



ARRIVAL QUICK GUIDE

FOR NEW BOARDING FAMILIES



COLLÈGE DU LÉMAN
International School · Geneva

WELCOME

We are delighted to welcome your family to Collège du Léman.

Starting boarding is an important step, and we want every student to arrive feeling prepared, expected and warmly welcomed.

This **Arrival Quick Guide** brings together the key actions, dates and practical information your family will need before arrival. The **Parent & Student Boarding Handbook** contains full details about routines, expectations and boarding life throughout the year.

The handbook, together with all required forms, links and documents, is hosted on the **Back to Boarding** website, your main information hub before arrival.

cdl.ch/backtoboarding



PREPARATION CHECKLIST

Completing the steps below as early as possible helps us prepare personally and practically for your child's arrival. All required forms are available through the **Back to Boarding** website unless otherwise stated.

BY END OF JUNE

- Read this Arrival Quick Guide.
- Visit the Back to Boarding website for the handbook, forms, links and supporting documents.
- Complete the Rooming Questionnaire for new students to help us make thoughtful rooming arrangements.
- Send five digital photos to **boarding@cdl.ch** to help us personalise your child's room, and share your child's hoodie size.
- Attend your introductory call with your House Parent. This is a chance to get to know each other, ask questions, share key information and discuss your child's extracurricular interests.

BY END OF JULY

- Download the REACH app following the invitation you will receive via email.
- Submit arrival travel details via the REACH app as soon as travel is booked.
- Complete the Health Centre Confidentiality Agreement.
- Complete the Medical Information Form to submit vaccination records and share health, wellbeing, dietary or learning support needs.
- Complete subject option choices, where applicable, as received from the High School Office.

BEFORE TRAVELLING IN AUGUST


- Share any changes to arrival time or transport details via the REACH app.
- Prepare required travel documents, including passport, visa, residence permit or ID, as applicable.
- Review the practical guidance and packing list, label personal belongings and record electronic serial numbers (page 10).
- Prepare any medication your child will need to take. All medication must be declared and handed in upon arrival.
- Save key boarding contact details (page 12).
- Ensure pocket money has been transferred to your child's account, using the payment reference shared in the contract confirmation.
- Talk with your child about boarding routines, communication, independence and behavioural expectations.




TRAVEL & ARRIVAL

Arrival travel details must be submitted via the REACH app by the end of July so the Boarding Team can arrange arrival support. Students arriving independently at Geneva Airport will be welcomed by CDL staff and accompanied safely to campus, provided arrangements have been confirmed in advance.

KEY ARRIVAL INFORMATION

 **Arrival day for new students:** Wednesday 19 August 2026
Arrival window: 09:00-16:00

Please contact boarding@cdl.ch as early as possible if your child needs to arrive outside the stated arrival window.

 **School Address:**
Collège du Léman
Route de Sauverny 74, 1290 Versoix, Geneva



WHAT TO EXPECT ON ARRIVAL DAY

The Boarding Team will be available throughout arrival day to welcome your family, guide registration and House introductions, and help your child begin to settle in. Students travelling independently will be fully supported by the Boarding Team throughout arrival day.

Time	Programme
9 am to 4 pm	Student arrivals, registration, House introductions, settling in and support with arranging a Swiss SIM card, if needed
5 pm	Introductory Welcome for new Boarding students and parents
6 pm	Welcome Cocktail for parents
7 pm	Student orientation activities
8 pm	Parents say goodbye

After the Welcome Cocktail, students begin their first evening in House. A calm goodbye at this point helps them settle with confidence. Families remaining in Geneva may attend Thursday's Academic Orientation, though giving students this space is often the best support.

FIRST DAYS IN BOARDING

The first days are designed to help students feel settled, informed and connected. Students will meet their House Team, roommates, peers and student buddy; explore the campus and Boarding Houses; take part in Academic and Boarding Orientation; and discover activities and clubs.

Date	Programme
Wednesday 19 August	New Boarding student arrivals and welcome.
Thursday 20 August	Academic Orientation
Friday 21 August	Boarding Orientation, excursion sign-up and Activities & Clubs Fair
Saturday 22 & Sunday 23 August	Compulsory boarding excursions for new students
Sunday 23 August by 6 pm	Returning Boarding students arrive
Monday 24 August	Classes begin



SETTLING IN

Starting boarding is a significant transition, and students settle at different speeds. Some quickly find their rhythm, while others may need more time to adjust to shared living, new friendships and being away from home.

Each student is welcomed into a Boarding House led by a dedicated House Parent, your family's main point of contact. The House Team works closely with student buddies, the Health Centre, counsellors, teachers and school leaders to support each child's wellbeing, routines, friendships, learning and House life.

Please share any special circumstances, even if they seem minor. Early communication helps us provide the right support from the start. Before arrival, please also talk with your child about respect, responsibility, independence, study habits, thoughtful technology use and positive participation in House life.

A Note for Students

Joining boarding can feel exciting, new and perhaps a little overwhelming. That is completely normal. Your House Team will help you find your way, meet other students and learn routines step by step.

Homesickness can be a normal part of settling in. It usually eases as students build friendships, become familiar with daily life and gain confidence.

HOW FAMILIES CAN HELP

Families can support this transition by:

- ☑ keeping communication calm, warm and reassuring;
- ☑ agreeing a regular but balanced check-in routine;
- ☑ encouraging participation in House life, activities and excursions;
- ☑ allowing time for adjustment and growing independence;
- ☑ staying in close communication with the House Parent where needed.

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

HEALTH & SUPPORT

Please complete the Medical Information Form before your child arrives, including any allergies, medication, health conditions, dietary requirements, emotional wellbeing needs or learning support already in place. This helps us put appropriate care and support in place from the start.

For medical questions before arrival, please contact the Health Centre:

healthcentre@cdl.ch

MEDICATION

All medication, including prescribed and over-the-counter medication, must be declared and handed in on arrival. Medication is managed by the Health Centre in coordination with House Parents. Students must not keep undeclared medication in their rooms. Medication should travel in its original packaging, with prescription and dosage instructions where applicable.

TRAVEL, DOCUMENTS & INSURANCE

Students should travel with all required documents, as listed in the packing list.

On arrival, students may be asked to hand passports and other important travel documents to the Boarding Office or House Team for secure safekeeping. These documents remain accessible when needed. Swiss residence permits may also be kept securely once issued.

Families are strongly encouraged to arrange suitable travel insurance, especially for trips and travel changes, as cancellation costs may apply.

PHONES & DEVICES

A mobile phone is required for boarding communication. A Swiss SIM card can be arranged on arrival day if needed. Families who wish to arrange a Swiss SIM card should ensure the student's phone is unlocked and compatible with a physical SIM or eSIM.

Students follow a phone-free school day. In boarding, device use is guided by age, wellbeing and House expectations, and study periods are also phone-free. In an emergency, families can contact the House Parent's Office or boarding phone.

MONEY & BELONGINGS

Students should not keep large sums of cash in their rooms. Cash kept in room safes must not exceed 200 CHF.

Secondary students receive a school-managed cash card on arrival, loaded weekly by the Accounting Team. Please transfer pocket money to your child's dedicated account before arrival, using the payment reference shared in the contract confirmation: PMXXXXXX. For Primary students, pocket money is managed by the House Team according to age and need. Recommended pocket money amounts are available in the **Parent & Student Boarding Handbook**.

Please avoid sending expensive jewellery, high-value electronics or items of significant sentimental value. Belongings should be clearly labelled. Please ensure any expensive items are covered by your own insurance. The school cannot accept responsibility for loss or damage to personal belongings.

LAUNDRY & LINEN

A regular laundry service is included for school and personal clothing, with items collected, cleaned and returned on a schedule. Boarding Houses also have washing machines and dryers, which students may use with guidance from House staff. School-provided bed linen is changed every two weeks. Students should bring their own towels.

All clothing and personal items must be clearly labelled. While every care is taken, the school cannot accept responsibility for loss, damage or shrinkage during laundry. Delicate or specialist-care items should not be sent to the school laundry.

DRESS CODE & DAILY CLOTHING

Students should dress in a way that reflects Collège du Léman's values of respect, community spirit and readiness to participate. Primary boarders wear school uniform during timetabled school events and may change afterwards. Secondary students follow the school **Dress Code Policy**, choosing clothing that is comfortable, respectful and suitable for classes, activities and shared boarding life.

Boarding life is active and varied, and Geneva's seasons range from warm summers to cold winters. The packing list that follows gives guidance on practical clothing, footwear and seasonal items. Full uniform and dress code details are available in the **Parent & Student Boarding Handbook**.

A CDL ski jacket is provided for winter sports, where applicable. Other winter sports items are listed in the packing list. Families are encouraged to avoid over-packing expensive branded or designer items, as boarding life emphasises belonging, shared experiences, House spirit and mutual respect.

PACKING LIST

BEFORE YOU PACK

Boarding rooms are equipped for daily life, so students do not need to bring furniture, large appliances or extra room equipment. Please focus on practical clothing, documents, personal items and activity essentials. Label belongings clearly and avoid sending valuables or large amounts of cash.

School technology is provided, so personal laptops or tablets are not required unless specifically requested.

DOCUMENTS & HEALTH

- Passport, visa or ID documents, as applicable
- Copies of important travel documents
- Health insurance details
- Vaccination records or vaccination book copy
- Prescribed medication, in original packaging, with prescription and dosage instructions

CLOTHING & SHOES

- Underwear and socks
- Pyjamas
- Comfortable everyday and light summer clothing
- Smart casual outfits for school and House events
- One formal outfit for special events
- Traditional clothing or items for international nights
- Warm layers, such as jumpers or fleeces
- Waterproof jacket

- Warm winter coat
- Hat, scarf and gloves
- Thermal clothing
- Trainers or casual shoes
- House shoes, slippers or indoor shoes
- Winter boots

SPORTS, OUTDOOR & ACTIVITIES

- Sports clothing; basic kit is provided to new students
- Indoor gym shoes with non-marking soles
- Outdoor running shoes
- Swimming costume or swimwear
- Beach towel for water activities
- Refillable water bottle
- Waterproof walking boots for hiking and outdoor weekends
- Ski gloves, socks, and trousers
- Small day bag or backpack
- Digital camera, only for Photography Club
- Musical instrument, if suitable for travel and storage

PERSONAL & BOARDING ESSENTIALS

- Toiletries and hygiene products
- Towels
- Hairbrush, comb, hair dryer
- Sunscreen
- Name labels for clothing and personal items
- Coat hangers
- Medium-sized padlock for valuables
- Alarm clock or watch
- Torch or flashlight

ACADEMIC & TECHNOLOGY

- Basic classroom stationery; some will be provided at school
 - Mobile phone, compulsory
 - Headphones
 - Phone charger
 - Swiss or universal travel adaptor, if required
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OPTIONAL PERSONAL ITEMS

- Photos or small personal items
- Reusable shopping bag or tote bag
- Small sewing kit
- Board games, card games or a book to share
- Small cultural items from home, if suitable
- Safe, easy-to-store hobby items
- Water sports gear, if your child has their own
- Ski goggles and ski helmet, if your child has their own

SAFE SHARED LIVING

Boarding Houses are shared homes, and students' safety, wellbeing and comfort come first. For this reason, students must not bring pets or animals, prohibited substances, alcohol, tobacco or vaping products, undeclared medication, fire-risk items, sharp or dangerous objects, personal cooking or heating appliances, refrigeration devices, televisions, large appliances, extra furniture, laser pointers or personal motorised transport.

Food and drinks must follow Boarding House guidelines, helping us keep shared spaces clean and manage allergies safely. Families are welcome to contact the House Team before arrival if they are unsure about any item.

KEY CONTACTS

For most day-to-day questions, your child's House Parent will be your main point of contact. Once House allocations are confirmed, we will share the relevant contact details with you.

We look forward to welcoming your child to their Boarding House. From the moment they arrive, they will be known, supported and cared for as they begin this important new chapter.

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Back to Boarding website

All forms, links, apps and supporting documents can be found at:
cdl.ch/backtoboarding