

WELCOME GUIDE



A practical guide for international students

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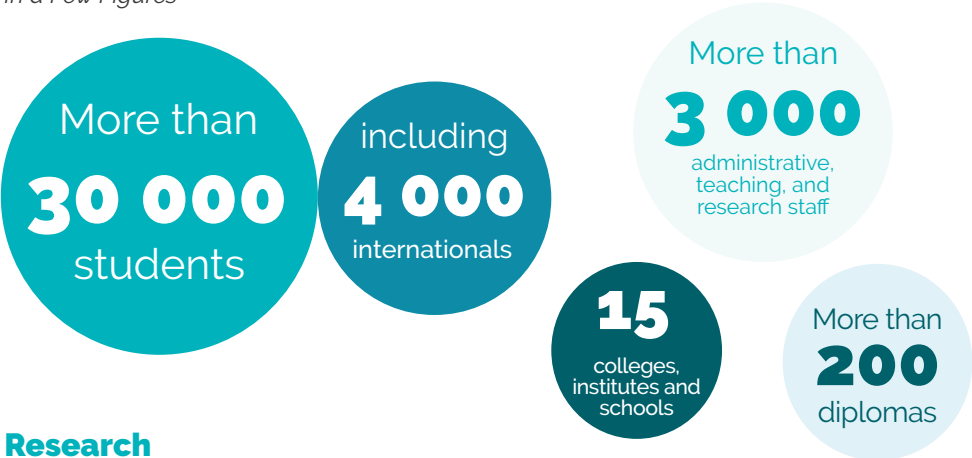
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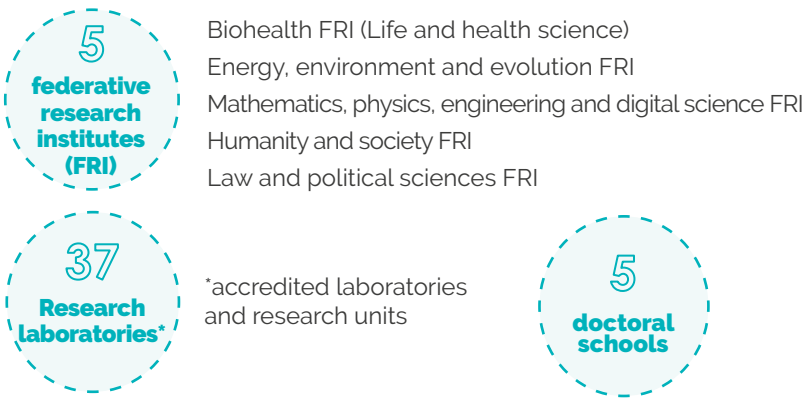
Welcome to the University of Poitiers!

By joining the University of Poitiers, you become part of an institution with nearly six centuries of history, firmly committed to shaping the future and addressing today's major global challenges. Here, knowledge is not just handed down; it is created, challenged, and shared through research, interdisciplinary collaboration, and engagement with the issues facing society.

In a Few Figures



Research



Components

Education

A university curriculum structured around the Bologna Process.

Bachelor's degree : 6 semesters over 3 years: 180 ECTS

Master's : 4 semesters over 2 years: 120 ECTS

PhD : 3 years (minimum)

6 Campuses

Poitiers Campus

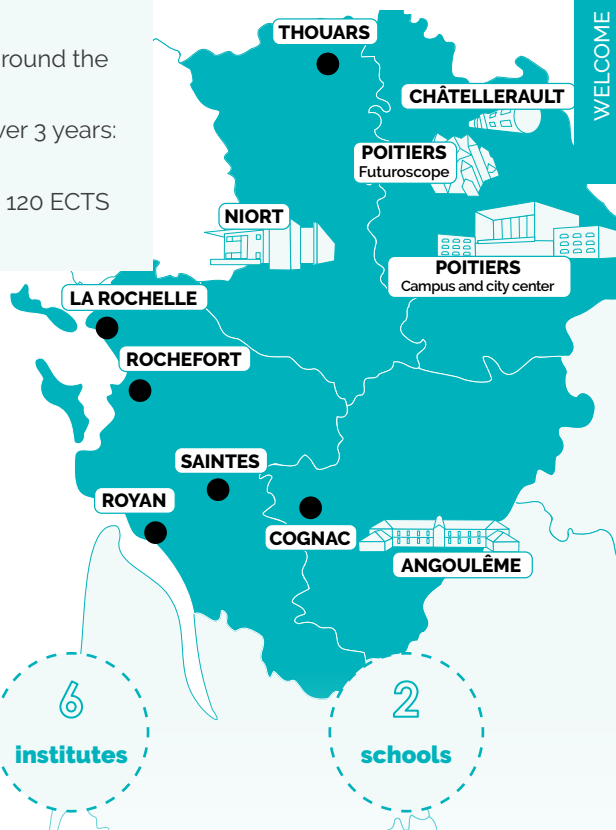
Futuroscope Campus

Châtellerault Campus

Angoulême Campus

Niort Campus

Cognac/Segonzac Campus



7

colleges

6

institutes

2

schools

- Law and Social Sciences
- Medicine and Pharmacy
- Literature and Languages
- Sports Sciences
- Economics
- Social sciences and Arts
- Fundamental and Applied Sciences

- University School of Management (IAE)
- Institute of General Administration (IPAG)
- Higher school for Teaching and Education (INSPÉ)
- Poitiers - Niort- Châtellerault Institute of Technology (IUT 86)
- Angoulême Institute of Technology (IUT 16)
- European interdisciplinary institute (E2I)

- The National School of Applied Sciences and Risk (ENSAR)
- National Higher Engineering School of Poitiers (ENSIP)

Education, success and career preparation

From your first year onwards, you will be supported by dedicated academic staff, tailored student success initiatives, and innovative teaching approaches designed to help you develop your skills, shape your academic journey, and thrive at university.

You will benefit from research-driven programmes that remain at the forefront of scientific advancements and address today's major challenges, while maintaining strong ties to the professional world.

International Outreach, Campus Life and Sustainable Engagement

With partner institutions in nearly 60 countries, strong opportunities for international mobility, extensive language-learning provision, and a welcoming environment recognised by the two-star Bienvenue en France label, you will be part of a truly international university community..

The University of Poitiers also offers an outstanding campus experience, with a wide range of health and support services, sports and cultural activities, student societies, and events designed to enrich your university life and support your well-being.

Sustainability is at the heart of the university's mission. Through its teaching, research, and campus initiatives, the University of Poitiers is actively contributing to a more sustainable future. Since 2016, it has held the Sustainable Development and Social Responsibility (DD&RS) label, reflecting its commitment to biodiversity, the energy transition, and enhancing quality of life and learning across its campuses. These efforts align with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, particularly those relating to good health and well-being, quality education, and sustainable cities and communities.

Welcome to a university where learning extends beyond the classroom, empowering you to engage with the world and make a meaningful impact.



Before leaving your country of origin

List of documents required for administrative procedures:

- ☐ your **identity card** and/or your passport;
 - ☐ your **degree certificates** (original documents translated into French by a sworn translator, for students on degree exchange programmes) and academic transcripts;
 - ☐ an **original birth certificate** or extract, translated into French by a sworn translator, dated within the last three months;
 - ☐ **passport photos** (at least five);
 - ☐ a **vaccination certificate** (health record);
 - ☐ documents required by the student hall of residence or your landlord for the **deposit**. Please check with the International Relations Office or your landlord before arrival;
 - ☐ your **marriage certificate** (if married);
 - ☐ a **proof of ressources** for the non EU students (scholarship certificate, irrevocable bank transfer if financial support is provided by the family, bank statement...).
- Since the 1st of august, a law states that the amount necessary is 60 % of the minimum wages (about €877 per month).*
- ☐ a French language proficiency test or a certificate for non-European students.

For exchange students please also provide:

- ☐ your **student card** from your home university;
- ☐ a **certificate** from the university authorising you to study in Poitiers;
- ☐ a **proof of health insurance cover** (e.g. European Health Insurance Card for European Union nationals).

For students following the *Études en France* procedure:

- ☐ your pre-enrolment certificate from Campus France.

For first-year students who have applied via the DAP*

If your secondary school leaving certificate does not grant you direct access to higher education in your country for the degree you have chosen:

- ☐ the original and a photocopy of the **certificate of eligibility for higher education** in your country (for the relevant course), along with a translation if necessary (see the information provided in your DAP application / guidance note).

**Demande d'admission préalable = Application for prior admission*

Finding accommodation

 **Further information**



Applying for a visa

You must apply for a long-stay visa before you leave your country of origin

Anyone applying for a residence permit marked 'student' must also submit the following documents : Proof that they have sufficient means of support, corresponding to at least the amount of the basic monthly maintenance allowance paid, for the previous academic year, to French Government Scholarship holders (BGF), an amount equivalent to €877 per month or €8,770 for an academic year.

Online procedure

Status	Visa application	Procedure
EU students – EU citizens	No	
Students residing in the EU but not EU citizens	Yes	Student visa to be applied for at the French Consulate or the consulate of the country of residence
Non-EU students – EEF procedure	Yes	Automatic application during the campusfrance.org registration process
Non-EU students – outside the EEF procedure	Yes	After receiving the pre-enrolment certificate: Student visa to be applied for at the French Consulate in the country of origin or online

This visa is issued subject to proof of sufficient funds; allows the student to enter the country legally; must be validated no later than 3 months after arrival in France.

Visa information and assistance

Price increases are planned for residence permits.

For more information, tutorial and FAQs

Funding your stay and studies

Students coming on an Erasmus exchange:

Erasmus+ funding.

Students from outside the European Union:

Applying for a grant from the French government or a foreign government.



Further information

Expected expenses (2026–2027 rates)

Student and Campus Life Contribution (CVEC) for degree students only	€105/year
Tuition fees for degree students (partial or full exemption possible)	 Further information
Supplementary health insurance (<i>mutuelle</i>)	From €5/month
Rent in CROUS halls of residence	From €260 to €450/month
OR monthly rent for private accommodation. Some private accommodation may incur additional charges (electricity, gas, service charges)	From €250 to €600/month
Security deposit	An amount equivalent to 1 or 2 months' rent
Food (1 meal in the university canteen: €1)	Approximately €60/month
Transport: Bus pass (for 18–27-year-olds)	€29/month or €200/year
Stamp duty for VLSTS (Visa validation)	€100
Mobile phone contract	€100/year
Various charges	€200/month

Planning your journey to Poitiers

By plane then train

From Roissy-Charles-de-Gaulle Airport

Take the TGV Atlantique (high-speed train), which runs directly from the airport to Poitiers station.

From Orly Airport

Take a shuttle bus to Montparnasse station, then the TGV, which runs directly to Poitiers city centre in 1 hour 30 minutes.

From Bordeaux Airport

Take a direct shuttle to Saint-Jean station, then the TGV which connects Bordeaux to Poitiers.

You can check [sncf-connect.com](https://www.sncf-connect.com) and [ouigo.com](https://www.ouigo.com)

It is also possible to fly to Poitiers Airport if you're travelling via London Stansted.

By carpool or bus

To get to Poitiers, travel by bus or car with one or more other people and share the transport costs with Flixbus, Blablabus, Blablacar, etc.



Upon arrival

1 - Settle into your accommodation

For students staying in halls of residence:

☐ make an appointment with your hall of residence and go to reception to complete the check-in formalities (preferably from Monday to Friday, 9am to 6pm).

Full bedding hire (sheets, duvet, duvet cover, pillow, pillowcase): €10.80/month.

In Crous halls of residence: washing with detergent: €3.50 – drying: €1.

For students living in private accommodation:

☐ make an appointment with the landlord before arriving in France to arrange access to the property;

☐ carry out the inventory;

☐ Pay the security deposit and the first month's rent (if not already done before arrival)

In both cases :

☐ take out home and personal liability insurance

☐ apply for housing benefit (APL) from the CAF via caf.fr ('Mes Services en ligne' then 'faire une demande de prestation'). For European students only.



Further information

If you arrive outside the opening days and times of the halls of residence, you can stay at a youth hostel or a hotel.

Youth hostel

From €20 per night, including breakfast; bed linen provided; book online. (check page 20 pour contact details).



2 - Meet the international relations representative of your faculty or *scolarité*:

☐ complete administrative registration; Register for courses (timetable); Obtain your student card; Obtain information about courses and the faculty.



List of international relations officers for faculties, schools or institutes

The student card (Izly multi-service card)

Izly is a student card service that allows you to:

- verify your student status;
- pay for Crous catering services;
- use the Izly e-wallet ;
- borrow materials from the university library;
- access certain premises requiring authentication (research laboratories, service rooms in halls of residence, car parks, etc.);
- benefit from reduced rates linked to your student status.

3. Meet the Suriee team (International Relations Office) to obtain general information and assistance with your procedures during the Welcome Month and at the international one-stop shops (guichets uniques). To request an individual appointment (optional), send an email to:

accueil.international@univ-poitiers.fr



4. Health

Students from the European Union

No need to join the French social security system (except in specific cases).

☐ You must have an EHIC (European Health Insurance Card).

Students from outside the European Union

☐ For international students from outside the EU, it is important to register with the CPAM: **etudiant-etranger.ameli.fr**

In France, health insurance comprises two levels:

1. Basic cover, which reimburses around 70% of healthcare costs (European Health Insurance Card or French Carte Vitale);
2. Supplementary cover, known as a 'mutuelle', which covers the remainder, i.e. an additional 25–30% in the event of illness or hospitalisation.

We recommend that you take out supplementary health insurance ('mutuelle') in France or in your home country to ensure better cover and limit the costs you have to pay.

Medical recommendations

Before leaving your country of residence, it is advisable to have a chest X-ray. If you have not already done so, we recommend that you have one within three months of your arrival in France. The main aim is to screen for tuberculosis. The X-ray is offered free of charge by the Tuberculosis Control Centre 86 Address: Poitiers University Hospital, Jean-Bernard Building, 1st floor, Corridor D, 2 Rue de la Milétrie, 86000 Poitiers

To book an appointment: **clat86@chu-poitiers.fr** or 05 49 44 37 60.

Within three months of your arrival in France, it is also recommended that you have a free medical check-up (medical consultation and blood tests). To arrange this, simply visit the CES: **cpamdelavienne.fr**

Test your eligibility to the solidarity health care



Further information

5 - Open a French bank account (or one in an EU country)

Having a French or European bank account is essential in France.

It allows you to receive financial aid and payments (CROUS grant, salary, medical reimbursements) without difficulty, to pay rent and subscriptions using a local bank account number, and to limit international bank charges. It also simplifies access to certain student services such as Izly.

The documents you need to provide to open a bank account in France are as follows:

- ☐ passport (photocopy of the pages showing your identity, validity, date of entry into France and visa) or identity card;
- ☐ proof of address in France (electricity bill, rent receipt or certificate of residence);
- ☐ proof of income (financial statement);
- ☐ student card.

6 - Communicate

Having a French mobile phone plan is very handy for day-to-day life: it allows you to make calls, browse online and use French services without the extra costs associated with a foreign number. For greater flexibility, opt for a no-contract plan, which is easy to cancel or adjust to suit your needs. Plans start from €2/month depending on the provider.

Internet access in halls of residence is free. They are equipped with Wi-Fi in communal areas. Access to a wired connection or Wi-Fi depends on the accommodation you are staying in.

Connect to wifi: **tuto.appli.univ-poitiers.fr**

Useful tip: Remember to bring an adapter for telephone and computer sockets/RJ45 cables.



7. Validating your long-stay visa upon first entry into France for non-EU nationals

Validation of the Long-Stay Visa Equivalent to a Residence Permit (VLS-TS) is done online:

☐ go to the website :

administration-etrangers-en-france.interieur.gouv.fr/particuliers/#/

☐ enter the details shown on your visa: visa number, start and end dates of validity, date of issue, reason for your stay;

☐ enter additional details: family status, telephone number, email address;

☐ enter your date of arrival in France and your address in France;

☐ pay the tourist tax: purchase a tax stamp online or at a tobacconist's;

☐ download the confirmation of your VLS-TS validation (also available in your personal account).

You will receive 2 emails:

1. your login details to access your personal account. The confirmation of your VLS-TS validation will be available there;
2. a confirmation of the information entered online. This email confirming the validation of your VLS-TS can be downloaded.



Tutorial and FAQ

To remain in France after the expiry date of certain visas

Apply online to renew your residence permit between 4 and 2 months before its expiry date at:

administration-etrangers-en-france.interieur.gouv.fr/particuliers/#/

Renewal of the residence permit subject to progress in your studies and financial resources.



8 - Getting around Poitiers

Vitalis buses serve the whole city and the campuses.

Several options are available (2025–2026 fares):

- 18–27 year-old pass: €29/month or €200/year;
- student half-yearly pass: €129 (payable in up to 5 instalments).

To subscribe, visit a Vitalis office, use the online shop, or download the app.

You may also be eligible for lower rates if you can prove you meet certain family income criteria



Further information

Cycling: the campus is very well equipped with cycle paths and bike racks. You can borrow a bike for free through Cap sur le Vélo:



Further information

Pony bikes and scooters are available for self-service hire throughout the city:



Further information



Student life

French lessons at the Centre for French as a Foreign Language (CFLE)

The CFLE offers language support courses (full-time, part-time, intensive courses).

Full time courses (20 hours per week)

Enrolment for a semester or a full year: the placement test is compulsory for all students enrolling for the first time at the CFLE at the University of Poitiers.

 **Register online**

Part-time course (2 hours per week)

Open to international students enrolled at the University of Poitiers, either individually or as part of an international exchange programme. Online placement test.

 **Register online**

Register by email and for further information, contactcentre.fle@univ-poitiers.fr

CFLE timetable:

Course dates for Semester 1: 14/09/2026 to 18/12/2026

Course dates for Semester 2: 18 January 2027 to 21 May 2027 (same for part-time students).

Date of the S2 oral exam: 7 January 2027, registration deadline: 15 November 2026.

CFLE, Bâtiment A3, Aile A
1 rue Raymond Cantel, TSA 11102
86073 Poitiers cedex
+33 5 49 45 32 94

Integration into life in Poitiers and university life

Several UEOs (introductory teaching modules) in partnership with the *Maison des Langues*:

 **Further information**

- introduction to the English discussion workshop (voluntary for international students);
- UEO preparation for international mobility in English/Spanish;
- UEO on interculturality (meetings with a local student).

International student organisations



Erasmus Student Network (ESN) Poitiers is a European network of associations that facilitates the integration of international students and raises awareness among French students about international mobility.

ESN Poitiers organises cultural and sporting activities, trips and social evenings:

@esn_poitiers



Entr'Actions runs the MAEVA system, which provides international students with information on administrative procedures at the University of Poitiers and on practical matters.

MAEVA organises a welcome at the train station and helps with settling in, the Charity Bazaar (donations of second-hand items),

discovery outings with local families and intercultural activities, as well as social events and activities in the summer (international meals, sports activities, galas, etc).

etudiantdailleurs.com

WhatsApp : +33 7 66 83 01 85



Information on student jobs



Further information about resident permit

- With a VLS-TS (or a student residence permit): You may work up to 60% of the annual working hours (= 964 hours);
- Algerian students holding a student residence permit may work up to 50% of the annual working hours by applying for a work permit (average processing time: 2 months).



Further information (university website)

Online services

The online services IT account (SEL account with a personal username and password) is reserved for students enrolled at the University of Poitiers. It provides access to:

- Information and online services within the 'Iris' digital work environment: **iris.univ-poitiers.fr** ;
- the University Library's information system;
- the university's learning platforms;
- the PIX online platform;
- the *Maison des Langues* e-learning platform, etc.



Tutorial

Your vote counts

All students enrolled at the University of Poitiers may vote to elect their representatives to the Academic Council, comprising the Committee on Education and University Life and the Research Committee, and to the Board of Governors, the supreme decision-making body, as well as to the faculty council, or even the laboratory council, of which they are members.

Through their deliberations and opinions, these bodies contribute to the governance of the university and its internal structures. Among other things, they decide on disciplinary matters, grants to student societies, and measures aimed at promoting student initiatives and the student environment.



The city of Poitiers

A city with a university tradition dating back to 1431, Poitiers celebrates the start of the academic year throughout September with the 'Student Welcome Month'.

Information points/welcome desks are available to students during this period on the Poitiers campus and in the city centre. A wide range of events are organised in the city centre and on campus.

Two events specifically for international students:

- a welcome evening, the **"Nuit des Étudiants du Monde"** (World Students' Night), will take place on Thursday 1st of October 2026;
- the event **"Habitants d'Ici, Étudiants d'ailleurs"** (Locals residents, Students from Elsewhere), taking place in November.

Grand Poitiers, the city of Poitiers and their partners (the university, Info Jeunes, the EESI, Sciences Po and the Isae-Ensma) offers students and Poitevins to meet thanks to the system: «Locals, students from elsewhere.» This system allows to build links with the Poitevins, to exchange, to learn the French language and to discover culture, to share supportive and intercultural moments (meals, cultural outings, leisure, etc.). Families will be happy to welcome you any time of the year and maybe even during the end-of-year holidays.

Useful tips



Free wifi in Poitiers: Station forecourt, media library, Place du Maréchal Leclerc, Place Charles de Gaulle, Place du Jardin des Droits de l'Homme: anyone can connect for free to the Grand Poitiers Wi-Fi network 'Public WIFI Poitiers' in these most popular public spaces (one-hour connection).



City wifi map



Admission to the Sainte-Croix Museum in Poitiers: Free for students on Tuesdays and on the first Sunday of every month for everyone.



Free access to sports: football, handball, basketball, badminton, tennis, fitness, street workout, table tennis, chess, table football... There are numerous areas dedicated to free outdoor sports.

poitiers.fr/les-equipements-sportifs



Book boxes : To drop off and take away books for free: at Inspé (B20); at the Student Union (A6); at the Faculty of Sports Science (C6); all over the city.

Leaving Poitiers

Regarding accommodation:

- ☐ give notice of your departure (at least 1 month in advance);
- ☐ for Europeans receiving housing aid (APL) : notify the CAF of your departure date so that payments can be stopped;
- ☐ arrange an appointment for the property inspection before departure;
- ☐ collect your security deposit;
- ☐ cancel your home insurance policy.

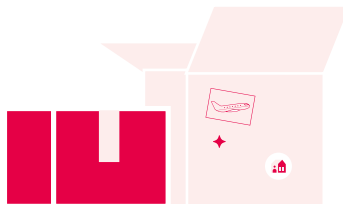
For exchange students : meet with the international relations officer at your department:

- ☐ have the attendance and/or departure certificate completed;
- ☐ request your academic transcript.
- ☐ **Close your French bank account** before you leave or once you return to your home country (wait for the payment of financial assistance from the CAF or a security deposit).

☐ Cancel your mobile phone contract

☐ Join the university's alumni network

univ-poitiers.fr/espaces-ancien-ne-s-up-alumnis



Useful addresses and contacts



Youth hostel

+33 5 49 30 09 70, poitiers@hifrance.org, hifrance.org

CPAM (Vienne Primary Health Insurance Fund)

41 avenue du Touffenet, 86043 Poitiers cedex 9 ; 36 46
Depuis l'étranger : + 33 184 90 36 46

CAF Family Allowances Fund

41 avenue du Touffenet, 86044 Poitiers cedex ; +33 9 69 37 32 30, caf.fr

Health Examination Centre

79 rue de Saint-Éloi, BP 20252, 86006 Poitiers cedex ; +33 5 49 62 75 75,
ces@cpam-poitiers.cnamts.fr

University Hospital

2 rue de la Milétrie, 86021 Poitiers ; +33 5 49 44 44 44, chu-poitiers.fr

Poitiers Prefecture

7 place Aristide Brian, 86000 Poitiers ; +33 5 49 55 70 00, vienne.gouv.fr

Tax Office

15 rue de Slovénie, 86000 Poitiers ; +33 5 49 38 24 00, impots.gouv.fr

Poitiers Town Hall

Place du Maréchal Leclerc, CS 10569, 86021 Poitiers cedex ; +33 5 49 45 52 35 35,
poitiers.fr

Tourist Office

45 place Charles de Gaulle, BP 377, 86000 Poitiers ; +33 5 49 41 21 24, visitpoitiers.fr

University International Relations and International Students Office

Bâtiment E6, 15 rue de l'Hôtel Dieu, TSA 51133, 86073 Poitiers cedex 9 ;
+33 5 49 45 42 64, +33 5 49 45 30 00, accueil.international@univ-poitiers.fr,
Pour PhD students : euraxess@univ-poitiers.fr
Information concerning prefecture and visa:
information-formalitesmigratoires@univ-poitiers.fr

Vitalis

Pôle d'Echanges Multimodal de la Gare, Rez-de-Chaussée – Espace Toumaï 58,
boulevard du Grand-Cerf à Poitiers ; +33 5 49 44 66 88, vitalis-poitiers.fr



univ-poitiers.fr



Erasmus+
Enrichit les vies, ouvre les esprits



UNION EUROPÉENNE



euraxess
RESEARCHERS IN MOTION

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Rédaction : Service universitaire des relations internationales et des étudiants étrangers.
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