



## France Fast Facts

**Population:**

60,424,213 (July 2004 est.)

**Capital:**

Paris

**Currency:**

euro (EUR)

**Religion(s):**

Roman Catholic 83%-88%, Protestant 2%, Jewish 1%, Muslim 5%-10%, unaffiliated 4%

**Language(s):**

French 100%, rapidly declining regional dialects and languages (Provençal, Breton, Alsatian, Corsican, Catalan, Basque, Flemish)

**Major Events:**

Victory Day, May 8 (1945)  
Bastille Day/National Day, July 14 (1789)  
Remembrance Day, November 11

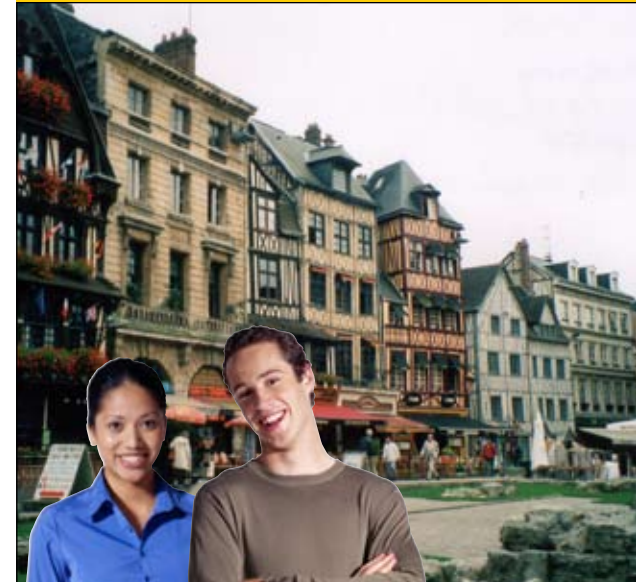
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# IIEPassport Focus... FRANCE

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# France at a Glance...

Trying to describe the potential of a study abroad experience in France in the space of a brochure is as impossible as trying to fit more than three hours sleep into a busy finals week. Just as France is the largest and one of the most geographically diverse countries in Europe, studying there provides you with rich and varied options.



Students who have studied in France would doubtless tell you of the opportunities they had to learn or perfect their grasp of the French language. They would describe the intricacies of French culture they observed or the delectable French cuisine. They might share with you stories of the country's natural beauty or the bustling, romantic cities

where they went to school, or even some challenges they had in adapting to a different system of education. A student returning from a semester in Lyon observed, "French had always been my major, but France has now become my passion. I was totally immersed in French culture, and the experience has impacted me more than any other during my college career."

Education is a significant priority in France, with over a third of the national budget dedicated to education. The country has 90 universities and 3,600 higher education establishments. Paris alone provides a base for countless university students each year, both native and international. Many of Paris's finest schools are business or management schools such as HEC (Hautes Etudes Commerciales) or the Université Paris Dauphine. For those interested in the arts, languages, or social sciences, there are also excellent universities for those studies, such as the Université Paris IV ("The Sorbonne"), which offers a wide range of subjects as well as a prestigious reputation throughout the world as a quality research institution.



You may find that as a student, you will be seeing different parts of France than the typical tourist. Many

fine universities are based in some of France's smaller cities such as Lyon, Reims, Bordeaux, Strasbourg, Nantes, or Toulouse. As with Paris, you can find a variety of schools to meet your particular interests and many of these different cities have different things to offer. Lyon, for example, is a bustling, active city, but it allows you as a student to study in a less internationalized environment, that will help you to use your French extensively and be more fully immersed in the culture. Bordeaux is at the heart of one of France's finest wine regions and gives the feeling of stepping back in time with its 18th century architecture. The city's rich history and diverse population, including over 60,000 students, make for a fascinating and challenging study abroad experience.

## Check out IIEPassport...

<http://www.IIEPassport.org>

IIEPassport is the study abroad search engine. Find study abroad programs in France, French language programs and a **WHOLE** lot more!

In addition to education, the French also take their current events very seriously. The government estimates that 36% of French people read a newspaper daily. They have seven national newspapers and 160 regional papers (dailies and weeklies) to choose from. If you are not a news buff already, you almost surely will be by the time you return from a semester or year in France.

Students choose France for a variety of reasons. Many wish to learn French or improve their knowledge of the language. France is also an extremely popular destination with those interested in the arts. The country's 1,200 museums draw tens of millions of visitors a year, and students there have the opportunity to observe the works created by master artists, craftsmen, and architects.

France is also an excellent choice for students interested in studying the business and economics of a modern

country that is at the center of the European Union. France's economy draws from a variety of industries including the transport, telecommunications, agri-foodstuffs, and pharmaceutical industries. The country also derives significant income from banking, insurance, tourism, and luxury products such as leather goods, fashion clothes, perfume, and fine wine and spirits. Along with these luxury industries comes some of the best sales and marketing in the world – another topic many students find to be an unparalleled choice for studying in France.



As you can see from this brief overview, France has much to offer the adventurous student whether you're looking for language or art, history or romance, modern business classes or medieval French literature, and anything in between.

## Online Resources

**Embassy of France in the U.S.**  
<http://www.info-france-usa.org/>

**iAgora.com**  
<http://istudy.iagara.com/>

**Lonely Planet:**  
<http://www.lonelyplanet.com>

**CIA Factbook:**  
<http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook>