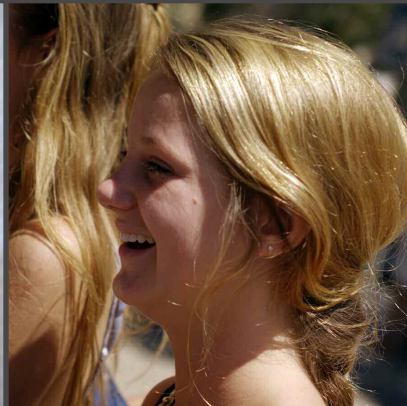




EDU-CULTURE
IMMERSION

Nice, Beaches & Paris 2015



Group immersion program in France
Summer Study Abroad opportunity for High School Students

Nice, Beaches & Paris 2015

Group immersion program in France



Summer Study Abroad opportunity for high school students

Choosing a Study Abroad program is a big decision. We completely understand that you have to feel absolutely comfortable and confident that this is the best program for you. We understand that the program must include as an absolute minimum:

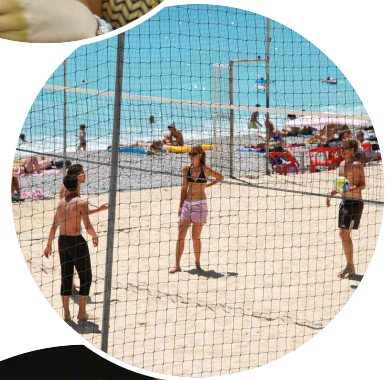
- French classes taught by native speakers in a quality school
- A great program city location
- Cultural excursions and activities to support your learning
- An experienced and dedicated team of leaders
- A visit to Paris
- Lots of opportunities to speak French

Nice, Beaches & Paris will fulfill all your Study Abroad needs, and in addition, this program will offer you the very unique opportunity to live with a French family for one week and experience total immersion. **This is what sets our programs apart – an individual learning experience in an authentic French cultural setting.**

Detailed program information

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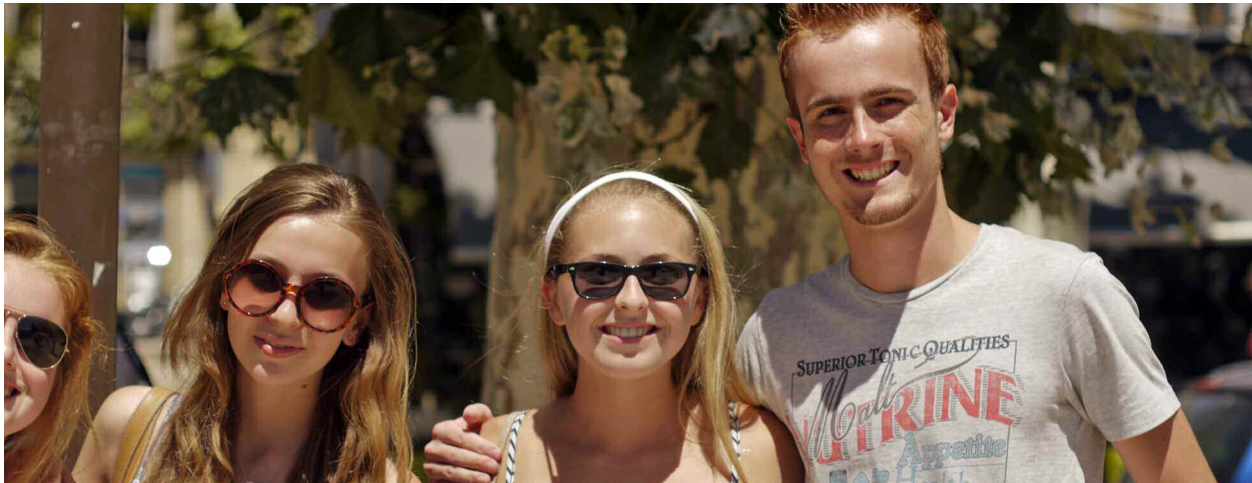
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1. Program structure

Three program components

Nice, Beaches & Paris is made up of three distinct program components - each designed to improve your language skills in different ways, and provide you with 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 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.

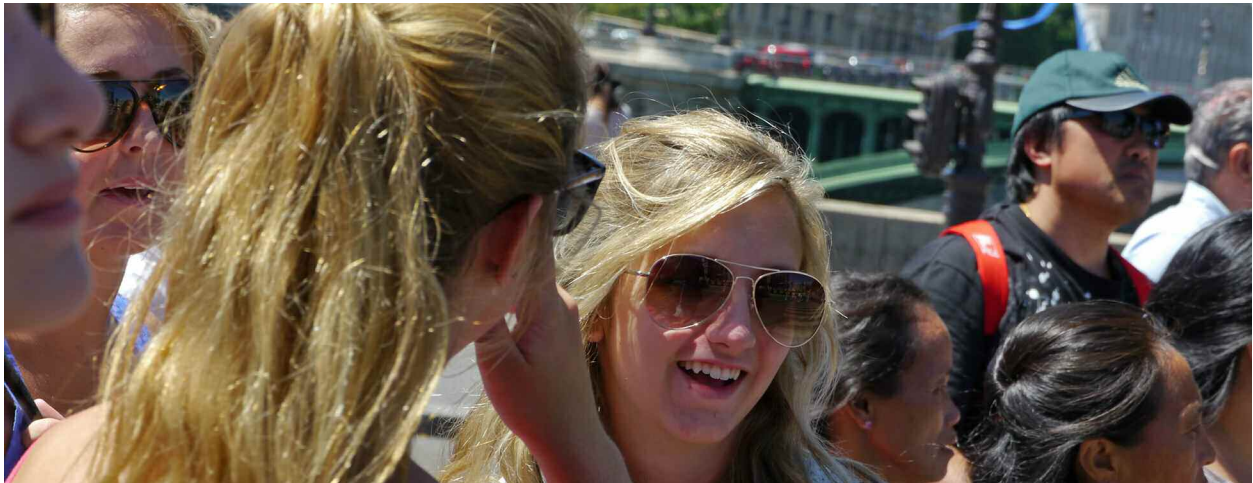
This part of the program is individual, and is a wonderful opportunity for you to put your French skills to the test. You will travel to the beautiful French Riviera town of Hyères, where you will be fully immersed in French family life. There are no group activities, but your chaperones will be on hand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

2. Your program town - Nice

Nice is quite simply one of the highlights of the Riviera. Much loved by all who visit, 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 flowers markets, and 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 French 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. 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 2:15pm, 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 gives you the opportunity 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. 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 is paid to the Truman State University, plus a \$175 administrative fee paid to ECI.

Cultural and fun 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. Transportation to these Riviera towns will either be by chartered bus or local train.

Also enjoy an excursion to a candy factory, the Matisse art museum, and sightseeing in the historic center of Nice. Learn new skills during a French cooking class, a dance class and a theater workshop.

Evening activities at the residence include movies, a salsa night, games and a disco. Available sports activities include soccer, rollerblading, basketball, mini-golf and beach volleyball. There will also be lots of free time for you to get together with friends and relax at the beach.

4. Immersion Week

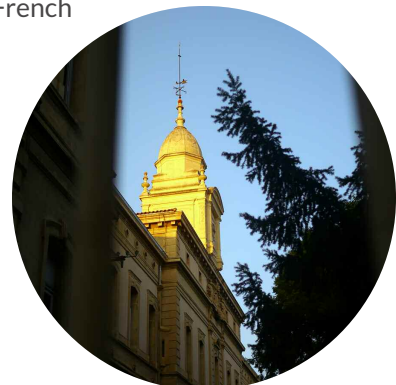
We are enormously proud of this unique program component. It continues to be one of the main highlights of the trip and is proven time and again to be the most beneficial aspect of the program.



You will travel by bus from Nice to Hyères, where you will be met by your volunteer host family. 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 may 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.



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 laundrettes 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. The ECI team

We have a whole team of ECI staff who create the Nice, Beaches & Paris program. Each one is highly trained and is expected to meet exacting ECI standards.



US leaders

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

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

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 HF coordinator is based in Hyères and arranges the volunteer families for each of our students. This ECI Immersion program is well-established in the area, and our coordinator is able to recruit volunteer families to host through her numerous connections in the town. Our program is highly regarded among the local community, and French families look forward to welcoming a US student into their home 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 coordinator will arrange a family best suited to you based on this information.

US team

Once you enroll, you will be in communication with our US team who will provide you with 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, 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.

7. 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*

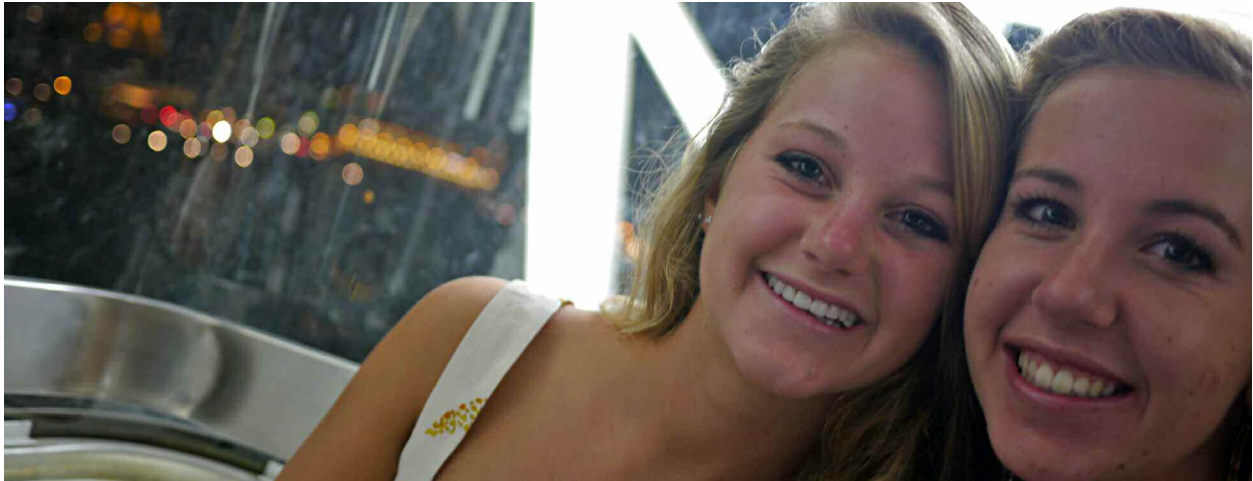
Midnight: Curfew

Full day excursions take place on the weekends.

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

8. In their own words

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



Parents

"Studying abroad with ECI changed my daughter's life!. She made lots of friends. She learned 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**

9. Am I eligible?

To take part in this program you must:

- 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.
- Be between the ages of 14 and 18.
- 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.

10. Meet and Greet service

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

If you make your own 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.

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

11. Dates and fees

When?

June 26th to July 24th 2015

Fees?

\$7995 + airfare

Program price includes:

- All accommodations
- All language classes, group activities, excursions and admissions
- All transportation abroad
- All meals during Homestays, residence (Parc Imperial) & Host Family Immersion Week
- Two meals per day during days of travel
- Chaperone/student ratio of 1/8

Program price does not include:

- Airline tickets (*Students can purchase airline tickets on the designated chaperoned flights from San Francisco or JFK via our travel partner STA Travel www.statravel.com or 1.877.777.8717. Students may also purchase their own tickets independently.*)
- Spending money
- Optional activities
- Some lunches
- Insurance
- University Credit Fees (optional)

12. What next?

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 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 _____

Student Name _____

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)