

Office of International Programs

Valparaiso University • www.valpo.edu/studyabroad • studyabroad@valpo.edu • 219-464-5333

PARIS, FRANCE – Semester or Year (Central College Program)

APPLICATION DEADLINES:

Spring Semester: October 1 (Early Acceptance: April 1 of prior year)

Fall Semester/Year: February 15 (Early Acceptance: November 1 of prior year)

WHO?

- You must be at least a sophomore, and must have completed French 204 (fourth semester French).
- You must be approved by the French section (this does not mean that you must be a French major or minor!). Students with almost all majors have participated in this program and graduated in four years.
- You must be accepted by the Central College Program.
- You must have a 3.0 overall GPA.

WHAT?

- Spring semester or a full academic year of study at the Cours de Civilisation Française at the Sorbonne (Université de Paris) in Paris. Fall, spring or full year at the Institut Catholique de Paris. All courses are conducted in French.
- After an intensive 4-week language course and orientation at the Institut de Touraine in Tours, students are given a placement test and enroll in one of the following:
 - *Intermediate Level:* (Sorbonne and Institut Catholique) 7-8 credits of French Conversation, Grammar, and Phonetics plus 7-8 credits of French civilization, literature, history, and/or culture. (course offerings vary).
 - *Advanced Level--* (Sorbonne and Institut Catholique) 7 or 8 credits of advanced language study, plus 6-8 credits of French art, history, literature, economics, philosophy, politics, and/or culture (course offerings vary).
 - *Superior Level/Business:* (Sorbonne) a program in French business language, administration, and economics. Students earn the diplôme supérieur de français des affaires. 18 credits. Spring only.
 - *Superior Level/Literature:* specialized course offerings for students who wish to concentrate on French language, literature, and civilization--offered at both the Sorbonne and the Institut Catholique. Spring only.
- The academic environment in France is quite formal. Courses offered at the Sorbonne (with the exception of the speaking and grammar courses) are large lecture format; grades based on one final essay exam. Lecture courses at the Institut Catholique are similar in style to those on a liberal arts college or university campus in the U.S.
- Service-learning and business internships are available; please contact the OIP for details.

WHERE?

- The City of Lights, Paris, has been a magnet for students since the Middle Ages. Broad boulevards, public gardens, sidewalk cafés, smoky jazz clubs and blaring traffic jams are all part of the “moveable feast” that is Paris. Classes at one of the oldest universities in Europe are enriched by visits to museums, monuments, and churches.
- The Central College Paris Program offices are located on the Left Bank, very close to both the Sorbonne and the Institut Catholique. A resource center, information library, and a computer are available for student use, and the program director has her office there.
- Students are housed in French dormitories located throughout the city. You will generally have a roommate, who may be French or an international student. Policies and meal plans vary from dorm to dorm.

HOW?

- Consult with your academic advisor and with one of the French professors as early as possible -- especially if you are planning on a year’s study in Paris. Freshman year is not too early to begin thinking about studying in France. With careful planning you can be sure that your Paris courses are courses you will need at Valpo for your major, minor or general education, and that you will complete your degree program in four years.
- Obtain an application form from the Office of International Programs (137 Meier Hall).

HOW MUCH?

- *Basic Cost:* Program participants pay tuition and fees for the Central College program and the VU general fee. The Central College fees include room, board, and some excursions, and are comparable to the cost at VU.
- *Air fare:* Students can expect to spend in the neighborhood of \$800-\$1300 for travel to and from France. Many of the discount flights described in newspapers are not useful for a semester abroad, since they are for short-term stays and carry special restrictions.
- *Board:* In some cases, meals are provided as part of the total fee. If not, there is a rebate, and you may eat in any of many student cafeterias, which are heavily subsidized by the French government.
- *Spending Money:* Count on spending at least as much (probably more) as you do in Valpo for miscellaneous items, and then add on for any travel you might plan. You will also need such items as a monthly Metro (subway) pass.
- *Awards:* If you participate in this program as a VU student (GPA of 3.0 or above), all financial aid (except work study and some “on-campus” aid) is valid during the Paris semester or year.

CONTACTS

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| • Professor Duvick | Associate Professor of French | Meier 113 | x 5169 |
| • Julie Maddox | Director of Study Abroad Programs | Meier 137 | x 5333 |