

## Alliance Française – Paris & Nice : Quick Facts

### **Academics**

- *Admission Requirements*
  - 2.5 minimum GPA
  - No French language requirement
- *Program Academics*
  - Placement test upon arrival determines class level
  - Typical class load = 1 course/month
  - Intensive language courses meet 20 hours/week, and typically translate to 4 AC credits
  - Extensive language courses meet 9-12.5 hours/week, and typically translate to 2 AC credits
  - Academic focus: French language and culture
  - Fulfills “S” course credit. If study during winter term significantly extends into month of May, it will count for “S” course *spring term* credit. Students must verify this with the Registrar.
  - Alma College allows pass/fail for a course provided it meets guidelines published in the Academic Catalog. Refer to the Pass/Fail Option form (provided with Step 4) for complete instructions. Pass/fail must be requested within nine weeks after the class begins.
  - Incomplete grades must be replaced by letter grades within six weeks from being recorded on the Alma transcript, or they convert to “E”. Contact the Registrar for assistance when you have received and Incomplete grade.

### **Housing**

- Depending on program location, length and dates, students will be offered boarding options such as:
  - Home-stay
    - Meals may be provided
  - Single or shared studio apartment, no meals
  - Shared apartment, no meals
  - Hotel/hostel, no meals
  - Dorm, no meals
  - Student residence, no meals
- If first choice of housing is not available, you will be offered another housing choice, or full reimbursement of housing administrative fees paid.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. *What travel documents do I need to go to France?*
  - A passport is required for international travel and must be valid at least 180 days beyond the last date of the program.
  - A student visa is not required for visits of 90 days or less.
2. *Can I use my cell phone in France?*
  - Using a U.S. cell phone abroad to make local and/or international calls can be very costly. Check with your service provider for details.
  - One option is purchasing a mobile phone for approximately 30 euros once you arrive.
  - You could also purchase phone cards once you arrive in France. It is not recommended to purchase international calling cards while in the US because they often will not function once you are abroad.
  - PicCell Wireless and other such companies allow students to rent a phone with a global SIM card and charger appropriate for France.
  - The cheapest option is to set up Skype or QQ, a free internet-based calling service. Look online for details.
3. *Will I have internet access at school? Should I bring my laptop?*
  - Paris:
    - The Alliance Française has a multimedia resource centre with free access to 30 computers.
    - The Alliance Café offers free wi-fi in the center.
    - Bringing your own laptop is highly encouraged.
    - Internet cafes are available throughout the city, and some restaurants and cafes may offer free wi-fi service.
  - Nice:
    - Inexpensive internet cafes are available throughout the city, and some restaurants and cafes may offer free wi-fi service.
    - Bringing your own laptop is highly encouraged.
4. *What should I expect in terms of public transportation (in Paris)?*
  - Paris has a fabulous public transport system that includes a metro system, buses, trams, and commuter trains. It is recommended to familiarize yourself with the transportation system and city layout.
  - The Paris Tourism Office's website offers great insight into how to effectively utilize public transportation options. (<http://en.parisinfo.com/paris-map/getting-around>)
5. *Who can I contact if I have questions about the application process, or general questions about the Alliance Française program?*
  - Paris:
    - Your first point of contact should be the Alliance Française Paris official website ([www.alliancefr.org](http://www.alliancefr.org)).
    - If your questions aren't answered by thoroughly checking the website, e-mail the staff at [info@alliancefr.org](mailto:info@alliancefr.org)
  - Nice:
    - Your first point of contact should be the Alliance Française Nice official website ([www.alliance-francaise-nice.com](http://www.alliance-francaise-nice.com)).
    - If your questions aren't answered by thoroughly checking the website, e-mail the staff at [info@alliance-francaise-nice.com](mailto:info@alliance-francaise-nice.com)
  - Off-Campus Studies staff are always here to help answer your questions.