

# What type of visa do I need to move to France?

(Or, to do what I want to do in France?)



with

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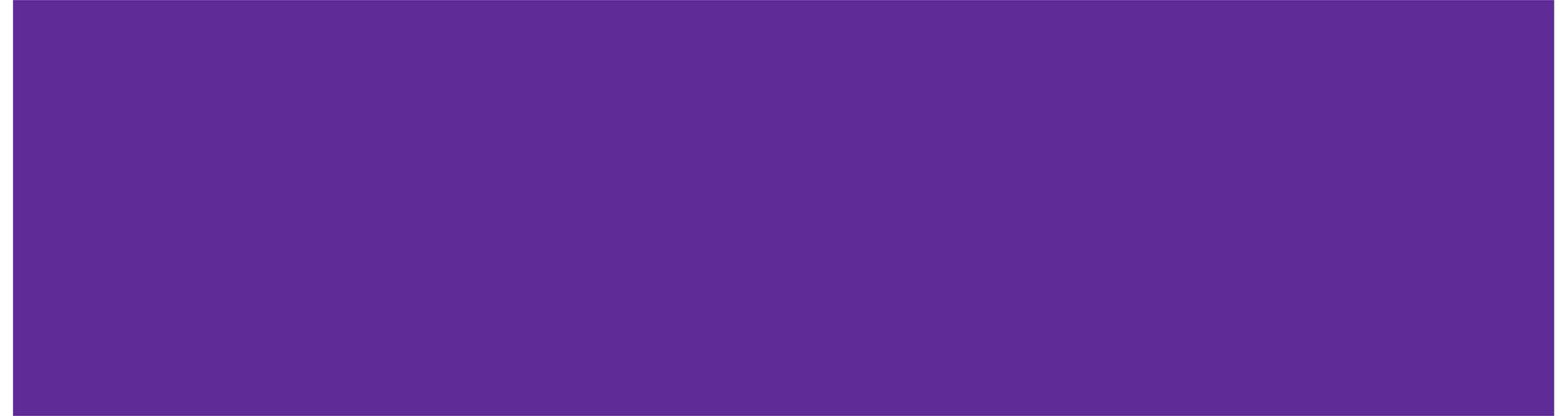
# Types of Visas

- ✗ **No visa** - with a passport from a country in the visa waiver program (like the United States) and able to travel in France for <90 days on just a passport
- ✓ **Tourist visa** - for citizens of countries not subject to the visa waiver program (Type C)
- ✓ **Transit visa** - for transiting through an airport in France (certain countries)
- ✓ **Temporary Long Stay Visa** - for stays of < 1 year, which CANNOT be extended or renewed (type D)
- ✓ **Long Stay visa** - (various mentions) for those establishing \*residency\* and eligible to renew after 1 year.

# What does it mean to “move to France”?

- ♥ Want to stay in France for more than 1 year
  - ♥ Want the option to work or start a business
  - ♥ Have the intention of obtaining a 10-year card or becoming a French citizen after 5 years of continuous residence
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# Long Séjour Temporaire



# A Long Séjour Temporaire Visa

- ✓ For students who are staying in France for less than 1 year
- ✓ For anyone visiting for less than 1 year
- ✓ Often awarded for French language classes
- × CANNOT be renewed or extended in France for ANY reason (You MUST return to your home country to get a new visa).
- × CANNOT SWITCH your visa type to anything else
- × CANNOT work, run a business
- × IF you intend to move to France, you DO NOT want this visa

# Avoiding the Long Séjour Temporaire Visa

- ✓ State your intention to stay in France longer than 1 year
- ✓ Establish a *\*good\** plan (long term studies, retirement, work)
- ✓ Have adequate financial resources to do so
- ✓ Write a letter of intention about your plans for living in France
- × Enroll in beginner language classes
- × State you will be returning to your home country in < 1 year
- × State your intention to work or run a business outside of the confines of your desired visa type

**YOU NEED A  
'LONG SEJOUR'  
VISA IF YOU ARE  
\*MOVING\* TO  
FRANCE**

# Long-Stay Visa Types leading to Residency

## Vie Privée et Familiale

- Spouse of a French citizen
- Spouse of an EU citizen
- Civil partnership of > 1 year

## Salarié

## Profession Libérale / Commerçant

## Passeport Talents

- Salarié - Carte bleue européenne
- Entrepreneur
- Profession Artistique

♥ Make you a tax-paying French resident

♥ Renewal is usually tacit as long as visa conditions continue to be met

♥ Often multi-year, enabling you to easily claim residency after 3-5 years

♥ No foreseeable reason to switch visa status

# Vie Privée et Familiale

- ✓ Family member of a French or EU citizen or a passeport talents visa holder
- ✓ Marriage - after 3 months for French, 6 months for self-supporting EU citizen, 1 year for PACS partner
- ✓ Renewable as long as the familial relationship is maintained
- ✓ Enables you to work in any profession you're qualified for
- ✓ Only visa type you can apply for \*directly\* in France (even as a tourist)
- ✓ Enables you to work in any profession you're qualified for

# Vie Privée et Familiale

- × Married couples have the *\*right\** to this visa; partners don't
- × Can be difficult to get if you are in a civil partnership, not married
- × EU partner must be exercising their treaty rights: working or self-supporting
- × Visa is tied to partner's existence in France for the first several years: divorce and separation may require a change of status

# Salarié

- ✓ Length of visa tied to a work contract: “salarié” for >12m, “travailleur temporaire” for < 12m
- ✓ Company has to prove they tried to hire an EU person: MUST be highly skilled and qualified for the position
- ✓ Company must pay a fee of 55% of 1 month’s salary to OFII
- ✓ If you are let go for economic reasons, you may be eligible for unemployment benefits through the end of your visa
- ✗ Difficult or impossible to change jobs in the first 2 years
- ✗ If you leave your job or are fired for cause, your visa is invalidated

# Passeport Talents - Carte bleue européenne

- ✓ For highly qualified professionals with at least a master's degree and/or 5+ years of professional experience
- ✓ 2-4 year visa, tied to employment contract
- ✓ Hiring is 'non opposable' - meaning the company does NOT have to prove they tried to hire a qualified EU person first
- ✓ Salary needs to be at least €53.000 per year
- × Difficult to change jobs and find new employment at the same level
- × OFII tax of 55% 1 month's salary still applies

# Profession Libérale / Commerçant

- ✓ For anyone starting a business or working as a freelancer in France (including moving a current freelance business)
- ✓ 1 year visa, renewable for 2-4 years depending on financial success
- ✓ Show you have adequate finances to begin, along with a viable business project and potential clients
- ✓ Plan to earn €1500/month from business by the end of Year 1
- ✗ You cannot get work as a salaried employee
- ✗ Individuals wanting to set up actual companies (SARL/SAS) or grow a large business are subject to more scrutiny and evaluation by DIRECCTE

# Passeport Talents - Entrepreneur

- ✓ Similar to “Profession Libérale” or “Commerçant”, but more appropriate for an individual building a large business
- ✓ Master’s degree and/or 5+ years of professional experience in the field of your business is preferred
- ✓ 2-4 year visa depending on finances
- ✓ Show you are making at least a €30.000 investment in launching your business, along with a viable business project and potential clients
- ✓ Family members get ‘vie privée’ visas rather than ‘visitor’
- ✗ Subject to far more scrutiny than profession libérale or commerçant

# Passeport Talents - Profession Artistique

- ✓ For artists, musicians, writers, etc. intending to exercise their profession in France
- ✓ Present qualifications, a professional project, and proof of contacts
- ✓ Can do any type of work to promote their activity (salary, freelancing, intermittent du spectacle, artist)
- ✓ Earn 70% of minimum wage (around €1.100/month) to renew
- ✗ Not able to do other types of work outside of artistic activity

# “Transitory” Long-Stay Visa Types

♥ “Transitory” because they are not sufficient for establishing long-term residency

♥ Cannot apply for 10 year card or naturalization directly from one of these visa types

♥ Limits options for working and visa renewal

♥ Have to apply for a “change of status” to a new visa type

Au Pair (stagiaire familial) - type of student visa

Long-Stay Student

Work Holiday

Visitor

# Au Pair Visa

- ✓ A type of student visa, available to students under 30 for up to 2 years
- ✓ Take 10h/week of language classes and work up to 35h/week for room, board, insurance, and pocket money for a family
- ✓ Can renew as a regular student after finishing au pair contract
- ✓ No need to show financial resources beyond school tuition, so ideal for students without a lot of savings
- × NOT available beyond 2 years
- × NOT supposed to work outside of au pair contract

# Long-Stay Student Visa

- ✓ For students enrolled in an accredited degree program of more than 1 year, who have an intention to continue their higher education in France
- ✓ Can be renewed as long as the student attends class, takes exams, continues to be enrolled, and follows a logical *parcours*
- ✓ Enrolled students can do internships up to 6 months, AND work up to 964h per visa year
- ✓ Show financial resources of approximately €700/mo plus tuition

# Long-Stay Student Visa

- × NOT always available to language students
- × CANNOT apply for residency or naturalization directly from a student visa because stable residence and finances are not established
- × CANNOT start a business, work as a freelancer
- × CANNOT state intention to work or join family as part of the visa application

# Work Holiday Visa

- ✓ Length of visa tied to a work contract: for < 12m, maximum visa length of 18 months
- ✓ Company DOES NOT has to prove they tried to hire an EU person or pay a fee to OFII
- ✓ If you are let go for economic reasons, you may be eligible for unemployment benefits through the end of your visa
- ✗ IMPOSSIBLE to renew after the 18 months are up - YOU MUST go home to get a new visa
- ✗ If you leave your job or are fired for cause, your visa is invalidated

# Long-Stay Visitor Visa

- ✓ For people retiring in France or able to support themselves without working
- ✓ Show cash financial resources of €1.200/mo (or investments & passive income if retired)
- ✗ CANNOT work for anyone, anywhere, including remotely
- ✗ NOT a good idea to start with this visa type, because it's more difficult to switch to anything else than to apply for a new visa in the first place
- ✗ Establishing residency / naturalization after 5 years can be difficult if none of your assets or income are taxed in France