

City/Cité
Cultural and Professional Exchange Program in France:
An Exploration of Architecture and Urban Planning

Program 2024
FAQs

Do I need to speak French?

The City/Cité Program in France is open to all students, no matter your level of French or field of study. However, your level of French and the relevance between your field of study and the selected internship projects will be considered during the selection process.

Will I get a stipend?

Internships under two months are usually unpaid in France; therefore, you will probably not be receiving a stipend during your internship. Candidates are encouraged to apply for funding through their university.

Will I pay for my flight?

Yes, you will be responsible to book your own plane tickets from the United States to Paris airport. Make sure that the total duration of your stay in France is less than 90 days.

Will I pay for my accommodation?

Yes, you will be responsible to pay your accommodation rentals. An average short-term accommodation rate per month in Paris for a studio is around \$1200 and around \$800 for a room in a shared flat. Studio apartment at a special rate (45€/night: 1845€ for the 6 weeks) will be available at the [Maison des Arts & Metiers](#) in the [Cité Internationale Universitaire de Paris](#).

How is the program set up?

The City/Cité program kicks off on June 2nd with an introductory week including seminars, tours and group workshops at prestigious French schools and museums of architecture and urban planning. Then, you will be able to do a 5-weeks internship in an urban planning institution or an architectural agency from June 10th until 12st of July.

Is my university eligible?

Every American university is eligible to our City/Cité Program. Therefore, any undergraduate, graduate or doctoral student who is studying architecture, urban planning or design from any American university may apply to our program. Priority will be given to partner universities (*Centres d'excellence*), but all applications will be carefully considered. Underserved communities are highly encouraged to apply.

Do I have to be American to participate in the program?

No, you do not have to be an American to participate in the program. If you are not an American or an EU citizen, please contact us so that we can check visa requirements with you. Please note that an extra fee related to the visa procedure may apply for non-American or EU citizens. The Cultural Services office is not responsible for any delays or visa rejections.

Do I need a visa to get to France?

If you have a valid US passport, you do not need a visa for the City/Cité Program in France. However, please note that you will only be allowed to stay in France (and the Schengen zone) for up to 90 days. Non-EU citizens need a visa to stay longer in the French/ Schengen territory.

How are applications evaluated?

The selection committee will evaluate the coherence of the candidate academic background and internship choices. Each candidate will also have to explain their motivation and interest in the program, France, and the selected internships.

Can couples/friends apply?

Yes, couples and friends can apply. However, relationships between participants will not be taken into account during the selection process.

What is the estimated cost of living in the host city?

We recommend you having at least 1,000€ (≈ \$1,100) with you for the cost of living during the six weeks of the program, excluding flight ticket and accommodation.

Can I study French while during the program?

Of course, and we encourage you to do so. There are several good language schools in Paris and six weeks is just enough to get good foundation in French! As long as your courses do not interfere with your internship, taking French courses is permitted and highly encouraged.

May I arrive before/after the starting date and/or leave before/after the finishing date?

Selected candidates are expected to be at their host city for the entirety of the program to attend all activities planned and the complete the entire length of their internship. You can choose to arrive a few days before and leave a few days after if you would like, although the length of your stay in France must not exceed 90 days.

Will I be able to change my internship if I do not like it?

The committee will make sure to select candidates according to their academic and professional background in order to match the internship project. For that reason, we will not be able to change the host institution after the participant confirms their place in the program.

May I travel in France during my stay?

Yes, and we encourage you to explore France and Europe on weekends and during your free time. You will have at least two days off per week. Note that with an American driving license, you are able to rent a car in France, or you may also use France's train system to travel to other cities in a few hours. You also have the option to fly from your local airport to visit other parts of France and other European cities. As France is within the Schengen zone, entering France also gives you access to 22 other countries in Europe.

Can I get a side job before/during/after my internship?

You will not be able to work nor receive any form of salary during your stay in France.

Can I expect to be recruited by the host company after my internship?

The City/Cité Program offers the opportunity to engage in a project that will have a real impact on urban making. This project addresses a precise and identified need of the institution and for that reason; this internship is not meant to become a permanent position within the institution.