

Hosts

Sharing the daily life of a Parisian family is an excellent opportunity to learn about France and its people, and to practice your French in everyday situations. **Sharing an evening meal (three dinners per week) is considered a privileged time to share with your hosts.**

Our students' hosts are carefully selected to provide a warm welcome in authentic and comfortable accommodations. **Curious students who want to experience a cultural exchange will find that their Parisian hosts are invaluable resources.** A mutual interest in each other's culture leads to a natural and beneficial exchange for both the host and the student.



If you would like to host a VWPP student, contact Lisa Fleury:

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or lfleury@vwpp.org

Visit our website: <http://fr.vwpp.org>

Students say :

“I have become more confident; I can now adapt to the environment around me. I am someone who can now really appreciate the value of slowing down and doing things that are valuable to me. My host family often told me to *profite* and that really became an important value to me – the idea of really enjoying moments and experiences.”

“The food was generally delicious. My host is a very good cook. Best part is that each meal was always a full French meal (ie. *entrée, plat, dessert, vin, fromage et pain*). There was plenty opportunity to hear/speak French, and to get to know my host; over meals we talked about everything i.e. politics and current affairs, our personal backgrounds, cultural differences, career aspirations, the VWPP program (and French education system), and many more topics...”

“I met most of my ‘French friends’ through my host! This is one thing that I will forever be grateful for... at dinner one night, I was introduced to her friend’s daughter who is my age. From there, I was constantly invited to parties, lunches, drinks by this friend (and her friends) who I have since become very close to.”

“I feel that my French skills, in particular comprehension and speaking skills, have improved by leaps and bounds. I feel that I became very self-sufficient, not only in terms of taking care of myself (cooking, shopping for myself, etc.), but also in terms of establishing a routine and finding familiarity/comfort in such a foreign environment.”

“It’s really valuable to spend time around your quartier. The more times you frequent a place there or even just walk around, the more you start to really bond with the area and it starts to feel like home.”



VASSAR WESLEYAN PROGRAM IN PARIS



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VASSAR WESLEYAN PROGRAM IN PARIS

The Vassar-Wesleyan Program in Paris (VWPP) is based on a comprehensive or whole-life approach to study abroad and has three goals:

- to allow students to study **all aspects of French civilization**: politics, art, literature, cinema, history...
- to help students to **become near-native speakers** of the French language.
- **to bring students into direct contact with French and European life**, heightening their understanding of French society, but also of the United States in relation to other countries and cultures.

The goals are obtained through various components of the program: living with their host, taking courses in French universities, extracurricular activities with French students, internships and cultural activities such as day trips. Students are expected to be only speaking French during their stay.



Students may participate in the program for either **one semester** (from August to December or from January to May) or **two semesters** (from August to May).

Courses & Seminars

The Vassar-Wesleyan Program in Paris offers students the opportunity to take classes at Reid Hall, in the 6th arrondissement. Those seminars are conducted entirely in French and **focus of different aspects of French culture: history, literature, art, theater, etc., and take advantage of the rich cultural offerings available in Paris.**

Furthermore, **all students take classes at a Parisian university**: Paris 3 Sorbonne Nouvelle, Paris IV Sorbonne, Paris Diderot – Paris 7, Paris Est Créteil, Sciences Po or the Collège International de Philosophie. They are able to take the classes of their choice in various departments.

Concurrently, all students are required to attend a weekly individual French tutoring session at Reid Hall. These “tutorats” provide **added support for students’ French academic work and oral and written skills in the language.**



Cultural excursions and activities

The program organizes numerous activities and visits to introduce students to the great monuments of French culture. Several Reid Hall courses include **museums and gallery visits, excursions to sites in or near Paris, and regular theatre evenings.** Excursions outside of Paris to such places as Rouen, Lille, Lyon, are an integral part of the program. Such excursions typically involve picnics, guided tours, and meals featuring regional specialties. Moreover, the program organizes guided visits to major exhibits, evenings at the ballet, opera, theatre, or shows, dinners and receptions at Parisian restaurants.

Internships

All VWPP students may undertake a not-for-credit internship or field work experience such as volunteering as an English-language teaching assistant in Parisian schools, interning at an art gallery or foundation, museum, publishing house, or as a research assistant.

These two month “stages” are arranged by the VWPP to offer students the opportunity to learn more about contemporary France in the field and meet Parisians.



Alex, Yining et Christopher, interning at “S. Une galerie” at café Le Select

“It’s very interesting to be in a French school with French students. (...) They have difficulties with pronunciation, the ‘th’ and ‘s’ sounds in particular in words such as ‘thirty-three’ or ‘scissors’. I think that when I speak French, students think that I also have difficulties with pronunciation. I feel like I am going to love my internship.”