France
Options outside Sciences Po, Reims and Sciences Po, Paris
UCEAP Advising Notes

Objective of the Advising Notes Document
This document is an advising tool written by a Berkeley Study Abroad adviser to review program specific details that may impact a student’s decision to apply for an EAP program. The document is not a summary of eligibility requirements, academic, housing, application and other logistical details freely available to students on the UCEAP and BSA website, and reviewed by a student in the Program Self-Assessment. The best source of detailed program information is always the UCEAP Program Guide from the prior academic cycle. If any concerns you have are not addressed on the UCEAP website, in the Program Guide or the Advising Notes document, please contact the BSA adviser for this program.

Advisor Contact Information
For BSA Adviser name, email and drop-in advising hours, visit our website.

The best way to find out if any France program is a good match for you is to attend the Fall Semester Study Abroad in France Meeting and talk to student alumni of the programs. The meeting is usually held early to mid-November. You can also email the France Adviser and ask for email addresses of students who have been on the program in the recent past.

Visas
France Visa: All non-French and/or non European Union citizens are required to apply to Campus France in Washington, D.C., in order to study abroad in France. Students will be instructed to do this after selection.

Citizens of the European Union and France: Students who are French citizens have no restrictions on applying to EAP-France programs. French citizens or citizens of the European Union do not need visas to study in France and do not have to apply to Campus France in Washington, D.C.

International Students Outside the European Union
UCEAP supplies visa forms and information only to U.S. citizens applying to study in France. International students should contact the French consulate in San Francisco to inquire how to apply for a visa to study in France.

U.S. Citizens: Most U.S. citizens will be able to order their birth certificate on-line by contacting: http://www.vitalchek.com. U.S. citizens can also telephone the county clerk in the county of birth to obtain the birth certificate. Please request these well in advance, as the process to obtain them may be lengthy. The birth certificates will be required to obtain a long-stay visa in France. Do not submit photocopies of certified documents.
Year Long Applicants
If the applicant is applying to a year-long program, the France visa application requires two certified copies of a birth certificate. All students going on Year programs need to order two certified copies of a birth certificate at the same time they apply for UCEAP. Certain non-U.S. citizens may find it difficult to obtain a certified copy of their birth certificate. In this case, photocopy some sort of immigration document or use a photocopy of your original birth certificate, and attach a letter explaining why the birth certificate is unavailable. The document and the letter must have a French translation attached to each. You will be required to submit two (2) notarized sets of copies (document, letter and translations) about a month after application submission.

Students going on semester programs do not need birth certificates; however, any student thinking about extending from fall to spring semester programs (studying for a total of one year) also needs to order them.

Visa for French in Paris Semi-Intensive or Intensive Summer Programs: U.S. citizens are not required to obtain a visa for these programs (no visa for studies under 90 days). You will need a France visa if you are contemplating extension to the French in Paris fall semester program or continuing on with a semester or a year program in Bordeaux, Lyon or Sciences Po, Paris or Reims.

Language
Verification of Language Prerequisites: The UCEAP France application instructions explain how to determine whether you have satisfied the language requirement through course work, test scores or equivalent knowledge. Students who do not have academic verification of language acquisition or of having satisfied the language prerequisites (grades on transcripts, AP, IB or SAT test scores) but who believe they have equivalent knowledge can be evaluated by an instructor in the UCB French Department. You must have this evaluation prior to applying for the program!

Finishing Language Prerequisites Before Departure: You can take prerequisite language courses the semester or summer before departure for the program, if the timing works out with the start date of the program—you must begin your UCEAP Program on time. However, you won’t be cleared for participation on the program until the language courses are verified as completed by a grade from your instructor. Students are required to obtain a grade of B or better in all college-level language courses.

Intensive Language Program Waivers for France Immersion Fall/Spring/Year Programs: Students with native-speaker fluency in French at the college level (in areas of reading, writing and speaking) may petition to be excused from the Intensive Language Program or ILP by sending an email to the France Adviser.

Housing Options
Many programs in France offer a choice between an apartment and a homestay. Housing assignments are first-come, first-served, so watch for the deadline to submit paperwork. French language acquisition is much greater if a student lives in a homestay.

Program Extensions
A student who completes the fall French in Paris or Only in Paris fall program may extend to the spring semester at the University of Bordeaux in English or French, depending on the student’s language level at the time of transition to the Bordeaux program. Filling out the Departmental Approval to Extend Form in the UCEAP application indicates your interest in extending. You’ll be asked to make the final decision whether to extend or not during the fall semester. Students who extend can take courses in the Bordeaux universities in French if they speak, read and write French at the equivalent level to someone who has completed two years of college-level French.
Choosing between study at a Sciences Po in Paris, Reims, Bordeaux or Lyon:
The Institut d’Etudes Politiques in Paris or Reims or “Sciences Po, Paris or Reims” are popular programs, but they are not the typical study abroad program. They are definitely more challenging on the academic and personal level. However, students who are ambitious and want to do serious academic work abroad should consider applying to the Sciences Po in Paris or Reims programs. More information about these options can be found here.

Students who want a less academically demanding experience, with plenty of time to explore France and travel, should consider applying instead to the Bordeaux or Lyon Immersion programs.

University Bordeaux
The University of Bordeaux program offers a French or English track for students at varying language abilities. Six Bordeaux universities participate in the exchange. A wide variety of fields of study are offered except for the French in Bordeaux program in which the courses are fixed. On site the Bordeaux in French and Bordeaux in English tracks are considered one big program; students share cultural activities and have the same housing options.

University of Lyon
Courses are only instructed in French and students must have completed a minimum of 3 semesters of French to participate in this program. Students applying to the University of Lyon program will be able to take courses at the Sciences Po, Lyon in French. Students will also be able to take courses in French in other university departments in other fields of study.

Studies in English in Lyon, France has been cancelled and is no longer offered by UCEAP.

Field Research & Internships in Paris and Strasbourg (also Brussels in Belgium) are relatively new programs. Students need fluency in French language and must have taken 5 semesters of college-level French (French 1-4 at Berkeley or the equivalent plus one upper-division course).

This program provided intensive training in the contemporary history of the country and in work culture through five weeks of coursework. Instruction is in French. A 3-month internship provides hands-on experience in the field.

Please note the research and internship program is offered in three locations: Brussels, Paris, and Strasbourg. Although you will apply initially to one of these locations through UCEAP, in your application to the internship provider you will rank two locations in order of preference. You will be assigned to one of these two choices based on the best internship placement for you.

Social Justice and Activism, Spring
This is a new program. More details to come!