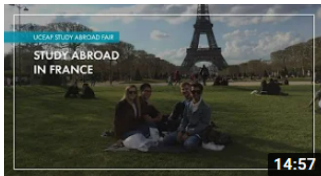


France

UCEAP Advising Notes

Objective

This document is an advising tool written by a Berkeley Study Abroad (BSA) Adviser to review program specific details that may impact a student’s decision to apply for a UCEAP 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. If any concerns you have are not addressed on the UCEAP website or the Advising Notes document, please contact the BSA Adviser for this program.



[Study Abroad in France Webinar](#)

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Summary of Programs

	Pre-reqs	Summer	Fall	Year	Spring

Immersion					
University of Bordeaux			X	X	X
French in Bordeaux	Min French 2 Max French 3		X		X
Sciences Po Paris	Eligible Majors Only		X	X	X
University of Lyon	French 4		X	X	X
UC Study Center					
French in Paris	Min 0 French Max French 3	X	Full/closed Fa24		
Food, History and Culture in Paris	Min 0 French Max French 3		Full/closed Fa24		
Social Justice & Activism					X
Internship					
Field Research & Internship, Paris or Strasbourg	French 102		X		X

Visas

U.S. passport holders are not required to obtain a visa for summer programs that last under 90 days. Summer students considering extending to a fall program in France will need a visa.

All non-French and/or non European Union citizens studying abroad for more than 90 days are required to apply for a visa through Campus France in order to study abroad in France. Students who hold US passports will be provided detailed instructions by UCEAP after they are admitted.

Students who are French citizens have no restrictions on applying to UCEAP France programs. French citizens and/or EU citizens do not need visas to study in France.

Language

Not all programs require a French language background. However, if the program you are applying to has a language requirement, then you must have documented verification of language acquisition at the time of application. Please refer to the [UC Berkeley French Department's Placement Guidelines](#) for ways you can demonstrate this requirement.

Students who do not have academic verification, but believe they have equivalent knowledge, may request a language placement exam by emailing Prof. Daniel Hoffman at dhoffmann@berkeley.edu.

You can take prerequisite language courses the term before departure. However, you will not be cleared for participation on the program until the language courses are verified as completed by a grade from your instructor. Some programs may have French language GPA requirements.

Carol Dolcini Study Abroad Flight Fund

The [Carol Dolcini Study Abroad Flight Fund](#) offers two or more annual scholarships to students planning to study abroad in full immersion French-speaking programs. The purpose of this scholarship is to help defray travel costs. It is named in honor of our longtime and retired French Adviser Carol Dolcini, who made it her mission to bring the experience of study abroad to as many undergraduates as possible.

Students with Disabilities

Students may find accessibility and accommodation different from what they experience in the US. French law requires that any new building with public or community space and any existing public building be accessible for persons with disabilities. However, many existing buildings and transportation systems do not meet these requirements. Many sidewalks throughout France are narrow, uneven, and made of cobblestone.

Available accommodations may vary based on program and location. Review how to request disability related accommodations on the [I am a Student with a Disability page](#).

Bordeaux

[University of Bordeaux, Customized Support](#)
[City of Bordeaux, Accessibility](#)

Lyon

The University of Lyon may not provide the same accommodations that you experience at your UC campus. UCEAP strongly encourages you to disclose early if you will require accommodations while abroad. You will need to submit a letter, both from the DSP office and from your physician. The physician's letter should be on letterhead, signed and dated, and certify diagnosis in support of accommodations provided at UC.

Paris

Most métro stations in Paris are not readily accessible, especially for those with mobility challenges. Few stations have elevators, and most have stairways and long corridors for changing trains or exiting to the street. Parisian buses and tramways are equipped with lowering platforms for travelers with limited mobility, and have other features for those with vision or hearing disabilities. For more information visit:

[Paris Visitors Bureau - Visiting Paris with a disability](#)

[Vivanavigo \(in French\)](#) – provides information on accessible transportation in Ile-de-France.

LGBTQIA+ Identifying Students

Threat to safety in the LGBTIQ community is low. Societal tolerance ranges from mixed tolerance to tolerant. For more information, visit

[Centre LGBTQI+ de Paris et d'Ile de France](#) (in French)

[MAG jeunes LGBT+](#) (in French)

[ParisMarais](#) (in French)

[Wake Up! Bordeaux](#) (in French)

Review [tips and resources for LGTBQIA+ Identifying Students](#).

Working Abroad

Semester and year students with a long-stay visa may legally work in France after validating their French student visa after arrival. EU citizens are exempt from this requirement. The law allows students to work up to 20 hours per week. Students' work schedules should not interfere with their class schedules and coursework. If you decide to work abroad, do not rely on that source of income to subsidize the UCEAP program; you must have other means of support. Student jobs are difficult to find, especially for foreigners, and even more so if you are not fluent in French. A few students in the past have found jobs teaching English and babysitting.

Contact the French government or VFS Global for more information about working abroad and applicable visa requirements.

Summer-only students cannot work in France.

Immersion Programs

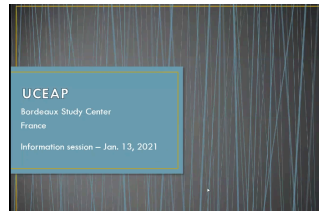
University Bordeaux



[Berkeley Stories: Julia M. Spring in Bordeaux](#)



[A Gilman Scholar Abroad](#)



[University of Bordeaux Information Session](#)



[3 Minute Travel Guide: Bordeaux](#)



[Catch Me Abroad Podcast: What made you decide to go to Bordeaux?](#)

Bordeaux is a small city that is very student friendly. All UCEAP students in Bordeaux share cultural activities, have the same housing options.

The [University of Bordeaux](#) immersion program offers a French or English track for students with varying language abilities for fall, spring or the academic year. Six Bordeaux universities participate in the exchange. A wide variety of fields of study are offered. Students are placed in classes with French and international students. University of Bordeaux program participants choose their classes once they arrive and will not know what classes they will take prior to departure. Students studying during the fall semester on the University of Bordeaux program may extend to the spring semester at the same university. Filling out the Departmental Approval

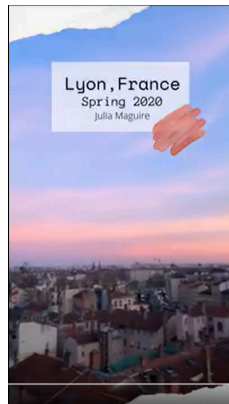
to Extend Form at the time you submit your original UCEAP application indicates your interest in extending. You'll be asked to make the final decision whether to extend or not during the fall semester.

The [French in Bordeaux](#) program is for students keen to focus studies on French language and culture, who have between 2 and 3 semesters of college level French. All the courses are fixed and students are in class with non-French students. All courses are taught in French at the university's DEFLE (Département d'Etudes de Français Langue Etrangère).

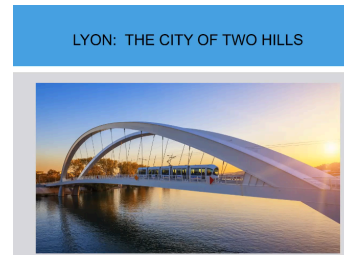
University of Lyon



[3 Minute Travel Guide: Lyon](#)



[IG Story: Lyon, France | Julia M](#)



[University of Lyon Information Session](#)

Lyon is a bigger city that is sometimes referred to as “Little Paris.” [University of Lyon](#) is an immersion program that takes place in fall, spring and the academic year. Courses are only instructed in French and students must have completed a minimum of 4 semesters of French to participate in this program.

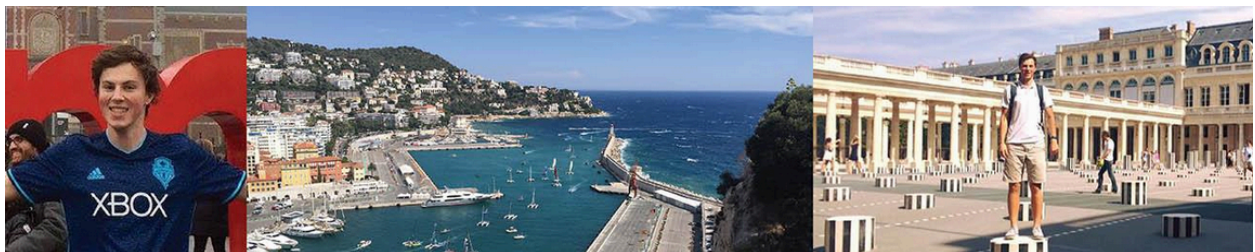
Students at University of Lyon will be able to take courses at Université Lumière or Sciences Po. Students choose their classes once they arrive and will not know what classes they will take prior to departure.

Students studying during the fall semester at University of Lyon may extend to the spring semester at the same university. Filling out the Departmental Approval to Extend Form at the time you submit your original 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.

Sciences Po, Paris



[Berkeley Stories: Jordan M. Fall at Sciences Po, Paris](#)



[Berkeley Stories: Benjamin P. Fall at Sciences Po, Paris](#)

The Institut d'Etudes Politiques in Paris, also known as “[Sciences Po](#),” is a popular program, but it is not the typical study abroad program. It is 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, Paris program. Sciences Po students must adapt to the French university system and an elite school within that system. There are different academic demands for writing and analysis than in U.S. universities. Staff at Sciences Po, Paris are not guaranteed to speak English.

Sciences Po, Paris is one large, expensive metropolitan area. Students must be independent and comfortable problem solving on their own. Campus is spread out and almost all students live in neighborhoods off-campus. Students are responsible for arranging their own housing and transportation in Paris.

Online course enrollment occurs only a few days before the start of the program and there is no way to know before then which exact courses you will take. Popular courses may not have open spaces after the first day. For this reason it is important that students remain flexible and pre-select a range of possible courses and then choose what is available.

Students studying during the fall semester at Sciences Po, Paris may extend to the spring semester at the same university. Filling out the Departmental Approval to Extend Form at the time you submit your original 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.

Major Eligibility

Substantial background coursework and enrollment in an eligible major by departure is required for admission to the program. UCEAP is looking for well-prepared students at the upper-division level in their field of study. Students must have completed all lower division requirements for the major and in addition, have completed at least one upper-division course in the major by departure. UCEAP does not accept applications from students who are not declared in an eligible major by the time of departure. There are no exceptions to the major eligibility requirement.

The Sciences Po, Reims program has unfortunately been canceled.

UC Study Center Paris Programs



[UCEAP in Paris Video](#)

The [UC Study Center in Paris](#) hosts several program options. Every student in these programs is a UC student so they do not interact with French students. The limited course menu tends not to be major-specific. Students take courses together at the UC Study Center and instructors are encouraged to utilize Paris as the classroom which makes for an interactive learning experience.

Students may choose to live in apartments or homestays. Apartments vary in terms of layout, age of the building and location in Paris. Similarly, host families live in a variety of neighborhoods in Paris and can consist of anywhere from a single host parent to a large multi-generational family. Students may have a 15-60 minute commute from their place of residence to class.

The following programs have limited spaces available and qualified applicants are accepted on a first-come, first served basis:

- Summer French in Paris (Intensive and Semi-Intensive)
- Fall French in Paris - *This program is FULL/CLOSED for Fall 2024*
- Fall Food, History and Culture in Paris - *This program is FULL/CLOSED for Fall 2024*

The Summer/Fall/Year 2024 application opens on November 1, 2023 at 9am and the UCEAP application submission is the timestamp for consideration of admission to the program.

The Spring 2025 application opens on April 15, 2024 and the UCEAP application submission is the timestamp for consideration of admission to the program.

Students may review the UCEAP application instructions and start preparing any required documents for upload prior to the opening date, but cannot start the application until it opens on Nov 1st at 9am. Be sure to submit the UCEAP application first, immediately followed by the submission of the BSA application (within 24 hours) for all programs.

Students may work on their BSA application in advance, but cannot submit until it opens.

[French in Paris, Summer \(Intensive or Semi-Intensive\)](#)

This program's coursework focuses on French language acquisition and cultural immersion. Students apply for either semi-intensive track or the intensive track based on their experience with French language prior to the program start. Students live in a single room residence.

[French in Paris, Fall](#)

This program's coursework focuses on three consecutive French language courses and one upper division elective course. A student who completes the fall French in Paris 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. Students live in a single room residence.

[Food, History, and Culture in Paris, Fall](#)

This program's coursework includes three upper division elective courses and one French language course. A student who completes the fall Food, History and Culture 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. Students live in a single room residence.

[Social Justice and Activism, Spring](#)

This is a relatively new program. If you are considering applying to it, please read through the detailed syllabi listed in the Academics section of the UCEAP website. A significant portion of the subject matter tends to be historical analysis, much of it focusing on the French Revolution. This program looks at social justice through a French academic and historical lens which may be different from the lens students learn about social justice through at UC Berkeley. Students interested in learning about current social movements and activist communities in Paris will

need to seek out these opportunities on their own time, as this is not embedded into the program's structure.

Internship Programs



[UCEAP Field Research & Internship Info Session](#)

Field Research & Internships in [Paris](#) and [Strasbourg](#) (also Brussels in Belgium)

The program will provide five weeks of intensive coursework followed by a 12 week long internship that provides hands-on experience in the field. All participants also write a research paper in French during the latter part of the program. Instruction is in French and courses are set by the program. Only U.S. based students are enrolled in the courses. You can find more information about the program on the [Paris](#) and [Strasbourg](#) pages of the Institute for Field Education (IFE) website.

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.

Professional Pathways Certificate

Internships done in Paris or Strasbourg as part of the Field Research and Internship program can potentially count toward the UC Berkeley French Department [French for Professions](#) certificate. For additional information, please contact the UC Berkeley French department at fredept@berkeley.edu on this exciting professional-development opportunity.