

Summer Academy in Paris: Architecture and urban studies
2025 Program
FAQs

Do I need to speak French?

The Summer Academy Program in France is open to all students, regardless of their level of French. Although proficiency in French is not required, knowledge of French can be an advantage for certain internships."

Will I get a stipend?

Host companies may choose to pay interns; however, they are not legally required to do so for internships lasting less than two months. You are therefore encouraged to apply for funding through your university.

Will I pay for my flight?

Yes, you are responsible for booking your own plane tickets from the United States to Paris and from Paris to the US. Make sure that your presence allows you to participate in the entire program (June 23 – August 1, 2025), and that the total duration of your stay in France remains under 90 days.

Will I pay for my accommodation?

The \$500 participation fee covers all accommodation expenses from Sunday June 22 to Saturday August 2, 2025, at the Maison des Élèves Ingénieurs Arts et Métiers, located within the Cité Internationale Universitaire de Paris (1 avenue Pierre Masse, 75014 Paris). You will be provided with an individual studio equipped with a kitchen, sink, shower, and WC. Learn more about the residence on their website: [Maison des Élèves Ingénieurs Arts et Métiers](#).

If you prefer to arrange your own accommodation, you will be fully responsible for finding and paying for it. Please note that the \$500 fee remains mandatory regardless of your accommodation choice.

How is the program set up?

The City/Cité program begins on June 23rd with an introductory week including seminars, tours and group workshops at prestigious French institutions, schools and architectural and construction sites (detailed schedules and specific activities will be shared closer to the start date). Then, you will be hosted by a public or private organization specialized in architecture or urban planning to complete a 5-week internship, from June 27th until August 1st.

Is my university eligible?

Every American university is eligible to our Summer Academy Program. Therefore, any undergraduate (senior only), master or PhD student studying architecture or urban planning at any American university may apply. Pell grant students 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 citizen to participate in the program. If you are neither an American nor a EU citizen, please contact to verify visa requirements with you. Please note that

an extra fee related to the visa procedure may apply for non-American or non-EU citizens. Villa Albertine is not responsible for any delays or visa denials.

Do I need a visa to get to France?

If you hold a valid US passport, no visa is required for the Summer Academy 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 assessed?

The selection committee will assess the consistency between the applicant's academic background, technical skills and experience, and the internships for which they are applying. It will also analyze the reasons why the candidate wishes to take part in this program and how it fits in with his or her academic and professional project

Can couples/friends apply?

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

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

We recommend planning at least 1,000€ (about \$1,040) for living expenses during the six weeks of the program, excluding flight ticket and transportation in Paris.

Can I study French during the program?

Of course, we encourage you to do so. There are several excellent 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 in Paris for the entirety of the program to attend all activities planned and to complete the entire duration of their internship. You may choose to arrive a few days earlier or leave a few days later, but your total stay in France must not exceed 90 days. Please note that if you arrive before June 22nd or leave after August 2nd, you will be responsible for arranging and paying for accommodation for the extra days. You will not be able to stay at the Maison des Élèves Ingénieurs Arts et Métiers outside the program dates.

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

The selection committee will carefully match candidates with internship opportunities based on their academic background, experience, skills, professional interests, and program objectives. This assignment proposal will be submitted to the internship manager for approval. You will receive an internship placement that aligns with your qualifications and interests and no requests for changes will be considered.

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?

This internship is not meant to become a permanent position within the host organization.