
SKILLED MIGRATION | FRANCE

France EU Blue Card — Talent Card for Senior Professionals

A multi-year French talent card for salaried professionals earning €59,373 or more, with family rights and EU portability.

TIMELINE

Varies by consulate and prefecture

JOB OFFER

Required

At a glance

COUNTRY	ROUTE
France	Skilled Migration - Temporary
TIMELINE	LANGUAGE
Varies by consulate and prefecture	No French required for the card; B2 applies only at naturalisation
JOB OFFER	LAST UPDATED
Required	1 October 2026

Overview

The **EU Blue Card** — *carte de séjour "talent — carte bleue européenne"* — is France's permit for senior salaried professionals. It asks for a contract of at least **six months** paying at least **€59,373 gross per year**, plus either a **diploma covering three years of higher education** or **five years of professional experience** at a comparable level.

What the card is worth

France EU Blue Card	
Salary floor	€59,373 gross per year
Qualification	3-year degree, or 5 years' comparable experience
Minimum contract	6 months
Card length	Contract length, capped at 4 years
Short contract	Contract + 3 months, capped at 2 years
Family	Talent-famille, no reunification procedure
EU mobility	After 1 year on a Blue Card elsewhere
French required	Not for the card; B2 at naturalisation
Prefecture fees	€350 (€300 tax + €50 stamp duty)

The threshold is the real test

At €59,373 this is a senior permit, and there is no younger-applicant discount of the kind some EU states operate. If an offer sits below the floor, the Blue Card is closed and the question becomes whether another talent route fits — the innovative-company salaried route, for instance, sets its floor at **€39,582** where the employer is a *jeune entreprise innovante* or a company the economy ministry has recognised as innovative.

That is the sort of substitution worth checking before an offer is negotiated rather than after it is signed.

Fees and decision time

The prefecture charges **€350** when the card is issued: a **€300** residence card tax plus **€50** stamp duty (*droit de timbre*). If the prefecture has not answered within **90 days**, the silence counts as an implicit refusal; the period is **30 days** if you already hold a Blue Card in another EU member state.

Family and citizenship

A spouse and minor children receive **talent-famille** cards through the accompanying-family route, without the ordinary family reunification procedure. Time on the card counts towards the **five years** of residence required for naturalisation, which also requires French at **B2**, a civics exam and stable, sufficient income. India does not permit dual citizenship: acquiring French citizenship would end Indian citizenship under Section 9(1) of the Citizenship Act 1955. French residence does not.

Key benefits

- Card issued for the length of the contract, up to four years.
- Spouse and minor children receive talent-famille cards without family reunification.
- Right to work and reside in France, with visa-free travel in the Schengen area.
- Portable within the EU after a year on a Blue Card in another member state.
- Counts towards the five years of residence required for naturalisation.
- Access to French public healthcare and education as a legal resident.

Requirements

- Gross annual pay of at least €59,373 — one and a half times the reference average gross annual salary.
- A diploma covering at least three years of higher education, OR five years of professional experience at a comparable level relevant to the sector.
- An employment contract of at least six months.
- Non-EU, non-EEA and non-Swiss nationality.
- Valid passport and clean criminal record.

When this route may not fit

- Salary below the €59,373 threshold — there is no discounted rate and no age concession.
- Contract shorter than six months.
- Neither a three-year higher education qualification nor five years of comparable experience.
- Serious criminal convictions.

Skills, language and points

ACCEPTED TESTS

TCF, TEF

MINIMUM LEVEL

No French required for the card; B2 applies only at naturalisation

Job offer: A French employment contract of at least six months is required, paying at least €59,373 gross per year.

How the process works

1

Secure a qualifying offer

The contract must run at least six months and pay at least €59,373 gross per year.

2

Document the qualification

Present a three-year higher education diploma, or evidence five years of comparable professional experience.

3

Employer files work authorisation

The French employer obtains authorisation before the consular stage.

4

Apply for the long-stay visa

File at the French consulate covering your place of residence.

5

Prefecture appointment

Give biometrics, pay the tax and stamp duty, and collect the talent card.

6

Bring the family

Apply for talent-famille cards for a spouse and minor children.

Document checklist

Identity Documents

- Valid passport with sufficient remaining validity
- Passport photographs to French specification
- Civil status documents for accompanying family

Employment

- Signed employment contract of at least six months
- Evidence that gross annual pay meets or exceeds €59,373
- Employer work authorisation

Qualification or Experience

- Diploma covering at least three years of higher education, with equivalence where available
- Or evidence of five years of professional experience at a comparable level
- CV and employment references

Health and Compliance

- Health cover from the start of the contract
- Criminal record certificate

Questions clients ask

What exactly is the salary threshold?

€59,373 gross per year, set at one and a half times the reference average gross annual salary. It is indexed, so confirm the figure applying on the day the contract is signed rather than relying on last year's number.

Can I qualify on experience instead of a degree?

Yes. Five years of professional experience at a level comparable to a higher-education degree, relevant to the sector or profession, is accepted. For professions on a list set by ministerial order the requirement is three years acquired within the previous seven.

How long is the card issued for?

A contract of two years or more gives a card matching the contract, capped at four years. A contract under two years gives the contract plus three months, capped at two years.

Can I move to France on a Blue Card issued by another EU country?

Yes, after at least one year holding that card. The French application must be filed within one month of entering France. From the second mobility onwards the qualifying period falls to six months.

What happens if the prefecture does not respond?

Silence for 90 days is treated as an implicit refusal — 30 days if you already hold a Blue Card in another member state. That matters for planning an appeal, so diary the date.

Does this lead to French citizenship?

It counts towards the five years of residence. Naturalisation additionally requires French at B2 — in force since 1 January 2026 — a civics exam of 40 questions with a pass mark of 32, and stable sufficient income.

Important notes

- The salary floor is indexed to the reference average gross annual salary and moves; confirm the current figure before signing a contract.
- A contract under two years produces a shorter card — contract length plus three months, capped at two years.
- If you already hold a Blue Card elsewhere in the EU, the French application must be filed within one month of entering France.

Compliance

- Prefecture silence for 90 days amounts to an implicit refusal — 30 days if you already hold a Blue Card in another member state.
- Keep the employment relationship and the salary level in place throughout the card's validity.

Official sources: Service-Public.fr — Talent residence card, including the EU Blue Card (carte bleue européenne); France-Visas — official visa portal of the French administration.



NEXT STEP

Plan your France application with our Dubai team

Tell us about your profile, family and timeline. We will confirm whether **France EU Blue Card** — **Talent Card for Senior Professionals** fits, set out the full cost in writing and manage the application with you from start to finish.

CALL OR WHATSAPP

+971 52 727 5101

EMAIL

dubai@xiphiasimmigration.com

WEBSITE

www.xiphiasimmigration.ae

OFFICE

Jumeirah Lakes Towers, Dubai, United Arab Emirates

CREDENTIALS

- Advising clients on global mobility since 2009; XIPHIAS Immigration DMCC in Dubai since 2017.
- Named Best Immigration Consultant by The Times of India in 2022.
- Canada files handled by a CICC-licensed Regulated Canadian Immigration Consultant, licence R516194.
- Australia files handled by a registered migration agent, MARA 1680615.

This brochure is produced from the programme information published at www.xiphiasimmigration.ae/skilled/france/france-eu-blue-card as at 1 October 2026. Rules, fees and processing times are set by the relevant government and can change, and approval is always the authority's decision. Please confirm the current position with us before you apply. XIPHIAS provides immigration consulting and documentation support. It is not a law firm, and nothing in this brochure is legal advice.