

France programs 2015



Group & Individual Immersion Programs in France Summer Immersion programs for high school students - group and individual



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Why an ECI Immersion program?

Quality - from sign up to journey home

Carefully planned and expertly executed programs.

Professional team of leaders & ECI staff. Internationally recognized language schools. Top-rated hotels and immaculate dorms. Engaging, hands-on, educational and fun activities.

Immersion - unique to ECI

Volunteer host families offer an authentic family experience in exclusive locations.

No other Study Abroad program does it quite like ECI. Immersion week is fundamental to the success of ECI programs. Individual and total language & cultural immersion in French family life.

Results - ECI programs deliver

ECI Programs yield results expected from language Study Abroad.

Students consistently report an improvement in their language ability, attributed to the finely-tuned, quality ECI program structure and unique Immersion Week opportunity.

Experience - benefiting students' futures

14th year of delivering life-changing summer programs for groups and individuals.

Thousands of students have gained independence, a sense of adventure, made friends for life and had their horizons widened by taking part in an ECI program. ECI programs have played a key part in students' future careers and lives.

Detailed program information

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EDU-CULTURE

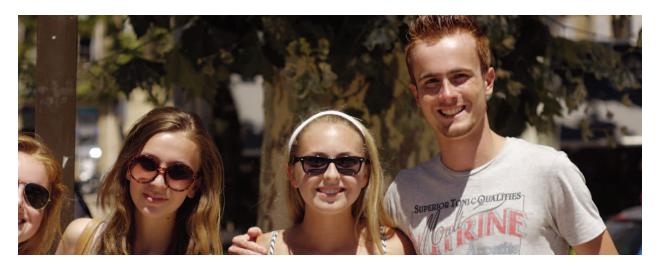
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Three program components

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Nice, Beaches & Paris 2015 is made up of three distinct program components - each designed to improve your language skills in different ways, and provide a sound cultural and historical knowledge of France.

1. Nice - two weeks of study and cultural activities

Two weeks staying in a centrally-located student residence. Enjoy daily morning classes and afternoon hands-on and cultural activities, including beach soccer, visiting a candy factory, and day excursions to Monaco and St. Tropez.

You'll experience daily conversation and grammar classes with native speakers at one of Nice's best language schools. This will prepare you for your week of French speaking host family immersion.

2. Just over a week of immersion - a unique opportunity to live with a volunteer French family

Nine days living with a carefully chosen family in Hyères. There is no better way to improve your French.

This part of the program is individual, and is a life-changing opportunity for you to put your French skills to the test. You will travel to the beautiful French Riviera town of Hyères, and for one week you will be fully immersed in French family life. There are no group activities, but your chaperones will be on hand throughout.

3. Paris - unforgettable four day adventure

Your adventure ends with four fantastic days in Paris, visiting the major sites and staying in a high quality hotel in the heart of the city. This is a fantastic finale to your program. Four full days in the French capital seeing the major sights, including Notre Dame, the Louvre and the Eiffel Tower, as well as ample opportunity for shopping, café culture and people-watching.

2. Your program town - Nice

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Nice is quite simply one of the highlights of the Riviera. Much loved by all who have ever visited, this is an amazing town in which to spend two weeks taking part in a French language immersion program.

Nice boasts world class museums, an elegant beachfront promenade, and a beautiful traffic-free old town to explore in your free time. There are numerous impressive, typically French town squares - some with fountains, some with flower markets, but all buzzing with atmosphere, not to mention a great selection of cafés and night time music entertainment. Art lovers are in for a treat - Nice is home to the museums of both Chagall and Matisse.

A host of local Nice and Riviera excursions await ECI participants. You will explore the impressive and gorgeous coastline of the Côte d'Azur, including the stunning scenery and vibrant towns of Monaco, Cannes and St. Tropez. Having Nice as your program town, and soaking up the cosmopolitan, but thoroughly French mediterranean culture, is a rare opportunity to become immersed in everything French.





3. Group classes & activities



During your two weeks in the program town of Nice you will spend weekday mornings taking French classes, and afternoons and weekends taking part in fun and cultural activities and excursions.

Classes

In Nice we work with a highly regarded and internationally recognized language school in the center of the city. Established in 1990, it is recognized by the University of Nice and the French Government Department of Education, and is also an official examination center for the Sorbonne university in Paris. All language teachers are native speakers and have degrees in modern languages, as well as professional experience teaching French as a foreign language.

The school and residence are in the same campus location, which means no traveling to classes. The campus is just a 15-minute walk to the beach and a 20-minute walk to the city center. There is also a cafeteria and sports field on site.

Important information about classes:

- You will be assigned to a particular class level based on a placement test you complete on the first day of class.
- There are a total of 12 different levels.
- There are four hours of class each morning, Monday through Friday, beginning at 8:45 am and ending at 2:15 pm, with a 15-minute break and one hour for lunch.
- The maximum number of students per class is fifteen.
- You will be in class with students from all over the world
- You have the opportunity to earn up to four semester units of credit* through Truman State University

*There is an additional cost for the university credit option.



Language Partners

To complement classes we have our unique Language Partner program - structured conversational sessions with French teens and university students. In groups of two to three, you will spend a few hours visiting local sites or cafés together - a great opportunity to ask questions about what it's like to be a young person living in Nice. Many of our students report back to us that this was one of their favorite activities!

University credit - build your college application

ECI's university credit option enables you to earn up to four French semester units through Truman State University. These credits are transferable and are accepted by most accredited universities in the United States.

Important information about earning credit

- 1. If you opt to earn credit for this program you will be given a course number and description by the university, which will be based on a placement test. The course will be worth up to four semester units of credit.
- 2. Transcripts remain on file for you to use when you apply for and ultimately attend a university after high school. Generally, three units of credit are equal to one semester-long course at a university.
- 3. You must sign up for credit in the spring prior to your summer program.
- 4. All enrollment paperwork for university credit is sent directly to you by ECI.
- 5. You will take a placement test online prior to departure, usually in April/May.
- 6. You will be required to do some additional work. Specific details of these requirements will be given to you prior to the time you must make your decision to enroll for the credit (usually in the spring).
- 7. Following the completion of the program, Truman State University will assign you a letter grade that goes on an official transcript.
- 8. You can include the completion of this course on your college applications and send out copies of your official transcript to your prospective universities/colleges. You can also choose NOT to send out the transcript, based on your satisfaction with your letter grade.
- 9. A fee of \$550 (subject to change) is paid to Truman State University, plus a \$175 administrative fee is paid to ECI.

Cultural activities

Experience French culture first hand through a range of fun, daily and weekend activities, including half day excursions to Juan les Pins, Antibes, St. Paul de Vence and Villefranche. Full day excursions include visits to Monaco, Cannes and St. Tropez.

4. Group program Immersion Week



We are enormously proud of this unique program component. It continues to be one of the main highlights of the trip and is proven time and again to be the most beneficial aspect of the program.

You will travel by bus from Nice to Hyères, where you will be met by the host volunteer families. After brief introductions, your family will take you to their home for a warm, French welcome. The majority of our families have children of a similar age to you, and one of the goals for the Immersion Week is that you develop a strong bond with the teens in the family, and even form the beginnings of a life-long friendship. But as this is an immersion with the entire family, we encourage you to also spend as much time as possible building a relationship and talking French with all family members, whether it be the grandmother or the toddler in the family.

You will either have your own room or share with a host family sibling. During the week you will speak only French, and there will be no group activities. You will simply fit in with the daily routines of your French

family. This is your unique opportunity to authentically live the life of a French teenager. During this week your family will take you on local sightseeing excursions or to visit friends, or may simply spend a lot of quality time with you at home, going about their daily lives. All of this is immensely valuable in helping you to improve your spoken French and knowledge of French culture.

Your US leaders will be in Hyères with you and will be on call 24/7 in case you have any issues or concerns. They will also check in with you regularly by phone to make sure you are settling in and comfortable in your family..



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5. Where will you stay?



In Nice

You will spend your two weeks in Nice living in the Parc Imperial residence, the former home of a Russian Czar. It is very conveniently located, only a 20-minute walk from the heart of the city, and a 15-minute walk to the beach. All your classes will take place at Parc Imperial, both inside and in the gardens. There are also communal areas for relaxing both inside and out.

Breakfast and lunch are served in the cafeteria at Parc Imperial, and packed lunches are provided on excursion days. Evening meals are mostly served at Parc Imperial but there is also the opportunity to sample local French cuisine by including two evening restaurant meals during your time in Nice. Meals are prepared and served by a team experienced in providing meals for young people. Special menus for vegetarians or those with other dietary requirements can be ordered for students who request them.

You will stay in a triple or quad room. Each room has its own bathroom with shower and toilet. Some rooms even have a view of the Mediterranean! All bedding is provided (please bring your own towels), and there is the opportunity to do laundry at launderettes close to Parc Imperial.

The residence has a 24 hour security team on hand.





In Hyères

During your Immersion Week in the south of France, you will live in a family home in the idyllic town of Hyères. Hyères les Palmiers, to give it its full title, lies at the foot of the Massif des Maures mountain range and is bordered by the Mediterranean Sea. There is much to enjoy here, including the islands of Porquerolles, Port Cros and Le Levant, not to mention Hyères' medieval center and its Victorian suburbs. Its famous bay and harbors offer many water sports, including scuba-diving, sailing and kite-surfing.

In Paris

You will stay in a centrally-located hotel, very close to the Eiffel Tower and a short Metro ride to all the major highlights, including Notre Dame, Ile St. Louis, Montmartre and the Champs Elysées. We always choose high quality hotels, usually 4*. You will be in a twin room (two beds) with ensuite facilities. Breakfasts will be at the hotel and dinners in quality restaurants in the heart of Paris.



6. A day in Nice



Every day of your trip will of course vary, but during the program town portion in Nice, each day will follow a specific pattern:

7:45-8:30AM:	Breakfast
8:45AM-10:15AM:	Morning classes
10:15AM-10:30AM:	Break
10:30AM-12 Noon:	Classes
12 Noon- 1:30PM:	Lunch & free time
1:30PM-2:15PM:	Classes
2:30PM-6:30PM:	Afternoon activities or half day excursion
6:30PM-8:30PM:	Dinner and free time
8:30PM-12 Midnight:	Evening activities*
Midnight:	Curfew

Full day excursions take place on the weekends.

*After dark, students are always in chaperoned groups for activities.



7. In their own words



Some of the many great comments we've had from parents and students about last year's group program in France.

Parents

"Studying abroad with ECI changed my daughter's life!. She made lots of friends. She learnd how to deal with new situations and learned lots of French. I am very happy with the program and was impressed by how helpful ECI is with the parents."

- Laura Abello, parent

"Our daughter had a GREAT time, made some really good friends, learned to speak French more fluently, enjoyed her host family and seeing another part of the world. I think it also gave her a lot of self confidence to travel on her own. We know she will always remember this trip, and it will continue to benefit her into her future."

- Barbara Love, parent

Students

"Everything was so well organized and I have come away from ECI with improved French, made great friends, and spent a lovely time abroad." - Caroline Stafford

"My immersion family was great and very welcoming. They taught me a lot about their culture, customs, and daily life. I learned things there that I couldn't learn in the classroom."

- Laney Meris

"I felt very welcome with my Immersion host family. I was always involved, encouraged to make myself at home, speak the target language, and was never regarded as 'the American.' I think the Immersion was probably the most key week in the program." - Anastasia Flores

"I loved the language school teacher and the class size was perfect."

- Codie Harper

8. Individual Immersion program

Summer Study Abroad opportunity for high school & college students



The ECI individual Immersion program in France is unique. No other program offers you this amazing opportunity. Your spoken French and knowledge about French culture will improve enormously.

ECI is the only Summer Study Abroad organization to offer a total immersion program in this form - living with a volunteer family, and speaking only French.

This is what sets our programs apart – an individual learning experience in an authentic French cultural setting. No classes, no group activities, no English. Simply a summer of French culture, French family life and French language.

This is true language immersion.

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9. Your program town - Gap

Individual Immersion in Gap, in the French Alps

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Immersion students love Gap. It's a beautiful and safe Alpine town, and there is a lot to do, particularly if you love the outdoors. There are opportunities to hike, swim in fantastic lakes, and to go horseback riding. It's also on the route of the Tour de France.

Gap is a popular tourist destination but mainly for French people on vacation – so, there's plenty of opportunity to speak nothing but French during your whole stay. Gap is an excellent location for an Individual Immersion experience. All our families live in the Gap region which means in the town itself and villages in the region.

Spend your summer in the mountains of France and improve your French.





10. A flexible & individual program



2 to 4 weeks living with a family

Spend your summer living with a host family in the French Alps. Enjoy improving your French, experiencing French culture first hand, and becoming immersed in French family life.

You choose the dates

Travel any time between July 1st and August 22nd. The length of stay is up to you. Students usually stay for between two and four weeks.

Customize your trip

If you want to take tennis lessons, dance classes, or horseback riding lessons during your immersion stay, we will do all we can to accommodate these and other requests.

Regular check-ins

Our dedicated Host Family Coordinator will regularly check in with you to make sure you are comfortable in your family and getting the most out of your immersion experience.

11. The host family experience

Unique ECI Individual Immersion with a volunteer family in the French Alps



Arrival

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You will be met at the airport in Marseille by one of our ECI Meet and Greet personnel. You will then transfer by bus or train to Gap, or else your host family will pick you up at the airport in Marseille.

Getting to know your family

The majority of our volunteer families have teenagers of a similar age to you, and one of the goals for the Individual Immersion program is that you develop a strong bond with the teens in the family, and even form the beginnings of a life-long friendship. But as this is an immersion with the entire family, we encourage you to also spend as much time as possible building a relationship and talking French with all family members, whether it be the grandmother or the toddler in the family.

Living with a family

You will either have your own room or share with a host family sibling. You will speak only French, and because this is an individual immersion program, there will be no group activities. You will simply fit in with the routine of your French family. This is your authentic and unique opportunity to live the life of a French teenager. Your family will take you on local sightseeing excursions, including to the highlights of the region, or to visit friends, or may simply spend a lot of quality time with you at home, going about their daily lives. This is immensely valuable in helping you to improve your spoken French and knowledge of French culture.





Regular check-ins

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Your Host Family Coordinator will be on call 24/7 in case you have any issues or concerns. She will also check in with you regularly by phone to make sure you are settling in and comfortable in your family. She will arrange to meet up with you out of the home in order for you to feel comfortable discussing any issue or concerns you may have, however small. This is sometimes done with other US students who are in the program town at the same time as you. Many students find it really useful to meet up for this brief period of time to exchange stories about their experience of the program so far.





12. Activities

Total immersion, total flexibility - totally fun!



With no program of planned activities, you will simply live the life of a typical French teenager in Gap.

This means that your family will offer to take you on local excursions or sightseeing in Gap and the surrounding region. But you will also spend time immersed in the daily routines of the family. Enjoy mealtimes, going shopping with your host parents, hiking in the Alps, family parties, or just relaxing and getting to know your family.

And your French will improve along the way.





13. Customize your trip



During your immersion stay in Gap, you may want to take the opportunity to add some additional features to your program.

In the past, students have requested horseback riding or tennis lessons, for example. Some have wanted to take dance classes or even a short intensive program of one-on one French classes to consolidate their language learning during immersion.

It is also possible for you to join onto portions of our group program. For example, you could add on the four-day Paris portion to your Individual Immersion program. You could also take part in our two-week group French classes portion in Nice and combine that with your Individual Immersion. All of this is possible, providing the dates fit.

Please discuss your requests with our US team, and we'll be happy to make it work for you.

14. Which program?

France 2015 - group or individual program?

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Our group program in Nice is designed to expose you to all aspects of the French experience, including:

- Regular classes at a reputable language school.
- Numerous organized cultural activities that allow you to interact with the language and culture of France.
- A four-day stay in the capital city of Paris.

You will also have the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to spend a week with a volunteer host family - a total immersion experience only offered by ECI.

Our group program also enables you to make new friends on the trip, try your hand at dorm living and provide you with a sense of independence.

Some students are looking for a complete immersion experience - one where there are no organized group activities and where they speak only French the entire length of their stay. Living with a family during the Individual Immersion program in the French Alps definitely meets those requests.

If you already have a reasonably good level of French, if you are independently minded and totally committed to immersing yourself in French culture and language for the duration of your trip, this is a fantastic opportunity to enormously improve your spoken French abilities. With an Individual Immersion program, you also have the flexibility to choose your dates of travel and the length of your stay.

Whichever program you choose, our unique Immersion component ensures your French will improve.



15. Am I eligible?

To take part in a Group Immersion program you must:

- Be between the ages of 14 and 18.
- Have completed coursework equivalent to one year of high school French (equal to two years of middle school French) by June 2015. Exceptions can sometimes be made with a teacher recommendation.
- Receive a positive teacher recommendation. ECI provides the form.
- Be committed to speaking and improving your French.
- Be open to new experiences and unfamiliar cultures.
- Be able to make responsible choices and act in a mature manner. ECI leaders chaperone conscientiously, but cannot be with you 24 hours per day.
- Be in good physical health, able to walk distances, climb stairs & carry luggage.
- Have a valid passport.

To take part in an Individual Immersion program you must:

- Be between the ages of 15 and 21.
- Have completed coursework equivalent to two years (or equivalent) of high school French by June 2015. Exceptions can sometimes be made with a teacher recommendation.
- Receive a positive teacher recommendation. ECI provides the form.
- Be committed to speaking and improving your French.
- Be open to new experiences and unfamiliar cultures.
- Be able to make responsible choices and act in a mature manner. ECI's Host Family coordinator is onhand, but cannot be with you 24 hours per day.
- Be in good physical health, able to walk distances, climb stairs & carry luggage.
- Have a valid passport.

16. Meet and Greet service

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You have the choice of traveling round-trip on one of our chaperoned flights (organized via our travel partner STA Travel) or making your own separate flight plans.

If you make separate flight plans, you are also responsible for making your own arrangements to meet up with the chaperones and group, unless you choose our Meet & Greet Service, which carries an additional fee of \$185 minimum per direction. With the Meet & Greet service, an ECI representative will meet you at the airport or any other designated arrival place. Shortly before departure, ECI will provide you with all necessary contact information, phone numbers, and a detailed meeting place and time. You will then be taken to join up with rest of the group.

The Meet & Greet service is also available for the return trip, and we highly recommend it in either direction if you are not traveling with the group.

For the Individual Immersion program you are also responsible for making your own flight arrangements, but ECI includes a Meet & Greet service for all Individual Immersion students. An ECI representative will meet you at the airport in Marseille or any other designated arrival place. Shortly before your departure, ECI will provide you with all necessary contact information, phone numbers, and a detailed meeting place and time. You will then be taken to your host family.

The Meet & Greet service is also provided for the return trip.

Remember that airline schedules are always subject to change. Please contact ECI to discuss the Meet & Greet arrangements.

17. Dates and fees

When?

Nice, Beaches & Paris June 26th to July 24th 2015

Individual Immersion French Alps Anytime from July 1st to August 22nd 2015

Fees?

Nice, Beaches & Paris \$7995 + airfare

Individual Immersion French Alps \$1195 per week* + airfare (* one-week-only supplement of \$575)

18. The ECI team

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We have a team of ECI staff who create the Individual Immersion program. Each one is highly trained and is expected to meet exacting ECI standards.

US leaders (group programs only)

Are responsible for your welfare from the moment you board the plane together in the US until the return journey. Most chaperones are high-school language teachers with extensive travel abroad experience, and all are enthusiastic leaders, fully trained by ECI. Many are French teachers who take the opportunity to spend their summer in France as a way of maintaining their French links and enhancing their classroom teaching skills. ECI carefully selects chaperones on the basis of language ability, maturity, patience, judgment and professionalism.

Local Leader (group programs only)

We always have at least one native French speaker as part of the chaperone team. This Local Leader has expert local knowledge which is vital to the smooth running of the trip. He/she is a constant source of local information and guidance throughout the trip and are instructed to ONLY speak French for the whole duration of the trip.

Program Coordinator (group programs only)

Our Program Coordinator, together with our European office and our partner school in Nice, coordinates the activities, excursions and all the other pieces that make up the program, including arranging accommodations, the language classes and Meet & Greet personnel. All planning takes place well in advance of your arrival in order to ensure a smoothly run and successful program.



Host Family Coordinator

Our Host Family coordinators are based in Gap and Hyères and arrange each Individual Immersion host family placement. The ECI Immersion program is now very well-established in these areas, and our Coordinators are able to recruit volunteer families to host through their connections in the region. Our program is highly regarded among the local communities, and French families look forward to welcoming a US student into their homes each year.

The family/student matching process starts with you writing a letter to your prospective family, giving details about your interests and hobbies. Our Coordinators will arrange a family best suited to you based on this information.

For our Individual Immersion students in the Gap region, your Host Family Coordinator will be on-hand throughout your experience, as part of the ECI support team. She will visit you in your host family home and also meet up with you during your stay to make sure all is going well.

US team

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Before your trip starts, you will be in communication with our US team, who will provide all the information you need during the application process. It is their role to guide you through this process, including giving advice about writing your letter, uploading photographs, insurance options, university credit, and making payments. They will also make sure you have all the necessary pre-departure information, including an itinerary and Study Abroad student handbook, giving you practical advice about your program. They will also arrange an online pre-departure meeting in preparation for your travel to France.

12. What next?

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Based on our years of feedback, we can safely say that, as a student, you will have the time of your life, make new friends, experience authentic French culture, and gain a sense of independence and new-found confidence. As a parent, you will feel secure in the knowledge that ECI's programs are carefully planned and executed, that every detail is taken care of, both before and during the trip, and that a committed and experienced team of US and local leaders will ensure each program matches/exceeds your expectations.

Need more information?

- Please email our main office: info@educulture.com
- Check out our FAQs on the website educulture.com
- Watch our informative videos available on the website: educulture.com/about/video-gallery/
- Read our blog posts on a wide variety of Study Abroad-related topics educulture.com/blog/
- Take a look at our Facebook page and Twitter feed facebook.com/Edu.Culture.Immersion
- Take a look at our Twitter feed twitter.com/educulture

Want to to talk to someone at ECI?

Call our main office at: 510-261-8182

Ready to sign up?

Complete our online application - educulture.com/sign-up/



Application Procedure 2015 Summer Programs

- 1. The fastest way to reserve a space on your chosen program is to use our online option for application and payment. Go to http://educulture.com and click the the Apply Now link.
- 2. Select your program, then Book Now. Complete the online Booking Form and make a \$500 credit card deposit payment to reserve your spot. This deposit will be credited towards the total summer Program Fee.
- 3. Alternatively, you may complete the application page found at the end of this packet and mail it with a \$500 check made payable to ECI.
- 4. You will receive an automatic receipt invoice, and shortly after other pre-departure information, including details about submitting a teacher recommendation form, medical authorization, and writing a letter to your host family.
- 5. The balance of payment is due by April 1, 2015.

Please note: this is our general payment plan. To arrange a customized option or for any additional information, contact us at 510-261-8182 or at info@educulture.com.



Additional Payment Information – 2015 Summer Programs

- All deposits will be deducted from the Total Program Fee.
- It is your responsibility to make sure all payments arrive at ECI's office by their due dates. You must assume responsibility for late payments due to mail delays or other unlikely circumstances. Students whose payments are not received on time may lose their place in the program or be subject to a late payment charge.
- Applications made 60 or fewer days prior to departure will be treated on an individual space-available basis. Full payment will be due at the time of application, and completed application materials will be due within one week.

Edu-Culture International (ECI) Refund Policy

Prior to December 3, 2014: All Program Fee payments less \$150 Between December 3, 2014, and March 4, 2015: All Program Fee payments less \$500 Between March 4, 2015, and June 3, 2015: All Program Fee payments less \$1200 After June 3, 2015: No refund

Cancellations must be received by ECI in writing by the above dates for refunds.

Any student who is unwilling to abide by ECI guidelines or who is believed to jeopardize the welfare of others will be dismissed without refund of program fees and sent home at the expense of his/her parents. ECI reserves the right to cancel any program due to insufficient enrollment. In this case, all program fees would be refunded.

ECI **does not** provide medical, travel or cancellation/interruption insurance. Please ensure you arrange medical and travel insurance prior to departure. We also strongly advise the purchase of cancellation/interruption insurance.

Preliminary Mail-In Application Form

Please mail this page with a \$500 check to ECI:

ECI P.O Box 27470 Oakland, CA 94602

Check the program to which you are applying:

SPAIN:

□ Salamanca North and South

Southern Spain and Barcelona

Individual program in Spain (Costa del Sol)

FRANCE:

Nice. Beaches and Paris

Individual program in France (French Alps)

Please print the student and parent email addresses clearly on the form below, as future correspondence will be sent to you via those email addresses.

Parent Name(s)		
Best Day Phone(s)	Best Evening Phone(s)	
Mailing Address		
Parent Email		
Date of Birth		
Student Email		
Student's School		
Foreign Language Teacher		
Years of foreign language completed as of June 2015 (2 yrs. of middle school count as one year of high school)		