



CENTRE-IN-STRASBOURG

FALL 2024 AND SPRING 2025

The French city of Strasbourg is located just across the Rhine River from Germany, two-and-a-half hours by high-speed train from Paris and about an hour north from Switzerland. Known as “the crossroads of Europe” because of its central location, Strasbourg boasts an ancient Gothic cathedral and hosts the European Parliament, Council of Europe, and Court of Human Rights. Students enrolled in the Strasbourg program will make this beautiful, vibrant city their home!

Dates:

Students studying abroad in the fall will fly out of the U.S. on Monday, September 9th (arriving in Strasbourg on September 10th) and will fly home on Saturday, December 7th.

Students studying abroad in the spring will fly out of the U.S. on Monday, February 10th (arriving in Strasbourg on February 11th) and will fly home on Saturday, May 10th.

Classes run from Monday to Thursday, to allow for independent travel on four weekends. The program also includes a weekend trip to Paris, as well as many excursions and course-related field trips within the region.

Director:

The 2024-25 program will be led by Professor of English Mark Rasmussen, who has taught at Centre since 1989 and has directed the Strasbourg program on four previous occasions. (He’s shown above with some of his students in front of Strasbourg cathedral, pointing out a curious detail.) He will be joined by his spouse, Helen Willis, a retired mental health case manager who also has extensive experience with Centre’s programs of study abroad and considers Strasbourg a second home.

Cost:

The same as studying in Danville, plus a \$375 deposit (surcharge/emergency fund/carbon offset) due March 27, 2024, and a \$25 travel medicine fee for a total of \$400. Flights to and from Strasbourg are also the responsibility of the student. If you have significant financial need, you may qualify for additional funding from the Center for Global Citizenship.

Housing and Meals:

Students in Strasbourg choose between sharing **group apartments** in downtown Strasbourg and participating in **homestays** with a French or German-speaking household. Students in the group apartments will receive a weekly stipend to prepare meals at home; students in homestays typically take most of their meals with their hosts.

Classroom Facilities:

Classroom facilities are located in a lovely small building near the University of Strasbourg, a short walk from the cathedral. They include classrooms and office space, with a small library and study area.

Our Partners in Strasbourg:

Centre's program in Strasbourg operates in close partnership with Accès Study Abroad, an independent organization directed by Andrea and Alex Neff, Americans who have lived and worked in Strasbourg for many years. In addition to making housing arrangements and managing the classroom facilities, Andrea and Alex are an ongoing source of information about daily life in Strasbourg and are eager to share tips about local activities and events. They also arrange for students to enjoy a free bike rental during their stay. Thanks to Andrea and Alex's generosity, each morning a flotilla of Centre students glides gracefully to class.

French Language Study:

Previous study in French is **not** required for admission to Centre's program in Strasbourg. There are many students each term who have never studied French before. However, all students are required to enroll in a French language course during their time in Strasbourg, either at the introductory, intermediate, or advanced level. This will be a three-credit course, taught in our classroom by local instructors who are passionate about their subject. Especially at the introductory level, the French classes emphasize oral communication skills and the kind of interactive learning that will help you get the most out of your time in Strasbourg.

Other Courses:

In addition to a **French course at the appropriate level**, all students will take:

Humanities 266 – Museums and European Culture

Drawing on the rich resources of Strasbourg's many museums, as well as on the museums of Paris, Basel, and Colmar, this course will examine the museum as an institution and how it shapes, and is shaped by, the cultures within which it operates: especially, in this case, the cultures of Europe, France, Strasbourg, and Alsace. Students who visit other European museums during their weekend travels will have the opportunity to bring those experiences into the classroom, and for their final project each student will design an exhibit in their own imagined museum. No prerequisites. Taught by Mark Rasmussen, this course will count toward **EI, Arts & Humanities Exploration**.*

Students will also take **two** of the following three courses:

African and African American Studies 260 – France’s Relations with African Countries

This course is designed to help American students understand contemporary France through the lens of its relations to Africa. From the early 19th century until the mid-20th century African colonies provided a source of manpower, natural resources, military resources, and a platform for international trade which helped ensure France’s role as a world power. While France’s presence brought some advances to African countries, it also exploited them and disrupted traditional social structures by enforcing its so-called assimilation politics. We will examine the ways in which France continues to wield considerable economic, political and military influence in Africa through unequal relations known as “La France Afrique.” No prerequisites. Taught by Thaddée Ntihinyuzwa, this course will count toward **D, Difference, Equity, and Inclusion**.*

English 235 – French Masterworks in Translation

The French literary tradition is one of the wonders of the world, yet surprisingly few Americans know much about it. In this course, we read and discuss some of its masterpieces, from the Renaissance to the present, as we live in the country and amidst the culture within which they were created. Authors to be studied include Montaigne, Molière, Voltaire, Balzac, Flaubert, Baudelaire, Albert Camus, Marguérite Duras, and Kamel Daoud. No prerequisites. Taught by Mark Rasmussen, this course will count toward **EI, Arts & Humanities Exploration**.*

Politics 461 – The Construction of Europe

Capitalizing on Strasbourg’s location at the geographical center of Europe and as the home of three of the most important European institutions, participants in this course will study the European Parliament and the Council of Europe, whose main assignment is to defend Human Rights. How does the Council work, and how does its European Court of Human Rights ensure the respect of fundamental rights in Europe? We also study how some European states foster their connections via economic, political, and monetary cooperation. In conjunction with a trip to the European Parliament, students consider how the European Union was born, how it works, and what makes it unique. All these issues are approached comparatively, with an eye toward their impact on the United States and on students living on European soil. No prerequisites. Taught by Yoav Shemer, this course will count toward **EII, Social Studies Exploration**.*

*Please note that all General Education tags await Curriculum Committee approval this spring.

Applications and Deadlines:

Any rising sophomore, junior, or senior who has not yet participated in a residential, long-term study abroad program is welcome, and encouraged, to apply.

The application window for the 2024-25 academic year opens on November 16, 2023 at 11:59 p.m. and closes on February 2, 2024 at 11:59 p.m. Please apply online using Centre Online Forms (located on Centrenet under “Campus Resources”). Results will be announced to students during the week of February 19, 2024, and students must accept their admission no later than February 28th, with an initial deposit due on March 8, 2024 to hold their spot.

Questions? Please contact Dr. Rasmussen (mark.rasmussen@centre.edu) or Margaret Meadows at the Center for Global Citizenship (margaret.meadows@centre.edu).