



IAU, Great Cities: France, Italy, the Netherlands and the Czech Republic Winter J-Term Program

Multi-City, Multi-Country (Multi-Region)

Quick Facts

Winter 2026

Dates: December 29 - January 16

Application Deadline: October 1

Costs: Contact the program sponsor for updated cost

Program Overview

IAU's January Term Traveling Seminar is designed for students interested in an academic and cultural experience in France, Italy, the Netherlands, and the Czech Republic. Students explore major cities across Europe using literature and the arts as a guide to understanding the rise and establishment of the urban setting. Through readings and media studies, students examine the artistic process from inspiration to creation. Site visits and guided tours then allow students to experience the historical, geographical, and demographical foundations that inform the fictional representations of European cities and their impact on perceptions of those cities today. Students have the opportunity to learn from and exchange their observations with experts from IAU as well as distinguished on-site scholars and local guides in order to frame their own perception of the cities and these cities' representation through the arts.

Sites visited:

Italy: Rome

France: Paris, Aix-en-Provence and Marseille

Netherlands: Amsterdam

Czech Republic: Prague

*View day by day itinerary [here!](#)

View this short video clip to get a sense of this winter intersession traveling seminar!

Gallery



Contact Program Sponsor and Advisor



College of Staten Island, CUNY
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ELI Director

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

Academics & Program

Students can choose one of the following courses:

- European Studies 303: Europe and the Urban Space
- Anthropology 301: The Artist and the City
- Literature 375: The European City in Literature
- Communications 375: The European City in the Visual Arts
- Geography 201: Europe and its Cities

About the Professors:

Dr. Leigh Smith has lived in Provence since 1999 and has worked in the field of study abroad since 1998, beginning with his first work with the University of North Carolina's Paris program while still a graduate student. While working there as on-site assistant to the program director, he met his future wife and eventually returned to France. He and his wife settled in Provence where their three children were born. He completed his dissertation while abroad and received his Ph.D. in comparative literature. He has since gone on to teach at the Université de Paul Cézanne and at the

Université de Provence in Aix and in Marseille. His first position in Aix was as academic advisor with the American University Center of Provence. He has taught courses in literature and French culture at the IAU since 2005. He served as interim director of The Aix Center over the 2008-2009 academic year and assumed the role of Academic Director at IAU in April 2011.

Dr. Barbara Castaldo (Laurea, Università La Sapienza di Roma; M.A., Columbia University; Ph.D, New York University) specializes in contemporary Italian literature with a doctoral thesis on Italian author Pier Paolo Pasolini (awarded Premio Pasolini in 2009). Her research interests include comparative literature and law and literary scholarship. She has published articles on contemporary Italian authors (Sandro Veronesi, Marco Lodoli, Ennio Flaiano, Pier Paolo Pasolini), and has appeared in a number of TV documentaries and radio interviews for Rai Storia (Italy), Arte TV (France-Germany), Österreich 1 (Austria). She is currently working on a book on Pier Paolo Pasolini's legal trials and is professor of literature at Loyola College, John Felice Rome Center and ICCS in Rome. She has taught for the IAU J-Term Seminars since 2015.

Student Life & Housing

IAU's J-Term Traveling Seminars are unique in that the classroom and campus changes based on the location of the program. The J-Terms consist of 17-21 day academic and cultural courses led by IAU faculty and include 24/7 staff support. The seminars are thematic in nature and involve travel through multiple countries. During the program, students have access to a variety of spaces including partner institutions, hotel conference rooms, lecture halls, and museums in which to conduct coursework and lectures. Students are housed in hotels or residence halls in each city. Breakfast is included.

Duration & Costs

Duration

December 29, 2025 - January 16, 2026

Costs

Contact the program sponsor for updated cost

Costs included: tuition for 3 credits, lodging, insurance, entrance fees to all museums and guest lecture venues, Intra-European transportation to and from each city, breakfast daily and some dinners.

Costs not included: airfare, personal expenses, some meals

Students who enroll in a January Term Seminar and the spring semester in Aix-en-Provence consecutively are eligible to receive a \$2,000 grant credited to their spring semester invoice. In order to be eligible to receive the grant, students must participate in the [Early Start Program](#) during the week between the end of the January Term Seminar and the start of the spring semester. The Early Start Program allows students to move in with their French hosts a week before the semester begins, receive French language instruction, and participate in local cultural activities! Visit IAU's [Scholarship website](#) for additional details.

Eligibility & Deadlines

Application Deadline: October 1

Eligibility Requirements:

Minimum GPA: 2.5

Supplemental Application Material

Once applicants apply through CCIS and get accepted, all applicants are required to complete IAU's [online application](#).

Students are also responsible for submitting the following application materials to IAU once accepted:

Certification and Release Form

Study Abroad Approval

Professor Recommendation

Unofficial Transcript

[Enrollment Deposit](#) **J-Term students are required to submit a \$1,500 deposit, divided into two installments. The initial \$750 deposit is due with the IAU application and the remaining \$750 is due within two weeks of acceptance or by October 15th, whichever comes first.

Housing Preferences

Copy of passport

Student Photo

Language Proficiency **For international students who are non-native English speakers, English proficiency and/or a TOEFL IBT score of 79 are required.

Once an application is complete, students can expect a response within 2 weeks. Admission is granted on a rolling basis before the application deadlines outlined below. For questions about an application, please contact enroll@iaufrance.org.