

Program Highlights 2007

Pre-Departure Orientation for 200 Students

In June 2007, the Fulbright advising center organized a one-day information session for foreign students recently admitted to American universities at the French business school ESCP-EAP. Two hundred students received information on practical matters such as visas, health insurance, bank accounts, and useful contacts.

Training International Educators: EducationUSA Professional Day

This one-day session for International Relations Officers was held at the Sorbonne in June 2007. Over 70 IR Officers could learn about visas, exchange programs, the EducationUSA network, and the Fulbright program.



Fighting False Perceptions: Visa Workshop

This first-ever two-hour evening workshop for foreign students recently admitted to American universities was held at the F.-A. Commission in April 2007. Hosting the event at the Commission reduced costs and brought non traditional visitors to the center from the student and professional communities. The Vice Consul was invited to discuss the visa application procedures and his presence was especially appreciated by the students.



Key EducationUSA Partners

- ▶ “Reseau Information Jeunesse” – Youth Information Network supported by the Ministry of Health, Youth and Sports.
- ▶ ONISEP – Student and professional information network supported by the Ministry of Education
- ▶ US Embassy, Public Affairs Section
- ▶ US Embassy, Consular Section
- ▶ US Commercial Service

Country Statistics	2006	2007
Number of students in the US:	6,640	6,704
Total number of center inquiries:	11,199	11,245

France

Advising Center Network

The EducationUSA Advising Center of the Franco-American Fulbright Commission in Paris provides the complete range of advising services for students all over the country. Regional student advising centers in Lyon and Rennes are also actively involved in advising about US studies. Special activities include regular outreach programs in the French provinces, tailor made publications related to specific aspects of US higher education, in-house thematic workshops, annual pre-departure orientation sessions, and training workshops for French international education professionals.

Recent Trends: US Study ↑ 1.0%

- ▶ In 2007, interest in the US was stronger than ever, despite modest increases in student mobility. The number of visitors to fairs, Fulbright workshops and study abroad offices led to actual enrollment increases in exchange and graduate programs.
- ▶ There is greater interest in short-term and professional programs in the US that allow study and internships at a lower cost and allow students to start after a 3 year degree.
- ▶ New requirements in the curriculum of many French schools requires students to complete an internship abroad. In response, Fulbright now organizes more workshops on J-1 sponsors and internship/OPT possibilities in the US. Students often seek to “work” before US graduate studies.
- ▶ Fields of study most inquired: business, law, social sciences, and communication.
- ▶ Common sports for student-athletes: soccer, tennis, rugby, golf.

Resource Links

Ministry of Education: www.education.gouv.fr; www.campusfrance.org/en/index.htm

Education System Overview

	Secondary Education	Higher Education (Bachelor’s Degree)
Language of instruction:	French	French (English in some business or engineering schools)
Years of study required:	12 years	3 years
Grading system & US equivalent:	The grading system is based on a scale of 20. The passing grade for a single subject and academic year is usually 10/20 although grades of 8 and 9 might indicate acceptable performance. Grading in France is particularly severe.	
Scholarship for US studies:	Fulbright program (\$20,000) / Exchange programs (tuition waivers) / Ministry of Foreign Affairs (from 305 EUR to 1,524 EUR per month for short-term doctoral studies)	

Upcoming Events 2008-2009

The Fulbright EducationUSA advising center is planning to create an alumni fair for US higher education in order to harness the large quantity and quality of American alumni in France, and to allow US universities to get greater exposure in a traditionally expensive and low return market. Targeting graduate programs will also reach an underserved market and create new partnership opportunities for US universities. The center seeks to work more closely with J-1 sponsor organizations during its spring workshops. Contact us to get involved!

Partnering with EducationUSA France

US international education experts are welcome to contact the educational advisers in France to discuss specific project ideas for 2008/09 (webchats, joint information sessions and conferences, breakfast with exchange partners, etc.).

Country Contact

Celine OUZIEL and Lindsay TURLAN, Educational Advisers
 Franco-American Commission for Educational Exchange
 E-mail: Ouziel@fulbright-france.org; Turlan@fulbright-france.org