

AHA International France: Quick Facts

Academics

- *Admission Requirements*
 - 2.5 minimum GPA
 - Sophomore status +
 - No language requirement, but not necessarily best environment for French majors
- *Program Academics*
 - Classes at international language institute (CIDEF) at Université Catholique de l'Ouest
 - Fall/Spring semester: Typically will have 18-21 hours of class/week
 - French level determined by placement test taken upon arrival
 - All courses taught in French **except** one course taught in English by a visiting professor
 - Each course typically translates to 4 AC credits
 - Academic focus: French culture, civilization and language, history, political science, and sociology
 - AHA's Fall semester/summer: Fulfills "S" course requirement
 - AHA's Spring semester: Fulfills "S" course *spring term* requirement because it runs through May. Student must confirm this with 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

- Semester:
 - Host family
 - Most breakfasts & 3 dinners/week provided
 - All other meals paid for with stipend (included in program cost)
 - Summer:
 - Host family
 - Breakfast & dinner provided by family
 - Lunches at school cafeteria
- OR**
- Dormitory
 - All meals provided on-campus

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.
 - The AHA France semester program lasts just under 90 days. If you plan on extending your stay or arriving early for personal travel, you will need to apply for a visa.
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 upon arrival.
 - You could also purchase phone cards once you arrive in France. It is not recommended to purchase international calling cards while in the United States 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?*
 - Wireless internet is available on campus; internet may not be available at host family.
 - Most students find bringing a laptop to France to be useful.
 - If you do not have a laptop, you will be able to access internet either at the small computer lab for free at CIDEF, or at many local businesses in Angers that offer pay-by-the-hour internet access.
4. *What should I expect in terms of public transportation?*
 - Angers has a great public transport system. It only takes approximately an hour and a half to reach Paris by train.
 - If you are living in the suburbs of Angers, budget extra funds for after-hour taxis, as evening bus service is limited outside of the city. Taxis to suburbs cost 15 to 20 Euros, but with planning, students can share taxis with others from their home-stay or neighborhood.
5. *Who can I contact if I have questions about the application process or general questions about the AHA France Program?*
 - Your first point of contact should be the official AHA website (www.ahastudyabroad.org).
 - If your questions aren't answered by thoroughly checking the website, you can reach AHA by phone at 800-654-2051, or by e-mail at ahamail@uoregon.edu
 - Off-Campus Studies staff are always available to help answer your questions.