

Study Abroad for French Majors and Minors

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The French Department encourages its students to spend a semester or a year in a French-speaking country. Students consolidate their oral fluency in French and enrich their cultural fluency through full-immersion study in French universities, and with home stays with French host families. Returning students report that they learn to think and even dream in French by the end of their sojourn. Pre-approved coursework for the major and minor ensures smooth integration of EAP coursework with UCB major and minor requirements.



Why study abroad?

Many students in the French major and minor programs at UC Berkeley complete some portion of their undergraduate study abroad through Berkeley Study Abroad (BSA). Given the increasing globalization of our world, living abroad helps expand their understanding of diverse, culturally-rooted attitudes and behaviors. Studying abroad enhances cross-cultural awareness, competency, and adaptability. Students find that living and studying abroad expands their perspective, improves critical thinking, increases independence and better prepares them for a career in an increasingly competitive world.

Improve your knowledge of the language you have already studied by using it for everyday life as well as intellectual endeavors. Learn how to better express your thoughts on complex topics and follow your interests in French. Participate more fully in national and international politics and events. Benefit from greater access to French films, music, and the visual and dramatic arts.

The intellectual and personal growth students experience during their time abroad will serve them well throughout their lives. Participating in BSA provides further advantages when it comes to the challenges of graduate school and a competitive job market.



When can I study abroad?

While it is possible for students to go abroad at almost any point in their academic careers, the particular quarter, semester, or year that you study abroad depends on what courses you plan to take. Students interested in language and culture programs, or in fulfilling major preparation and General Education requirements, can participate as early as their sophomore year. Students wanting to fulfill upper division major requirements should, in most cases, go abroad in their junior or senior years.

“I came to France to discover another culture, system, and language, and what I’ve seen and experienced has surpassed my expectations. Living in France has taught me to embrace difference and change, and it has reminded me of the universality of the human experience that exceeds cultural and geographical boundaries. EAP is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity—wonderfully run and staffed by excellent individuals—and I’ll cherish it always.”

Nicole Webb

Plan ahead!

Applications typically are due six months to a year prior to the program’s start date and some programs have academic or linguistic prerequisites that must be satisfied in advance. Please check the BSA website for guidance:

studyabroad.berkeley.edu/explore

Cost:

Study on BSA can be comparable to the cost of study at UC. In some cases, it is less. BSA participants pay UC fees and continue to receive UC financial aid while abroad. Furthermore, BSA students are eligible for special grants and scholarships from UC, the host country, and other sources.



Where can I study abroad?

These are a variety of short-term and year-long programs in multiple locations in France. Possibilities include:

Intensive Language and Culture

- UC Center, Paris (Summer, Fall)
- University of Bordeaux (Fall, Spring)

Immersion Programs

- University of Bordeaux (Fall, Spring, Year)
- University of Lyon (Fall, Spring, Year)

Special Focus Programs

- Only in Paris, UC Center, Paris (Fall)
- Political Science, Sciences Po, Paris or Reims (Fall, Spring, Year)
- Global & International Studies, University of Geneva (Spring)
- Berkeley Summer Abroad, Language, Culture, and History in Paris
- Berkeley Global Internships, Paris (Summer)



What classes can I take?

Equivalent coursework in the French major or minor must follow these guidelines:

- Course must be conducted in French
- Course must be taken for a letter grade
- Course (or approved combination of courses) must be equivalent in course hours to approximately 4 semester units
- Course content must be equivalent to an upper division French course offered at UC Berkeley and accepted toward French Major or Minor course requirements
- A maximum of 4 equivalent courses can be applied toward the French Major
- A maximum of 2 equivalent courses can be applied toward the French Minor
- Please consult the list of pre-approved courses: <https://french.berkeley.edu/study-abroad/>

Course credit:

Students will earn UC credit for BSA courses they complete abroad. However, application of credit to major and minor requirements is subject to the discretion of the department. To search for program and course options, go to the BSA website: studyabroad.berkeley.edu/explore and follow the links to courses offered through UCEAP and Berkeley Abroad. Please also consult the list of pre-approved courses on the [French Department website](#).

What happens when I return?

Once they are back in Berkeley, students should meet with the Undergraduate Major Advisor in French to request or confirm approval for equivalent coursework in the major or minor.

- Even before you return, stay in touch on email with the Undergraduate Major Advisor regarding course selection.
- Bring back course materials such as syllabi, reading lists and exams, as these will help when petitioning for major or GE credit for courses not yet pre-approved.
- Final approval and credit will be granted when grades and units are posted to the UC Berkeley transcript (check CalCentral).

I'm interested! What are the next steps?

Students interested in study abroad in France or a francophone country should first research program options on the BSA website: studyabroad.berkeley.edu, then meet with the undergraduate advisor for French to discuss departmental regulations and the academic planning process. The [French Department website](#) contains lists of pre-approved courses for UCEAP programs. [BSA advising](#) and application assistance is available at the Berkeley Study Abroad office, 160 Stephens Hall.