

## FRANCE

### Paris

#### HOST UNIVERSITY

The CSU International Programs in Paris is operated in cooperation with the Mission Inter-Universitaire de Co-ordination des Échanges Franco-Américains (MICEFA), the academic exchange organization of the cooperating branches of the University of Paris: Paris III – Sorbonne Nouvelle (Censier); Paris IV – Sorbonne; Paris V – René Descartes; Paris VI – Pierre et Marie Curie; Paris VII – Denis Diderot; Paris VIII – Vincennes/Saint-Denis; Paris X – Nanterre; Paris XI – South (Orsay); Paris XII – Val-de-Marne (Créteil); Paris XIII – North (Villetaneuse); INALCO Institute of Oriental Languages and Civilizations; University of Evry (val d'Essonne); Ecole Normale Supérieure (Fontenay-St.-Cloud).

#### WORLD WIDE WEB

<http://www.micefa.org/>

#### 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

This program is designed for students in most majors and for those whose French is sufficient to permit them to enroll in courses within the regular departments of the University of Paris.

## ACADEMIC INFORMATION

During the academic year, students follow an appropriate course of study according to their competence in French language skills. To date, most CSU students participating in the Paris program have enrolled in courses at Nanterre, St. Denis and Censier.

Students applying to study in Paris must have an intermediate or advanced level of French. During the fall semester, IP students tend to enroll in French language courses designed for non-native French speakers supplemented by coursework offered by MICEFA, and one or two courses in the regular university. Only students proficient in French might expect to take the majority of their courses in a major other than French during the fall.

MICEFA offers coursework in French language (grammar, composition, stylistics) and civilization (art, history, cuisine). Coursework in French for non-Francophones is offered by the University of Paris VIII (Saint Denis) and the University of Paris X (Nanterre).

Some participating universities of Paris have provided lists of course titles usually offered and these are printed in the IP Bulletin, available on the IP website. Where available, course descriptions are provided in the IP Bulletin as well. Most of the time however, course descriptions are not available. Students will have to work with their academic advisors regarding appropriate coursework to take while studying abroad, sometimes using course titles alone. In such cases, students and advisors should agree on a means of communicating with one another during the academic year. Students may need to translate syllabi into English and send them to their CSU advisors after they enroll in classes in Paris. The IP Resident Director will work with the students, and with whatever information is received from the home campus advisor, to determine equivalencies.

Academic life in Paris is very different from the CSU. This will be most noticeable when it comes to registering for classes. Students must have a lot of patience and persistence. Schedules, like those produced on CSU campuses do not exist in Paris. Students must go to every department to see the list of classes that are usually posted outside of the department. Students sign up for classes using handwritten forms (no computer or telephone registrations system is available).

Classes consist mostly of lectures with one final exam at the end of the semester determining the grade. Required and recommended readings are given orally. Syllabi are not common at French universities. Professors do not have "office hours."

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.

Graduate students should work closely with their CSU advisors to determine credit equivalencies.

Refer graduate students to the "FAQ" section on the IP website (under "Participants") for more information.

**ORIENTATION AND PREPARATORY LANGUAGE PROGRAM**

MICEFA sends arrival instructions to students in June, and students will make their own travel arrangements to Paris. Upon arrival, they will report to the temporary housing that MICEFA reserves for students at the Cité Universitaire, a dormitory facility.

MICEFA conducts a one-day orientation in Paris shortly after students arrive. The orientation will include information about registration, housing, practical matters such as banking and the titre de séjour (or residency card), student restaurants, etc.

All participants will begin their program with a four-week Preparatory Language Program (PLP) conducted by the MICEFA exclusively for CSU students. During the PLP, students review general oral and written French language to prepare themselves for entry into university coursework in Paris.

**CULTURAL ADJUSTMENT**

Serious applicants are advised to read the following two books to learn more about French culture: Raymonde 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](http://www.lemonde.fr) and [www.liberation.fr](http://www.liberation.fr).

**PRACTICAL INFORMATION**

The Paris program requires a significant degree of independence and self-reliance from the participating student.

The CSU Resident Director for France resides in Aix-en-Provence. There is a part-time "program assistant" in Paris on the MICEFA staff available to provide advice on day-to-day issues, although the RD makes regular visits to Paris and acts as the students' academic advisor in France.

All applicants should apply for a passport at the same time they apply to the IP Program.

**HOUSING**

Students stay in temporary housing for two weeks while they are looking for permanent housing. Housing options include family stays, apartments or au-pair positions (only a limited number of au-pair positions are available). There is very limited space in the dormitory and students will probably not be able to stay there. The MICEFA staff will assist as much as they are able, but students are responsible for making their own long-term housing arrangements. Encourage applicants to take use of the Facebook group for CSU IP Paris for additional information.

**CALENDAR (APPROXIMATE DATES)**

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