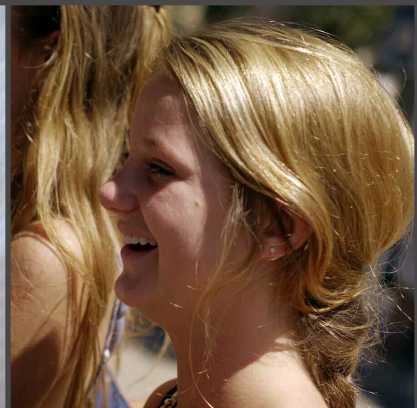




EDU-CULTURE  
IMMERSION

# French Alps 2016



## Individual Immersion program in France

Summer Study Abroad opportunity for high school & college students

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## Individual Immersion program in France



### **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.**

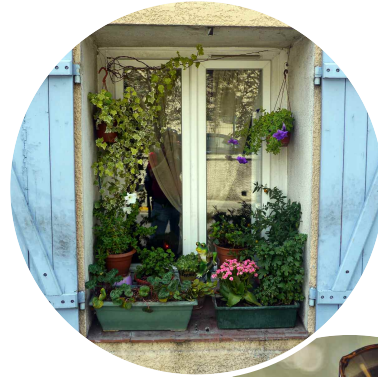
**This is true language immersion.**



# Detailed program information

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# 1. Your program town - Gap

## Individual Immersion in Gap, in the French Alps



Immersion students love the region of Gap. It's a beautiful and safe Alpine setting, 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.

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 surrounding villages.

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



## 2. 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 become immersed in French family life.

### You choose the dates

Travel any time between July 1st and August 20th. The length of stay is up to you. Students usually stay for between two and four weeks.

### Customize your trip

If you want to have 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.



## 3. The host family experience

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



### Arrival

You will be met at the airport in Marseille by one of our ECI Meet and Greet personnel. You will then either be met by your host family or be taken direct to Gap by bus or train.

### Getting to know your family

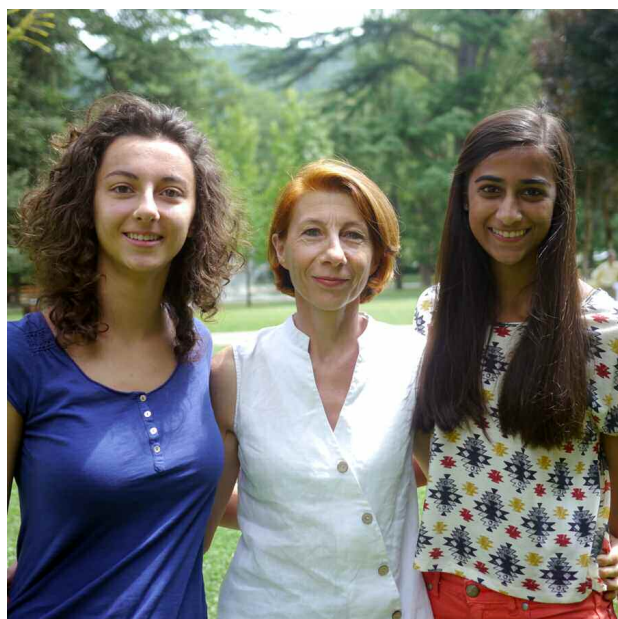
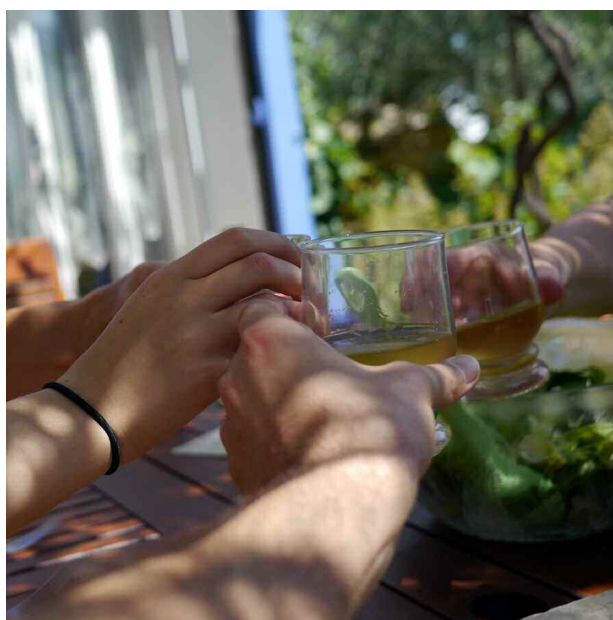
The majority of our families have teenagers of a similar age to you, and one of the goals for the Individual Immersion program is that you develop a strong bond with the children in the family, and even form the beginnings of a life-long friendship, but as this is a host family immersion, we encourage 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 genuine and unique opportunity to live the life of a French teenager. Your family may take you on local sightseeing excursions, including 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. Regardless, all of this is immensely valuable in helping you to improve your spoken French and knowledge of French culture.

## Regular check-ins

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 in 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, and many students find it really useful to meet up for this brief period of time to swap stories about their experience of the program so far.





## 4. 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.

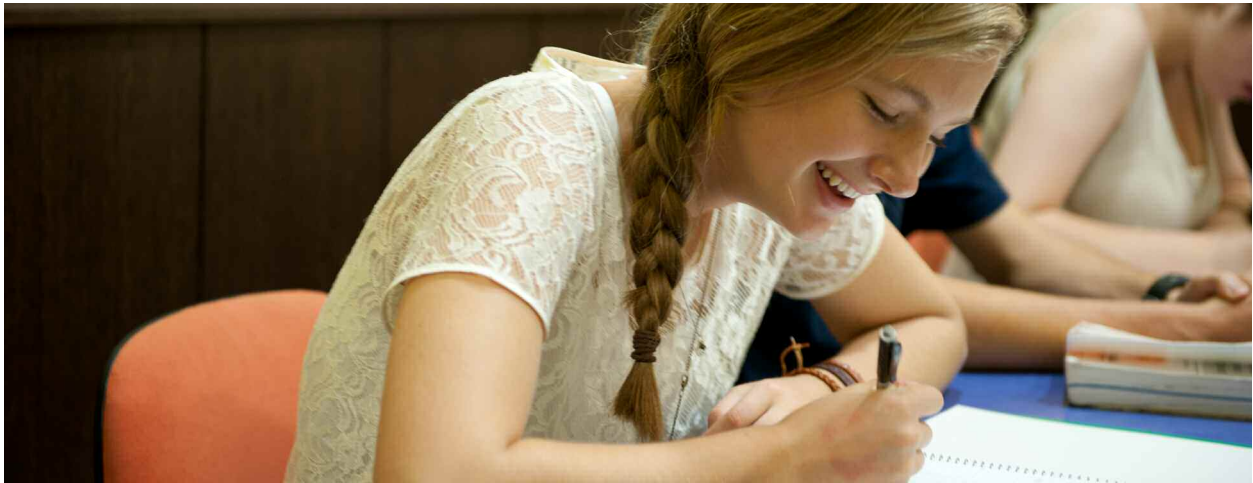
This means that your family will offer to take you on local excursions or sightseeing in Gap and the surrounding region. But, more importantly, you will also spend time immersed in the daily routines of the family. Enjoy mealtimes, going shopping with your host parents, hiking in the Alps, family parties,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

**And your French will improve along the way.**



## 5. 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 a course of horse riding or tennis lessons, for example. Some have wanted to take dance classes or even a short intensive program of one-to-one French classes in Gap to consolidate their learning during immersion.

It is also possible for you to join onto portions of our group program. For example, you could add on the 3 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 it 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.**

## 6. The ECI team

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



### Host Family Coordinator

Our Host Family coordinator is a former high school teacher based in Gap and arranges each individual immersion host family placement. The ECI Immersion program is now very well established in Gap, and our Coordinator is able to recruit volunteer families to host through her connections to schools in the region. Our program is highly regarded among the local community, 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 Coordinator will arrange a family best suited to you based on this information.

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.

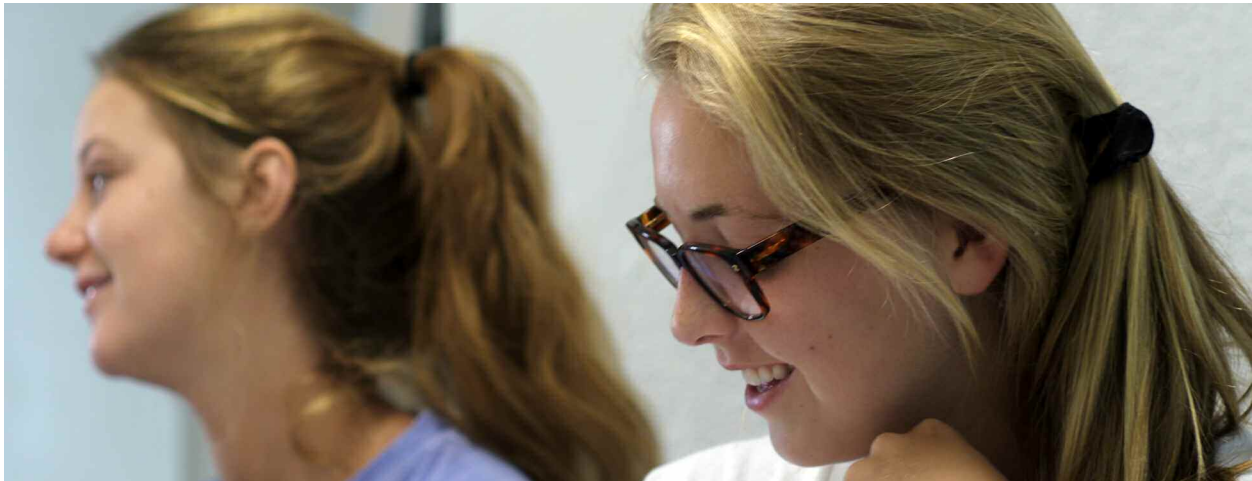
### US team

Before your trip starts, 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 the application process, including 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. In their own words

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



### Parents

*"My daughter loved every minute of her experience in France. She had a great experience with her family, she became more proficient in the language and learned so much about the culture. As a wonderful bonus she became great friends with her French host sister."*

- **Suzanne Lappe, parent**

*"Our daughter had a great time, improved her French a lot, and made a really good friend. We all felt that it was a wonderful and very worthwhile experience for her at a very reasonable cost."*

- **Julia Levin, parent**

*"The program was everything we wanted and perhaps more. Thank you! Great confidence builder, and an overall excellent way to spend a summer. We were most impressed with the quality of the host families."*

- **George Fee Sr, grandparent**

*"Lucy had a great time with her family in Gap. She feels like her French really improved and I think that she is a lot more comfortable with it, so we are very happy about it in every way!"*

- **Rebecca Fox, parent**

### Students

*"I'm really happy I participated. It has improved my French, I lived with a great family and I've had a lot of new experiences. A program like this really makes you see the differences between your own country and the one you are currently experiencing."*

- **Tierney Riordan**

*"ECI is very prepared and easy to work with. They pick good families and offer a nice, friendly, fun, experience. Gap is very pretty and a great place to live. The surroundings are literally awe-inspiring and the town is picturesque."*

- **Sam Goff**

*"I feel that my French has definitely improved and I found that I can now think in French! At first you may be overwhelmed by being in such a different place, but just relax and the language will come naturally. Don't force it; it just happens."*

- **Duncan Kimmel**

*"Due to total immersion I really did experience and begin to understand the culture. I had a great experience visiting France and I thoroughly enjoyed it."*

- **Alexander Fee**

## 9. Am I eligible?

**To take part in this program you must:**

- Have completed coursework equivalent to two year of high school French by June 2016. Exceptions can sometimes be made with a teacher recommendation.
- Be between the ages of 15 and 21 (exceptions possible based on individual circumstances).
- 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 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 available for the return trip.

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



# 11. Dates and fees

## When?

Anytime from July 1st to August 20th 2016

## Fees?

\$1195 per week\* + airfare

*\* one-week-only supplement of \$575*

## Program price includes:

- All accommodations
- All transportation abroad
- All host family meals
- On-call Host Family Coordinator

## 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](http://www.statravel.com) or 1.877.777.8717. Students may also purchase their own tickets independently.*)
- Spending money
- Additional ECI program portions (Madrid and Nice)
- Insurance

## 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](mailto:info@educulture.com)
- Check out our FAQs on the website - [educulture.com](http://educulture.com)
- Watch our informative videos - available on the website: [educulture.com/about/video-gallery/](http://educulture.com/about/video-gallery/)
- Read our blog posts on a wide variety of Study Abroad-related topics - [educulture.com/blog/](http://educulture.com/blog/)
- Take a look at our Facebook page and Twitter feed - [facebook.com/Edu.Culture.Immersion](https://facebook.com/Edu.Culture.Immersion)
- Take a look at our Twitter feed - [twitter.com/educulture](https://twitter.com/educulture)

### Want to talk to someone at ECI?

Call us at: **510-261-8182**

### Ready to sign up?

Complete our online application - [educulture.com/apply](http://educulture.com/apply)



# Application Procedure 2016 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 \$1000 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 \$1000 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. A second payment of \$1000 is due 4 weeks after the initial sign-up and deposit payment.
6. The balance of payment is due by **April 30th, 2016**.

**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](mailto:info@educulture.com).

## Additional Payment Information – 2016 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, 2015: **All Program Fee payments less \$150**

Between December 3, 2015, and March 4, 2016: **All Program Fee payments less \$500**

Between March 4, 2016, and June 3, 2016: **All Program Fee payments less \$1200**

After June 3, 2016: **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 \$1000 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 2016 \_\_\_\_\_  
(2 yrs. of middle school count as one year of high school)