

High School in France

Dates & Prices*

Semester Programs

Aug – Dec, 2009 (4 mo): \$6,320*

Jan – June, 2010 (6 mo): \$7,850*

Academic Year Program

Aug, 2009 - June, 2010 (10 mo): \$9,750*

**Airfare not included. We reserve the right to adjust program prices if there is a major change in the currency exchange rate. In this event, applicant may cancel and receive a full refund.*



Explore France!

Immerse yourself in the beautiful language and culture of France! You will stay with a welcoming volunteer host family while attending a local high school. Program fees include: homestay placement with meals; placement in a French high school including all tuition, school meals and book costs; comprehensive medical insurance; domestic travel to and from your host family in France; pre-departure orientation materials; orientation in Paris; and on-going counseling and support in France.

Is this program for you?

Apply for this program if you are ready to accept and adapt to the culturally different lifestyle of a French host family, community and school, maintain acceptable academic standards at school, and participate actively in school and family life. In addition, applicants should:

- be between 16 and 17 years of age (students can not turn 18 during the program)
- have a B average in school
- have studied at least three years of high school level French
- be in good physical and mental health

What is the French high school system like?

The French system of secondary education consists of seven years that are divided into two levels, "le college" for the first four years and "le lycee" for the last three years. Most students choose to pursue a "baccalaureat" degree in either Language and Literature, Economics and Social Sciences, or Math, Physical Science and Biology.

The school year begins in September. There are vacations for one week at the end of October, two weeks at Christmas, two weeks in February, and two weeks in March. The school year ends in late June.

Most high school students have about 27 hours of courses each week, and have homework for all classes. The emphasis on academics is generally much stronger than in most U.S. schools.

Classes usually start at 8 am and end at 5 pm, with an hour for lunch at noon. There may also be some break periods between classes.

See the FAQs →

Frequently Asked Questions

Where will I stay in France? Students are placed with families and in schools throughout France.

How are host families chosen? Host families are carefully screened and selected by our partner organization in France. Like you, families fill out detailed application forms and are interviewed in their home by a local homestay coordinator. They receive comprehensive preparation prior to their student's arrival.

Are French families paid to host? No, host families do not receive payment for hosting. Most are middle class families with both parents working. Their only compensation is enjoying the company of a friendly American teen who is interested in sharing their daily life, language and culture.

What if I have a problem with my family? You'll have an experienced support network there to help. Your local homestay coordinator will contact you regularly about your school and homestay. The coordinator will also be in touch with your host family and is always available to help with counseling and problem-solving.

Will my host family meet me in Paris? No, you will be met on arrival in Paris by a local coordinator in France. Before traveling to your hometown, you will attend a 2-day orientation program with other exchange students from around the world. Our partner in France will arrange for your travel from the orientation site to your homestay.

Can I participate in any clubs or sports? There are fewer school-sponsored clubs and sports than in the U.S. Some students practice sports on Wednesday afternoons, when there are no classes. You may also be able to join local sports teams for soccer, basketball, cycling, etc. that are not directly affiliated with your school.

What if I get sick? All students are covered by a comprehensive medical insurance policy. You will receive an insurance booklet and claim form before departure. If you need to see a doctor or visit a hospital, take these along.

When is the application deadline? The application deadline is April 15th for programs beginning in August and July 15th for programs beginning in January. We suggest you apply as soon as possible to reserve a space in the program and to give yourself time to prepare for the experience.

How do I apply? Complete the initial application and return it to Andeo with a \$500 deposit. We will then send you a detailed application packet, including recommendation forms for you teachers. Once we have received the completed application and all of your references we will schedule a personal interview with you. Following that, your application will be forwarded to France and you will be notified about acceptance within a few weeks.

Who should not apply for this program? In order to assure a successful experience for students and for the host families, students who are currently experiencing excessive behavior problems, drug or alcohol abuse, or eating disorders; or students who have experienced these issues within the past year should not apply. Students who develop these problems prior to departure will not be allowed to participate.

When are payments due? The first payment of \$500 is due with the initial application. An additional \$2000 is due with your completed application. You will receive a detailed schedule of the remaining payments in the application packet. The balance of fees will be due two months before departure. If you are not accepted into the program, all fees you have paid will be refunded.

Are there additional costs? Yes. Participants are responsible for their own passport and travel document fees, round-trip airfare to France (average cost \$1400), local transportation (average \$50/month), and monthly spending money. Regular school books are included in the program fee, but many schools require a deposit from the students that is given back at the end if the books are still in good shape.

How much spending money should I bring? We recommend that you budget about \$100/month for your stay, in addition to money for local transportation. You will be responsible for buying any clothing and personal care items you may need, for local transportation costs, and of course you may want to buy some souvenirs.

Do I need a visa? Yes, all high school exchange students must apply for a student visa before entering France. Andeo and the organization in France will provide applicants with the necessary documentation after acceptance to the program. Students are responsible for submitting this documentation to the correct French Consulate. Residents from most states must apply *in person* at their designated consulate.

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