Bienvenue à Wellesley-in-Aix!
2017-18 will mark Wellesley’s 37th year in France and we look forward to welcoming you soon to Aix-en-Provence! The WIA program is designed to immerse students academically, linguistically and culturally 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, France’s largest university. Aix is big enough to offer a variety of cultural activities, architectural sites and culinary delights yet small enough for you to get to know the city well and engage with students and other locals in informal settings.

Wellesley-in-Aix provides opportunities to experience French student culture and daily life through direct enrollment in French institutions, homestays, volunteer opportunities and other activities. In keeping with your goal of improving your French skills, all communication with WIA onsite staff, partners and hosts occurs exclusively in French. Whether conversing with host family members at mealtimes, taking notes in university courses or taking cooking, yoga or dance classes in French, you will acquire new frames of reference and learn to express yourself in a variety of contexts and ways that go beyond classroom learning. The ability to step outside one’s own culture, understand other perspectives and communicate in a language other than English is not only personally rewarding but also professionally valuable in today’s world.

Thanks to its small size and experienced onsite staff, Wellesley-in-Aix offers individual assistance in the form of academic advising and tutorials, health and safety advice, cultural tips and suggestions for 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 us!

Monique Fecteau, PhD
Resident Director, WIA

“A note from the Director
“This is a phenomenal program. It gave me enough support to immerse myself in French culture without smothering me with too much handholding.”
## WIA at a Glance

| **STUDENTS** | 20-25 per semester; women and men. Full-year or single-semester options. Open to sophomores, juniors, seniors with post-intermediate French language skills. |
| **CALENDAR** | Full Year: late August - mid May  
Fall Semester: late August - mid January  
Spring Semester: early January - mid May |
| **LOCATION** | Aix lies in the heart of Provence, in southern France, 25 miles north of Marseille and the Mediterranean coast. |
| **PARTNER INSTITUTIONS** | Aix-Marseille University  
Sciences Po - Aix |
| **HOUSING** | Homestays. Residence halls and shared apartments subject to availability. |
| **FEES** | (2016-17) $31,812 per semester, includes pre-session in Paris, all tuition & academic fees, full room & board, program activities & trips, well-equipped program center. |
| **OTHER COSTS INCLUDED** | Round trip US-France travel stipend, visa expenses, individual cultural allowance, local transportation passes, rail pass for discounted train travel in France. |
| **PRE-REQUISITES** | 5-6 semesters college French or the equivalent (FREN 210 or 211 for Wellesley applicants); 3.0 GPA in French courses and overall |
| **APPLICATION DEADLINES** | Fall/Full Year: March 1  
Spring: October 1  
Late applications are considered. |
| **FIELDS OF STUDY** | Humanities: Art History, Cinema, History, Linguistics, Literature, Literary Studies, Music, Philosophy, Religion  
Social Sciences: Africana Studies, Anthropology, Economics, International Relations, Mediterranean Studies, Middle Eastern Studies, Political Science, Psychology, Sociology  
Sciences: Biology, Neuroscience, etc. |

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### 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 hillside villages, beautiful abbeys, and lively markets. Its natural beauty and pleasant climate make it an ideal location for hiking and other 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.

Wellesley-in-Aix participants generally appreciate the informal nature and openness of the Provençal people; the relaxed pace of daily life in Aix; and proximity to major sites, such as the spectacular coastal cliffs or calanques between Marseille and Cassis, the Roman arenas in Arles and Orange, and World Heritage sites like Avignon. The sunny climate and easy access to Spain, Italy and North Africa also make southern France a desirable place to live and provides an interesting contrast to Paris and the north.
All Wellesley-in-Aix students are enrolled at Aix-Marseille University (AMU) and/or the Institut d’Etudes Politiques (Sciences Po-Aix). Aix-Marseille University is the largest university in France and second only to the University of Paris in the areas of French literature, history, linguistics and neuroscience, for example. 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 Resident Director, who assists students in identifying relevant courses in the humanities, social sciences or science divisions. Students majoring in political science, economics, history or international relations may either enroll full-time at Sciences-Po Aix or combine AMU and IEP courses. Sciences Po also offers a year-long program that culminates in a special certificate or “Certificat d’études politiques” (CEP).

Two WIA courses are also offered in translation and academic writing/methodology. 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 and provide additional methodological support and assignments for extra credit. A WIA tutor is also available by appointment to work with individual students or small groups on their academic writing and presentation skills.

The Academic Program

Pre-Departure Advising
WIA staff in the U.S. provide assistance throughout the application process and pre-departure period: explaining transfer credit and financial aid, facilitating student visas, providing travel and other information, and organizing pre-departure meetings on the Wellesley College campus. Students who cannot attend meetings may request individual info sessions via Skype, phone or in person.

Orientation in Paris
The program begins with a pre-sessional in Paris, which allows students to become acquainted and to discover France’s political and cultural capital via guided museum visits and neighborhood walks with an art historian and occasional trips to other sites near Paris, such as Versailles or Giverny, Monet’s home. The pre-session in Paris also includes a few group meals, a theater outing or concert, a mini-seminar on cultural difference led by a faculty member from Wellesley’s French department, and information sessions with the Resident Director on living in France.

Orientation in Aix
Orientation continues in Aix and focuses on academic aspects, local culture and institutions, 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 Cassis, a market outing, and guided museum visits.
Aix is a city rich in literary, cultural and artistic events. Aix's annual summer opera festival attracts distinguished performers and international audiences. 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 cultural and artistic scene, Aix and the surrounding region offer many opportunities for outdoor activities, e.g., hiking, rock climbing, and kayaking.

WIA participants enjoy exploring nearby cities and regions accessible by train or bus, such as Marseille, Nice, Lyon, Grenoble, and Montpellier. Each semester, the program organizes a weekend trip to a nearby region as well as a few day trips in Provence and other group activities. Destinations have included Lyon, Arles and the Camargue, the island of Porquerolles, Avignon and les Baux de Provence, the villages of Gordes and Roussillon, and the Montagne Sainte-Victoire. Students are also encouraged to take advantage of trips organized by Sciences Po or other student groups.

Individual cultural stipends allow WIA students to be reimbursed for activities of their choice in French, club memberships that foster interaction with locals, sports teams, cooking or photography classes. Participating in a chorus or orchestra, doing volunteer work, or taking pottery or drawing classes are great ways to meet French people and to improve your language fluency while doing something you enjoy or learning a new skill.

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

“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.”
**Housing, Meals & Transportation**

All housing is organized and managed by the program. Students fill out a questionnaire and final placements are confirmed upon students’ arrival in France. The majority of WIA participants opt 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, and daily breakfast and most evening meals and provided.

WIA has a very limited number of single rooms in a private student residence hall for French students in central Aix. These rooms are equipped with a private bathroom and kitchenette and WiFi. WIA provides linens, cooking utensils and dishes. We cannot guarantee this option to all interested students, however.

A limited number of apartments is also available by request. These may include a studio (for one person) or a 2-room apartment shared with another WIA student. All include a fully-equipped kitchen and WiFi. Dishes, sheets, and towels are provided by the program, but students are responsible for cooking meals, doing laundry (in laundromats) and cleaning the apartments.

All students receive a monthly allowance for lunches. Students living in apartments or the residence hall receive extra funds for food, cleaning supplies, laundry costs, etc. The program provides bus passes to all students regardless of where they live, and reimburses occasional 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 villa located in a residential area about a 10-minute walk from the town center. It is open during regular business hours, and onsite staff are available daily.

The center includes a small library and large common room, a computer room with printers, a fully-equipped kitchen, and an outdoor terrace for student use. Free WiFi is available at the center and in the outdoor area. Students may drop by at their convenience to pick up mail, eat lunch, use the library or printers, work with the program tutor, and speak with 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 a program assistant who are available to assist students with academic, administrative and practical matters. The resident director is the primary emergency contact person, handles all academic issues, and acts as the liaison between the WIA program and university partners in Aix as well as with the French Department and Office of International Study at Wellesley.
Admission

Who Should Apply?
Students from all disciplines, including the sciences, are welcome. While many students declare French as a major, this is not a requirement: the majority 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.

In recent years, participants have included students from Amherst, Brandeis, Colby, Columbia, Cornell, Hamilton, Harvard, Haverford, Princeton, Swarthmore, Tufts, 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 3.0 GPA overall.

All students take a mandatory French test during the first week in Aix in order to evaluate their skills and readiness to take university courses. Students who do not meet the minimal level requirement (B2 in the Common European Framework) must take the WIA course on academic writing skills and methodology in Aix.

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

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The comprehensive fee for 2016-17 is $31,812 per semester.

Program Fee Includes:
Travel stipend for round-trip flight to/from Paris; 2-week orientation in 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 (including excursions & cultural events); reimbursement for visa application fees.

Fee Does Not Include:
Vacation travel; medical or dental insurance; health services; books & supplies; personal expenses.

Health Insurance
Health insurance coverage is required. Participants will be automatically billed for Wellesley College’s insurance covering study abroad, but they may waive it and use their own so long as the alternative policy is comparable to the Wellesley coverage and covers medical expenses abroad. Students in Aix are also covered automatically by the college’s supplemental emergency medical assistance and evacuation/repatriation insurance.

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.

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 before August 1 and the spring semester payment is due before January 1.

For more information about the semester payment plan please contact Wellesley Student Financial Services at (781) 283-2456. For information regarding the installment payment plan contact Tuition Management Services at (800)722-4867 or on the web at www.afford.com.

Fees & Financial Aid

- 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 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.”

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