



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

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

Quick Facts

Winter 2027

Dates: Late December, 2026 - Mid-January, 2027

Application Deadline: September 15, 2026

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 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 and Aix-en-Provence

Netherlands: Amsterdam

Czech Republic: Prague

*View the last term 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
Gonzalo Villena
ELI Director

studyab@csi.cuny.edu
(718) 982-2100

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:



Suzanne Canessa, PhD.

Coordinator and Professor at the Center for French Studies

Dr. Suzanne Canessa is a Coordinator and Professor at the Center for French Studies since 2023. She is a journalist and Professor of Literature, French, and Music at ACM since 2020. She holds a Bachelor in Musicology, a Master in Applied Languages (English and German), a Master in Comparative Literature, and a PhD in Musicology and Comparative Literature from Aix-Marseille University and the University of Tübingen (Presence of Johann Sebastian Bach in the 20th-century novel, which will be published by Peter Lang this year). She writes on a regular basis for La Marseillaise-Zébuline, Bachtrack, and Cult News about Music, Literature, Performing, and Visual Arts. Her work and research explore the ongoing and multimodal dialogue between Arts and Culture. She is fluent in French and English and advanced in German and Spanish.



Sophie Simon, PhD.

French Language Instructor, Centre d'Études Françaises

Sophie Simon is a French language instructor at ACM-IAU, teaching students at various levels and participating in custom programs during the summer and winter sessions. She is also involved in the J-Term Great Cities program, where she teaches European culture and literature, focusing on cities and countries such as Aix, Marseille, Paris, Amsterdam, Prague or Rome. In addition to her teaching role, Sophie Simon assists with administrative and coordination tasks at the Center for French Studies (CEF), including correcting placement tests, recommending courses, managing tutoring sessions, and organizing conversation clubs and student field trips. With a dynamic approach to teaching, Sophie Simon is known for constantly creating new activities and visual learning material, and integrating digital applications to enhance student engagement. She adapts her teaching methods to cater to all learning styles (visual, auditory, kinesthetic), ensuring that each student receives a personalized learning experience. A

particular area of focus for her is French phonetics and pronunciation, where she integrates simple techniques to help students develop clear and accurate spoken French. She is committed to regularly updating her programs based on students' feedback. She holds a Master's degree in French as a Foreign Language (FLE) and a Master's in Translation and Interpretation (Literary translation) from Aix-Marseille University, as well as a dual Bachelor's degree in General Linguistics and Translation & Interpretation. Fluent in French, English, Spanish, and Czech, Sophie brings a diverse linguistic and cultural perspective to her teaching. Her academic background and international experience allow her to create a dynamic and engaging classroom environment, where students use their existing language skills to enhance their French learning and explore its cultural context.

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

Late December, 2026 - Mid-January, 2027

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: September 15, 2026

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

Deposit: Students should skip the registration fee and deposit at IAU's application portal. The full program cost should be made through the College of Staten Island.

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 studyab@csi.cuny.edu.