

# France

## Sciences Po, Paris & Sciences Po, Reims

### 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 <http://studyabroad.berkeley.edu/advising>

#### All France Programs:

**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.

**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.*

#### Non-U.S. citizens:

**Visa:** EAP 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. All students wishing to study in France who are not citizens of France or the European Union must also apply to Campus France in Washington, D.C. The EAP Office will not supply any special assistance to non-U.S. citizens applying for visas. Citizens of the European Union do not need visas to study in France.

**Birth Certificate:** *if the applicant is applying to a year-long program the France visa application requires two certified copies of a birth certificate.* 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.

**When to order 2 certified copies of a birth certificate:** All students going on Year programs need to order these at the same time they apply for EAP. 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.

**Verification of Language Prerequisites:** The EAP 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. Instructions regarding how to contact the French Department to obtain the evaluation are found in the instructions in the EAP-France application. *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 EAP 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.

**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.

**Welcome Program:** The Sciences Po Program does not offer an Intensive Language Program or "ILP." Instead Sciences Po requires all international students to attend the **mandatory Welcome Program**.

**Mandatory GPA requirement:** There is a **mandatory cumulative GPA requirement of 3.2, no exceptions!**

**Paris Sciences Po has competitive selection in two stages:** In the first stage of selection, which happens no later than March 1 for the Year application and June 30 for the spring application, you will be informed whether the Berkeley campus has selected you for the program. After this, your file is sent on to the University Office of EAP, UCEAP, and finally to the Institut d'Etudes Politiques in Paris, where a second and final stage of selection occurs. You will hear your final selection status for the year program anywhere from mid-April to mid-May and for the spring program in November/December.

**Choosing between study at a Sciences Po in Paris, Bordeaux, Lyon or Reims:** The Institut d'Etudes Politiques in Paris or Reims, nicknamed "les Sciences Po" are popular programs, but they are not the typical study abroad programs. It is definitely more challenging on the academic and personal level at either Sciences Po. However, students who are ambitious and want to do serious academic work abroad should consider applying to the Sciences Po programs. 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. The first few months on the program require that students make an adjustment to the new system. UCB students can have a difficult adaptation experience to a Sciences Po, but will usually become accustomed to how things work by the end of the term. Students who want a less academically demanding experience, with plenty of time to explore France and to travel, but who are still interested in studying the "sciences politiques" should consider applying instead to the "Sciences Pos" in Bordeaux or Lyon on the Bordeaux or Lyon Immersion programs. Students' experiences at the Instituts D'Etudes Politiques in Bordeaux or Lyon will allow more time to be spent cultivating friendships and enjoying more laid-back aspects of French culture. In addition, choice of Bordeaux or Lyon will allow you to study other things besides the curriculum taught at Sciences Po. For instance, you could take two Sciences Po courses and two courses in the larger university.

**Online course enrollment at Sciences Po, Paris:** is on the Sciences Po, Paris online website and occurs right before the start of the EAP program. It can possibly take place on the same day you will be flying to Paris! If you're in flight you may have to wait to land to log on to a computer to enroll in courses or you may need to delegate course enrollment to an agent, such as a friend or family member. If you're still in the U.S. you must log on at 6:00 a.m. and try to enroll in the courses you have chosen. During and at the end of the first day most courses will be fully enrolled. There is a week's period for students to make adjustments to their schedule online, but the popular courses may not have open spaces after the first day. For this reason it is important that students should not expect to take certain courses that they have been planning to take. Rather, students need to choose a range of possible courses and then choose what is available.

**Substantial background coursework is required for admission to the program!** Because the course enrollment process does not guarantee that students can enroll only in certain courses students must be at the point of taking upper-division coursework in a range of possible courses in their field of study. This is why the program requires that students have at least 3 upper-division courses completed in the target range of subjects. EAP is looking for well-prepared students at the upper-division level in their field of study. Students who think they will be able to take upper-division coursework for transfer to their major must have completed all lower division requirements for the major and in addition, have three upper-division courses in the major completed by departure for the program.

**Alterations to the student's study list must be worked out with the administration.** After pre-enrollment, Sciences Po, Paris does not allow students to add or drop courses from the study list. Students who have not been able to enroll in at least one course for their major will have recourse to an appeal process with the Sciences Po, Paris administration. It is possible to add and drop a course under these circumstances, before the start of the term.

**Students cannot add or drop a course after the first week of the semester.** It is not possible to attend various classes during the first week of the term and then add and drop courses from your study list. For this reason it's very important that you do not sign up for courses which you do not have the appropriate background to take. You will have to complete all courses you sign up to take.