



BOSTON COLLEGE
OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

Institut Catholique de Paris (ICP)- ILCF **Program Information Guide**

Institut Catholique de Paris (ICP)- ILCF

[Link to ILCF Website](#)

L’Institut de Langue et de Culture Française Description

- Semester programs based at L’Institut de Langue et de Culture Française (ILCF), a French language institute connected to L’Institut Catholique de Paris (ICP).
- Students can take courses in French language, phonetics, grammar and conversation with a limited number of courses in English in other subject areas. Course selection is based on French language level. Students should expect to take courses Monday-Friday.
- Students partake in a two week intensive French seminar at l’Ecole Etoile, just a short walk from ILCF.
- Students will be in classes with other international students- NOT French students.
- There is no minimum language requirement. However, students are required to stay in a host family where English will not be spoken.
- Activities at ICP are available to ILCF students-: student associations, clubs, sports and service projects.
- There are tandem partners available for ‘speak-dating’/ opportunities to practice French.
- Ecole Etoile :
 - Nightly homework
 - Students MUST speak only in French while at the school.
 - Mandatory attendance Monday-Friday 2-3 hours per day for 2 weeks.

Preparing for Study Abroad

- You should research information about your host country’s culture, language, history, food, geography, climate and current events. It is important to have a clear idea of where you will be living for the next 4-9 months so that you have clear expectations before you leave. By knowing about your host country before you arrive, you are making yourself a more informed traveler, a more receptive student and a better prepared individual. It is also helpful to know about your host country so that you can pack correctly.
- Helpful Links:
 - <http://www.britannica.com/>
 - <http://www.pacific.edu/sis/culture/>
 - <http://www.peacecorps.gov/www/educators/enrichment/culturematters/index.html>
 - <http://www.kwintessential.co.uk/resources/global-etiquette/france-country-profile.html>
- Know what is happening in the news in your host city by reading the local newspaper at:
 - Le Figaro- www.lefigaro.fr
 - Le Monde- www.lemonde.fr
 - La Liberation-www.liberation.fr
- You and your parents should refer to the Office of International Programs website (www.bc.edu/international) and specifically to the *Study Abroad Handbook* for more information regarding the abroad experience.

- Prior to your departure you will meet with your International Study Advisor at an orientation to help you further prepare for your study abroad experience.

On-Site and Emergency Contact Information

- You should first contact the police by dialing (112).
- The on-site coordinator is also available 24/7 for emergency situations. For non-emergency situations, the onsite coordinator is available during regular working hours.
- The on-site coordinator in Paris, France is:
 - Ophélie Landrin
 - Cell Phone: 33 060 70 39 873
 - Email: ophelie.landrin@gmail.com
- You should also contact your International Study Advisor who is available during regular working hours.
- Your International Study Advisor for France, Italy and Switzerland is:
 - Sarah Maharjan
 - Work phone: 617 552 3827
 - Email: sarah.maharjan@bc.edu
- The American Embassy in Paris is located at:
 - 2 Avenue Gabriel 75008 Paris, France
 - Phone: 01 43 12 22 22
- Your host family:
 - You will be notified of your host family placement within one month of your departure, after you have filled out your housing questionnaire and you have been placed with a host family. Your host family will live within Paris in a safe neighborhood. Once you have received your housing assignment, you should look up your host family's address and see what metro stations are close by.
- The address of the BC office in Paris, France is:
 - Boston college France
 - 21 rue d'assas
 - 75006 Paris
- Your on-site coordinator will notify you of office hours.

Travel Information

- When should I book my travel arrangements?
 - You should book your travel arrangements once you have received final confirmation from your ISA that you have been accepted to your host university.
- How should I book my travel arrangements?
 - There are several ways to book travel arrangements. First, you should confirm your program start and end dates as well as arrival and departure points as some programs begin in different cities than the final destination. Once you have confirmed this information, start doing research on flights, airlines and carriers. There are many online booking agencies such as STA travel and Student Universe. Some students also choose to arrange flights through a travel agency. This can be helpful if your program has a flexible departure date or negotiable exam dates. Please keep in mind that it is the student's responsibility to arrange their own travel.
- Who should I tell about my travel arrangements?

- Please be sure to notify OIP, your host family and your onsite coordinator of your travel arrangements once they have been made, including arrival/departure time, date, location and airline. oipadvise@bc.edu.
- When should I arrive in my host country?
 - Your International Study Advisor will notify you of the earliest and latest date/time of arrival. If you need to arrive early, please check with your ISA and your host family (when applicable) to make sure that you can be accommodated. Please also keep in mind that your entry date into the country may have an effect on your visa.
- When should I leave my host country?
 - Your insurance through HTH only covers you until the last day of your program. You may extend your coverage through the HTH website. Some visas only allow 14 days after the program end date before you are legally required to leave the country. Please confirm with your ISA, your onsite coordinator and your host family (when applicable) should you need to depart on a date other than the program end date. Officially, you may not depart sooner than the date indicated to you by your ISA.
- When you get to Paris you need to register your presence in France on the Embassy's website - **Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP)**:
 - <https://travelregistration.state.gov/ibrs/ui/>

Passport/Visa Information

- All students studying in France need a current passport that is valid for at least six months after the final date of your program. Reference the following website for information regarding your passport.
<http://travel.state.gov/passport/>
- Make sure you get your passport as soon as possible as it can be time consuming. All students must also obtain a visa. You cannot apply for your visa more than 60 days prior to your departure. You should, however, make your visa appointment when your ISA advises you to do so.
- The French government is instituting a new visa application procedure this year. As a result, all students planning to study in France will be required to register with CampusFrance, (www.usa.campusfrance.org) a new organization housed in the French Embassy in Washington D.C. This will begin the student visa process. You should begin this process as soon as you have your passport and have been accepted into your program as it can take up to 9 weeks to complete.
- You must apply for a visa in person at the French Consulate in your jurisdiction. Please consult the consulate website for the most up to date list of required documents for your visa application.
- To locate the appropriate consular office and the required student visa documents, you should contact the Boston Consulate General of France at (617) 542-7374 or look on the web <http://www.consulfrance-boston.org/>. Start this process as soon as possible as it sometimes takes several weeks to gather the necessary documents. Please refer to the French consulate website for the most up-to-date information on obtaining a student visa.

Academics

- Program dates and Academic calendar

- **Fall 2012**
 - Mid September-Late January***
- **Spring 2013**
 - Early February-Mid June***

*** Please note that each of you will finish your exams on a different date. Your final exam date will depend on the university you attend and classes you enroll in once you are in Paris. The exams will run during the months of December and January/May and June depending on your university. If your exam session runs through the winter holiday, you may arrange to have your exams early. You will need to speak with your professors at the beginning of the semester to arrange this.

- You are required to take the Intensive French class for 2 weeks at the start of the semester. You will earn 1 credit for this course.
- During the semester, you are required to take an Art History course, which is specifically designed for BC students and is taught by your onsite coordinator. You will earn 3 credits for this course upon successful completion.
- All programs in Paris require that you take a French Language course during the semester.
- You will then register for the remaining minimum of 12 credits at your university. These courses can be in English and/or French. The courses in French are designed for non-native speakers.
- Course selection information for your host university is available at the following:
 - ***Please contact your ISA for current course information.***
- Course approval information will be found at:
- <http://www.bc.edu/content/bc/offices/international/academics/courseapproval.html>
- Information about Transcripts and grades is available at:
- <http://www.bc.edu/content/bc/offices/international/academics/transcripts.html>

Housing

Semester long students are required to live in a home stay. Academic Year students may choose their own housing for the second semester.

Home stay options include:

- All breakfasts
- All breakfasts+1 dinner/week
- All breakfasts+2 dinners/week
- All breakfasts+3 dinners/week

Housing payments must be made in full at the start of the semester.***

- Students staying for the full academic year may choose to live in an apartment share during the second semester.
- Housing will be arranged by a housing agency in Paris- Information will be sent to individual students in April/May for the Fall semester and in October for the Spring semester.
- A one month security deposit is required to obtain housing. This will be due by the start of June for the Fall and the start of November for the Spring.

- Tenant Insurance is required under French law. Insurance arrangements on behalf of each student are handled by the Boston College Paris office. This insurance can be purchased for 110E cash through an agency in Paris. Your housing agency will notify you of this.
- It is very common for students to walk 10-15 minutes to the closest Metro and then take the Metro 30-40 minutes to the University. Electricity costs are much higher in Europe and students must not waste by overheating, heating when away longer than a weekend, leaving lights on when absent etc. It is your responsibility to pay for electric costs and any additional costs related to damage that you may cause to the apartment.
- Local Transportation: You will become acquainted with the metro system. Once you arrive in Paris, the on-site coordinator will review with you the specifics about the metro pass and the easiest way to learn and navigate the Parisian metro system.
- BC-sponsored activities: Beyond university-sponsored events, clubs, and sports, you may participate in some activities organized by the on-site coordinator. Activities may include museum visits, dance, theater, opera and weekend excursions to the country side.
- Cell phones: during the orientation the on-site coordinator will assist you with purchasing an inexpensive cell phone in Paris. You will be able to purchase a plan where you can add minutes as necessary.

***Students receiving financial aid, please contact your ISA.

Wellness, Health and Safety

- Make sure that you have had any required or recommended vaccinations for your travel destinations by consulting the Centers for Disease Control website at www.cdc.gov.
- HTH Worldwide Insurance Services is an emergency health and emergency services provider. All registered BC students are covered by our blanket policy while living and traveling outside of the United States. For more information, visit the following website:
- <http://www.bc.edu/offices/international/travel-health-safety.html> You are encouraged to consult HTH on-line services for health and safety information about all world destinations, travel illnesses, and as a resource for international medical providers.
- You are advised to visit the U.S. State Department website: <http://www.state.gov/> for important travel information including travel advisories.
- Adjusting to a new culture and environment can be stressful. You will have a smoother transition by making sure that you prepare to remain healthy. Following are some websites that provide important information and advice about how to have a healthy and safe experience abroad:
- http://kidshealth.org/teen/your_mind/emotions/culture_shock.html
- <http://www.kwintessential.co.uk/cultural-services/articles/cultureshock-stages.html>
<http://www.bravenewtraveler.com/2007/11/20/the-4-stages-of-culture-shock-and-how-to-beat-them/>
- Be sure to visit the OIP website for additional information about Health and Safety:
- <http://www.bc.edu/offices/international/travel-health-safety.html>
- In many cultures, alcohol consumption is an acceptable part of the culture and people are taught to drink in moderation at home. Many countries have a lower drinking age than the U.S. while other countries have drinking and drug abuse laws that may be more severe. You are subject to the laws of your host country, so if you choose to drink alcohol abroad, always drink responsibly and be knowledgeable about your host country's laws by visiting: http://travel.state.gov/travel/tips/tips_1232.html#drug_offenses Be aware that the manner in which medical help is obtained, the way patients are treated, the conditions of medical facilities, and how health care is afforded may be quite different from U.S.

practices. U.S. health care values, assumptions, and methods are not universally practiced; even notions regarding the onset of an illness or the timing of expert attention may be considered culturally based.

- Refer to your Study Abroad Handbook for further information about health and safety issues including women, LGBT, disabled people and others.
- In the event of a large-scale emergency, such as a natural disaster, you should first text your onsite coordinator; follow the emergency procedures discussed in the onsite orientation; and call or text your parents to let them know where you are and that you are safe.
- BC emergency contact information:
OIP: 617-552-3827 (Monday to Friday 9am-5pm)
BCPD: 617-552-4444

Finances

- The OIP website provides information about estimated expenses for study abroad:
<http://www.bc.edu/content/dam/files/offices/international/pdf/Nov%2011%202011-2012%20estimated%20student%20budget%20w%20housing.pdf>
- Scholarships and Financial Aid information can be found at:
<http://www.bc.edu/offices/international/financesawards.html>
- Banking information- in the past students will use their US bank, ATM card. Check with your local bank for international fees, etc.
- Other varying costs to consider: visa processing fees, Metro card, cell phone, taxi to and from the airport.

Social Security Payment

- The French government has always required foreign students to enroll in social security which costs between 200 and 220 Euros. In the past, French universities did not enforce this payment if students had their own insurance. Starting in the Fall of 2011, French universities began to enforce the social security enrollment regardless of other insurances held by the student. This means that students are required to maintain their domestic insurance and have HTH insurance as well as the French social security. The reason for this is that each insurance covers different things. For example, French social security only covers you while you are in France, which means that if you travel, or even if you stop in a different country on a layover, you would not be covered. HTH covers you worldwide. HTH also covers you for existing conditions as well as repatriation, two things that most domestic insurance does not cover.

Returning to BC

- Complete a Program Evaluation. Upon completion of your program OIP will e-mail the link to the evaluation
- Mentor an exchange student from your host university by contacting oiexchange@bc.edu
- Volunteer for Discovery Night, Pre-departure Orientation, Re-entry seminar by contacting your International Study Advisor at oiadvise@bc.edu
- It is not uncommon when you return from studying abroad to experience “reverse” culture shock. The following may help you transition back to home:
<http://www.cie.uci.edu/prepare/shock.shtml>

<http://www.studyabroad.com/guides/handbook/handbook5.html#shock>

References

- Suggested readings
 - Consulat Général de France à Boston: <http://www.consulfrance-boston.org/>
- Useful websites: <http://www.univ-paris-diderot.fr>

Student and parent guides at <http://www.studyabroad.com/guides/index.html>

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