

2026 Summer Academy in Architecture and Urban Studies

FAQs

❖ Practical issues

Do I need a visa to travel to France?

If you hold a valid U.S. passport, no visa is required to participate in the Summer Academy Program in France. You may stay in France and the Schengen Area for up to 90 days without a visa.

Please make sure your passport was issued within the last 10 years and remains valid for at least three months after July 31, 2026.

If you are not American, please check if you need a visa to enter France (see webpage: <https://france-visas.gouv.fr/en/web/france-visas/visa-application-guidelines>).

Administrative procedures are simple and straightforward, and our team will provide laureates with useful guidance.

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

No, you do not have to be an American citizen to participate. If you are neither an American nor an EU citizen, please check the visa requirements for your nationality. Please note that an additional fee may apply for non-American or non-EU participants. Villa Albertine is not responsible for any delays or visa denials.

Is my university eligible?

Yes. Every American university is eligible for the Summer Academy Program. Any master's student studying architecture or urban planning at a U.S. university may apply. Pell Grant students are highly encouraged to apply.

Do I need to speak French?

The program is open to all students, regardless of their level of French. Although proficiency in French is not required, having some knowledge of the language can be a plus.

Can I study French during the program?

Yes, as long as your French courses do not interfere with your internship schedule.

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

Selected candidates are expected to attend all activities and complete the full internship duration. You may arrive a few days earlier or leave later, but your total stay must remain under 90 days. Accommodation is provided only from May 31 to August 1, 2026; any extra days are at your own expense.

May I travel in France during my stay?

Yes, and you are encouraged to do so during your free time. Traveling within the Schengen Area is possible without additional documentation.

What are the housing conditions at the Maison des Élèves Ingénieurs Arts et Métiers?

Security and on-site supervision are ensured 24/7. All rooms are single-occupancy, and hosting outside guests is not permitted. The residence is not air-conditioned (fans provided if needed), and residents are responsible for cleaning their rooms and taking out trash. Common areas are cleaned weekly. No gym or hotel-style services are provided.

Can couples/friends apply?

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

❖ [Internship](#)

How is the program set up?

The program begins on June 1 with an introductory week featuring seminars, tours, and group workshops at prestigious French institutions, firms, and construction sites. From June 8 to July 31, participants will complete an 8-week internship in a public or private organization specializing in architecture or urban planning.

Who in my university must sign the internship agreement?

Anyone authorized to sign internship agreements at your university (such as the university president or the director of the internship office) may do so.

How are applications assessed?

The selection committee evaluates the consistency between the applicant's academic background, technical skills, and the available internships. It also considers the applicant's motivation and how the program aligns with their academic and professional goals.

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

Placements are carefully matched based on candidates' profiles, experience, and interests. Once the placement is confirmed, no changes will be considered. Every effort will be made to align your assignment with your preferences, but placements depend on availability.

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

No. Participants are not allowed to work or receive any form of salary during their stay in France.

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

No. The internship is strictly educational and does not lead to a permanent position within the host organization.

❖ [Financial issues](#)

Do I need to pay to apply?

No. Only laureates will be required to pay a \$500 participation fee once selected.

If I am a laureate, how will I pay the \$500 fee?

Payment will be made through Université Gustave Eiffel's online platform. Laureates will receive detailed instructions once selected.

Will I get a stipend?

No, participants will not receive a stipend during the program. Because this is a short-term stay without a visa, interns are not eligible for financial compensation from host institutions.

Will I pay for my flight?

Yes. Participants are responsible for booking their own round-trip flight between the United States and Paris. Make sure your travel dates allow you to participate in the full program (June 1–July 31, 2026) and that your total stay in France remains under 90 days. You are encouraged to seek funding support from your university.

Will I pay for my accommodation?

No, accommodation is included in the \$500 participation fee, which covers housing from May 31 to August 1, 2026, at the Maison des Élèves Ingénieurs Arts et Métiers (Cité Internationale Universitaire de Paris).

Each participant will have a private studio with a kitchen, shower, and WC.

If you prefer to find your own accommodation, you will be responsible for all related arrangements and expenses. Please note that the \$500 fee remains mandatory.

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

We recommend budgeting at least 1,200€ (around \$1,410) for living expenses during the nine weeks of the program, excluding flights and local transportation.