



Essential Eligibility Criteria

The ideal APA participant is bright, motivated, and internationally minded. Seeking an immersive cross-cultural experience that is authentic and in line with the diversity of life in the Francophone world. Curiosity and adaptability are crucial skills to ensure the success of a gap year experience. Though not exhaustive and subject to change, the following guidelines have been created for the safety, well-being, and overall success of the program for all participants who have reached the **age of 18 prior to departure**.

Linguistic

We know that several factors play into a student's ability to learn a second language (or third, or fourth!). The number of years taken of academic French may be a difficult guideline to determine one's level, therefore APA refers to the **equivalent of an A2 or B1 language level and up**, according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR). **Participants must be able to understand and express themselves in French in daily conversation.** This is not a program for beginners in French. A phone conversation during the application process and an online language evaluation during the pre-departure period will be organized with the goal of best anticipating academic and linguistic support on arrival.

Mental & Physical Health

Unfortunately, the legal requirements of heritage site preservation of many locations that APA visits often mean that access is not universally guaranteed. Therefore, it is logistically impossible to comply with elements of the American Disability Act (ADA) that would ensure equal access for all. Some common issues, though not exhaustive, are related to access and entry to sites, signage, parking, absence of ramps and elevators, uneven floors, size and access to toilets, climate, and air purification. For these reasons, disclosure and communication remain key to providing a safe and welcoming experience abroad that protects students physical and mental health. We request that students:

- Be in good physical and emotional health disclosing any logistical, or psychological limitations.
 - Be comfortable walking and visiting locations requiring being on one's feet for long hours.
 - Be comfortable attending to personal needs that include, but not limited to:
 - Self-care: personal hygiene, personal well-being (diet, sleep, hydration)
 - Self-treatment: able to obtain, and administer any Doctor required medication without the aid of an APA Staff Member or host while ensuring disclosure of medications and medical treatments required in case of an emergency.
 - Communicate any chronic conditions or mental health support needs that are ongoing and will be required while abroad.
 - Be competent to respond and handle themselves in potential stressful situations (health or natural disasters, medical emergencies, traffic concerns, sudden demonstration, required evacuation or other unforeseen scenarios both physically and mentally.

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- Be able to recognize and report physical and psychological challenges as recognized and strive to anticipate limitations to partake in program activities as they are indicated.

Engagement and Behavior

Understanding that there is nothing more difficult and challenging than immersion in a new culture and environment, we wish to demonstrate that it is also the most rewarding experience one can undertake. Open communication with APA staff at each step of the process is key to best navigating and respecting cultural norms and differences. It is therefore the student's responsibility to:

- Communicate effectively and be able to self-advocate regarding questions, concerns, stressors directly with your designated advisor or staff member.
- Keep a positive attitude and exhibit tolerance and respect to those around them.
- Partake in program activities enthusiastically and as a team member.
- Comply with the laws and cultural norms of their host country.
 - ie: respecting clothing/ attire (removing/donning head or body covering when requested), alcohol use, drug use, trespassing, destruction of public or private property, reporting factually and immediately dangerous behaviors witnessed of others and especially within the cohort.
- Seek to understand and interact with experiences that are unfamiliar and challenging.
- Feel comfortable to travel and circumnavigate various locations independently.
- Take responsibility for one's belongings and those lent by host or APA.

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