

FRANCE

AIX

HOST UNIVERSITIES

CSU students enroll in the Service Commun d'Enseignement du Français aux Étudiants Etrangers (SCEFEE), organized for foreign students.

WORLD WIDE WEB

<http://www.calstate.edu/ip>

STUDENT VISA FOR FRANCE: AUGUST 2010

Note: Visa regulations are subject to change without notice. Always consult the consular website for the most up to date information. This information was accurate August 24, 2010.

Early April: Students register with Campus France as soon as they receive notification of admission to the IP program. See: <http://usa.campusfrance.org/en/1.html>.

Early April: Upon completion of the online Campus France registration, IP participants must mail payment (US\$70 in 2010), in the form of a Money Order, and a photocopy of their letter of admission into the IP program (the letter on CSU IP letterhead signed by Leo Van Cleve).

Three weeks after receiving your payment and a copy of your IP admission letter, students will receive an e-mail confirmation from Campus France, confirming that their Campus France registration is complete. The student will find this e-mail confirmation inside "Campus France."

Early April: Students must also go online (to the French Consulate's website) and make an appointment to apply for the student visa, using the consulate's online appointment system. Students are advised to schedule their appointments for the first week of July.

Students then must gather and prepare all supporting documents that they will need to submit with their visa applications at their visa appointment, which should be scheduled for the first week of July.

All students **MUST APPEAR IN PERSON** for the French visa. Students must apply for their visas at the consulate that serves residents of their permanent address.

All applicants should apply for a passport at the same time they apply to the IP Program. The visa application is a lengthy process and students must be prepared to dedicate several months to the requirements for the visa.

Renewal students may need to return home to get a new visa (now that there is no Carte de Séjour). Renewal students are advised about this before leaving France after their first year.

SUBJECTS AVAILABLE

Students take courses arranged by the SCEFEE and concentrate their studies in French. Depending on the results of the language placement exam, students also have a variety of electives to choose from in subjects such as literature, art, music, translation, cinema, history and politics. Coursework information is available in the IP Bulletin.

IP students do not usually take classes in the regular university departments, although those with sufficient French language skills may do so. Typically, these will be students who have previously studied in France. For graduate-level credit, students must enroll in regular university department courses. Some of the fields available include economics, geography, history, political science, psychology, and sociology.

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

The program in Aix-en-Provence is divided into three tracks: Beginning, Intermediate, and Advanced.

Course offerings at the SCEFEE are fairly consistent and predictable from year to year, and are listed in the IP Bulletin, which can be found on the IP website (www.calstate.edu/ip>>Admitted Students>>IP Bulletin).

Students with majors other than French may want to declare a minor or a double-major in French, where offered, as they will accumulate a number of units in the language. Students should be aware that some CSU Foreign Language Departments may limit the number of courses applied to the major or minor from IP.

At those CSU campuses that offer a minor in French and no major, it may be possible for a student to apply for a "special major" via petition, if a French instructor will support this.

Undergraduate students are required to carry a minimum academic courseload of 15 units per term and a total of 30 semester/45 quarter units for the academic year. Units earned during the PLP are not counted in this courseload requirement.

Graduate students must carry a minimum of 12 units per term on condition that at least 6 of those units are taken at the graduate level; otherwise, graduate students must carry a courseload on the same basis as undergraduates as described above. Post baccalaureate students pursuing credentials or second undergraduate degrees are required to carry the same courseload as undergraduates as described above.

All courses at the SCEFEE are undergraduate.

GROUP FLIGHT

Students will be provided with information about purchasing a ticket on the group flight for IP students going to Aix-en-Provence. The Resident Director and the IP Program Assistant will meet the students on this flight at the airport. Transportation will be provided from the airport to the dorms.

ORIENTATION AND PREPARATORY LANGUAGE PROGRAM

The Resident Director will conduct an orientation program shortly after students arrive. In addition, all IP students will participate in a four-week Preparatory Language Program (PLP) which begins within a few days after the group's arrival. Students will be given a placement exam to determine which group they will be in during the PLP. All PLP courses provide an intensive review of French (listening, speaking, reading, and writing).

CULTURAL ADJUSTMENT

Serious applicants are advised to read the following two books to learn more about French culture: Raymond Carroll's, "Cultural Misunderstandings" (University of Chicago Press, 1988), and Polly Platt's, "French or Foe: Getting the Most out of Visiting, Living, and Working in France."

To read about current events in France, students may want to read these French national newspapers: www.lemonde.fr and www.liberation.fr.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

The Resident Director resides in Aix and will be available to help students get settled, provide academic advisement, and help with any problems during the year. The IP office in Aix is also staffed with one program assistant who is a permanent resident of France.

HOUSING

Upon arrival in Aix, all students will stay in temporary housing for approximately two weeks. During this period, students will receive information about the city and their housing options and then they will have to locate their permanent housing for the academic year. Students are usually very anxious about this part of the program. The wisest students will interview IP alumni to learn from them about how they found their housing in Aix. Alumni are valuable resources. Contact information is available on the IP Website.

Applicants should also be encouraged to use the 'Discussion' tab on the Facebook page for more information about housing in Aix-en-Provence.

CALENDAR (*APPROXIMATE DATES*)

Application deadline	February 1
Notification of acceptance	Early April
Program Start	Late August
Program End	Early May