



Wellesley-in-Aix
**STUDY ABROAD
IN FRANCE**
2015-16



"This is a phenomenal program. It gave me enough support to immerse myself in French culture without smothering me with too much handholding."



A note from the Director

Bienvenue à Wellesley-in-Aix!

2015-16 will be Wellesley's 35th year in France and we look forward to welcoming you soon to Aix-en-



Provence! We've designed our program to deepen your academic learning through linguistic and cultural immersion in a vibrant, student-friendly city located in one of the most beautiful regions in France.

Aix-en-Provence boasts a student population of over 40,000 enrolled mainly at Aix-Marseille Université, the largest university in France. The city is large enough to offer a good variety of cultural events and culinary pleasures yet small enough to allow you to quickly feel comfortable and meet people informally.

Wellesley-in-Aix provides opportunities to engage with French student culture and daily life through direct enrollment in French institutions, homestays and activities with French students and locals. We enthusiastically support your efforts to improve your French skills; all communication with hosts, staff, professors and other WIA participants occurs exclusively in French. Language

is the key to integration; the more you communicate in French, the greater your progress will be. Whether conversing with your host family at mealtimes, taking notes in university courses or attending cooking classes in French, you will acquire new frames of reference and learn to express yourself in a variety of ways that go beyond classroom learning. The ability to step outside one's own culture, understand other viewpoints and communicate in a language other than English constitute valuable, career-enhancing skills.

Thanks to its small size and experienced staff, Wellesley-in-Aix can offer individual assistance in the form of academic advising and tutorials; health and safety advice; cultural tips and suggestions on meeting locals, exploring the region, and finding extra-curricular activities. As you will often hear us say in Aix, *Profitez-en!*

If you have further questions, feel free to contact the Wellesley-in-Aix Office (wia@wellesley.edu).

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Monique Fecteau". The signature is fluid and cursive, written on a white background.

Monique Fecteau, PhD
Resident Director, WIA
Senior Adjunct Lecturer of French,
Wellesley College

WIA at a Glance

STUDENTS	25-30 participants, women and men. Full year or single-semester residency. Open to college juniors, seniors and sophomores with a solid foundation in French.
CALENDAR	Full Year: late August - late May Fall Semester: late August - mid January Spring Semester: early January - late May
LOCATION	Aix lies in the heart of Provence, in southern France, a few miles north of Marseille and the Mediterranean.
PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS	Aix-Marseille University Sciences Po Aix
HOUSING	Host Families or Shared Apartments
FEES	(2014-15) \$29,381 per semester, includes tuition, housing, meals or meal allowance, program excursions and cultural allowance and travel stipend for round trip airfare to/from France
PRE-REQUISITES	5-6 semesters college French or the equivalent (French 210 or 211 for Wellesley applicants); 3.0 GPA in French courses and overall
APPLICATION DEADLINES	Fall/Full Year: March 15 Spring: October 1
FIELDS OF STUDY	Africana Studies, Anthropology, Art History, Cinema, Comparative Literature, French Language & Literature, Geography, History, International Relations, Linguistics, Mediterranean Studies, Middle Eastern Studies, Music, Philosophy, Political Science, Psychology, Religion, Sociology, Theater, Women & Gender Studies

Aix-en-Provence



Aix is located approximately 30 kilometers north of Marseille and the Mediterranean coast. The region is famous for its Gallo-Roman ruins, picturesque villages and lively markets, abbeys and churches, and its geographical beauty and pleasant climate, making it an ideal location for outdoor activities. Aix lies at the foot of the Montagne Sainte-Victoire immortalized by Paul Cézanne, a native of Aix. The population of Aix is close to 145,000, including about 40,000 students.

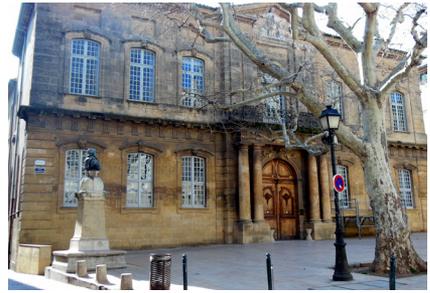
Wellesley-in-Aix participants generally appreciate the informal nature and openness of the Provençal people; the relaxed pace of daily life; and opportunities to visit local sites and towns, such as the Palais des Papes in Avignon, the spectacular seaside cliffs between Marseille and Cassis, and the Roman arenas in Arles and Orange. The mild, sunny climate and proximity to Spain, Italy and North Africa also contribute to making southern France and Aix a highly desirable place to live and study.



The Academic Program

Wellesley-in-Aix students register at Aix-Marseille University (AMU) and/or the Institut d'Etudes Politiques (Sciences Po-Aix). Aix-Marseille University recently became the largest university in France and is second only to the University of Paris in the areas of French literature, history, and linguistics. AMU also houses the Center for Mediterranean Studies, among other research centers.

Each student organizes her/his own program of study in consultation with the program Director, who assists students in indentifying relevant courses in the Humanities and Social Science divisions of AMU. Students majoring in political science, economics or international relations may enroll in selected classes at Sciences-Po Aix and complete their courseload with AMU courses, or may elect to pursue the “Certificat d'études



politiques” (CEP), a year-long program with a set curriculum that culminates in a special certificate.

Students typically enroll in four courses per semester and earn four units (16 credit hours) of Wellesley credit.

Depending upon enrollments, WIA may offer enhanced matriculation courses or bi-monthly group tutorials with AMU or Sciences Po professors who meet with WIA students to provide important background information, methodological support and additional assignments for an extra 1/2 credit. A WIA tutor is also available to work with individual

students or small groups on their academic writing and presentation skills.





Pre-Departure Advising

WIA staff in the U.S. provide students with assistance throughout the application process, as well as guidance for obtaining a student visa, making travel arrangements, transferring credit, etc. A number of pre-departure meetings are organized each semester on the Wellesley College campus. Students who cannot attend these are invited to participate in individual info sessions via Skype, phone or in person.

Orientation in Paris

The program begins with a pre-session in Paris which allows students to discover France's political and cultural capital via guided museum visits, lectures and opportunities to become familiar with daily life in France. In recent years, the pre-session in Paris has also included group meals, theater outings, concerts, and information sessions with the Resident Director. Past day trips outside of Paris have

Orientation

included Versailles, Monet's home in Giverny and Normandy. Students are typically housed in shared rooms in a centrally located residence-hotel. Rooms are equipped with kitchenettes and students receive a stipend to cover such costs as meals, laundry and local transportation.



Orientation in Aix

Orientation continues in Aix and focuses on academic aspects, local culture and student life. The program includes information sessions on the French university system and course selection process, visits to AMU and Sciences Po and individual advising sessions with the Director. Other activities include a walking tour of Aix, day trips to Marseille, and/or Cassis, a market outing followed by a group meal and a guided visit of a local museum or cultural site and encounters with French student peer guides.

The Cultural Program

Aix is a city rich in literary, cultural and artistic events, particularly since the designation in 2013 of Marseille-Provence as the *Capitale européenne de la culture*. Aix's annual summer opera festival attracts distinguished performers and audiences from all over the world. The Grand Théâtre de Provence features opera performances, concerts, and classical and contemporary plays throughout the year, and the Pavillon Noir houses choreographer Anjelin



Preljocaj's ballet troupe. The annual Festival Tous Courts competition in December brings together producers and aficionados of short feature films from all over the world. In addition to its rich cultural and artistic scene, Aix and the surrounding region offer numerous opportunities for outdoor activities, including hiking, rock climbing, and kayaking. WIA students may be reimbursed for cultural activities or memberships in clubs that foster interaction with locals, e.g., sports teams, cooking classes and dance lessons. Participating in a chorus or musical group, being part of team, or taking pottery or photography

"I made a discovery I want to share with my successors: people in Aix are just like us, only a little more formal. So be BOLD! The French are like éclairs. They can be resistant and intimidating on the outside, but they're soft and sweet in the middle."





classes are excellent ways to meet French people and improve your language skills while doing something you enjoy or learning a new skill.

Once students are acclimated to Aix, they enjoy exploring nearby cities and regions easily accessible by train or bus, such as Marseille, Nice, Lyon, Arles, Avignon and others. Each semester, the program organizes a weekend trip to a nearby region as well as a few day trips and other group activities. Destinations have included Lyon, Nice at carnival time, the island of Porquerolles, the port town of Cassis, Avignon and les Baux de Provence, the villages of Gordes and Roussillon, Martigues, and hikes up Sainte-Victoire or kayaking in the calanques. Students are also encouraged to take advantage of trips organized by AMU, Sciences Po or other student



groups and local clubs.

In recent years, WIA students have been selected to assist with Aix's annual short-film festival, the Festival Tous Courts, or have volunteered with the local Red Cross, for example. On-site staff can offer guidance and support to students interested in pursuing independent volunteer and internship opportunities.

Housing

All housing is organized and managed by the program, students fill out a questionnaire and final placements are confirmed upon students' arrival in France. Most recent WIA participants have opted to live in homestays and highly recommend this option, which provides daily interaction and conversation with French hosts. All hosts are carefully selected by on-site staff.



Students in homestays have their own rooms, wifi access in the home and breakfast and dinner with their hosts. Bus passes are provided to students who live outside the center, and students may be reimbursed for occasional taxis.

In 2013-14, WIA secured a few single rooms in a private student residence hall in central Aix that has mainly French student residents. These rooms are equipped with a private bathroom, small kitchenette and wifi access. WIA provides linens, cooking utensils and dishes. We cannot guarantee this option to



all interested students on a yearly basis, however.

A limited number of apartments rented by WIA in the center of Aix are also available. These are shared with one other WIA student and consist of a bedroom with twin beds, a living room, a fully-equipped kitchen, and wifi access. Dishes, sheets, and towels are provided, but students are responsible for cooking meals, doing laundry (in laundromats) and cleaning the apartments, which are inspected monthly.

Students who opt to share an apartment are strongly encouraged to sign up with a local association called *Bienvenue en famille aux étudiants étrangers (BFEE)* that matches them with host families



who invite them to dinners or to participate in activities.

All students receive a monthly allowance for lunches. Students living in apartments or residence halls receive additional funds for other meals, cleaning supplies, laundry costs, etc. The program provides bus passes to all students regardless of where they live, and occasionally reimburses taxis for students who live farther away from the city center as well as transportation costs to get to classes in Marseille.

Centre Wellesley

The WIA program is headquartered in a converted private home located in a residential area about a 10-minute walk from the town center. It is open during regular business hours, and on-site staff are available daily.

The center includes a small library and large common room, a computer room with printers,



Student Services

a fully-equipped kitchen and an outdoor terrace for student use. Free wifi access is available at the center, and students are encouraged to bring their laptops.

Students may drop by at their convenience on weekdays to pick up mail, eat lunch, use the library or printers, work with the program



tutor and speak with the staff. Group tutorials, occasional lectures and group meetings are held in the common room.

On-Site Staff

The Wellesley-in-Aix staff includes a full-time permanent resident director and program assistant who assist students with all academic and administrative matters. The resident director is the primary emergency contact person on site, handles all academic issues and acts as the liaison between the program and university partners in Aix as well, as with the French Department and Office of International Studies at Wellesley.



"The Wellesley-in-Aix program provided an incredible opportunity to engage with the world through language and inter-cultural understanding. My language abilities increased exponentially and I was able to live, study, and work in a new community and immerse myself in the French language and the beauty of Provence. Ultimately my language improved enough to work with the French Red Cross which challenged me to learn in an entirely new way. I would strongly encourage any language learners to take the next step and study abroad with Wellesley-in-Aix."



Who Should Apply?

Students from all majors are welcome. While a number of our students are French majors, this is not a requirement: past participants have come from a broad range of academic disciplines, including anthropology, art history, international relations, language studies, linguistics, political science, psychology, and sociology. Numerous courses in Aix may count toward these majors.

Admission

Recent participants have included students from Amherst, Barnard, Bates, Bowdoin, Brandeis, Brown, Bryn Mawr, Carleton, Colby, Columbia, Cornell, Davidson, Harvard, Haverford, Johns Hopkins, Kenyon, Princeton, Tufts, Vassar, Wesleyan, Williams, and Yale.

Pre-Requisites

The program is open to college sophomores, juniors and seniors with a solid background in French. The pre-requisites are 5-6 semesters of college French, a B average in French and a minimum 3.0 GPA.

Applications are available at www.wellesley.edu/aix. Deadlines are March 15 for fall/full year and October 1 for spring semester.



Fees & Financial Aid

The comprehensive fee for 2014-15 is \$29,381 per semester. The 2015-16 fee will be announced in April 2015.

Program Fee includes:

Travel Stipend for flight to/from Paris; Transfer between Paris and Aix-en-Provence; Educational and administrative fees; Food and lodging from the departure date to the end of the academic year; Group activities, e.g., excursions, museum visits; Visa Application Fees

Fee does not include:

Vacation Travel; Medical or Dental Insurance; Books & Supplies; Personal Expenses

Health Insurance

Health insurance coverage is required. Participants will be billed for Wellesley College's insurance, which provides coverage abroad, but they may waive it so long as they are covered by another insurance that provides coverage for medical expenses abroad. Students in Aix are also covered by the college's supplemental emergency medical assistance and evacuation/repatriation insurance.

Payment of Fees

A non-refundable deposit of \$500 is due upon acceptance. Students participating in the full year or

fall-only programs may use either the semester payment plan or an installment plan. The first semester payment is due in late July and the spring semester payment is due in late December. For more information about the semester payment plan please contact Wellesley Student Financial Services at (781) 283-2456.

Financial Aid

Wellesley students enrolled in the program are eligible to transfer all of their Wellesley College financial aid, except for work-study funds which are replaced by an optional loan. Students from other institutions should check with their study abroad or financial aid office to determine whether their institutional aid applies. Wellesley-in-Aix has limited scholarship funding available to qualified students from other institutions. Students seeking financial assistance should include a letter of request with their admission application.





- *Wellesley-in-Aix is located in Aix-en-Provence, a lively, charming city of 145,000 inhabitants located in southern France within easy distance of the Mediterranean coast and France's second largest metropolis, Marseille.*
- *Wellesley-in-Aix is an immersion program designed for students in the humanities and social sciences with solid French skills who wish to increase their mastery of the language and knowledge of French culture via direct enrollment in the French university system and a homestay option.*
- *WIA students enroll at Aix-Marseille University (AMU), the largest public university in France or at Sciences Po Aix. Two special program courses in translation and academic writing skills are also offered each semester, as well as group tutorials.*
- *All students take a test in French at the beginning and end of their stay in Aix to measure their progress during the program.*
- *All courses are in French, and students are expected to communicate in French with WIA staff and other participants.*





"I learned in Aix that speaking French -- what I did back home -- is not the same thing as being a speaker of French, being able to interact fully and deeply with people whose only language is French. It was a revelation. I will never think of 'other' and 'otherness' in the same way."

Wellesley-in-Aix

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