



FRANCE 2012

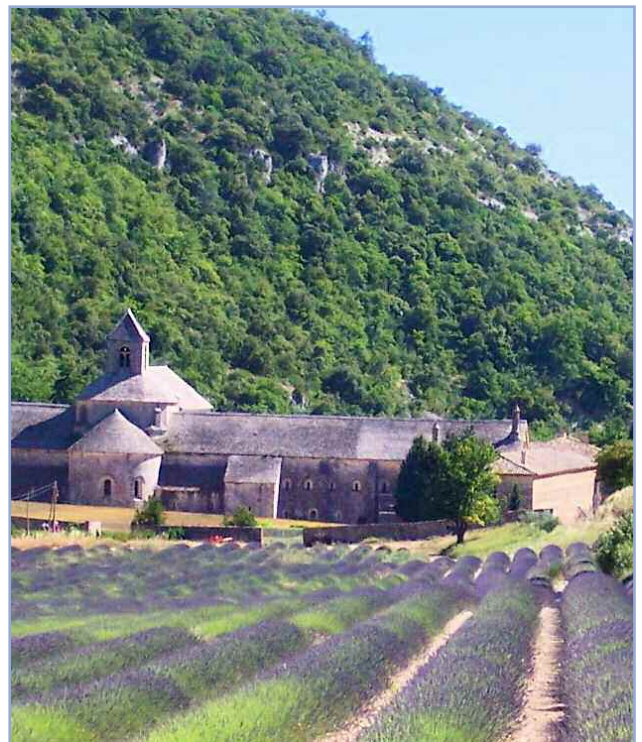
<p>Aix-en-Provence</p> <p><i>2 weeks of classes in Aix with accommodation in a dorm, one week of immersion, 3 days of travel in Paris</i></p>	<p>Customized Total Immersion in Gap</p> <p><i>Individualized dates, 2-3 weeks in immersion, no classes or group activities</i></p>
<p>\$6995</p>	<p>\$955 per week</p>
<p>Classes with University Credit Option</p>	<p>No Classes</p>
<p>June 28 - July 25</p>	<p>Flexible dates. You choose the time frame between July 1 and August 15</p>
<p>Ages 15 – 18</p>	<p>Ages 16 – 21</p>
<p><i>Prerequisite: Two years of high school French by June 2012</i></p>	<p><i>Prerequisite: Three years of high school French by June 2012</i></p>

ECI France Program 2012

France – a treasure chest of culture, history, diversity, and beauty! Improve your French while taking intensive language classes in one of the most beautiful and varied countries in Europe. Live in the university town of Aix-en-Provence and combine a dorm experience with a one-week host family immersion and travel to Paris.

France Program Guide

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Dear Parents and Students,

Edu-Culture International's primary goal is a true language and cultural immersion experience for each participant. Immersion provides the student with a unique intercultural perspective, as well as the absolute best possible way to strengthen their language skills.

We take great professional and personal pride in making ECI programs the best of their kind. From our global coordinators to our local leaders, you will find ECI staff to be experienced, dedicated, qualified educational professionals who provide guidance and support throughout the program.

Our France program is based in **Aix-en-Provence**. Our trip includes a different combination of the following components:

- French Classes
- Activities / Excursions
- Dorm Housing
- True Host Family Immersion
- University Credit Option
- Three days in Paris

Our group is limited to thirty students with three full-time adults: one trip leader and two additional chaperones. Our adult / student ratio is ideal in terms of student bonding, personal attention, cultural education, organization and safety.

All students are accommodated in **Dorm Housing, Host Family Immersion** (one student per family). For additional information on housing options, please see *Accommodation Options*.

We also incorporate **Language Partners** into our program, whenever possible. Usually, European college students, Language Partners work to enrich the Immersion experience by providing ECI

students with community integration opportunities and additional practice in conversational French. Small groups of our students explore the town with their Language Partners, participating in various activities while discussing (in French) an assortment of topics such as: entertainment, school, politics, travel, vacations, and sports.

Designed to be fun as well as challenging, ECI's program provides students with an unforgettable and exhilarating once-in-a-lifetime experience. Participants gain a global perspective, strengthen their college applications, and create lasting global friendships through this individualized and unique international adventure.

We also offer a **Customized Total Immersion (CTI)** program in the beautiful town of Gap. Find out more about our flexible, independent option on Page 12.

In the following pages, you will find descriptions of various components of our program. For more information, FAQs, photos, and video, please visit us at <http://educulture.com>. Also feel free to contact us at any time.



Marie Forrest
Co-Founder and Director



OVERVIEW

During our France programs you will:

- **Live** in an enriching homestay or student dorm in an exciting, youthful city in France as you absorb the culture and practice the language.
- **Study** (Aix-en-Provence) at prestigious schools dedicated to teaching French – with the opportunity to earn three units of college credit.
- **Interact** with local university students during Language Partner sessions.
- **Take part** in a variety of afternoon and evening activities such as swimming, cooking, kayaking, painting, bike riding, and wine and cheese tasting!
- **Enjoy** the food, ambience, and cultural authenticity of the French café scene.
- **Discover** hilltop towns, the beautiful countryside, and / or the dazzling French Riviera on day excursions.
- **Meet** other students from around the country.
- **Be encouraged** by your chaperones to exceed your language goals.
- **Immerse** yourself in the language, culture, and daily life of the French.
- **Travel** to Paris for a three-night adventure.

ECI Chaperones

ECI carefully selects chaperones on the basis of language ability, maturity, patience, judgment, professionalism, and their ability to earn the respect and trust of our teenage participants. Most chaperones are high-school language teachers with extensive travel abroad experience and all are enthusiastic leaders, fully trained by ECI, and highly dedicated to promoting intercultural understanding.

Price includes:

- All accommodations
- All language classes, group activities, excursions, and admissions
- All transportation abroad
- Two meals during dorm stays, full day weekend excursions and the 3 day stay in Paris; Three meals during Host Family Immersion week
- Medical Expense / Emergency Assistance Insurance
- Three full-time adult chaperones per group of 30 students

Price does not include:

- Application fee of \$135
- Airline tickets: Students can purchase airline tickets on the designated chaperoned flights from San Francisco or JFK via our travel partner STA Travel <http://statravel.com> or 1.877.777.8717. Students may also purchase their own tickets independently.
- Spending money
- Optional activities
- Some meals
- Optional Cancellation/Interruption and/or Cancel For Any Reason Travel Insurance Plan
- University Credit Fees (should you choose this option)

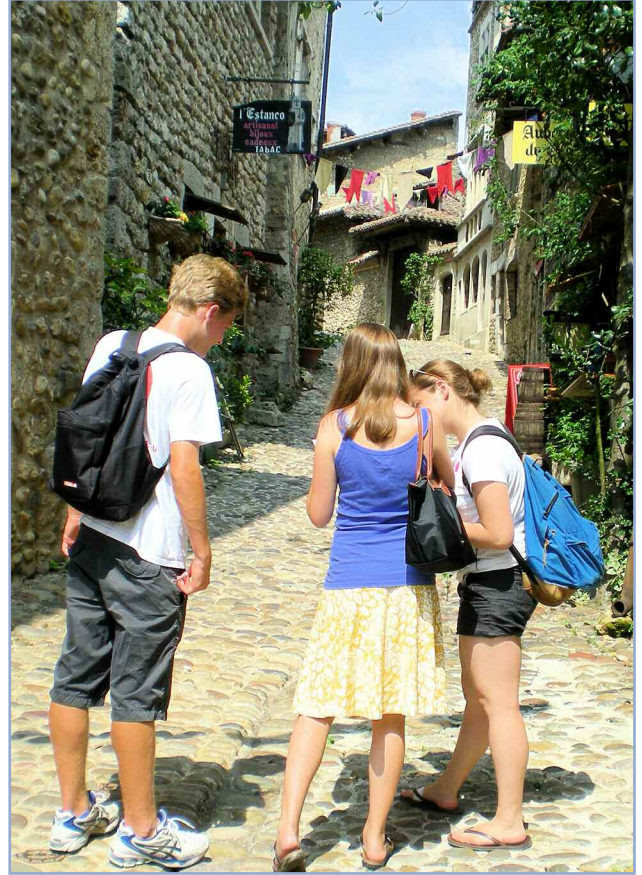


Student Eligibility for France Trips

Participants must:

- Complete coursework equivalent to two years of high school French by June 2012
(Possible exceptions are considered only with a teacher recommendation detailing the student's exceptional language skills)
- Be between the ages of 15 and 18
- Complete all sections of ECI's Individualized Application Form
(Application includes: basic contact information for students & families, student interests, student introduction letter for Host Family with pictures (as applicable), and any pertinent medical information)
- Have a valid passport, and provide ECI with a copy no later than 1 month prior to departure
- Receive a positive teacher recommendation
(ECI provides the form)
- Be committed to speaking and improving their French
- Be open to new experiences and unfamiliar cultures
- Sign and abide by ECI's Personal Responsibility Contract
- Be able to make responsible choices and act in a mature manner
Although ECI staff chaperone conscientiously, participants cannot be supervised 24 hours a day, and we therefore request that any student needing constant supervision refrain from applying for our life-changing programs.

ECI leaders chaperone conscientiously. However, participants cannot be supervised 24 hours a day, and we therefore request that any student needing constant supervision refrain from applying for our life-changing programs.



ECI Scholarships

ECI will offer two \$3000 scholarships to applicants for summer 2012. For scholarship application details, please see the Scholarship page on our website.

For additional information, please contact our main office:

510.845.2230 or 866.343.8990 (toll free)
info@educulture.com
 Or visit our website at:

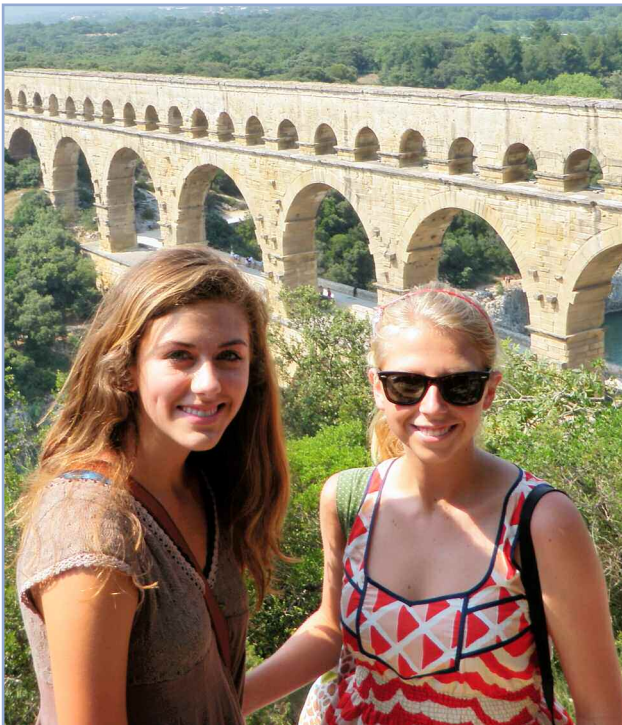
<http://educulture.com>

ECI France 2012 Program Options

Aix-en-Provence

June 28 – July 25

ECI students in Aix-en-Provence participate in an enriching two weeks of classes at the highly acclaimed Institute of American Universities (IAU) while living in one of the few centrally located residences or dorms in town. Aix, the old capital of Provence, is a lively university town filled with locals, students and visitors strolling the open-air markets or relaxing at one of the many terrace cafés. The town transforms in summer into one of the main musical centers of Europe, playing host to the annual International Festival of Music. Home to painter Paul Cézanne and an inspiration for much of his work, Aix continues to be regarded as a great artistic center – a fantastic place in which to absorb the French culture and language.



Examples of Day Excursions from Aix-en-Provence:

Arles

Dating back to the 6th century BC, Arles enjoys a rich history from Roman times of which its well-preserved Roman baths, amphitheatre and theater ruins are a constant reminder. The harmonious mix of ancient and contemporary life, quaint shops, sun-drenched patios and stunning landscapes has made Arles a destination for artists and tourists alike. Vincent Van Gogh spent his last years living in Arles and painting some of his great works, including “Starry Night” and “The Café Terrace on the Place du Forum.” Students can enjoy a coffee at the café, which Vincent van Gogh depicted and imagine a time when Caesar himself visited the Roman Forum just across the street.

Avignon

This medieval walled town in the heart of Provence is famous for the Gothic Palace of the Popes and for its medieval bridge, memorialized in the French nursery rhyme, “Sur le Pont d’Avignon.” During the 14th century, the seat of the Roman Catholic Church was moved to the quaint town of Avignon, when the Popes had grown tired of Rome. Avignon served as the seat of the papacy for 100 years. In the summer, Avignon is home to an exciting and world famous theater festival in July. Avignon is a great destination for an afternoon excursion with its pedestrian streets, cafes, and history.

Our Language School

ECI continuously works with highly acclaimed schools to develop specialized academic programs and cultural experiences for our participants. Classroom time is interactive and participatory, allowing ECI Students the best opportunity to strengthen their French skills. We are pleased to be able to offer students a compelling fusion of academic excellence and an exciting activities / excursions itinerary throughout their two weeks of classes.

The Institute for American Universities - Aix-en-Provence

Since 2003, ECI has partnered with The Institute for American Universities (IAU) to create specially designed academic programs for our students. The Institute is an independent educational school primarily designed for North American college students who wish to study abroad in southern France. Founded in 1957 under the auspices of l'Université d'Aix-Marseille, IAU is one of the oldest and largest education abroad institutes in France. ECI and IAU have developed a special program to enable our high school students the opportunity to benefit from a unique combination of academics, culture and the experience of living in one of the most engaging cities for young people in France.

A vital and talented group, most of the IAU faculty have studied and/or taught in more than one country. Many are professors either at l'Université d'Aix-Marseille or l'Université d'Avignon, and all are native French speakers. Natives of the area, they are able to communicate their enthusiasm for the region and illuminate the local culture for our students.

IAU Features

- Student groups (limited to a maximum size of ten) divided into proficiency levels
- Students take a placement test before they leave the U.S.
- Approximately three hours of classes Monday through Friday for two weeks.
- Small class size – interactive seminar-style classes with dialogue and debate.

University Credit Option:

ECI's University Credit Option, available on the Aix programs, is an invaluable asset in today's competitive realm of higher education.

- This feature provides students the option to earn 3 semester units in French through Truman State University.
- These credits are transferable to other universities and accepted by most accredited universities in the U.S.

The University Credit Option is a great asset on a college application because it demonstrates the student's ability to complete university level course work as a high school student.

Please note: *the University Credit Option requires additional fees and some additional work on the part of the student.*

Accommodation Options:

Available Options	Aix-en-Provence	Customized Total Immersion
Dorm (Residence) Housing	Yes	No
Host Family Immersion	Yes	Yes

Dorm Housing

Centrally located, the dorm or residence in Aix-en-Provence is very close to the language school. Because ECI chaperones live in the dorm with the students, they are able to form close bonds and relationships of trust and mutual respect with the students. For many students, spending two weeks here with the rest of the group is a perfect introduction to French language and culture prior to the one-week True Host Family Immersion, which occurs during the third week of the trip.

True Host Family Immersion Week

After two weeks of practicing their conversation skills during classes and enjoying a fantastic variety of activities with the ECI group, Aix-en-Provence students are prepared for the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to become immersed in language and culture during the True Host Family Immersion Week.

ECI coordinators personally select immersion host families. Students live with these families during the third week of the Aix-en-Provence program.

Immersion host families are excited about sharing their homes and lives with an American teenager and generally have a son or daughter of a similar age. ECI participants spend their time during that week interacting with the family, the family's children, and friends of the family. This is an excellent opportunity to become truly immersed in French daily life and language and form lifelong friendships, and it hallmarks ECI's Immersion Experience. Students are generally placed one per home during Host Family Immersion Week. The ECI chaperone team is on-call twenty-four hours a day to assist students should they have a problem or concern.

These warm and friendly families open their homes to American teens because of their genuine desire to share their language and culture. They make every effort to incorporate our students into their lives, many times arranging day trips and excursions that only locals are able to experience.

ECI students write a personal letter during their application process with information about themselves and their families as well as their ambitions, hobbies, and interests. From these details, our Host Family Coordinators carefully match each student with an appropriate host family. They take into account any specific requests and try to match each student's interests with those of the family.

Throughout this week, there are no organized ECI activities and no classes. This enables participants to immerse themselves completely in the French way of life. For many students, true host family immersion is one of the most enjoyable and rewarding parts of the trip!



More Activities for ECI France Programs

ECI chaperones supervise a variety of afternoon and evening activities...

Some of our student's favorite activities include:

- *Accrobranche* (outdoor obstacles / ropes course) & Kayaking
- Exploring the town with Language Partners
- People-watching at outdoor French cafés
- Celebrating Bastille Day on July 14th
- Music Festivals
- Cooking Classes
- French Movie Nights
- Cheese & Wine Tastings
- Excursions to nearby Villages & Towns
- Optional Sports activities such as: swimming, soccer, volleyball, bike riding

Please note: Activities are almost always included at no extra charge. Occasionally, we offer optional activities / excursions, most of which are included or are nominally priced.

Each day also includes free time for students to get together with friends and explore their own interests and hobbies.

All students take part in chaperoned nighttime activities.



Travel to Paris!

Explore famous Paris with new friends from around the country! If you've yet to visit this deservedly world-famous city, your travels with your ECI group are your opportunity to visit the unforgettable "City of Lights".

Here's a sampling activities you may embark on:

- Cruise the Seine River in a Bateau Mouche
- Ascend to the top of the Eiffel Tower
- Check out Mona Lisa's smile at the Louvre,
- Explore Vincent van Gogh and Claude Monet masterpieces and other amazing works of art at the Musée d'Orsay.
- Visit the Champs Élysées, and gaze up at the Arc de Triomphe.
- Experience the true fusion culture of Paris as old and new come together in the youthful

Latin Quarter with its cafés, bookstores and bohemian atmosphere.

- Walk up to the city's highest point, Montmartre, and stop in at the pristine, white-domed Basilique du Sacré-Coeur while you marvel at the city below.
- Or simply explore the city with newfound friends and find the many hidden treasures of Paris.

All ECI Students in France spend three days in Paris.



ECI Customised Total Immersion

July 1 – August 15 / Independent airfare / \$955 per week

Two to three weeks living with an Immersion Host Family in Gap, France. (No group activities, no classes)

During ECI's Customized Total Immersion (CTI) Program, students will:

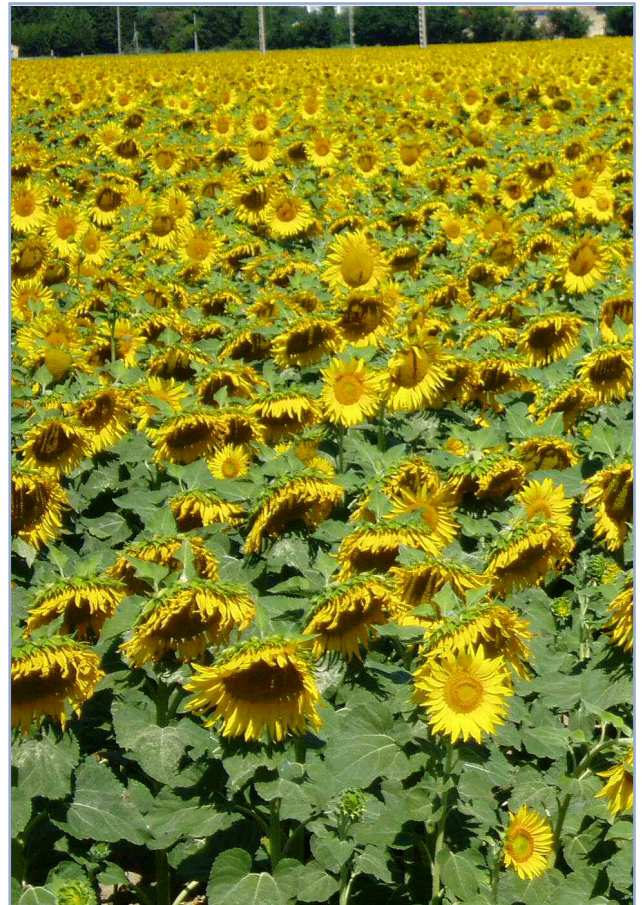
- Participate in the daily life of a French family.
- Speak French with their immersion family.
- Take part in home-life including meals and family events.
- Enjoy excursions with their immersion family, visit places only locals know about.
- See sights, meet friends, and enjoy French culture all from the local perspective.
- Immerse themselves on an everyday basis in the French language and culture.

ECI custom-designed the CTI Program for high school students who:

- Are at least 16 years old.
- Have completed a minimum of three years of high school French by June 2012. (Two years of middle school French is generally equivalent to one year of high school French.)
- Are motivated, adventurous, and have an independent nature.
- Are serious about speaking only French while in France.
- Are excited about the opportunity to be completely immersed as the only student in their host family for two to three weeks – without a formal study program and without formal contact with other American students.
- Are committed to the belief that total immersion is the most effective way to develop foreign language proficiency.

"I was immediately accepted into the family. I constantly participated in daily activities such as cooking, swimming, riding horses, etc. We had a BBQ with the ENTIRE family every Sunday."

Jessica Ott 2009 CTI student / jott@mail.org



Who are the Immersion Host Families?

ECI has developed an extensive network of coordinators in France who are committed to finding families who look forward to sharing their lives with our students during the summer. ECI Host Family Coordinators work directly for us rather than for a language school. Host Families are usually comprised of a mother, a father, and children who are often of the same age as the visiting ECI teenager. Immersion Host Families host ECI students with the intention of sharing their daily lives, culture, homes and food. Families often take their ECI student on excursions, involve them in family events, and introduce them to friends and relatives. Many times, ECI students and Immersion Families create lifetime friendships.



Customized Total Immersion (CTI) Program Price Includes:

1. ECI arranged transportation to/from host family from airport in Marseille, France.
2. In-country orientation.
3. Accommodation and meals with Immersion Host Family.
4. Medical Expense / Emergency Assistance Insurance.
5. A full-time on-call ECI representative.

Price does not include:

1. Application fee of \$135.
2. Airfare.
3. Spending money.
4. Optional activities.
5. Optional Cancellation / Interruption or Cancel For Any Reason Travel Insurance Plan.

Customized Total Immersion (CTI) participants arrange their own flights, and a copy of the flight plans must be emailed to ECI no later than 6 weeks prior to departure.

An ECI representative or the host family will meet your son or daughter at the designated arrival point. Prior to your child's departure, ECI will provide you with all necessary contact information, phone numbers, and a designated meeting place and time.

At every step of the way, **Customized Total Immersion (CTI)** program participants will find guidance and support available from ECI's global and local professional staff. Please contact us to see if the **Customized Total Immersion (CTI)** program might be right for you!

Meet and Greet Service

ECI program participants have the choice of traveling roundtrip on one of our chaperoned flights (organized via our travel partner STA Travel) or making their own separate flight plans.

Participants making their own separate flight plans are also responsible for making their own arrangements to meet up with the chaperones and group, unless they choose our **Meet and Greet Service**, which carries an **additional fee of \$175 minimum per direction**.

With the Meet and Greet service, an ECI representative will meet your son or daughter at the airport or any other designated arrival place. Prior to your child's departure, ECI will provide you with all necessary contact information, phone numbers, and a detailed meeting place and time. Once we have met your child, we will

take him/her to meet the main group. The Meet and Greet is also available for the return trip, and we highly recommend it in either direction if your child is not traveling with the group. Remember that airline schedules are always subject to change. Please contact ECI to discuss this option.

crossing continents - connecting cultures

For more details, information, FAQs, pictures, testimonials and to apply, please visit us at:

<http://educulture.com>



Visit our website for information on any of our study abroad programs. If you're ready to sign up, follow the instructions on our How to Apply page.

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