

# France

## Bordeaux, ENS, Lyon, and UC Center Paris UCEAP Advising Notes

### Objective of the Advising Notes Document

This document is an advising tool written by a Berkeley Study Abroad adviser to review program specific details that may impact a student's *decision to apply* for an EAP program. The document is *not* a summary of eligibility requirements, academic, housing, application and other logistical details freely available to students on the UCEAP and BSA website, and reviewed by a student in the Program Self-Assessment. The best source of detailed program information is always the [UCEAP Program Guide](#) from the prior academic cycle. If any concerns you have are not addressed on the UCEAP website, in the Program Guide or the Advising Notes document, please contact the BSA adviser for this program.

### Advisor Contact Information

For BSA Adviser name, email and drop-in advising hours, visit <http://studyabroad.berkeley.edu/advising>

### All France Programs:

**France Visa:** All non-French and/or non European Union citizens are required to apply to Campus France in Washington, D.C., in order to study abroad in France. Students will be instructed to do this *after* selection.

**Citizens of the European Union and France:** Students who are French citizens have no restrictions on applying to EAP-France programs. French citizens or citizens of the European Union do not need visas to study in France and do not have to apply to Campus France in Washington, D.C.

**U.S. Citizens:** Most U.S. citizens will be able to order their birth certificate on-line by contacting: <http://www.vitalchek.com>. U.S. citizens can also telephone the county clerk in the county of birth to obtain the birth certificate. Please request these well in advance, as the process to obtain them may be lengthy. The birth certificates will be required to obtain a long-stay visa in France. *Do not submit photocopies of certified documents.*

### Non-U.S. citizens:

**Visa:** EAP supplies visa forms and information only to U.S. citizens applying to study in France. International students should contact the French consulate in San Francisco to inquire how to apply for a visa to study in France. All students wishing to study in France who are not citizens of France or the European Union must also apply to Campus France in Washington, D.C. The EAP Office will not supply any special assistance to non-U.S. citizens applying for visas. Citizens of the European Union do not need visas to study in France.

**Birth Certificate:** *if the applicant is applying to a year-long program the France visa application requires two certified copies of a birth certificate.* Certain non-U.S. citizens may find it difficult to obtain a certified copy of their birth certificate. In this case, photocopy some sort of immigration document or use a photocopy of your original birth certificate, and attach a letter explaining why the birth certificate is unavailable. The document and the letter must have a French translation attached to each. You will be required to submit two (2) notarized sets of copies (document, letter and translations) about a month after application submission.

**When to order 2 certified copies of a birth certificate:** All students going on Year programs need to order these at the same time they apply for EAP. Students going on semester programs do not need birth certificates; however, any student thinking about extending from fall to spring semester programs (studying for a total of one year) also needs to order them.

**Verification of Language Prerequisites:** The EAP France application instructions explain how to determine whether you have satisfied the language requirement through course work, test scores or equivalent knowledge. Students who do not have academic verification of language acquisition or of having satisfied the language prerequisites (grades on transcripts, AP, IB or SAT test scores) but who believe they have equivalent knowledge can be evaluated by an instructor in the UCB French Department. Instructions regarding how to contact the French Department to obtain the evaluation are found in the instructions in the EAP-France application. *You must have this evaluation prior to applying for the program!*

**Finishing Language Prerequisites Before Departure:** You can take prerequisite language courses the semester or summer before departure for the program, if the timing works out with the start date of the program—you must begin your EAP Program on time. However, you won't be cleared for participation on the program until the language courses are verified as completed by a grade from your instructor. Students are required to obtain a grade of B or better in all college-level language courses.

**The best way to find out if any France program is a good match for you** is to attend the Fall Semester Study Abroad in France Meeting and talk to student alumni of the programs. The meeting is usually held early to mid-November. You can also email the France Adviser and ask for email addresses of students who have been on the program in the recent past.

**Visa for UC Center in Paris Semi-Intensive or Intensive Summer Language & Culture Programs:** U.S. citizens are not required to obtain a visa for these programs (no visa for studies under 90 days). You will need a France visa if you are contemplating extension to the UC Center in Paris fall semester program or continuing on with a semester or a year program in Bordeaux, Lyon or Sciences Po, Paris.

**Intensive Language Program Waivers for France Immersion Fall/Spring/Year Programs:** Students with native-speaker fluency in French at the college level (in areas of reading, writing and speaking) may petition to be excused from the Intensive Language Program or ILP by sending an email to the France Adviser.

**Choosing between study at a Sciences Po in Paris, Bordeaux or Lyon:** The Institut d'Etudes Politiques in Paris or Sciences Po, Paris is a popular program, but it is not the typical study abroad program. It is definitely more challenging on the academic and personal level whether a student is studying on the French, bilingual or English tracks. However, students who are ambitious and want to do serious academic work abroad should consider applying to the Sciences Po in Paris program. Sciences Po Paris students must adapt to the French university system and an elite school within that system. There are different academic demands for writing and analysis than in U.S. universities. The first few months on the program require that students make an adjustment to the new system. UCB students can have a difficult adaptation experience to Sciences Po, Paris, but will usually become accustomed to how things work by the end of the term.

Students who want a less academically demanding experience, with plenty of time to explore Paris and travel, but who are still interested in studying the “sciences politiques” should consider applying instead to the “Sciences Pos” in Bordeaux or Lyon on the Bordeaux or Lyon Immersion programs. Students’ experiences at the Instituts D’Etudes Politiques in Bordeaux or Lyon will allow more time to be spent cultivating friendships and enjoying more laid-back aspects of French culture.

Students applying to the France-Bordeaux Coursework in French program will be able to take courses at the Sciences Po, Bordeaux in French. Students will also be able to take courses in other university departments in other fields of study.

Students applying to the France-Bordeaux Coursework in English program will be able to take courses at the Sciences Po, Bordeaux in English. Students will also be able to take courses in other university departments in other fields of study.

Students applying to the Univ. of Lyon program will be able to take courses at the Sciences Po, Lyon in French. Students will also be able to take courses in other university departments in other fields of study.

Students applying to the France-Lyon French & European Politics program will be able to take courses only at the Sciences Po, Lyon in English.

**UC Center in Paris Fall Semester Courses:** Currently, the UC Center in Paris only finalizes the fall semester courses to be offered several months prior to the start of the semester. Therefore at time of application it is not possible to know exactly which courses will be offered. In general, there are always two offerings in political science and one each in history and literature. Courses in fields such as art, film, philosophy and women’s studies will not necessarily be offered each semester. Using the EAP Course Catalog to see a list of courses offered will therefore be problematic, because the Course Catalog will list old, discontinued courses or courses that are not offered every semester. Also, the UC Center in Paris website, [www.ucparis.fr](http://www.ucparis.fr) will only list the courses for the current fall semester. It’s necessary to be very flexible as to course choices, and film, art/art history or philosophy majors don’t have any guarantees that they will be able to take courses in these subjects the semester they attend.

**UC Center in Paris Fall Housing:** there is a choice between a single room in a shared apartment or a homestay. Housing assignments are first-come, first-served, so watch for the deadline to submit paperwork. French language acquisition is much greater if a student lives in a homestay.

**Extension from UC Center in Paris Fall Semester to France Bordeaux Spring Semester, possible studies at University of Bordeaux:** a student who completes the UC Center in Paris fall program may extend to the spring semester in Bordeaux at the University of Bordeaux. Students can extend to either Bordeaux in English or Bordeaux in French, depending on the student’s language level at the time of transition to the Bordeaux program. Filling out the Departmental Approval to Extend Form in the EAP application indicates your interest in extending. You’ll be asked to make the final decision whether to extend or not while on the UC Center program.

Students who extend can take courses in the Bordeaux universities in French if they speak, read and write French at the equivalent level to someone who has completed two years of college-level French by the end of the UC Center in Paris program.

Students with the equivalent of three semesters of French who extend to Bordeaux spring semester may continue to take courses during the semester in French language and literature at the School for Foreigners in Bordeaux (school for French as a second language), the DEFLE, and can also enroll in regular university courses taught in English.

Students with the equivalent of two semesters (one year) of French who extend to Bordeaux spring semester will be limited to taking courses at the DEFLE, the School for French as a Second Language.

**Bordeaux Language & Culture**

Students who have two semesters of French will be limited to three courses comprising 16 hours of weekly instruction in oral & written French & French Culture. Students who apply with three semesters will take oral & written French, a French Civilization course, a research project and optional French culture courses.

**Language & Culture, Bordeaux Housing:** Students have a choice of living in a homestay or an apartment. Students whose goals involve attaining a higher acquisition of French language skill should seriously consider choosing a homestay.

**Bordeaux, Coursework in French & English:** the Coursework in French and Coursework in English in Bordeaux programs make this university the most versatile place to study with EAP in France because students can go on the program with any level of French language capability from absolute beginner to advanced. Bordeaux also has six Bordeaux universities participating in the exchange. A wide variety of fields of study are offered.

Bordeaux has an Institut d’Etudes Politiques or “Sciences Po, Bordeaux” that is ranked second to the Sciences Po, Paris. Students can take classes at the Sciences Po in French. (Sciences Po Bordeaux does offer courses in English but it must save these courses for its enrolled students.) Students in the Coursework in French Program can take classes at any Bordeaux university, including Sciences Po Bordeaux.

On site the Bordeaux in French and Bordeaux in English programs are treated as one big program; students share cultural activities and have the same housing options.

**Univ. of Lyon, French & European Studies, Sciences Po Lyon:** Students can take courses in English at the Univ. of Lyon Institut d’Etudes Politiques, or “Sciences Po, Lyon.” Departments specialize in Asia, North Africa, and “The U.S. & Europe.” If a student enrolls in 30 ECTS credits for the semester they will receive a Certificate of French & European Studies, which UCEAP calls a “CPEF”, “Certificate of French & European Politics.” Students will study alongside other UCEAP Immersion French Program students, international students and ERASMUS exchange students. Housing is similar to the French Immersion program: students can choose to live in apartments or homestays.

**Lyon III, “Study in English Lyon, France” or SELF Program, coursework in English:** this program was offered by EAP for the first time during the 2015-2016 academic year; it has been existence for some time on its own. It is administered by the International Office of Lyon 3 and not by the UCEAP Study Center in Lyon. This program starts later than the other EAP offerings in Lyon. Students will not participate in Orientation and the Intensive Language Program along with the other UC students on the French Immersion and the French & European Studies programs. SELF participants will meet with the Program Coordinator in Lyon, Christine Ebnother, to file the EAP Study List. They will also be invited to participate in any UCEAP cultural activities and excursions with the other EAP students.