



Paxabroad

France



Duration: 10 months (school year) or 5 months (semester)
Start dates: August 2011 and January 2012 (spring semester)
Age level: 15 to 18 years old
Terms of participation: GPA of C+ or better and three years of French
Cost: \$ 8,500 (school year) - \$ 7,000 (semester)

An exchange program to France is an opportunity to immerse yourself in a culture that has influenced the western world for hundreds of years. The French have good reason to be proud of their contributions to art, literature, philosophy, architecture, food & wine, sport and film.

ARTS & CULTURE Famous French artists include Monet, Degas, Renoir and Cézanne. The Notre Dame with its gargoyles in the heart of Paris and the Chartres with its abundance of stained-glass windows southwest of Paris, are two of the best-known cathedrals in the world. Author Victor Hugo wrote the classic novels, Hunchback of Notre Dame and Les Misérables in the 1800s.

PHILOSOPHY French people are proud of France's contributions in philosophy. Rene Descartes, who lived in the 1600s, was one of the most influential philosophers in human history and is sometimes called the founder of modern philosophy.

FASHION Paris fashion is world famous. With the likes of Cardin, Dior, Chanel, Yves Saint Laurent, Christian Lacroix, French designers set the trend. Paris has also attracted fashion firms from all over the world, including Kenzo from Japan, and Versace and Armani from Italy.

FOOD French cooking is considered to be the world's most refined cuisine. Cheese and wine are a major part of the cuisine, playing different roles both regionally and nationally. *Croissants, escargot, cuisses de grenouilles, foie gras, and chocolat chaud* are just some of the delectable treats to be enjoyed.

LANDSCAPE France is a tapestry of geographic diversity. From the Alps near the Italian and Swiss borders, to the forest-covered Vosges Mountains in the northeast, the Pyrénées along the Spanish border and the beaches on the Mediterranean, France offers many breath-taking vistas.

EDUCATION Students are placed in public and private schools. The "high school" years are divided between the *Collège* (generally, years 7-9) and the *Lycée* (generally, years 10-12). The last three years of high school are known as *seconde, première* and *terminale*.

Daily classes generally commence at 8:30 am and finish at 3:30 pm. There is a long break in the middle of the day and schools provide hot lunches in cafeterias for a minimal cost. While most students have Wednesday afternoon free from school, many students have lessons on Saturday mornings. School holidays occur during the Christmas and Easter periods as well as in the summer.

Extra-curricular activities are not offered at schools. However, there are opportunities to participate in school trips, attend a theatre play or concert, or join the school clubs (music, judo, chess, etc). There are also community sports clubs and cultural groups.

“ On exchange in France, I gained an understanding of individual and cultural differences, developed independence, gained confidence and worked out what is important in life. Upon my return, I had a newfound perspective on things! ”
 Courtney Groda



What's Included ?

- ▶ Guaranteed country of choice
- ▶ Selection and preparation of a host family
- ▶ Coordinator assistance and progress reports
- ▶ 24-hour emergency support overseas and in the US
- ▶ Selection interview — in your home, where possible
- ▶ Full and comprehensive insurance
- ▶ Supporting documents for visa application
- ▶ Material to prepare you for your exchange
- ▶ Pre-departure orientation

What's Not Included ?

- ▶ International and local airfares
- ▶ Visa application fees
- ▶ School fees (text books, lunch, etc.)
- ▶ Personal expenses, souvenirs, incidentals
- ▶ Transportation to and from school
- ▶ Phone cards, cell phones

How Does It Work ?

- ▶ First, review the program materials on our website (www.pax.org/paxabroad.html)
- ▶ Choose your desired country and confirm that you meet any pre-requisites.
- ▶ Complete the full application for PAX and your country of choice, and ask your school and doctor to complete their sections. Attach color photographs of you and your family, as well as 8 passport photos. Ensure that all sections of application are signed and dated.
- ▶ Read and sign the "Terms of Participation" form
- ▶ Send the completed application with your application fee to the PAX office for review.

Then What ?

- ▶ Once your application packet has been reviewed, a home interview will be arranged.
- ▶ Your application packet will then be sent overseas for final acceptance by the receiving organization.
- ▶ You will be matched with a family and school.
- ▶ You will receive information on your country of choice to assist you in your preparation and PAX will guide you through the visa process.
- ▶ You will receive information on your host family, school and community and begin correspondence with your new family.
- ▶ You will attend a pre-departure orientation session.
- ▶ You will fly out of the US to begin your adventure.

Application Deadlines

- ▶ April 1 - Fall Semester or Academic Year
- ▶ September 15 - Spring Semester

Deposits, Cancellations & Refunds

- ▶ \$500 deposit - with completed application
- ▶ Full program fee balance due upon notice of acceptance. Payment by check or wire transfer only.
Note: If the full program fee is not received within one week of acceptance, PAX reserves the right to cancel your program.
- ▶ If you cancel prior to May 15th (or October 15th for spring semester), but before being placed with a host family - full refund, minus the \$500.00 application fee.
- ▶ If you cancel after host family placement is confirmed, but more than two weeks prior to departure, program fee refunded, minus \$1,000.00 cancellation fee.
- ▶ If you cancel within two weeks of departure, program fee refunded, minus \$2,000.00 cancellation fee.

FAQ

Q. CAN I CHOOSE A LOCATION WITHIN MY COUNTRY OF CHOICE?

A. In some countries it is possible to select a geographic area, but this will not be guaranteed. Your flexibility and sense of humor, along with a supportive host family, contribute most significantly to making your exchange a success.

Q. WHAT IF I ALREADY KNOW A FAMILY I WANT TO LIVE WITH?

A. It may be possible to live with a family that you already know. However, the family will have to be approved, prepared and supported by our partner organization in the same manner as any host family, and school enrollment must be available. Relatives, however, cannot host you.

Q. CAN I GET ACADEMIC CREDIT FOR MY STUDIES ABROAD?

A. You will be enrolled in a high school. Documentation of work done overseas will be provided. You are responsible for coordinating any transfer of credits from your high school abroad to your high school in the US. Please note that we cannot guarantee that your American school will accept your foreign studies for credit. Once you decide to participate in PAX Abroad, see your guidance counselor to determine what you may need to take outside of your foreign studies, to make sure that you can graduate on time.

Q. WHAT IF I HAVE GRADUATED?

A. Depending on your age, some destinations are still available. Contact us for more info.

Q. WILL MY FAMILY HAVE TO HOST IN THE US?

A. No, your family will not be required to host an exchange student in return. However, hosting an exchange student while you are overseas allows your family to have a better understanding of what you will go through. PAX host families are eligible for a 10% discount on PAX Abroad academic program fees.

Q. WILL I NEED A STUDENT VISA AND HOW DO I GET ONE?

A. A student visa is required. Participants must be prepared to go to an embassy or consulate for their jurisdiction in person. Up to date information about obtaining a visa can be found at: <http://www.state.gov/s/cpr/rls/dpl/32122.htm>. Upon acceptance to the program, PAX will provide all program related documentation necessary for obtaining a visa. However, it is the responsibility of the participant to obtain the visa and of course, a passport.

Twenty years from now, you will be more disappointed by the things you didn't do than by the ones you did do... Explore! Dream! Discover!

Mark Twain