

France

JUNE 22–JULY 28, 2012

Application Deadline

February 15, 2012

Cost

Approximately \$5,900

Payment Schedule

- Non-refundable \$150 deposit due February 15, 2012 (make check payable to the University of Richmond, designated France Study Abroad Program, and submit with your application) Payments are paid in the Student Accounts office.
- 1st payment due March 15
- Final payment due April 15

France and the French hold an enduring fascination for much of the world—and for excellent reasons. Long a center of intellectual development, artistic revolution, and high culture, France offers the visitor a glimpse of past greatness and present-day accommodation to a changing Europe. The University of Richmond Summer Study Abroad Program is designed to provide the participant with a fun, challenging, intellectually rigorous experience that combines travel with cultural exploration and language study.

La Rochelle

La Rochelle and the surrounding region offer many historic, artistic and cultural landmarks. A few of the city's historic sites include a richly decorated Town Hall, an 18th century classical style cathedral, picturesque old homes, and 14th-15th century towers that still mark the entrance to the city's "old port". The famous "Francofolies" festival in mid-July attracts musicians from all over the Francophone world. La Rochelle is located 90 miles north of Bordeaux on a bay in the Atlantic Ocean. It is both an important fishing port and the largest yacht harbor/pleasure port in Europe. Its main beach ("Les Minimes") offers sun and relaxation. La Rochelle is also well known for its sailing competitions off the resort islands of Ile de Ré, Ile d'Oléron and Ile d'Aix.

Orientation

Two orientation sessions will be held in late-March and mid-April during the spring semester of 2012. Participants will meet the group, receive important logistical and cultural information, and begin to prepare for their exploration of France and its people. They will also begin their Study Abroad Portfolio assignments. Attendance at all orientation meetings during the spring 2012 semester is mandatory, except for non-University of Richmond students who will receive information via e-mail, fax or phone. We encourage non-UR students to try to attend orientation meetings if at all possible.

Housing and Food

Once in La Rochelle, students live in the homes of selected French families with whom the Program has built relations over the years. Participants take their breakfasts and dinners with their host families during the week; lunches will be provided at the school cafeteria on weekdays.

Program Director

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LUNCHES IN PARIS AND NORMANDY AND ON THE WEEKENDS IN LA ROCHELLE ARE NOT INCLUDED IN THE PROGRAM COST. AIRFARE TO AND FROM FRANCE IS NOT INCLUDED IN THE PROGRAM COST.

Excursions and Activities

Students will begin with a 6 day stay in Paris, lodged in a center designed especially for international students. Breakfast and dinner are included. Sites include l'Arc de Triomphe, les Champs-Élysées, Notre-Dame, La Sainte-Chapelle, Le Musée Carnavalet (history of Paris), le Musée Rodin, le Musée d'Orsay (impressionist art), la Tour Eiffel, Montmartre and le Sacré-Coeur, Versailles, le Louvre, and le Quartier Latin. All fees for these sites as well as for transportation in Paris are included in the program cost.

Students will then take a coach bus for a 3-day excursion through Normandy with students from Minnesota State University, Mankato and VCU. Places of interest include Giverny (home and gardens of Monet), Lisieux, the Bayeux Tapestry and cathedral, the Normandy beaches, the Musée du Débarquement at Arromanches, the American Cemetery at Colleville, and the great abbey of the Mont St. Michel. In addition, the Institut in La Rochelle offers several social events and excursions. These may include a tour of the city and a visit to the Aquarium. Larger excursions include a day trip to Cognac, and a day visiting three castles of the Loire Valley. Participation in these excursions is included in the program cost.

All dates and costs are approximate and subject to change as are program details. The University of Richmond reserves the right to alter the program costs as a result of fluctuations of international currency.

Course Offerings

Courses are offered through the Institut d'Études Françaises (IEF), a branch of the Université de La Rochelle's Groupe Supérieur de Commerce (Sup de Co), or Graduate School of Business. Letter grades are given and transferred onto students' records. Students will earn 2 units.

Classes

Students may choose among the following courses:

1. FREN 221 - Intermediate French
2. FREN 301 - French Conversation OR French 402 - Advanced Conversation
3. FREN 311 - Contemporary French Life and Issues

Note: Students will also be responsible for completing a Study Abroad Portfolio. This part of the program requires research and reflection on the study abroad experience prior to departure and during the time abroad. Students must complete all parts of the portfolio to receive full credit for the program.

Instruction

Students taking 221 will be enrolled in a course with the general population of students at the IEF. This course is based on the results of a placement exam. Those taking 300 or 400-level courses will be enrolled in closed courses with students from Minnesota State University-Mankato and VCU. Instruction for all courses at the IEF is provided by a faculty member from the Institut, all of whom meet professional standards agreed upon by the Director of the IEF and University of Richmond's Program Director.



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