

Social security registration

What is social security registration?

Registration is the process by which the department of social security identifies and registers all those who pay national insurance contributions.

You are registered when you are hired for your first job, even if it only lasts for a short time or, in the case of students in the final year of secondary school, when they are entered for the school-leaving examination.

Registration

In certain cases, registration may take place when a student enrols in a **higher education institution** (for example if a student has completed their secondary studies through the National Distance Learning Centre, been enrolled at a French secondary school abroad or sat the school-leaving examination as an independent candidate).

Effects of registration

A newly registered person is allocated a **registration number in the national register** of natural persons (NIR), which they will keep for the rest of their life.

The number is needed to manage your entitlement to **health insurance** or an **oldage pension**.

The registration card does not imply an automatic right to benefits. It is the **national insurance contributions card** that provides evidence of your right to reimbursement.

Universal health insurance: who's entitled?

In order to qualify for **affiliation to the general scheme under CMU** (universal health insurance), you must not already be entitled on any basis whatsoever (payment of national insurance contributions, receipt of benefits, maintenance of entitlement to benefits) to benefits in kind provided under a compulsory health insurance or maternity benefits scheme.

Members of your family

The following members of your family will be **affiliated** at the same time as you, if they are not covered by a compulsory social security scheme:

- · your spouse,
- · someone who lives with you as a spouse,
- someone who has been cohabiting with you in your home for at least a year,
- the person with whom you have entered into a **contract of civil union** (PACS).

The following will also be affiliated, if they are not covered by a compulsory social security scheme:

- dependent children under the age of 16 (18 for apprentices, 20 for young people in education),
- ascendant, descendant and collateral relatives responsible for household tasks and the education of children under the age of 14.

Residence requirement

You must have been **resident in mainland France** or in an overseas department for over **three months** without interruption.

If you are not of French nationality, you must have completed all the **appropriate formalities** relating to residence of foreign nationals in France.

Residence requirement: exceptions

The three-month requirement does not apply if you are in receipt of:

- family allowance, housing benefit or personal housing assistance (APL),
- · a «non contributory» old-age pension,
- the minimum benefit payment (RMI).

The three-month requirement does not apply if:

- you receive social welfare benefits for families, the elderly or the disabled,
- · you receive child-care benefits,
- you are a refugee, have been admitted as an asylum seeker or have applied for refugee status.

The three-month requirement also does not apply if:

- you are enrolled in an educational establishment,
- you have come to France on an internship within the framework of a cultural, technical or scientific cooperation agreement.

Français Anglais Espagnol Turc Russe Chinois Arabe

Stable residence and authorized residence requirement: exception

Since 1 January 2002, the minor dependents of people who do not fulfil these conditions have been affiliated to the general scheme under CMU (however, once these people reach the age of majority they may be entitled to medical cover).

Employees seconded to France

Note that employees seconded to France under the terms of a bilateral social security agreement will remain affiliated to the social security system in their own country, and are not entitled to be affiliated to the French scheme under the terms of CMU.

Universal health insurance: how do I apply?

You are entitled to be affiliated to the general scheme under CMU

If you are also entitled to supplementary cover (in particular if you are in receipt of the minimum benefit payment - RMI), an application for supplementary cover will mean that you are automatically affiliated to the basic scheme. No further action is required on your part.

Otherwise, you will have to submit an application for affiliation.

To apply, contact:

- the health insurance office (CPAM) nearest to your home,
- · a social security office.

You can also get the forms you need and help filling them in at a municipal social action centre (centre communal d'action sociale), the departmental social action service (service départemental d'action sociale), or from an approved community organization or healthcare institution.

How do I apply?

You should complete the affiliation application form and a declaration of annual income using form Cerfa N° 11419*03.

You will need to present your Vitale card and the paper certificate that accompanies it if you are, or have previously been, registered with the social security system.

You must also show:

- · your national identity card, passport or family record book if you are visiting the CPAM in person,
- if you have dependents or people for whom you are responsible, your family record book, or certificate of cohabitation, or certificate of registration for a contract of civil union (PACS),
- · any documentation that provides evidence of **stable residence** (such as rent receipts, electricity, gas or telephone bills),
- · if you are not of French nationality, any documentation that provides evidence that you have completed the appropriate formalities relating to your residence (such as a residence card),
- · if you are a school pupil or student, a school certificate and, if applicable, a copy of your enrolment card.

Declaration of income

You must, as far as possible, attach documentary evidence to your declaration of income, such as:

- · benefits statements,
- · pay slips,
- tax assessment notices and/or tax returns, etc.

If you do not do this you will be asked to provide them to check whether or not you are required to pay contributions.

Effect of the application

You will be able to take advantage of affiliation as soon as your completed application has been filed, and you will be able to claim reimbursement of your medical expenses up to the limits allowed under the social security general scheme.

You and any dependents will receive confirmation in writing.

The CPAM then checks:

- · whether your application falls within its geographical area; if not, it will forward it to the correct office,
- whether you are covered under another social security scheme; if so, it will forward the application to the appropriate office.

You will be informed of any transfers made in this way.

For further information, contact:

- the health insurance office (CPAM) nearest to your home,
- a municipal social action centre, a social services office, an approved community organization or a hospital.

