

NKU Academic Exchange in Caen, France



<https://www.cia.gov>

Spend a semester or academic year studying at
**University of Caen Basse-
Normandie!**

A brief introduction...



Office of Education Abroad
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NKU Academic Exchanges

The Office of Education Abroad offers academic exchanges as a study abroad option for independent and mature NKU students interested in a semester or year-long immersion experience in another country. The information in this packet is meant to provide an overview of the experience available through an academic exchange in Caen, France. However, please keep in mind that this information, especially that regarding visa requirements, is subject to change. It is the responsibility of each NKU student participating in an exchange to take the initiative in the pre-departure process with regards to visa application, application to the exchange university, air travel arrangements, housing arrangements, and pre-approval of courses. Before and after departure for an academic exchange, the Office of Education Abroad will remain a resource and guide for participating exchange students.

France

Although ultimately a victor in World Wars I and II, France suffered extensive losses in its empire, wealth, manpower, and rank as a dominant nation-state. Nevertheless, France today is one of the most modern countries in the world and is a leader among European nations as one of the founding members of the European Union. It also has the largest land area of any EU member and is about 80% the size of Texas. In recent years, its reconciliation and cooperation with Germany have proved central to the economic integration of Europe, including the introduction of a common exchange currency, the euro, in January 1999. With a temperate climate, France generally has cool winters and mild summers but those along the Mediterranean enjoy a more tropical climate. The scenery is dominated by flat plains and gently rolling hills in the north and west, while the rest of France is mountainous, with the Pyrenees in the south and the Alps in the east. People all over the world have fallen in love with the cultural vivaciousness of Paris, beautiful landscapes of the French countryside, and impressive monuments and chateaus scattered all over France, making it the most visited country in the world. It receives over 79 million foreign tourists annually.

Caen

With a population of just over 200,000 in Greater Caen, the city is two hours by train from Paris and only 15 minutes from the English Channel. Caen is known for its historical buildings built during the reign of William the Conqueror over 1,000 years ago, some of which still stand proudly in Caen today. While the Battle for Caen, in which heavy fighting took place in and around Caen during the Invasion of Normandy in 1944, destroyed much of the town, it was rebuilt between 1948 and 1962. Caen is a close-knit community that runs on a very traditional French system, including an open air market every Sunday. Caen offers a cosmopolitan atmosphere with many cultural activities for those looking for an urban experience, yet enough green space to enjoy the natural beauty of Northern France.

The University of Caen Basse-Normandie

The University of Caen consists of three campuses in Caen linked by trams, has an enrollment of 24,500 (4,000 from abroad), and is located in the heart of the city of Caen in the Normandy region. The exchange provides the opportunity for NKU students to study for one or two semesters to experience the French culture and university educational system. NKU students will have the option to take university courses in French and French language proficiency at the Centre d'Enseignement de Français pour Etrangers (CEFE). The CEFE is a department of the university located on the main campus and is where most exchange students take courses to learn French grammar, speech, literature, and more. Exchange students who study at the CEFE will take a placement exam to determine the appropriate level of French courses, from beginner to advanced, they will be placed into. To prepare for studying in a French university, students have the option of taking an intensive French language and culture course also offered by the CEFE. This course generally runs for two

weeks in the beginning of September and costs approximately \$175. The semester dates are similar to those of an American university. The first semester runs from September through December and the second semester from the end of January through May.

Housing

The University of Caen offers accommodation to exchange students free of charge as part of their exchange agreement with NKU. Each individual room contains a sink and includes sheets and blankets. Bathrooms and cooking areas are shared by the twelve students in each section of the hall and kitchen utensils can be bought upon arrival. A monthly stipend is also provided to NKU exchange students to help cover the cost of meals at the student cafeteria on campus or to help with grocery expenses. A home stay with a French family for a fee may also be a possibility for exchange students.

Transportation

An extensive network of buses and trams serves the city and the main tram route runs through the heart of the city from the local train station to the university and beyond. The CEFÉ building is located right next to the campus dorms, so classes and downtown Caen are only a short walk away. For traveling outside of the city and country, the European train system is highly efficient and dependable and budget airlines often offer great deals.

Visa and Health Insurance

For a three to six month stay in France, students **will** require a long stay visa. However, before applying for any visa for France, students must fill out a CampusFrance application online (link below). Once this online application is submitted, student must mail CampusFrance a letter of enrollment from the University of Caen and the CampusFrance application fee. Within two weeks, CampusFrance will send the student a conformation email. A copy of this email must be included with the visa application. After arriving in France, students will need to apply for a *Carte de séjour temporaire* (temporary stay permit). For students staying longer than six months, a one-year visa is required and students must apply for a *Carte de séjour* (residency permit) at the *Préfecture de Police* (French police department) within a week of arriving.

Students under 28 who will be staying in France longer than three months must apply for the French Social Security for the length of their studies. Students will be reimbursed for 70% of their medical expenses. For the remaining 30% students can either purchase French student insurance or make use of their own insurance with worldwide coverage (a letter from the insurance company is required).

Useful Links

Information about Caen: www.ville-caen.fr.

University of Caen: <http://www.unicaen.fr>.

CampusFrance: <http://usa.campusfrance.org/en/1.html>

U.S. Department of State Information: <http://travel.state.gov/>

General Living Expenses University of Caen, France Estimated Semester Budget

Please use the following budget only as a general guide for expenses for one semester. Also note that expenses are estimated and subject to fluctuate according to currency rates* and general economic inflation.

Tuition	\$4236	(undergraduate, in-state tuition for 12-16 hours)
Passport	\$135	
CampusFrance application fee	\$60	
Visa	\$80	
Round-trip Airfare	\$1,600	
Food	\$500	
Local transportation	\$120	
Health insurance	\$305	
Personal spending	<u>\$2,000</u>	(shopping, entertainment, travel, etc)
Total	\$8,364	

*July 2014 currency rate: 1 euro = 1.36 U.S. dollar