

## Academic Bulletin for Paris, France 2025-26

### Introduction

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The Academic Bulletin is the CSU International Programs (IP) “catalog” and provides academic information about the program in Paris, France. This bulletin supersedes any previous bulletin(s) published .

CSU IP participants must read this publication in conjunction with the Academic Guide for CSU IP Participants (also known as the “Academic Guide”). The Academic Guide contains academic policies which will be applied to all IP participants while abroad. Topics include but are not limited to CSU Registration, Enrollment Requirements, Minimum/Maximum Unit Load in a Semester, Attendance, Examinations, Assignment of Grades, Grading Symbols, Credit/No Credit Option, Course Withdrawals, and other policies. The Academic Guide also contains information on academic planning, how courses get credited to your degree, and the academic reporting process including when to expect your academic report at the end of your studies abroad.

To access the *Academic Guide*, go to our [website](#) and click the year which pertains to your study abroad period. For general information about the Paris Program, refer to the CSU IP website under “[Programs](#)”.

### Academic Program Information

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CSU IP is affiliated with *Mission Interuniversitaire de Coordination des Échanges Franco-Américains* (MICEFA), the academic exchange organization of the cooperating institutions of the Universities of Paris listed below.

CY Cergy Paris Université	Université Gustave Eiffel
De Vinci Higher Education	Université Paris Panthéon-Assas
École Normale Supérieure Paris-Saclay (ENS)	Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne
Institut Catholique de Paris (ICP)	Université Paris 8 Vincennes-Saint-Denis
Institut Polytechnique des Sciences Avancées (IPSA)	Université Paris Cité
Institut Supérieur d’Électronique de Paris (ISEP)	Université Paris Nanterre
Sciences Politiques Saint-Germain-En-Laye	Université Paris-Est Créteil-Val-de-Marne (UPEC)
Sorbonne Université (Lettres/ Sciences)	Université Paris-Saclay
Université de Versailles Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines (UVSQ)	Université Sorbonne Nouvelle
	Université Sorbonne Paris Nord

### Program Requirements

Through MICEFA, CSU IP students participate in one of the program options listed below. All students, regardless of their selected program, are required to complete the following:

1. An Intensive language program (ILP) at the beginning of their studies in which units are applied towards the unit total for the semester directly following the course. Students starting their program in the fall are enrolled in a three-week, three-unit ILP and students starting their program in the spring are enrolled in a two-week, two-unit ILP.
2. A minimum of two units in French language which are specific courses in grammar, composition and/or conversation. Courses may be taken through MICEFA or the host university.
3. Units to a total of 15 CSU semester units. Students in Paris will be allowed to take a minimum of 14 units per semester without obtaining approval from CSU IP via petition as long as students check with their home CSU campus to ensure that this is allowed.

**Intensive Language Program (ILP)**

As stated above, all students enroll in a three-week or two-week ILP conducted by MICEFA before the semester starts in which units are applied towards the semester following the course. The ILP includes orientation sessions in addition to daily French language courses. Students will be introduced to French culture via group activities and outings, some of which may take place on weekends. During this program, students will begin enrolling in a course of study primarily within the regular departments of one of the institutions in the MICEFA network.

Generally, the ILP meets Monday to Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (with some variations) and takes place from the end of August to early September for students who begin their program in the fall. The ILP takes place in January for students beginning their program in the spring semester and may overlap with the start of the spring semester classes depending on the university. (Students at certain universities may need to set up alternative learning options for ILP courses with MICEFA if French university classes overlap. It is the student’s responsibility to communicate this to MICEFA.)

Students who study for more than one semester are exempt from the ILP requirement in the subsequent semester but are still required to enroll in the equivalent of 14 CSU semester units.

**Program Options**

**1. Study in English Program.** In addition to French language courses, students enroll in courses which are taught in English. This program is available to students with or without prior study of French.

**2. Study in French Program.** Students with at least four semesters of French language enroll in courses taught in French in their field of study alongside other French students. Courses available to them will be determined by their level of French proficiency as per their placement test results. Students are also permitted to take up to two courses in English if available at their host university.

Below is a sample of the number of units that first and single semester students would normally take each semester in each program offered. Note that there are some variances in the number of units that students would take in some categories depending on unit variances amongst courses, language proficiency and course availability.

Course Category	Fall Semester	Spring Semester
Intensive language course	3 units	2 units
French language (grammar, composition, conversation+)	2 units	2 units
Courses taught in English and/or French (depending on student’s French language proficiency)	9 units	10 units
Minimum Unit total	14 units	14 units

+French language courses must be specific courses in grammar, composition and/or conversation for a minimum of 2 units.

\*Students may be able to enroll in a limited number of units in the course category, subject to course availability/offerings and language proficiency.

Students who study for one academic year may switch or combine options in their second semester of study, taking courses in both English and/or French while enrolling in language and culture courses. This is dependent on French language proficiency and academic goals.

**Course Load and Enrollment**

While CSU IP requires that CSU IP students enroll in a minimum of 15 units per semester, it may not be possible for students in Paris to meet this requirement due to variable units assigned to some classes. Therefore, students in

Paris will be allowed to take a minimum of 14 units per semester without obtaining approval from CSU IP via petition as long as students check with their home CSU campus to ensure that this is allowed.

Students are permitted to take up to 20 units (which includes the ILP in the first semester) without requesting approval from CSU IP if allowed by MICEFA and the host university. Students should be cautioned, however, from taking excessive units. Students usually enroll in four to eight classes each semester depending on the number of units per class.

### **Post-Acceptance Timeline**

Unlike most other CSU IP programs, students apply to the CSU IP Universities of Paris Program rather than to a specific university. Below is the sequence of events after CSU IP accepts students to the Universities of Paris Program.

1. Admittance to MICEFA. Following acceptance to CSU IP, students are admitted to MICEFA. This usually occurs in May for students beginning in the fall semester, and November for students beginning in the spring.
2. French Language Placement Exam. After MICEFA admits students, students are given five days to take a French language placement test.
3. Mandatory Online Interview and University Placement. MICEFA arranges online interviews with the Director of Student Affairs and/or Executive Director at MICEFA to discuss the students' academic goals and identifies the French university that best fits with the students' objectives given their French language skills. Due to the time difference between California and Paris, online interviews will always be scheduled between 7:00am and 10:00am PDT/PST. At this meeting, it will be determined which Parisian university students will attend so it is crucial that students attend this meeting on time and be clear about what their academic objectives are.
4. Preliminary Course Selection and Approvals. Following the online interview, MICEFA emails the students a selection of courses from the previous year for the university in which they have been placed, if available. Students will meet with their home campus advisors to discuss which courses fit their degree objectives and obtain preliminary course approvals. Note that the course schedules for the upcoming term will not be available until a week before the semester begins (September for fall, and January for spring).
5. Course Registration. MICEFA will email students the instructions for getting registered at their host French university. This is often via an online platform and must be completed by the stipulated deadline. At this time, for some universities, students may be asked to fill out a pre-registration form listing all courses they are interested in. This list can be modified after arrival, once course schedules are posted.
6. Reconfirm Course Approvals. At the start of the semester, students will contact their home campus advisors with updated course descriptions and reconfirm course approvals. Students have approximately two weeks to consult with their advisors on which courses they should enroll in that would fulfill degree requirements. Please note, detailed syllabi are not available prior to the beginning of the semester.

When making course selections students should seek advice primarily from the Director of Student Affairs at MICEFA, and home CSU campus advisors. As university courses change from year to year, pre-departure advising is difficult; therefore, it is important that students and advisors are flexible in course selections.

### **Guide to Parisian Institutions**

Below is the guide to the institutions that are available to CSU IP participants that outlines which institutions offer courses in English and which institutions offer French language courses at the various language levels.

## French Level by University

Institution in the MICEFA Network	French Language (FLE)	Language Level Needed to Attend the University						Courses in English
		A0	A1	A2	B1	B2	C1	
		True Beginner	Beginner	Lower Intermediate	Upper Intermediate	Advanced	Very Advanced	
CY Cergy Paris Université	X			X	X	X	X	X
De Vinci Higher Education	X	Varies	X	X	X	X	X	X
Ecole Normale Supérieur Paris-Saclay (ENS)				Varies	Varies	X	X	X
Institut Catholique de Paris (ICP)	X		X	X	X	X	X	X
Institut Polytechniques des Sciences Avancées (IPSA)		Varies	Varies	X	X	X	X	X
Institut Supérieur d'Electronique de Paris (ISEP)	X	Varies	X	X	X	X	X	X
Science Politiques Saint-Germain-En-Lay	*Limited	Varies	Varies	X	X	X	X	X
Sorbonne Université (Lettres)	X					X	X	Limited
Sorbonne Université (Sciences)							X	
Université de Versailles Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines (UVSQ)	X			X	X	X	X	X
Université Gustave Eiffel	*Limited				X	X	X	Limited
Universtié Paris Panthéon-Assas	Limited				X	X	X	Limited
Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne							X	
Université Paris 8 - Vincennes-Saint-Denis	X		Varies	X	X	X	X	Limited
Université Paris Cité	X	Varies	X	X	X	X	X	X
Université Paris Nanterre	X	Varies	X	X	X	X	X	X
Université Paris-Est Créteil Val-de-Marne (UPEC)	X	Varies	X	X	X	X	X	X
Université Paris-Saclay					X	X	X	Limited
Université Sorbonne Nouvelle	X				X	X	X	X
Université Sorbonne Paris Nord	*Limited			X	X	X	X	Limited

\*General French Language Course (mixed levels) available. Classes are usually between 1.5 and 3 hours per week.

In the above table, the first column, French Language (FLE) indicates which institutions offer “French as a Foreign Language” courses to international students. The table also indicates the language levels offered by each institution as defined by the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR).

The CEFR has three broad categories divided into six common language levels which are widely accepted as the global standard for measuring an individual's language proficiency. These six language levels are expressed as A1, A2, B1, B2, C1, and C2 which may also have sub-levels in between levels such as A1.1, A1.2, A2.1, A2.2, etc.

Language levels are defined as follows:

- A0: No prior French language experience is required.
- A1: Beginner. Prerequisite is one to two semesters of prior study in French language or as determined by French placement test.
- A2: Elementary/Upper beginner. Prerequisite is two to three semesters of prior study of French language or as determined by French placement test.
- B1: Intermediate. Prerequisite is three to four semesters of prior study in French language or determined by French placement test.
- B2: High Intermediate. Four or more semesters of prior study in French language; determined by French placement test.
- C1: Advanced. Five or more semesters of prior study in French language or as determined by French placement test.
- C2: Very Advanced. Six or more semesters of prior study in French language or as determined by French placement test.

Levels A0 to A2 are usually considered lower division at the CSU while levels B1 to C2 are considered upper division credit, with some exceptions. There can be variances amongst language levels taught amongst different institutions depending on instruction, instructional hours, workload, etc.

## Course Registration

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### Course Enrollment at a Parisian Institution

Prior to arrival in Paris, students will have registered with their French university as an incoming student and may have provided a list of potential courses. After arriving in Paris, students will have the opportunity to visit their Paris campus during the French university's orientation, at which time, they will be able to visit the international offices, view courses and schedules, and have discussions with professors and/or university staff.

While a few French universities have put in place an online registration system for classes, the majority still rely on physical registration in the individual departments. All universities have set registration periods that open at the same time to all students – usually one to two weeks before the first class (typically September for the fall semester and January for spring semester). Students visit each department and can discuss the courses they wish to take with department heads and professors to make sure that certain classes fit their needs. In these systems, the sign up must be done in person by the student in possession of his or her French university student ID card. Any changes to their course schedule (as listed in the CSU IP Registration Form) must be first discussed with the Director of Student Affairs at MICEFA.

After approximately two weeks of classes, students meet with the Director of Student Affairs to prepare for the CSU IP registration process and complete the CSU IP Registration and Course Description Forms.

The fall semester begins mid-September or early October, depending on the campus, and ends at the end of December or early January with some exceptions. The spring semester typically begins in January and concludes in May or June. (Exception: ISEP, IPSA, and ENS courses in the fall usually finish at the end of January.)

Taking classes at more than one university simultaneously is not permitted. However, switching campuses from one semester to another is possible depending on the student's academic goals.

### Course Listings

Local French students (not international students) follow designated tracks (course lists) specific for their major for the duration of their undergraduate course of study. It is for this reason that courses are rarely published in advance and why timetables are only announced at a later date. International students (such as CSU IP students) are usually free to pick and choose their courses from multiple departments, but this also means that it is up to

each student to make sure there are no time conflicts between departments.

International students can access course listings and times, which are usually made available during the French University's registration week, that is, one week prior to the beginning of class. There are certain courses specifically aimed at international students that may be published in advance, but class meeting times will only be available during the official registration period.

CSU IP students will be able to access a listing of specific courses (content/descriptions, hours/unit values, etc.) the week before each semester starts. At that time, students communicate with their home CSU campus advisors to decide on which courses they should enroll in for their major/minor, GE electives, etc.

## **General Academic Information**

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This section provides academic information relevant to studying in Paris, France.

### **Academic Culture**

French students learn at a young age that the professor is there for them only during class time. Outside of that structure, the professor does not generally interact with students. Professors in France tend to be far less accessible than U.S. faculty members. Generally, there are no set office hours, and most of the time professors do not have an office on campus. Also, they occasionally cancel classes or change meeting times with no prior warning. Students are expected to take responsibility for pursuing their own learning during any breaks in regular class meetings. In general professors expect that students have learned how to study with little direction in the high school years, so that when they ask their students to "read" Chapter X for the next meeting, they actually mean for the students to "master the content of Chapter X" for next time. This might involve doing related exercises independently and/or performing extra research if not familiar with a term or concept.

### **Course Levels**

Typically, first-year, introductory non-language courses taken at Paris institutions are considered lower division, and second and third-year courses are considered upper division with some exceptions depending on course content. M1 courses are more advanced and considered equivalent to senior level-upper division courses or graduate-level courses.

### **Course Structure**

There are two main types of courses within the French university system. One type, called *cours magistral* (CM), consists of a series of lectures held in *amphithéâtres* built for large audiences. The lectures present a broad theoretical analysis of major issues and trends in the given field. Often there are no syllabi, course readers, or published course notes available.

Although assigned homework is rare, professors do provide extensive bibliographies from which students are expected to select books to read. Students are usually not provided with a schedule of reading assignments. On the final exam, students may be asked to present a broad, conceptual analysis of a given question based on lectures and independent reading. Students must work to attain a comprehensive knowledge of the subject through a rigorous and judicious choice of reading materials.

A second type of course, the *travaux dirigés* (TD) is conducted in smaller groups and follows more closely the pedagogical pattern practiced in American universities. There is usually a *contrôle continu* structure, which means that your grade relies on different factors (attendance, participation, homework, and tests/exams).

Other types of courses include the *laboratoires* (laboratory), mainly for the Languages and Sciences, while at the graduate level the *séminaire* (research seminar) is the usual mode of instruction.

Generally, courses meet once a week for one, one-and-a-half, or two hours, but there are many exceptions to the rule (especially for business schools). CMs are usually supplemented by TDs. Year-long courses still exist in some universities, but most use a semester system. Courses often have a general title, but the specific content, methodologies, and approach may vary from year to year. It is not unusual for a course to follow an irregular meeting schedule.

### Course Syllabi

American-style syllabi are rare in France. Professors may provide a general description of the course, a breakdown of the grading system, a recommended reading list, or, sometimes, nothing at all. Often a one-paragraph course description will be available on the departmental bulletin-board or website. While in Paris, the Director of Student Affairs assists students in creating a detailed Course Description using a CSU-IP template. Students are advised ahead of time to compile a folder for each course, keeping all class documents, homework assignments, and quizzes.

### English-Taught Courses

Several universities offer courses taught in English. These courses are considered mainstream courses as students will be integrating a classroom of other French and/or international students. English language departments can be found at most universities though some Parisian universities propose full English language curriculums ranging from humanities to business and political science. Students may take a mix of English, French, and FLE courses at the same university. Final course offerings are not always posted online so actual courses may vary. Below is a sample listing of some institutions offering courses taught in English. Where available, links to websites are provided below.

Humanities (American and British Studies, Literature, History, and Film/Media Studies):

- [Institut Catholique de Paris](#)
- [Université Paris Cité](#)
- [Université Paris Nanterre](#)
- [Université Gustave Eiffel](#)

Political Sciences: Political Science, and Global/International Studies:

- [CY Cergy Paris Université / Science Politiques Saint-Germain-En-Laye \(UCP\)](#)

Business (Business, Finance, Management, Marketing and Economics):

- [De Vinci Higher Education](#)
- [Université Paris-Est Créteil Val de Marne \(UPEC\)](#)
- [Université Paris Nanterre](#)
- [Université Gustave Eiffel](#)

Engineering and Technology (Computer Science):

- [De Vinci Higher Education](#)
- [Institut Supérieur d'Electronique de Paris \(ISEP\)](#)
- [Institut Polytechniques des Sciences Avancées \(IPSA\)](#)

### French Language Courses

French as a Foreign Language courses are offered for international students at most universities. The general term used to refer to foreign language courses is FLE (Français Langue Etrangère). The instruction method of FLE courses tends to follow a way of teaching, which is more familiar to American students and includes homework assignments, quizzes, participation, projects, etc.

Placement at the appropriate level of these courses will be based on the student's proficiency determined after the intensive language course. Year-long students are required to continue with taking one or two of these types of courses in their second semester. Students will be placed in an appropriate level for the FLE classes if they continue at the same university.

During the semester, students follow an appropriate course of study according to their competence in French language skills. Even the most advanced students should plan on taking a minimum of one language class per semester. MICEFA also offers multi-level language courses. Students who have advanced language proficiency may opt to enroll directly in courses at any of the member universities listed above. Students enrolling directly in

courses outside of the French for non-native speakers are given no preference or special treatment as international students.

### “Mainstream” Courses

These are regular university courses in which professors do not consider an international student’s language level when teaching their courses and can be taught in French and/or English. American students should expect to be graded on the same criteria as their French classmates. Students wishing to pursue these courses taught in French should have advanced French language proficiency skills.

### MICEFA Courses

A selection of courses is offered every semester by MICEFA. These courses typically start one to two weeks after the regular semester begins in the Parisian universities. These courses act as a bridge between the American and French system of teaching while also catering to a certain French level as in a FLE class.

Semester students and year-long students in their first semester of study may enroll in up to two MICEFA courses depending on availability, number of courses offered and enrollment numbers. Students who study for one academic year may typically enroll in only one MICEFA course in the second semester. These courses are published in advance on MICEFA’s [website](#) and can usually be sent to the students during the online interviews. (Please note, MICEFA course offerings may be subject to change due to enrollment.) Unlike French universities, MICEFA courses do come with American style syllabi which are usually handed out during the first week of class and are available upon request.

### Sports Courses

Sports classes are available at many of the Paris university campuses; however, academic credit will not be offered unless they relate directly to the student’s academic program (for example, dance classes for dance majors). Sports course listings can be found in the S.U.A.P.S. department (Service Universitaire des Activités Physiques et Sportives). In most cases, participation in sports at a French university will require a nominal annual fee (approximately 35 euros) plus a recent doctor’s note in French (*certificat médical*) indicating that you do not have any health conditions affecting sports participation.

### “Système D”

Students in French universities often rely on the “Système D,” which stands for “Débrouillardise,” a French national concept that basically means self-reliance and finding ways to solve or work out a problem in a clever, inventive way. Building a network of peers can help with sharing information or with forming study groups. This is a definite component of “Système D.”

### Unit Values

Unit values for standard exchange French university courses are determined by the number of “contact hours” (or lecture hours) the course has. Most courses meet from one to five hours per week with the majority meeting between one and a half and three hours per week during the semester. The unit/course hour breakdown for semester-long courses is as follows:

<u>Average Hours per Week</u>	<u>Total Semester Hours</u>	<u>CSU Units</u>
1.0	<15	1.0
1.5	15-21	1.5
2.0	22-27	2.0
2.5	28-32	2.5
3.0	33-39	3.0
3.5	40-44	3.5
4.0	45-51	4.0

Generally, a course that meets for one hour each week over an 11-14-week semester will receive one unit of credit with some exceptions. In certain universities (such as UPEC and Sciences Po especially) courses can be held in a condensed period of time, meeting multiple times per week. In such cases, the total number of contact hours will determine the number of units earned.

### University Calendars

Academic calendars are typically available a few weeks prior to the beginning of the fall semester. Most universities begin their fall semester by mid-September and end in December or early January\*. The second semester typically starts mid-January and finishes in May. An average semester at a French university can be anywhere from 11 to 14 weeks. Each university will have its own specific calendar including start and end dates and semester breaks. Sometimes, individual courses at the same university may have their own particular schedule. (\*Exception: ISEP, IPSA, and ENS Fall courses usually finish at the end of January.)

### University Libraries

Most French university libraries are lightly staffed, have limited access hours, and are usually smaller than most American university libraries. Borrowing a book is not always easy, and students consistently report that borrowing books and the course registration process are two of the biggest challenges they face in the French system. This situation is also why French students often rely on public libraries. Paris offers wonderful city libraries where students may conduct research as well. To access a list of Parisian libraries, go to <https://bibliotheques.paris.fr/>.

### Grading

Below is the grade conversion that is used to convert grades earned at any of the partner institutions in Paris to CSU.

<b>*French for Foreigners &amp; English Taught Courses</b>			<b>**Mainstream Courses (Not Taught in English)</b>			<b>***Mainstream Science &amp; Math Courses</b>		
A	=	15+	A	=	14+	A	=	13+
A-	=	14	A-	=	13	A-	=	12
B+	=	13	B+	=	12	B+	=	11
B	=	12	B	=	11	B	=	10
B-	=	11	B-	=	10	B-	=	9
C+	=	10	C+	=	9	C+	=	8
C	=	9	C	=	8	C	=	7
C-	=	8	C-	=	7	C-	=	6
D+	=	7	D+	=	6	D+	=	5
D	=	6	D	=	5	D	=	4
D-	=	5	D-	=	4	D-	=	3
F	=	≥ 4.5	F	=	≥ 3.5	F	=	≥ 2.5

The CSU grade of WU (Withdrawal Unauthorized) may be given in some circumstances. Refer to the Academic Guide for additional grade information.<sup>1</sup>

Note that when converting French numeric grades to CSU grades, French grades are not rounded up. For example, a numeric grade of 13.9 would receive the same CSU letter grade as the numeric grade of 13.

Normally, the professor awards the student a certain number out of 20 (i.e., 12/20). This number is not a percentage as it might be in the US where 75% is considered a C grade but rather it is more of a qualitative

<sup>1</sup> This bulletin has been updated to clarify guidance regarding the assignment of the CSU grade of WU (Withdrawal Unauthorized). This clarification does not constitute a change in policy.

evaluation. So, multiplying the number awarded by 5 to find the U.S. equivalent will not work at all. In the case given above, the 12/20 would become a 60% (a very poor grade) while it is in fact more than a passing grade. Content, level, reputation of the university and type of course can also factor in to “translating” a French grade back to the U.S. system.

## Special Accommodations

It is important for students to understand that if they require special accommodation, they must collaborate with their respective Parisian universities to determine the specific procedures involved. Each university may have its distinct requirements. In certain cases, a doctor's appointment may be necessary, and relying solely on CSU paperwork might not suffice. The process can be lengthy, so students should start the process as soon as they arrive in France.

For MICEFA courses, it is crucial to communicate any relevant paperwork from the CSU to your professors at the start of the semester. This proactive approach will facilitate a smoother process and ensure that your needs are adequately addressed.

## Universities of Paris

While the Universities of Paris consist of separately administered institutions, MICEFA coordinates international exchange for universities (and their specialties) listed below. Also refer to the F

### CY Cergy Paris Université

<https://www.cyu.fr>

Specializes in history and international studies. Other courses include biology, business, chemistry, civil engineering, communication, computer science, earth sciences, economics, electrical engineering, foreign languages, civilization and literature, geography and urban planning, life sciences, mathematics, performing arts, physics, and public administration.

### Da Vinci Higher Education

<https://www.devinci.fr/en/>

Specializes in international business and engineering courses taught in English. Also, offers multi-level FLE courses.

### École Normale Supérieure Paris-Saclay (ENS)

<http://ens-paris-saclay.fr/>

Specializes in the natural sciences, engineering, and social science in a research-intensive environment.

### Institut Catholique de Paris (ICP)

<http://www.icp.fr>

Specializes in art history, history, and literature taught in English and has a very developed French as a Foreign Language department. Courses are also available in documentation, education, foreign language, philosophy, religious studies, and social sciences.

### Institut Polytechnique des Sciences Avancées (IPSA)

<https://www.ipsa.fr/en/>

Highly specialized engineering and aeronautics school.

### Institut Supérieur d'Électronique de Paris (ISEP)

<http://en.isep.fr/>

Highly specialized engineering school with a focus on information technology, electronics, telecommunications

and multimedia. Computer Science courses offered in English.

### Science Politiques Saint-Germain-En-Laye

<https://www.sciencespo-saintgermainenlaye.fr>

Specializes in political science courses with many offerings in English.

### Sorbonne Université-Lettres et Sciences

<https://www.sorbonne-universite.fr>

Sorbonne Lettres, reserved for B2+ French students, specializes in art history, French and other European languages, civilization and literature, history, music and musicology. Other courses include archaeology, classical studies, communication, geography, philosophy, and sociology.

Sorbonne Sciences specializes in math, science, and technology. Courses are also available in biology, chemistry, computer science, earth sciences, electrical and mechanical engineering, and physics. Fluent French is usually required.

### Université de Versailles Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines (UVSQ)

<http://www.uvsq.fr/>

Specializes in business, literature, political science, and sociology. Courses also available in art, biology, chemistry, computer science, earth sciences, economics, European and International Studies, foreign languages, French as a Foreign Language, geography and urban planning, health and medicine, history, kinesiology and physical education, law, life sciences, management, mathematics, music, musicology, physics, public administration, science and technology.

**Université Gustave Eiffel**

<https://www.univ-gustave-eiffel.fr/>

Specializes in Science and technology, engineering, tourism and hospitality studies. Courses also available in business, chemistry, cinema and audiovisual, computer science, economics, fine arts, foreign languages, civilization, and literature, French as a Foreign Language, geography and urban planning, history, kinesiology and physical education, mathematics, music/musicology, physics, social sciences, and sociology.

**Université Paris Panthéon-Assas**

<https://www.u-paris2.fr/fr>

University specializing in law, economics, and political science. Some offerings in English.

**Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne**

<https://www.pantheonsorbonne.fr>

Specializations include European social and political studies, international relations, and economics. Courses are also available in archeology, art history, business administration and management, cinema and audiovisual studies, fine arts, geography and urban planning, mathematics, philosophy, and sociology.

**Université Paris 8 - Vincennes-Saint-Denis**

<http://www.univ-paris8.fr/>

Specializes in art, cinema, and French as a Foreign Language. Other courses include business administration, computer science, education, European and international studies, European languages, civilization, and literature, history, linguistics, mathematics, music, musicology, performing arts, philosophy, photography, political science, and psychology.

**Université Paris Cité** <https://u-paris.fr/en/>

Specializes in Asian and European languages, civilization, literature, and economics. Courses are also available in chemistry, cinema, computer science, earth sciences, French as a Foreign Language, literature, geography, history, life sciences, linguistics, physics, psychology, and sociology. Offers a range of humanities courses in English.

**Université Paris Nanterre**

<https://www.parisnanterre.fr>

Specializations include business, communication, history, and foreign languages. Courses also available in

anthropology, art history, cinema, classical studies, economics, engineering, foreign languages, French as a Foreign Language, geography, history, kinesiology and physical education, literature, philosophy, psychology, public administration, sociology, and theater. Large number of courses in English offered.

**Université Paris-Est Créteil Val-de-Marne (UPEC)**

<http://www.u-pec.fr/>

Specializations include sciences and international business. Courses also available in architecture, arts and cultural management, cinema and audiovisual studies, communication, computer science, economics, education, electrical, French as a Foreign Language, industrial and mechanical engineering, European languages, civilization, and literature, earth science, geography, history, life sciences, mathematics, music, philosophy, physics, political science, public administration, science and technology, social sciences, and sociology. Business courses in English are offered.

**Université Paris-Saclay**

<https://www.universite-paris-saclay.fr/>

Specializes in various fields of science and law. Courses available include biology, business, chemistry, computer science, economics, kinesiology and physical education, life sciences, mathematics, and physics.

**Université Sorbonne Nouvelle**

<http://www.univ-paris3.fr/>

Specializes in cinema and audiovisual studies, French and other European languages, civilization and literature, linguistics. Courses also available in Arab studies, arts and cultural management, communication studies, and performing arts. Advanced French level usually required.

**Université Sorbonne Paris Nord (Paris 13)**

<https://www.univ-paris13.fr>

Specializes in electrical engineering, engineering science, mathematics, and physics. Courses are also available in biology, business, communication, computer science, economics, foreign languages and literature, geography and urban planning, history, political science, public administration, and science and technology.

For additional information about the institutions, visit the MICEFA website at <http://micefa.org/>.

**MICEFA Course Offerings**

Below is a listing of courses for the pre-semester intensive language program (ILP) courses and ten-week courses offered by MICEFA. Courses listed are samples of past offerings and may not be offered every term or every year. Additional courses may be offered during any particular year, and some previously announced courses may be deleted. For this reason, it is important for students to have some flexibility in their academic planning. CSU units are listed in parenthesis after the course title and are subject to change.

**Course Coding for the French Language Courses:**

100 - 199 Lower division (beginner to intermediate level; language level A0 to A2)

200 - 299 Upper division (intermediate to advanced level; language level B1 and above)

For questions about course offerings, contact the MICEFA office at [studentaffairs@micefa.org](mailto:studentaffairs@micefa.org).

**Intensive Language Program (ILP).** This course offered by the MICEFA provides an orientation as well as linguistic and cultural preparation for our students' semester or academic year in Paris. Students will be assigned to a specific course at the appropriate level after taking an entry placement written test online before arrival and an oral test shortly after their arrival. The fall course is three weeks in length and is given three units of credit. The spring course is two weeks in length and is given two units of credit.

**MIC 100 Beginner/Intermediate French (2-3)**

Increase proficiency in the four language skills (listening, speaking, reading, and writing) with an emphasis on oral and written expression in order to familiarize students with their new cultural environment and facilitate integration into the French university system. Cultural competence will also be a focus through readings, media, and cultural activities. (A0 - A2 level)

**MIC 200 Intermediate/Advanced French (2-3)**

Increase proficiency in the four language skills (listening, speaking, reading, and writing) with an emphasis on oral and written expression, as well as methods of textual analysis, in order to familiarize students with their new cultural environment and facilitate integration into the French university system. Cultural competence will also be a focus through readings, media, and cultural activities. (B1 - B2 level)

**MICEFA Courses**

The following courses are arranged and taught by MICEFA professors. Students take up to two MICEFA courses each semester based on availability. Exceptions need approval from the Director of Student Affairs. Usually, MICEFA offers between four and six of the courses below each term. Courses are subject to change. Not all language levels may be offered. Levels vary by semester: 100 level courses will be taught at a level between A0 and A2 depending on the semester; 200 level courses will begin at B1 and above.

A typical MICEFA offering includes one A0 French language course, one course in English, and two to four courses taught in French each semester from the list below.

**MIC 101 Grammar and Composition (3)**

Intensive study of French grammar for international students at the beginner level. Designed to improve both oral and written skills with emphasis on the latter. Subjects covered include proper use of tenses, verbs, prepositions, and complex sentence construction.

language skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. With an emphasis on oral expression, the course aims to perfect French pronunciation. Cultural competency will also be developed through readings, media, and experiences in real-life situations.

**MIC 102 Oral Expression and Comprehension (3)**

Intended for beginner students who wish to improve their oral skills in French.

**MIC 110 Learning French through your Five Senses! (3)**

The objective of this course is to give students grounding in French grammar and lexicology so that they start communicating right away. The pedagogy is interactive, playful and will use the five senses to get a quicker and more pleasurable acquisition of vocabulary and syntax. Through the lenses of French gastronomy, the students will explore the cultural context of the French language. This theme will also provide a multidisciplinary approach to French language learning touching on geography, history, sociology, ethnography, and economics. This class will therefore use the student's close daily environment and Paris as a classroom in order to have a multi-disciplinary and multi-sensorial approach to French. *May be offered as an upper division course (MIC 210).*

**MIC 103 Tour de France (3)**

This course will put students in situations of daily French life. The goal is to increase proficiency in the four French language skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. With an emphasis on oral expression, the course aims to perfect French pronunciation. Cultural competency will also be developed through readings, media, and experiences in real-life situations.

**MIC 104 French in Action (3)**

This course will put students in situations of daily French life. The goal is to increase proficiency in the four French

**MIC 111 Welcome to Paris! (3)**

“Welcome to Paris!” is a beginner workshop aimed to jumpstart French speaking by studying the grammar and vocabulary from situations of everyday life. Students will make their first steps in French language and will discover different topics related to the French capital and its neighborhoods, Parisian lifestyle, French gastronomy, French cinema, etc.

**MIC 142 French Society and Media (3)**

To better understand the world we live in, it's important to be informed. The French have a reputation for taking an interest in social and political life, and for following the media on a regular basis. The written press, television news, radio, social networks... Which media is favored by the French? This course is an introduction to the French media system and its perception in society.

The course's activities and pedagogical content (press articles, videos, podcasts, etc.) are designed to introduce media vocabulary and raise students' awareness of the most newsworthy topics.

**MIC 203A Academic Writing Workshop (3)**

Students will explore advanced French writing strategies for dissertations, critiques, and text analysis, etc. The course aims to instruct students to integrate within the French academic realm by adapting their academic writing style and methodology to the French university system's standards in comparison to North American writing techniques.

**MIC 203B Creative Writing Workshop (3)**

Students will explore advanced French writing strategies for dissertations, critiques, text analysis, etc. The course instructs students on how to integrate into the French academic realm by adapting writing style and methodology to the French university system's standards. In this workshop, students practice their academic writing skills through creative writing activities.

**MIC 206 Parisian Urban Spaces and Diversity (3)**

This course is designed for non-native speakers at the Intermediate I level. The objective of this class is to provide a pedagogical structure for students to take full advantage of their immersion experience in Paris. The course will be comprised of a mixture of classroom and excursion time. The theme is urban spaces and diversity of Paris. We will focus on quirky, unusual sides of the French capital, structured around different and varied groups of people who have inhabited Paris and left their marks : artists, immigrants, workers, students, aristocrats, laborers, etc. The excursions will take the students to out of the ordinary places, hidden within Paris: village streets, odd museums, mansions, contemporary ephemeral street art, underground urban networks, flea markets, and so on. Students will spend time in the classroom and at home preparing for their excursion by studying texts, documentaries, short movies, songs, poems, pamphlets,

drawings and paintings. Students will work toward a final presentation at the end of the course centered on the relationship between identity and Paris as an urban text.

**MIC 209 The French System (3)**

In this course we will study the functioning of the French political system, its institutions, and its socio-cultural aspects. What is the 5th Republic? How is the President elected? What is the role of the government? What does political cohabitation mean? What does the mayor do? What does secularism mean? What is the difference between the regions, departments, and communes? This course will present a general overview of the French political system and institutions with an analysis of the political media, in particular the 2022 presidential campaign. Classes will take place both in and outside of the classroom. *May be offered as a lower division course (MIC 109).*

**MIC 210 Learning French through your Five Senses! (3)**

The objective of this course is to give students grounding in French grammar and lexicology so that they start communicating right away. The pedagogy is interactive, playful and will use the five senses to get a quicker and more pleasurable acquisition of vocabulary and syntax. Through the lenses of French gastronomy, the students will explore the cultural context of the French language. This theme will also provide a multidisciplinary approach to French language learning touching on geography, history, sociology, ethnography and economics. This class will therefore use the student's close daily environment and Paris as a classroom in order to have a multi-disciplinary and multi-sensorial approach to French. *May be offered as a lower division course (MIC 110).*

**MIC 211 France Today (3)**

This course examines contemporary France through different areas of society, including: the educational system, French professional life, politics, economics, the family, and the role of France in the European Union and the world. Classes will take place in and outside of the classroom.

**MIC 215 Women's Rights in France: Two Centuries of Campaign and Combat for Civil and Political Rights (3)**

This course explores the evolution of women's rights in France from the French Revolution to current day. Students will study the history of feminism in the 19th & 20th centuries studying such campaigns as the right to vote, right to divorce, right to open a bank account without husband's approval, right to contraception, abortion rights and other fundamental rights that protect the individual in the public space.

**MIC 220 19<sup>th</sup>-Century French Painting: Impressionism and Beyond (3)**

Examines the evolution of painting in the 19th century that led to the innovations of the Impressionist painters, who assimilated and then transcended these innovations.

Explores the importance of the post-Impressionist movement and how it opened the door for others such as Cézanne who, in turn, inaugurated 20<sup>th</sup>-century painting. *May be offered in English as MIC 220E.*

**MIC 225: Modernism and Antimodernism in Europe: 1905 –1937 (3)**

This course investigates the avant-garde art movements in France and elsewhere in Europe before World War I: Fauvism and Expressionism (Matisse, Kandinsky Kirchner), Cubism (Picasso and Braque, Abstraction (Delaunay, Kandinsky, Mondrian, Hilma af Klint) and Duchamp. The decade from 1905 to 1914 called in question the very notion of painting and even of the work of art itself. Then, more rapidly, it looks at the reactions against modernism in a Europe ravaged by World War I: Breton and Surrealism, New Classicism in painting and sculpture, the concepts of “degenerate art” in Nazi Germany and Soviet Realism in Stalin’s USSR. Classroom lectures and discussion will be supplemented by visits to the Centre Pompidou, the Musée moderne de la ville de Paris, and the Musée Picasso. The syllabus will be adjusted to take into consideration the temporary exhibits in Paris.

**MIC 226 Feminist Approaches to Modern Art in the Global Context (3)**

What might a history of modern art look like, if instead of adhering to the typically male and white contours of Western canonicity, it embraced feminist approaches across a multiplicity of global contexts, centering issues of sexual, cultural, racial and ethnic difference from the ground up? This course will attempt to answer that question in practice, giving students an introduction to modern art from the mid-19th century to the mid-20th century. The course, taught as a seminar, will foreground recent debates on and interventions within the humanities – primarily feminist, but also critical race theory and decolonial approaches. *Taught in English.*

**MIC 232 19<sup>th</sup> Century Literature (3)**

This course aims to expand students’ knowledge of 19<sup>th</sup>-century French literature and to examine this century’s philosophical and literary movements. Students will study authors such as Hugo, Flaubert, Stendhal, Zola, Baudelaire, and Dumas.

**MIC 233 20<sup>th</sup> Century Literature (3)**

This course aims to expand the student’s knowledge of 20<sup>th</sup>-century French literature and its many philosophical and literary movements. Students will study authors such as Gide, Breton, Aragon, Apollinaire, Queneau, Chamoiseau, Sartre, Camus, Ionesco, Beckett, and Duras.

**MIC 244 The Literature of the Enlightenment (3)**

The aim of this course is to engage in a process of reflection and analysis surrounding the period defined in the History of France as “the Age of Enlightenment” based on philosophical and literary works. After defining the

movement of the Enlightenment in relation to the period before it, we will question the role and place of the great thinkers of the Encyclopedia. The works of Montesquieu, Voltaire, Rousseau, Diderot, and Beaumarchais will be approached from the historical, philosophical, and literary perspective. Students will demonstrate what unites and distinguishes these great thinkers of the time.

**MIC 250 Analysis of Cultural Differences: France and America (3)**

The course studies how cultural differences manifest. Students will be asked to question the role of stereotypes, clichés, and perceptions in our understanding of foreign cultures. The course focuses on the North American and French cultures.

**MIC 253: France and the United States: The Transatlantic Relationship in Times of War**

This class will examine the relationship between France and the United States on a historical and cultural level during three key conflicts: the American Revolution, World War I, and World War II. Each of these events not only saw a strengthening of the alliance between the two nations but also fostered a more profound cultural interchange. We will explore how these exchanges occurred in literature and music within the framework of political tension and often tragedy.

**MIC 256 : Revolutionary Paris (3)**

Paris has been the scene of many revolutions, from the most symbolic in 1789 to the most recent in 1968. But what is a “revolution”? Why have they so often taken place in Paris? Is there a common thread? What legacy have revolutionaries left?

Take advantage of being in the capital to discover the traces left by these revolutions using humanities and social sciences approaches, such as political history, sociology, literature, painting and cinema. Understand how political life has developed and changed over the centuries, how different regimes have evolved, and how political forces have been distributed across space, time and the means of communication specific to each era. Appreciate the capital by discovering the traces left by the revolutionary episodes between the 18th and 20th centuries, i.e. from the Constitutional Monarchy to the Fifth Republic, via the Empire. Class excursions will alternate with classroom lectures.

**MIC 280 French Rhetoric and Debate: Descartes, Voltaire, Sartre... (3)**

Each philosopher's thought corresponds to a way of seeing the world, situating oneself, and expressing oneself. This plurality of opinions is largely at the origin of what is known as the "French spirit". By cross-referencing different sources (extracts from philosophical or literary texts, newspaper articles, satirical videos, etc.), students will develop their own thinking by exploring various methodologies (argumentation, summary, synthesis, dissertation). In the

course of these activities, they will learn strategies for expressing their point of view in writing and work on their speaking skills to develop fluency in oral communication.

## **Academic Disciplines offered by Parisian Institutions**

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“Undergraduate” courses outside the programs for international students in French universities span three years and are arranged by levels: *Licence 1*, *Licence 2*, and *Licence 3 (L1, L2, and L3)*. Students selecting from course offerings at the various Paris institutions should make sure they enroll at the appropriate level. It is important to note that courses at the *Licence 3* level often assume two prior years of familiarity with the content. Courses at the *Maîtrise* level are generally very specialized. They usually include less lecture time, but more seminars. Students need to be more independent and have a solid background in the field.

To access a chart of the academic disciplines offered at the various Parisian institutions click on this [link](#) and use the “+” to zoom in and enlarge text. Note that the chart does not contain all possible specialized areas of study at each university. Students interested in other areas of study not listed in the chart are welcome to contact MICEFA directly at [studentaffairs@micefa.org](mailto:studentaffairs@micefa.org).