

Immersion Family Stay for Individual Students

France ~ Summer 2021



A Language & Friendship Immersion Family Stay is an opportunity to...

- experience life, language, and family in a new way!
- make *real progress* in the language you are studying!
- better understand the culture by *living* it!

L&F Immersion Family Stay

Day 1 26-Jun Sat Depart USA for France.
Depart USA for connecting flight/s to France.

Days 2-21 27-Jun Sun Arrive your family-stay community.
Meet your local family-stay coordinator and be welcomed by your host family. For the next 3 weeks, share in their daily life: shop at the markets, help prepare meals, explore your new neighborhood, visit extended family, and create friendships. Immerse yourself and improve your language skills!

Day 22 17-Jul Sat Return home with a lifetime of memories!



Are you ready for an L&F Immersion Family Stay? Are you...

- ___ internationally oriented and curious about a new culture, its people and its language.
- ___ adventurous and ready to meet new people, try new foods, and do things different from my life at home.
- ___ independent and able to be away from home, family, and friends (and avoid social media!) for a few weeks.
- ___ appreciative, especially of a host family's hospitality and generosity to welcome me as part of their family.
- ___ committed to speaking the language and interacting with a host family who may not know English.

Estimated Price:

3-Week Family Stay: \$3795

Program Enrollment ID: AG14981

Enrollment:

Deadline - February 15, 2021

- See page 6 for Enrollment / Interview Instructions
- Applications after February 1 accepted on a case-by case basis

Inclusions:

- Roundtrip airfare* including taxes and fuel between major U.S. cities and France
- Family-stay arrangements organized by local L&F family-stay coordinator (family meals included)
- Transportation to host family community as needed by train or car with local coordinator
- L&F staff coordinator support before & during stay
- Presence and support of local coordinator during stay
- Travel medical insurance
- Extensive preparatory materials

Exclusions:

- Passport or other document costs
- Meals not indicated as included
- Items not listed as included
- Spending money: about \$80-\$90 per week suggested for any entrance fees, treats, souvenirs, etc.
- Baggage fees (currently one checked bag is free for overseas travel)
- Any additional costs incurred to fulfill requirements set by the US or destination-country health or government officials regarding COVID-19 testing, documentation, and/or immunization

*FLIGHTS:

- Supplements are determined upon enrollment:
- up to \$150 fee for smaller airports
 - \$150 fee + additional airfare for deviating dates/cities

IMPORTANT: Students must be able to navigate 1-2 airport layovers on their own. Layovers may be in the USA and/or in countries other than the final destination (i.e., Frankfurt, Germany for France/Spain; Santiago, Chile for Argentina)

Note: Estimated program price is based on projected airfare, taxes and fuel and projected exchange rates and is subject to change due to circumstances beyond the control of Language & Friendship, Inc.

L&F Staff Coordinator: Michelle Schermer:
michelle@languageandfriendship.com

Eligibility

Participation in the L&F Individual Immersion Family Stay program and being invited to be part of a host family is a privilege. Eligibility criteria as well as Language & Friendship's Program Expectations must be followed in order to maintain eligibility.

Students applying for this program must:

- ✓ have completed 3 or more years of French study by the time of travel (or request an exception from L&F)
- ✓ maintain good academic standing
- ✓ be in excellent health
- ✓ demonstrate excellent behavior
- ✓ conduct themselves in a mature manner, reflecting highly on themselves, their community, their country
- ✓ be able to navigate airport connections on their own

Also, the following items will be part of the application process:

- ✓ A personal interview via FaceTime or Skype, partially in French
- ✓ A reference from your language teacher



Health

Success of the program depends on being physically, medically, and mentally prepared to participate and adapt in another culture.

It is vital that accurate information be given regarding health and behavior and that no information be omitted or misrepresented. Complete information is absolutely essential for the safety and well-being of the individual student.

Language & Friendship may require a Physician's Report and/or an Educator/Counselor Report to determine eligibility and to make sure host families and host-family coordinators have essential information.

Students must be able to self-manage medications and health conditions. Host families are not be expected to take on this responsibility.

Program Expectations

These expectations are essential to a successful experience. You and your parent/s will be asked to sign your agreement to these expectations.

1. I understand that a family stay is a cultural experience, not a tourist experience. I am sincerely interested in improving my language skills and learning about the culture by becoming part of a host family abroad.
2. I will respect the rules of my host family. I understand that my host parents have permission to act "in loco parentis" (in place of a parent). These include, but are not limited to, rules regarding curfews, technology, etc.
3. I will participate in all aspects of my host family's life (conversations, activities, household tasks, etc.), understanding that each member of the family is giving me an opportunity to better learn their language and their culture.
4. I will bring a cell phone for use on departure and return travel days. During my family stay, I will consciously limit the use of electronic devices, recognizing that I should show an interest in what is going on around me.
5. I will contact my local family-stay coordinator or my L&F Staff coordinator should I have any questions or problems during the stay.
6. I will be a safe traveler: keep my passport and money safe; not be distracted by technology; not go out alone.
7. I will not expect my family to organize activities for me. I will show interest in their daily routine.
8. I agree to act, speak, and dress appropriately, in a manner that is respectful of the culture I am visiting.
9. I will not engage in romantic/sexual involvement while abroad.
10. I will not participate in any illegal actions either in the USA or in the country I am visiting, such as consuming alcohol, using tobacco or other controlled substances, stealing, etc.
11. I will not have my body pierced or tattooed while abroad.
12. I will not harass or bully my peers or others I interact with during the program.
13. I will not drive any motorized vehicle, nor will I be a passenger on a two-wheeled motorized vehicle, while abroad. High-risk activities such as climbing, riding in a private plane, rafting, etc., require prior written permission of my parents.
14. I will be responsible for any loss or damage to any personal or public property and pay damages.
15. I will be responsible for having a valid passport and any other documentation that is required. I understand that I am responsible for any expenses incurred in obtaining these documents or in replacing them if they are lost.

FAQs

Will I travel with other students or chaperones to France?

Not necessarily. You are expected to check yourself in with the airline on departure days and be able to navigate all layovers on your own. Participants come from all over the USA, and it is possible that you may share a flight. There are no chaperones on the flights.

Will someone meet me at my final airport destination?

Yes, when you arrive at your destination city, the local family-stay coordinator, or other designated adult, will meet you at the airport and bring you to meet your host family.

This could be by metro, bus, or car.



How are host families found?

Our family-stay coordinators choose families from schools they work with and visit each family in their home. Host families are volunteer and they complete an application. Matches are based on interests and needs of both host families and students. Girls may have same-age host brothers and boys may have same-age host sisters. Remember, this is a FAMILY experience!

Will I have my own room?

You might share a bedroom with a host sibling of the same gender.

What will I do every day?

Immerse yourself in the daily life of your host family. Show interest in them and in their community. Examine the differences and similarities that you encounter. Your L&F Student Guidebook will prepare you for the experience and how to adapt to your new settings. There are no L&F group excursions planned.

Will there be teenagers in my host family?

Typicaly, yes. However, couples with younger children/no children often like to host. In these cases, we ask that they give their student the opportunity to meet other teens. L&F does not guarantee same-age matches.

When will I receive my host family's information?

You will receive the information 1-3 weeks before departure. At that point, you (and your parents) can communicate with your host family via e- mail, FaceTime/Skype, and social media.

Quotes from Past Travelers

This program puts you in a safe place to create memories and have life-changing experiences. ~ Kendall W., Trenton, MI

I learned a lot about myself. I think it was the perfect bridge from high school to college. ~ Palmer B., Fort Collins, CO

This program opened an amazing door to my passion for language and other cultures! ~ Ashley Z., Villa Hills, KY

It was super fun to be in the heart of the language ! My French improved a ton! ~ Martin K, Amery, WI

The study materials and guidebook were extremely helpful! ~ Joshua B, Wausau, WI

I loved being so deeply wrapped up in the culture of Spain! ~ Julia K., Kansas City, MO



... and from Parents

Your coordination and communication was great. Her stay exceeded her expectations and mine. I highly recommend your program! ~ Erika N, parent, St. Paul, MN

Thank you for organizing such a memorable experience. Our daughter thoroughly enjoyed her family and the time they spent with her.. ~ Donna C., parent, Charlotte, NC

HOST a student or leader!



PREPARE for your own family stay!

EARN a discount of \$100-\$200 off your program price - for each time you host!

RECIPROCRATE - A family will soon be hosting you! Take the opportunity to give back to the hosting community!

Learn more and complete your host family application online at www.languageandfriendship.com/hosting

Travel Documents Travelers are responsible for having valid travel documents for the destination country.

U.S. Citizens: Passport www.travel.state.gov/passport Passports must be valid 6 months beyond travel dates.

Non U.S. Citizens: must have a valid passport or travel document and may need one or both of the following:

- visa/s for entry into the destination country/s: You must contact the consulate/s directly for information
- U.S. re-entry permit: You must contact U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services www.uscis.gov

Travel/Medical Insurance

As a Language & Friendship participant, you will be automatically enrolled in the Core™ Travel Medical Insurance program. The **automatic “core” coverage** while you travel with L&F includes:

Medical Expense	\$50,000
Emergency Medical Evacuation (& Repatriation)	\$1,000,000
Continuation of Coverage*	\$10,000
Emergency Dental due to Accidental Plan benefits up to	\$1,000 injury, \$250 pain
Loss of Use due to accident	\$10,000
Cancellation Benefit*	\$1000
Return Air Only Benefit*	\$1,500
Reunion Travel Expense	\$1,500
Security Evacuation	\$10,000

The plan also includes Medical Assistance and Security Assistance, provided by Zurich Travel Assist

Trip cancellation applies for an injury or medical condition requiring treatment that prevents travel, or for death of the traveler or a family member. It takes effect once program cost is paid in full. Because this trip cancellation coverage is only for these reasons, travelers are encouraged to consider purchasing additional travel insurance to cover cancellation for other reasons (such as cancellation due to COVID-19).

*Covid-19 is not covered.

Upgrade Choices: You will have the option to purchase upgrades for your insurance beyond the “core” benefit package to suit your preferences.

- Upgrade to a plan with higher benefit limits. (Covid-19 included for Medical and Emergency Medevac)
- Purchase additional trip cancellation coverage. (Covid-19 not included)
- Add baggage and personal effects coverage.
- Add extensions of coverage. (Extensions allow you to be covered for travel you might want to do immediately after your L&F program.)

Approximately 3 months prior to your departure, you will be able to log in to your Core™ account. You can then purchase upgrades online up until the day before you leave for your international journey.

Travel Safety

Language & Friendship is committed to providing a safe, educational experience for each participant. Extensive preparation materials are provided to help ensure safety, inspire self-confidence, and facilitate communication.

Sharing the belief that it is essential to proceed thoughtfully as we organize our programs, we regularly monitor the website of the U.S. Department of State, which issues information regarding travel abroad, as well as the websites of the Centers for Disease Control and the World Health Organization. We are in frequent communication with our extensive network of teachers and other contacts overseas who inform us of each region’s political and general climate firsthand.

Following are the types of notices issued by the U.S. Department of State:

Level 1 - Exercise Normal Precautions: This is the lowest advisory level for safety and security risk. There is some risk in any international travel.

Level 2 - Exercise Increased Caution: Be aware of heightened risks to safety and security.

Level 3 - Reconsider Travel: Avoid travel due to serious risks to safety and security. Levels of advisory may vary for specific locations or areas within a country.

Level 4 – Do Not Travel: This is the highest advisory level due to greater likelihood of life-threatening risks. During an emergency, the U.S. government may have very limited ability to provide assistance. The Department of State advises that U.S. citizens not travel to the country or to leave as soon as it is safe to do so.

Additional information can be found online:
<https://travel.state.gov>

Limited Travel Advisory Protection

Language & Friendship provides the following limited protection for all L&F travelers:

If an official U.S. Department of State Travel Advisory Level 3 for a specific location or area within the destination country is issued or in effect within 90 days of departure, L&F will work with local teachers and partners abroad to determine the potential effects on the group. If conditions are deemed unsafe for student travel, L&F reserves the right to cancel any affected programs. If L&F cancels a program due to a Level 3 Advisory, refunds will be processed as indicated for Level 4 below; otherwise, our regular cancellation policy will apply.

If an official U.S. Department of State Travel Advisory Level 4 for the specific destination country is issued or in effect within 90 days of departure, L&F will need to cancel programs for that destination. Refunds to travelers will be determined by amounts refunded to L&F by airlines, hotels, and other suppliers, less administrative costs. While it is not possible to predetermine an exact refund amount, L&F pledges to make every reasonable effort to maximize the refund to pass along to participants.

Payment Policy

Initial Payment (with online enrollment)

- Payment is required for enrollment to be processed.
- Participants applying after the enrollment deadline are required to submit the amount of all payments to date + late enrollment fee (see below).

Payment Methods

- By credit card or debit card:
 - ✓ online payment on your Language & Friendship account
 - ✓ option to authorize recurring payments
- By check, cashier's check, or money order:
 - ✓ payable to Language & Friendship
 - ✓ student name in memo line
 - ✓ mail directly to Language & Friendship office
 - ✓ allow up to 10 days for checks to be processed
- Frequent smaller payments or fewer larger payments are OK as long as the minimum amount due by each date is maintained.

Fees

- Late payments and late/incomplete materials:
\$40 (*may jeopardize a student's participation*)
- Enrollment after deadline*:
\$40 + all payments to date + possible additional airfare
- Reinstatement after cancellation*:
\$40 + all payments to date + possible additional airfare

* L&F cannot confirm late enrollment/reinstatement until flight and land arrangements are secured.

Payment Schedule

Feb 15	\$800	<i>also viewable on your L&F online account</i>
Mar 17	\$1498	
Apr 22	\$1497	

Total of scheduled payments reflects the projected program price.

3-Week Family Stay: \$3795

Final Program Price / Final Payment

- Final program price is based on actual airfare and exchange rate.
- Any supplements will be indicated at final billing sent approximately 3 weeks before final due date.
- Any earned discount will be credited when the final payment is due.



Cancellation Policy

- The participant or parent must send written notice of cancellation directly to Language & Friendship via e-mail or fax.
- "To be determined" means that the exact amount to be refunded is limited to the amount of monies recoverable at the time.
- Language & Friendship reserves the right to cancel a student's participation should there be academic, behavioral, or medical issues, including failure to abide by Program Expectations. Cancellation fees apply.
- Cancellation fees apply to anyone forced to cancel due to lack of documentation (e.g. passport, visa, etc.).
- Refunds are made in the form of a check written to the person/s making payments on the account.

Cancellation Fees

Before Feb 15: \$50
 After Feb 15: L&F will notify travelers by e-mail prior to additional deposits being paid on their behalf. Cancellation fee will be determined by monies paid out that are

Note

- For cancellations before the "To be determined" timeframe, refunds are processed within 30 days.
- For cancellations in the "To be determined" timeframe, refunds may take longer as extra time is needed to make the contacts necessary to determine how much can be recovered.

Instructions for Enrollment

Set aside time in advance in order to complete these steps on time!

PART 1 (After reviewing Eligibility, Health, and Program Expectations, page 2)

1. Complete your application online:

- **Go to www.languageandfriendship.com/login**

Click on login/register and create your account.

Username should be an e-mail address of the student. Parent e-mail(s) will be requested in the online application

Parent(s) will receive all communication along with the student.

Make note of the username and password as you will need it to access travel information and make payments.

Traveler E-mail (Username) _____ **Password:** _____

- **Log into your account; Click on “Join a Group;” use Group ID:**

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- **Complete each section of Traveler Application:**

- ✓ **Traveler Information**

- ✓ **Family Information**

- ✓ **Health Information**

- ✓ **Profile Photo** - school id or passport-type photo

- ✓ **Family Stay Questionnaire** - *in destination language!*

- *Indicate your interests and what you hope to learn and share*

- ✓ **Family Stay Photos** - *one of your family + one of yourself in a favorite place or doing a favorite activity*

- ✓ **Letter to Host Family** - *in destination language!*

- a. **Write a draft of your letter using L&F’s Letter-Writing Guidelines** (see page 7; also available online)

- Be creative! Have your letter make a statement about who you are.*

- b. **Have your teacher review your letter and make suggestions for improvements**

- c. **Type your letter in your online account** - *Note there is a 250 word minimum / 500 maximum!*

2. Click “Submit” to send your online application to your L&F staff coordinator for review

PART 2

1. Your L&F coordinator will review your application and request revisions as needed.
 2. You will receive an e-mail asking to schedule a **personal interview** via FaceTime or Skype
 3. Your language teacher will receive a reference form to complete and return directly to L&F
- Upon completion of these items, you will receive an e-mail approving you to proceed to PART 3.

PART 3 (After approval from your L&F staff coordinator)

1. Finalize your application online WITH YOUR PARENTS

- **Review summary of your application** - *Make sure all sections are accurate.*

- **Read the Release Terms & Conditions and Final Agreements**

- ✓ **Name Verification** - *Make sure complete legal name is correct and as it will appear on passport.*

- ✓ **Agreement to Obtain Documentation**

- ✓ **Permission to Participate**

- ✓ **Confirmation of Materials Read**

- **Student AND parent must sign electronically**

2. Make your initial payment online

- See Payment Policy and Payment Schedule on page 5 for amount

You will receive an acknowledgment e-mail from Language & Friendship when your application is processed.

Upon acceptance, you will receive preparation materials (a Student Guidebook and Study Materials)

Letter-Writing Guidelines

This vocabulary is intended to be helpful, not to create a form letter.
Be creative! Have your letter make a statement about who you are.

FRENCH

SPANISH

1. Beginning your letter

Dear family
Thank you for inviting me...
or
Thank you for your hospitality

*Chère famille,
Merci beaucoup de m'inviter chez vous.
C'est gentil à vous de m'inviter.
Je vous remercie d'avance de votre
hospitalité.*

*Querida familia,
Gracias por recibirme en su familia.
Tengo muchas ganas de conocerles.
Les agradezco de antemano su
hospitalidad.*

2. You and your family

My name...
My age
Sibling names, ages
- younger? older? pets? describe them!
Parents and their professions
What your family does together
- special traditions, vacations

*Je m'appelle...
J'ai...ans.
frères, soeurs
chat/chien
Mon père/ma mère...
Avec ma famille...
Pendant les vacances...*

*Me llamo...
Yo tengo ...años.
hermano/a
gato/perro
Mi padre/mi madre...
Con mi familia...
Durante las vacaciones...*

3. Describe where you live

- your school, city, state, area
- geography, climate, industries, pastimes, history

J'habite à...

Yo soy de...

4. What you like to do – Describe what you enjoy doing alone, what you enjoy doing with friends, what you like doing at school.

On the weekends...
With friends...
Sports (I like to play/I play)
Instruments
Other activities
My favorite subjects
In the future, I'd like to...

*Les week-ends...
Avec mes amis...
J'aime jouer / je joue au...
Je joue de...
J'aime lire ..
A l'école, j'aime le français...
Plus tard, je voudrais...*

*Los fines de semana...
Con mis amigos...
Yo juego...
Yo toco...
A mí me gusta leer...
Me gusta la clase de español...
Me gustaría estudiar/ser...*

5. What you hope to learn from your host family – What are you curious to learn about your hosts and about their country?

I would like to learn...
I would like to improve...
I'm curious about...

*Je voudrais apprendre...
Je voudrais améliorer...
Je suis curieux de /curieuse de...*

*Me gustaría aprender...
Me gustaría mejorar...
Tengo curiosidad de...*

6. What you will teach/share with your host family – Let your family know what you can share with them.

I will show you...
I will tell you...
I will teach you...

*Je vais vous montrer...
Je vous dirai...
Je vais vous apprendre...*

*Yo les mostraré...
Yo les diré...
Yo les enseñaré...*

7. Ask your host family questions

Where do you live?
What things does your family like to do?
I look forward to meeting you!

*Où habitez-vous?
Quelles activités votre famille
aime-t-elle faire?
J'ai hâte de vous connaître!*

*¿Dónde viven?
¿Qué cosas les gusta hacer en
familia?
¡Estoy ansioso/a por conocerlos!*

8. How to end your letter

Thank you for letting me be
a part of your family
I'm so excited for this experience!

*Merci beaucoup de m'accueillir
comme membre de votre famille.
J'attends cette expérience avec
impatience!*

*Muchísimas gracias por dejarme ser
parte de su familia durante unos días
¡Estoy muy ilusionado/a con esta
experiencia!*

Closing
Sign your name!

*Amicalement / Amitiés,
[Jamie]*

*Atentamente,
[Jamie]*

Note that your letter needs a minimum word count of 250 and a maximum of 500!

Language & Friendship's Mission

Your Passion. Our Mission.

Our mission is to serve language teachers and their students and to promote global citizenship through quality educational programs including short-term travels, language-immersion family stays, and hosting opportunities.

Vision

We value knowledge of other languages and cultures, an eagerness to improve communication skills, and a curiosity for learning. By encouraging growth and curiosity through hosting and travel, we help others develop an awareness of our roles as world citizens and move in the direction of a more peaceful world.

Family Stays ~ Why & How?

The Family Stay: One can always be a tourist; a family stay is a unique opportunity to experience the language and culture in a personal way.

Family-Stay Coordinators: L&F is fortunate to have had many years of building strong relationships with dedicated teachers and coordinators abroad who organize the family stays. Like the teachers we work with in the U.S., they want their students and communities to have international friendships that broaden horizons and increase cultural understanding. They find families in their own schools and communities and personally meet each of the families in their homes to discuss the goals of the program. They are present for the duration of the stay, working with the host families, the American teacher, and the students in case of any questions.

Host Families: Host families **volunteer** to welcome a student into their home because they believe it will be an educational experience for their whole family. Just as in the U.S., host families are diverse in ethnicity and socio-economic level, yet alike in their openness and wholeheartedness. Families don't mind language mistakes! They are happy to help students express themselves and hope their student will be willing to try. Matches are based on interests and needs of both host families and students, with *one student per family* so that each has the benefits of an immersion experience.

You: The success of your family stay depends a lot on you – on your interest, openness, and willingness to give of yourself. L&F and your teacher will help you prepare for this rewarding adventure!

Language & Friendship's Staff

Experience

Language & Friendship – our name says it all. At L&F we do what we do out of our love of languages, cultures, and a passion for travel. Our lives have been enriched by friendships formed through travel and living abroad, as well as by foreign students we have hosted.

Language & Friendship has a staff with more than 100 years of combined experience in intercultural and educational programs. Staff experiences include: advanced degrees in foreign languages; teaching experience at all levels; personal family-stay experiences; living abroad; leading students abroad; working at places such as Concordia Language Villages and other student travel programs.

Heritage

Language & Friendship, Inc. was created in 1988 by Naomi Thomsen to offer maximum personalized service and custom-designed programs.

Naomi passed away in 2004. We are dedicated to carrying on her passion for languages and friendships, and we invite you to share this journey.

Recognition

Naomi Thomsen, our founder, was presented in 2004 with the **Chevalier dans l'ordre des Palmes Académiques**, the French government's highest honor to those who have advanced the cause of French culture and language.

Language & Friendship, Inc. was granted the **Pro Lingua Award** in 1992 by the Minnesota Council on the Teaching of Languages and Cultures. This award recognizes outstanding service to and support of linguistic and cultural education by a person or organization from outside the language teaching profession in Minnesota.

	<i>Language & Friendship</i> Two Appletree Square, Suite C-30 8011 34th Avenue South Bloomington, Minnesota 55425 USA
	phone 952-841-9898 fax 952-841-9919 info@languageandfriendship.com languageandfriendship.com