#)
- [CERN Phonebook](#)
- [CERN Directory](#)
- [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](#)