CCIS Study Abroad



IAU Aix-en-Provence, France

Aix-en-Provence, France (Europe)

Quick Facts

SPRING 2026

Early Start Program (Optional): arrival January 17
Dates: arrival January 24 – depart May 9
Application Deadline: September 20
Cost:

- Program cost: Contact the program sponsor for updated cost
- **Early Start Program:** Contact the program sponsor for updated cost

FALL 2025

Early Start Program (Optional): arrival August 23
Dates: arrival Aug 30 – depart Dec 12
Application Deadline: March 15
Cost:

- Program cost: Contact the program sponsor for updated cost
- **Early Start Program (Aug 23-30, 2025):** Contact the program sponsor for updated cost

*A non-refundable deposit of $800 is due within two weeks of acceptance to the semester program. This deposit is applied towards the program cost and paid to the College of Staten Island.

Apply Now

Click here to see the robust offering of merit scholarships, grants, and need-based assistance that IAU offers.

Click here for IAU Aix-en-Provence Summer Programs

Program Overview

The Institute for American Universities (IAU) is located in Aix-en-Provence (pop. Approx. 143,000) situated on the Mediterranean coast. The program offers courses in French language and a variety of other liberal arts and social sciences courses, making it an ideal study abroad location for any major. Homestays and a strong program of cultural activities complement the academic program to ensure students have a complete immersion into French culture.

Aix is a very beautiful old town, rich in history and local tradition. Overlooked by hills and Mont Sainte Victoire, Aix lies in a natural basin and is famous for its fountains, winding streets and sunny squares, monuments and churches, universities and thermal waters. The many concerts, the summer Festival d'Art Lyrique, libraries, museums, churches, bookstores, markets, and cafés have earned Aix its reputation as one of France's most engaging cities. A wealth of cinemas, restaurants, nightclubs, and sports facilities welcomes Aix's students.

In Aix-en-Provence, you can find one of the finest examples of the famed Provencal style of architecture, and a walk through the streets is a lesson in artistic control, in form, composition, rhythm, and beauty. Within a few miles of the center of Aix, original motifs of many great artists remain intact. Aix-en-Provence allows easy access to Paris, Geneva, London and other major European cities. With Italy and Spain only hours away by train, Aix-en-Provence is ideally located for students planning to travel during vacation periods.

Gallery












Contact Program Sponsor and Advisor



College of Staten Island, CUNY
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(718) 982-2100

This program is sponsored and administered by the College of Staten Island CUNY.

Academics & Program

View the Spring and Fall Course List - future terms will have a similar course offering.

The Institute for American Universities (IAU) in Aix-en-Provence, France is chartered by the Board of Regents of The State University of New York and was founded in 1957 under the auspices of the Universitè d'Aix-Marseille. It is one of the oldest and largest education abroad programs of its type in Europe.

- Language Course Requirement for CCIS Semester Students - For students participating in the semester program in Aix-en-Provence, it is **required** to enroll in at least one French language course. Students are then free to choose from among other courses to complete their semester course load.

IAU offers four programs of study in Aix-en-Provence: The School of Humanities and Social Sciences, The School of Business and International Relations, The French Honors Program, and The Marchutz School of Fine Arts.

- **The School of Humanities and Social Sciences -** IAU prides itself on the diversity of its course offerings in English, French, and Arabic which enables students with any background in French language the ability to gain access to a study abroad experience. The multiple course offerings allow students to fulfill many of their general education requirements and complete major and minor requirements linked to areas in the humanities, social sciences, education, and the arts.
- **The School of Business and International Relations -** Through the School of Business and International Relations, all students have the unique opportunity to learn about international business strategies and procedures with a specific focus on the global market. IAU business courses are approved by Fairfield University, an IAU partner institution whose Dolan School of Business is accredited through AACSB, The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business. Disciplines taught include economics, finance, international business, management, and marketing.
- **The French Honors Program -** The French Honors Program is designed for French majors or other students with demonstrated advanced-level French, interested in a comprehensive language and cultural immersion program. All honors students enroll in a weekly French Honors Seminar (course title: Cultural Approach of the Other – French Honors Seminar), all remaining courses are taught in French, and internship placements for course credit are also available. Additionally, students will be expected to keep a daily journal in French. This journal will be examined and discussed on a regular basis in the weekly seminar meeting.
- **IAU now offers The School of Art which houses two different art programs:**
    - Marchutz Core Art Program – students must take a course in art history for the elective course
    - Mediterranean Core Art Program – students must take a course in art history or museum studies for the elective course
    - The Marchutz Arts Core Program is open to students of all majors, artistic skill levels, and backgrounds, and offers an immersive experience in painting, drawing, art history, and art theory with extensive excursions throughout Europe. Students enrolled in the School of Humanities and Social Sciences or the School of Business and International Relations may take courses at the Marchutz School of Fine Arts along with their other courses including art history, creative writing, archaeology, painting and drawing, photography, architectural design, sculpture, and more.

In addition to the above programs of study, **IAU provides access to unpaid, for-credit internships** available at local enterprises for semester students. Interested students should have at least four semesters of college French and must provide their resume before the start of the semester. While placement cannot be guaranteed for those without upper-level French language experience, it is possible for students with lower-level French to be placed. These situations are handled on a case-by-case basis. For application requirements, it might be helpful to point out the specific requirements for internship placements. To apply for an internship for-credit during the semesters or summers, students must submit a resume (in English) to enroll@iau.edu and response to the internship questionnaire. Internship applications for the Summer terms are due by March 1st (all other Summer program application deadlines are March 15th).

Course Offerings

Designed for all majors, IAU is renowned for its founding philosophy of making it possible for students with beginning French language skills to study in France. The structure of its program, which combines French language study with a range of liberal arts and social science courses taught in both English, French, or Arabic, has opened the doors of cross-cultural learning to thousands of students. Click here to read more about semester courses offered.

Credits: 15
Instructor's Language: English, French or Arabic

Student Life & Housing

Student Life

Aix's location provides numerous travel opportunities for students studying in Aix-en-Provence. Marseilles, the Mediterranean and the Maritime Alps are only an hour away, and Nice, Monte Carlo, Barcelona, Saint Tropez, Paris, Milan, Rome and Geneva are all within one day of travel, perfect for a weekend trip.

Field study trips are also embedded into many courses; several others are organized by IAU staff. Students are also encouraged to strike out on their own and explore their new surroundings. Provence is known for its sunny, temperate and generally dry climate, so sunshine and outdoor activities abound. Beaches, hiking, skiing in the nearby alps, traveling to European destinations, as well as cinema and theatre, museums, lectures and concerts are just some of the possible activities for students.

Students enrolled in the program also have the opportunity to participate in language partner and volunteer programs, as well as additional excursions, field trips and cultural activities.

Study Abroad - Early Start Program

Students are invited to join IAU for an optional week-long, early-start program before their fall or spring semester abroad. Students studying in France or Spain are encouraged to participate. Please review the weekly schedule for the Early Start Program in Aix-en-Provence as an example to learn more!

Students can expect to:

- Earn one course credit
- Jump-start the French or Spanish immersion process and ease into the new and exciting culture
- Gain confidence in their language skills and feel comfortable in everyday communication with locals
- Participate in a hands-on environment with small classes and personal attention
- Learn to navigate the city of Aix-en-Provence or Barcelona through local excursions in a fun and relaxed setting
- Attend lectures on local culture to get the most out of their abroad experience
- Begin their French or Spanish accommodation a week early
- Learn important intercultural differences such as body language, etiquette, do's and don'ts, French or Spanish culture and housing expectations, stereotypes and misunderstandings
- Meet local and foreign students through IAU
- Learn where to buy the best croissant or paella in town
- Become a French or Spanish insider!

Housing

IAU prioritizes homestay placements for students due to the cultural and language advantages they offer; however, given the changes in availability and willingness in host families, it is important that students maintain flexibility and an

open mind when it comes to housing placements. Moreover, as a result of the reduced number of families available to host students at this time, it will be necessary to place some students in student residence apartments. Students should be prepared that they may not receive their first preference for housing. Note that the costs of all meals, laundry, and cleaning supplies for the student residence apartment are the responsibility of the student.

Students are housed in the homes of French host families when possbile. Living in a French home is ideal as it provides an immediate introduction to life in Southern France. Host families come from a cross-section of society; they belong to no particular professional or social milieu, but all are carefully chosen, and many have hosted American students for several years.

The homestay option offers students room and half board. Daily continental breakfasts and six dinners a week are provided by the host family. Students are responsible for lunches.

Bed, linen, pillow and blankets, are provided, and the room is cleaned weekly. Students must bring their own towels, and they are provided with one machine load of wash each week. You can request to be placed with another IAU roommate in the host family setting.

There is a multitude of affordable cafés, brasseries, small sandwich and grocery shops from which to choose. Many other food markets are available around town during the week.

Duration & Costs

Duration SPRING 2026

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Please note that if you see dates or costs for a prior term above, that future terms will have similar dates and costs. We will update info as soon as it becomes available.

Costs Included: Tuition and fees, homestay, most meals (breakfast daily and six dinners), pre-departure advising and orientation, textbook rental, insurance, field study tours, and scheduled cultural activities.

Costs Not Included: Airfare ($1,200 – $1,500), some meals, passport/visa fees, and personal expenses ($2,500 -

$3,000), courses that may incur an additional lab fee ($150 – $260)

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All costs, fees, and dates are subject to change without notification. Contact the program sponsor to verify all costs, fees, and dates for this program.

Please refer to your acceptance materials for information on arrival, orientation, and the academic calendar. The refund policy is program specific and non-transferable. Refer to your acceptance materials for the comprehensive refund policy or contact the program sponsor.

Eligibility & Deadlines

Eligibility Requirements

- Minimum class standing - students must have completed at least one semester (minimum 12 semester credit hours) of college-level coursework at the time of application.
- 2.5 GPA or higher
- Students must be at least 18 years of age

Entry Requirements

France requires a visa for students studying during the spring or fall semesters. Please allow ample time (6-8 weeks) to apply for your visa starting with the Campus France visa application. Upon acceptance, you will be provided with detailed instructions on the visa application process. Additional information is available on the IAU Passports & Visa page.

Applications to Include

- Official transcripts
- One letter of recommendation from a teacher who knows the applicant from a classroom setting
- Statement of purpose

Application Deadlines

Summer/Fall: March 1
Spring: September 25

Have you talked with your study abroad advisor about your home institution's application process? Your institution's deadline might be earlier than the CCIS program application deadline. Check now to make sure all of your material is submitted on time!