

BROWN-IN FRANCE FAQ

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APPLICATION PROCEDURES

HOW DO I CHOOSE COURSES FOR THE APPLICATION?

You must discuss with your concentration advisor which courses are the most appropriate for your course of studies and level. Then, you should stop by the OIP library and look through the catalogs of courses: we have lists of courses taken by former students, course catalogs of previous years and you can also access some of the course catalogs on-line. You should also make an appointment with a Study Abroad Advisor in the OIP as well as the Campus program director to outline your study plan.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I CHANGE MY MIND ABOUT THE CLASSES I HAVE CHOSEN?

During the application stage, the list of courses is fairly flexible. The most important thing is to select the courses that will count for your concentration as it will help the staff direct you to the most appropriate school or schools. Once in France, you will have to reassess your plan based on actual course schedules.

HOW DO I APPLY TO BROWN IN FRANCE? WHERE DO I START?

Go to <https://www.brown.edu/Administration/OIP/apply/>

Follow the step by step directions.

HOW DO I FIGURE OUT WHAT INSTITUTION I SHOULD APPLY TO?

You must discuss with your concentration advisor which courses are the most appropriate for your course of studies and level. Then, you should stop by the OIP library and look through the catalogs of courses: we have lists of courses taken by former students, course catalogs of previous years and you can also access some of the course catalogs on-line. You should also make an appointment with a Study Abroad Advisor in the OIP as well as the Campus program director to outline your study plan. They will help you in the selection of a school.

IF I APPLY TO MORE THAN ONE INSTITUTION IN FRANCE, DO I NEED TO FILL OUT A SEPARATE ONLINE APPLICATION?

No, you should only fill out one online application for Brown in France. Fill out an OIP online application for the institution of your first choice within the Brown in France program. Then, make sure that the other institutions that you would like to apply to are clearly listed in your application. (There is a section in the online application that allows you to list these alternatives).

IF I APPLY TO BOTH BROWN IN PARIS AND BROWN IN LYON HOW MANY APPLICATIONS DO I NEED TO FILL OUT?

For Brown in France, you only need to fill out one online application. This opened application should reflect your first choice within the Brown in France program. If you are interested in applying to another institution/location within our Brown in France program, make sure that the other institutions that you would like to apply to are clearly listed in your application. (There is a section in the online application that allows you to list these alternatives).

COURSE/SCHOOL INFO

HOW DO I KNOW WHICH SCHOOL TO CHOOSE?

You must discuss with your concentration advisor which courses are the most appropriate for your course of studies and level. Then, you should stop by the OIP library and look through the catalogs of courses: we have lists of courses taken by former students, course catalogs of previous years and you can also access some of the course catalogs on-line. All of these resources will help you narrow down which institution fits you the best. In addition, you should also make an appointment with a Study Abroad Advisor in the OIP as well as the Campus program director to outline your study plan. They will also help you make the most appropriate selection

IN LYON, DO I HAVE TO TAKE ALL MY CLASSES AT THE IEP?

IEP Lyon is actually part of Lyon II so you can take all your classes at the IEP, or mix and match IEP and Lyon II classes according to your schedule and needs.

HOW DO I CHOOSE THE COURSES I WILL ACTUALLY BE TAKING?

- Review your list of pre-selected courses with the Resident Director. Confirm with him/her the number of ECTS each course is worth.
- Check the schedule for the courses you have selected. If timetables are not available at the office, you will need to go to all the relevant UFR's to check bulletin boards.
- For each course, you should note the total hours for both the *cours magistral* and the *travaux dirigés (TD)*, or discussion section, if there is one. When there are TD's, they are usually scheduled at a number of different times, thereby minimizing the risk of scheduling conflicts.
- Confirm your finalized list of courses with us, with the names of the instructors.
- Check the total number of ECTS is equivalent to the number of Brown credits sought.
- We will then provide a letter for you to give to your professors confirming your enrollment in each course.

WHAT HAPPENS IF THE CLASSES I HAVE CHOSEN ARE NOT OFFERED WHEN I ARRIVE IN FRANCE?

The role of the Resident Director is to help you make adjustments to your selected course list and suggest alternative courses that will fulfill your requirements and needs. It is therefore crucial to keep an academic conversation going.

HOW MANY COURSES DO I HAVE TO TAKE TO GET FULL BROWN CREDIT? WHAT HAPPENS IF I FAIL SOME COURSES?

While in France you will take a full load of courses, which will be defined for each of you by the academic advisors (On-Campus and Resident Directors). French universities use the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) and all courses are assigned a value in ECTS (5-6 on average, with a 2-11 range). For all European and French students a full semester load is defined as 30 ECTS. In order to receive 4 Brown credits, you will have to take a minimum of 24 ECTS and you may take as many as 30. To receive 3 Brown credits, a minimum of 18 ECTS will be required.

In determining your program, we will normally use the ECTS value given to your courses by the originating departments, but some factors may justify adjusting the credit value of a course: the level of the course (Licence 1-2-3 or Master), the number of weekly class hours, or the amount of work involved in the course. In most cases, you will have to take five courses (roughly 15 contact hours per week), to have the equivalent of 4 Brown courses per semester. In some cases, 4 will be sufficient and in others 6 or even 7 courses will be necessary to reach 24 ECTS. If you pass all of your courses, your credits will automatically transfer to Brown as 4 Brown credits for the semester or 8 for the year. In any case, you will receive no more than 4 credits per semester.

WHAT ARE ECTS CREDITS?

The European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) has been adopted by French schools and Universities and allows for a clearer sense of the amount of work required by each course.

DO I HAVE TO TAKE EXAMS IN FRANCE?

Depending on the type of courses you are enrolled in and the professor's expectations, you may have to take a final in-class exam; the professor may agree to let you write a paper at home or perhaps do an oral exam instead. In most courses, you can expect to be asked to write papers or to do oral or written reports. (The format of these assignments will be explained during orientation.) Occasionally, a professor insists that international students do exactly the same work as French students, including in-class exams, but this isn't necessarily a disadvantage. At Sciences-Po, all students must take final exams.

WHAT IF I WANT TO TAKE CLASSES AT MORE THAN ONE UNIVERSITY?

You can take courses in up to two schools in as many departments as your schedule can accommodate. This applies to institutions in both Paris and Lyon.

MISCELLANEOUS

HOW DO I CHOOSE WHICH CITY TO STUDY IN?

While many aspects will play in your decision making process, you must not forget that you must find the program that best fits your academic profile and needs. Another crucial step is to talk to returning students and advisors at OIP and read evaluations form returning students.

WILL I BE LIVING WITH OTHER AMERICANS?

In either city, the housing options are varied and the choice is left up to you.

CAN I LIVE WITH FRENCH STUDENTS?

While it has happened occasionally, this is a rare situation: you are only there for a short period of time and leases tend to run for one year.

CAN I LIVE IN A FAMILY?

We sometimes have offers for rooms with French families. Before choosing this option, you must think of the challenges of such a move and the obligations you will have towards the family.

HOW CAN I MEET FRENCH PEOPLE TO IMPROVE MY FRENCH?

You will find extra-curricular activities offered in each school. There are also plenty of opportunities to join local groups, chorals, sports clubs, etc.

WHY DO I HAVE TO GET THERE BEFORE CLASSES START?

You arrive before classes start to take part in an orientation. This orientation program is extremely important: by the end of it you have to be ready to take courses (write papers!) as well as be able to function independently in French society. During those weeks you will settle (physically and psychologically) in France, brush up on your writing skills in French, get to know the other students and get over the first shocks of dealing with a new society and culture. You will also decide where you want to live for the rest of the year or semester and look for a place or situation that suits you and deal with all sorts of practical issues.

WHEN CAN I PLAN ON GETTING HOME (FALL AND SPRING SEMESTER)?

You must carefully check the calendar for the schools you are applying to as the earliest departure date is the last day of exams. This date changes from school to school.