

The Bowdoin-SP Lyon Exchange Program



Program Overview

This exchange relationship differs from traditional off campus study as it allows for reciprocity. While a Bowdoin student studies at Sciences Po, Lyon for a semester or year, Bowdoin will host a student from Sciences Po, Lyon for one academic year. Sciences Po Lyon hosts two distinct academic programs to about 300 visiting students. Students with advanced language skills may opt for a French-language immersion program with direct enrollment courses alongside French and international students. Students with no previous French language study or beginner language skills can begin or continue French language study alongside English-taught courses alongside international students. The institution is particularly suitable for independent students with an interest in social sciences, international relations, government, and political studies. Students who require courses in the humanities for a Francophone Studies major can be accommodated as well.

Location

Lyon, with a population of just over 2 million inhabitants, is located between Paris and Marseille in the Rhone-Alps region, two hours by train from Paris. It feels like a small city and is easy to navigate with lots to explore and plenty of cultural events, such as the Lumiere Film Festival (celebrating the Lumiere brother's invention of cinema in Lyon) and the Fete des Lumiere. While its rich history and architecture make this regional capital city a UNESCO world heritage site, the city is also a major center for banking, industry and innovation as well as hosting many museums and art galleries. With over 100, 000 students in Lyon, it is very student-friendly with many restaurants and museums that honor student discounts. Lyon is located around two rivers the Rhone and the Saone, and often people will go for a jog or walk or lunch by the rivers or will picnic in many of the nearby parks.

Bowdoin Participant:

“For me the best part of the exchange has been the city itself. Lyon is a big city but it's very easy to navigate and it feels smaller than it is. It also doesn't feel very touristy, which is nice for a couple of reasons. It allows you to interact more with locals, and most locals don't speak English, which forces you to use and improve your French. Lyon also has a lot of cultural events and museums. There is a lot of theatre, cinema, music, and other events in Lyon and most of the time there are student discounts, which make tickets pretty affordable.”

Institution

The Institut d'études politiques de Lyon, also known as Sciences Po Lyon, is a prestigious and highly selective institute and is one of the “Grande Ecole” or elite French schools of higher education. Sciences Po Lyon is an

autonomous entity within the Université de Lyon. As a participant on this exchange, students will be registered at Sciences Po, Lyon and able to enroll in courses taught at this institute as well as a wider range of courses at the Université de Lyon.

Academic Calendar

Fall Semester (tentative dates)

September 1—September 15: Orientation and Language Course

September 15—January 12: Academic Semester*

* Includes one-week break in late October, two-week break at the end of December and 2 weeks of exams

Spring Semester (tentative dates):

January 3—January 12: Orientation and Language Course

January 15—May 31: Academic Semester*

* Includes one-week break in late February/early March, one-week break in late April and 2 weeks of exams

Exam period: Fall semester only students may choose to take their exams in late December with professor approval. Academic year students must remain on campus for exams in January. During the spring semester, final exams may vary in date during the entire month of May. Students are asked to remain on-campus until the end of the month.

Orientation

All Bowdoin students attend a two-week language and culture orientation prior to the start of the semester. The purpose of this orientation is to provide an opportunity for linguistic immersion before classes begin and provide students with a period to adapt to their new environment.

Bowdoin Participant:

"In general, I've found that the French are a bit more reserved socially compared to Americans - a French person told me today "Americans are sooo welcoming". This made it a little bit harder to make friends at first. That said, a lot of people are interested when you say you are American, and I've made lots of friends through my classes and through playing basketball for the school. The school offers a lot of different dance and sports classes, and I would recommend those as a good way to meet people."

Nature of Classes

Students in the French Immersion track will take all their coursework alongside host institution students with all instruction in French.

Students in the English-language track enroll in courses alongside other visiting students that comprise the Diploma of French and European Studies (DFES) program, a fully English-taught diploma, and a required French as a second language class ranging from a beginner to an advanced level.

Academic Program

Bowdoin Participant:

"As far as academics are concerned, Sciences Po is a "grand école" so it's very prestigious, and when you tell people you are studying there they seem really impressed. French students work very hard, and the academics are pretty rigorous, maybe a little bit less rigorous when compared to Bowdoin. But the French system is very different compared to the American university system. It is very much based on memorization of information. You can take a wide variety of courses, there are CDM courses, which are more participative, and CF and CO courses, which are lecture courses, and graded more on memorization than participation. The courses offered are interesting as well and cover a large range of topics including history, economics,

law, international relations, sociology, philosophy and government. “

French Immersion

This program is suitable for students with the equivalent of five semesters of French (e.g. 2305 or higher, a 2400-level course is recommended) who want to study alongside French students in the university system. Courses will be offered in the following subject areas: history, politics, law, economics, sociology, international relations and regional studies in the Arab world, Europe, Latin America, East Asia, and Sub-Saharan Africa. Courses will be offered at the introductory, intermediate, and advanced levels. Francophone Studies majors who require 1-2 courses in the humanities may enroll in courses at Université de Lyon II.

English-Language Option:

Students with little or no previous knowledge of French can register for the Diploma of French and European Studies. The focus of this program is on France and Europe in the World: Governance, Institutions and Culture. The program also includes a French as a foreign language class.

Class Structure & Credits

There are three types of classes based on a semester calendar:

- 24 hour lecture classes (CF= Cours fundamental)
- 22 hour sections (CDM=Conférence de méthode, generally accompanying a CF).
- 24 hour electives (CO=Cours d'ouverture or CS=Cours spécialisé).

Students must enroll in 30 ECTS credits during the fall semester and 30 ECTS credits in the spring semester. During the fall semester, students may receive 5 ECTS credits if they enroll in the [START intensive French language pre-session](#). All classes are worth 5 ECTS, except the beginner's intensive French as a second language class (8 hours/week), which is 10 ECTS.

Course offerings can be found under the "Documents" tab [here](#) (in French) or [here](#) (in English)

Sample Course Listings for French Immersion track:

CM: Cours Magistral/CF: Cours Fundamental

Des Amériques indiennes aux Amériques latines
Les Amériques latines des indépendances à nos jours
Commerce développement en Afrique: limites et perspectives
Défis alimentaires, pratiques agricoles contraintes environnementales
Géopolitique de l'Afrique Subsaharienne
La politique commerciale: une perspective européenne comparative
Introduction aux droits européens
Territoire société en Europe: géopolitique de l' Europe
Initiation à la common law au droit constitutionnel américain
Les fondamentaux de l'économie américaine depuis 1945
Géographie du monde arabe
Histoire du monde arabe contemporain
Systèmes politiques du monde arabe
Economie japonaise et intégration régionale en Asie
Développement économique et géostratégie chinoise
Institutions et politique et en Asie
Introduction à l'histoire de la Chine et du Japon

CDM: Conférence de Méthode

Participation et action collective en Amérique latine
Géopolitique de l'Amérique latine
Etats sociétés en Afrique Subsaharienne
Rôles et fonctions des organisations internationales en Afrique
Vie politique européenne
Institutions internationales européennes
American conservatism in theory practice
Le processus législatif américain
Economie et société dans le monde arabe et musulman
Socio-anthropologie et sociologie du monde arabe
Société du monde asiatique

CO: Cours d'ouverture/Cours spécialisé

Géographie de l'Amérique latine
Les impasses de la politique en Amérique latine : populisme, autoritarisme et démocratie
Les relations Amérique latine États-Unis. De la Doctrine Monroe à nos jours
Actions humanitaires et politique de développement en Afrique de l'Est
Anthropologie de la décentralisation et de la démocratisation en Afrique
Géographie de l'Afrique subsaharienne
Histoire de l'Afrique des Africains du début du XIX ème siècle au lendemain des indépendances
Analyse historique prospective du système communautaire
La nouvelle Russie
Les règles du marché unique de la concurrence au sein de l'Union Européenne
Les relations internationales depuis 1945
Socialisme social-démocratie en Europe
L'Etat et la construction de l'identité nationale aux Etats-Unis
La Politique étrangère des Etats-Unis depuis 1945: de la guerre froide à la guerre contre le terrorisme
La présidence des Etats-Unis
Les grands courants de pensées de la politique américaine
Droit, religion et société dans le monde arabe
Géopolitique et conflits dans le monde arabe
Histoire du Viêt-nam au XXème siècle: résistances, révolutions, réunifications
Invention de l'Extrême- Orient, géohistoire d'un espace
La sécurité de l'Asie du Nord-Est
Politique, religions et sociétés dans le sous-continent indien (Inde et Pakistan): la perspective historique

Sample Course Listings for English Language track:

Required French language course:

- Intensive Beginner French language, 10 ECTS credits
- French language course (various levels), 5 ECTS credits

Students must then choose 20-25 ECTS courses from the following options (note: each course is worth 5 ECTS credits).

Fall semester 2022

The US-UK Special Relationship
French Politics and Society

Cities and Aspects of Globalization
Europe's Nuclear Independence
Global Justice: A European Perspective

Spring semester 2023

Politics and Communication in Europe and the US from 1900 to Present
Animal Welfare in the European Union
The British Contribution to the Defense of Europe
North-American roots of European Public Debates

Academic Culture

You are certain to encounter a different educational system during your time abroad. French professors tend to be more formal and methodology is often lecture-based requiring students to hone their listening and note-taking skills. Students are encouraged to be self-motivating and independent in their studies and are expected to guide their own learning. Students will be asked to do “exposés”, oral presentations, during the semester. There is a strong emphasis on writing skills and a student’s ability to demonstrate their understanding of material through well-structured written assignments. Assessment will often be based on a variety of assignments, but it is likely that at least half of a final grade is based on the final exam.

Students in the fall semester who are required to return home prior to the winter holidays may arrange for early exams. These exams are exactly the same in content and form as the regular exams.

The French grading scale is from zero to 20, with 10 considered a minimal passing grade. Grades between 12-15 (roughly equivalent to a B) are considered a very good grade.

Housing & Meals

Sciences Po Lyons does not have a student residence. In lieu, an administrator from the International Relations department at Sciences Po Lyon will provide resources to Bowdoin students to identify housing. All visiting students who request can be matched with a French “peer buddy” that can provide advice. In addition, you will have access to a housing platform on which requests for housing and available housing are posted. Most students do not solidify their housing until 2-6 weeks prior to the start date. Students may choose from among private residences, a host family, and a shared apartment with a roommate among other options. The monthly cost of housing depends on amenities, location, and space. These costs are paid directly to the landlord or family or residence. Food costs are roughly equivalent to what it is in the United States. Some students may arrange for some meals with their host families if that is their living arrangement, otherwise, they may choose to cook for themselves.

More information about accommodations can be found [here](#).

Bowdoin Participant:

“Housing can be difficult to obtain before you get to Lyon, but not impossible. I used a website to find an apartment-share before I arrived, and I found an apartment of students that was looking for another student. That worked out well for me, but I also knew students that arrived in Lyon without housing and were able to secure housing once they arrived. There are also lots of student residences in Lyon with single rooms.”

Fees/Finances

Students choosing to study abroad on this exchange will pay Bowdoin tuition and then pay their room and board on-site independently. The Bowdoin tuition will include the OCS administrative fee (\$1,500) and the two-week language and culture program preceding the regular semester. A breakdown of estimated additional costs is as follows (Note: the Bowdoin tuition below is from 2022-2023—please confirm current prices with OCS office.)

Description	Fall--USD	Spring--USD	Euros
Bowdoin Tuition	\$30,476	\$30,476	NA
Room	\$3,000	\$3,200	600/month
Board	\$2,000	\$2,200	400/month
Medical	\$35	\$35	25
French Social Security (required)	\$275	\$275	200
Books	\$270	\$270	200
Flight	\$1,000	\$1,000	NA

Students should also expect to budget for their own personal travel and entertainment.

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