

<b>Housing Options in Montpellier: Frequently Asked Questions</b>				
	<b>Shared Apartment</b>	<b>Student Studio Residence</b>	<b>Homestay</b>	<b>French Dormitory</b>
<b>How can I speak French as much as possible?</b>	Apartments are typically shared with 1 to 3 UofM program participants. Students in the apartments have to make an effort to practice their French with each other.	There are both French and international students living in the student residence. Students have to make an effort to meet other residents to practice their French.	In a host family you immerse yourself in a French-speaking environment where you will speak with native speakers everyday. It is undoubtedly the best way to improve your French.	There are both French and international students living in the dorms. Students in the dorms have to make an effort to practice their French with members of the community and Francophone students at the university.
<b>What if I don't speak any French?</b>	The apartment is shared between program participants so it will be a comfortable option if you do not know much French.	The student residence has both French and international student residents. You will find other students who speak English.	Students do not often think of it, but the homestay is an option for non-French speakers. This is a wonderful way to learn French and understand more about the French culture. Host families have a wide variety of English speaking skills and we can match students with no French to a family where they will have a successful experience.	The dorm option is not recommended for students who have no knowledge of or a beginning level of French.
<b>Who will I live with?</b>	Your roommates will be other students on the UofM program in Montpellier. Your neighbors will be Montpellier residents and people in all stages of their lives!	You will have your own studio apartment within a Privately owned residence hall. Your neighbors will be other university students studying in Montpellier. Some residents may be masters and PhD students.	Your host family may be an older couple, a widow, a young family, or any other family configuration. Many host families are "repeat" families whom we've had a relationship with for years. You may live in an apartment or in a single family home.	You will have your own small studio within a French dorm building which is run by the French government. Your neighbors will be both French and international students attending your university.
<b>How do I meet French people?</b>	Students who choose the apartment option will need to make an extra effort to meet French people by getting out in the city, meeting French students at the university, joining a club, etc.	Students living in the Residence will need to make an extra effort to get to know the other students living there. Residents tend to study in their rooms with their doors closed and do not often frequent the common space. Students should plan to join university clubs and meet people in the city.	In a host family you will experience the daily life of the French from a first-hand perspective, with the chance to learn more about the culture. Many students develop life-long ties with their host families. Likewise, we recommend that you join some clubs or other social activities to meet your French peers.	Dormitories are not the social places that they are in the US. They are mainly places to study and sleep. There are some basic sport facilities on the dorm campus (basketball court, outdoor exercise equipment, table tennis). Students who choose the dorm option will need to make the effort to meet French people.
<b>How much does it cost?</b>	You will need to pay a \$500 apartment deposit to the UofM. You will also need to budget money for food. Utilities are included in the Program Fee. See Cost of Participation for exact costs.	You will need to pay a \$500 apartment deposit to the UofM. You will also need to budget money for food. Utilities are included in the Program Fee. See Cost of Participation for exact costs.	The host family fee appears slightly more than the apartment fee, but most meals and all utilities are included. See the Cost of Participation for exact costs.	You will need to pay a \$500 housing deposit to the UofM. The dormitory is the least expensive and most basic housing option. You will need to budget for food. See Cost of Participation for exact costs.
<b>Where is this option located? How long is my commute from home to the UofM Program Center &amp; City Center and the University?</b>	Most apartments are located either in the City Center or close to the Universities. You will count approximately 20 to 30 minutes to either the Program Center or the Universities. Taking the tram is usually the best option.	There are several Residences located in the city center and range from about 10-15 minutes to the Program Center and 20-30 minutes by tram to the Universities.	Most host families live in the suburbs surrounding Montpellier. Students often have a 25 to 35 minute commute by bus or tram to the Program Center and Universities. Though a slightly further commute, the cultural and linguistic benefits make it worth it.	There are many different dorm campuses located throughout the city. They are usually located about 10-15 minutes from the university and 20 minutes from downtown on the tram.
<b>Do I have my own room?</b>	You will likely share a bedroom with one other program participant. On some occasions you will have your own bedroom.	You will have your own studio room with bathroom and kitchenette.	You will have your own bedroom.	You will have your own room with a fridge and small bathroom. Sometimes the rooms have a kitchenette, but you should plan on using the shared cooking facilities on each floor.
<b>Are linens and furniture provided?</b>	Basic furniture and amenities, including bed linens, are provided. Apartments also provide bathroom towels, but you will need your own beach towel (or purchase one after you arrive). Inexpensive items can easily be purchased at IKEA, Monoprix or similar stores.	Basic furniture and amenities, including bed linens, are provided. Towels are not provided. You should bring them or purchase them after you arrive. Inexpensive items can easily be purchased at IKEA, Monoprix or similar stores.	Your room will contain a bed, a desk for studying, linens, blankets, and a pillow. Families will provide you with towels to use and oftentimes have beach towels you can use as well.	Basic furniture and amenities, including bed linens, are provided. Towels are not provided. You should bring them or purchase them after you arrive. Inexpensive items can easily be purchased at IKEA, Monoprix or similar stores.
<b>Can I use the phone?</b>	All apartments have WIFI but not necessarily a telephone landline. Students must have a working French cell phone or International Calling plan as a part of the program and you will make calls from your own phone. Students may also use the Program Center phone to call the US for important issues.	There are no phones in the Residence rooms but there is WIFI. Students must have a working French cell phone or International Calling plan as a part of the program and you will make calls from your own phone. Students may also use the Program Center phone to call the US for important issues.	Students must have a working French cell phone or International Calling plan as a part of the program and you will make calls from your own phone. You should not plan to use the host family's phone unless in case of an emergency and with prior permission. Students may also use the Program Center phone to call the US for important issues.	There are no phones in the dorm but there is WIFI. Students must have a working French cell phone or International Calling plan as a part of the program and you will make calls from your own phone. Students may also use the Program Center phone to call the US for important issues.
<b>Is there Wifi?</b>	YES			
<b>Should I bring my laptop?</b>	Yes, most students choose to bring their own laptops. There are also computers, WIFI and printers available for use in the Program Center.			
<b>What will I eat?</b>	Students in apartments buy their own food and cook for themselves or share meals with roommates. This may be a good option for students who have selective diets or who have very restrictive food allergies. You can eat inexpensively at the university cafeterias (approx. \$5 for a 3-course meal) and in local restaurants. At lunchtime, the kitchen at the Program Center is also available for students' use.	Students in the Residence buy their own food and cook for themselves in their rooms or in the common kitchen area. This may be a good option for students who have selective diets or who have very restrictive food allergies. Basic cookware is provided. You can eat inexpensively at the university cafeterias (approx. \$5 for a 3-course meal) and in local restaurants. At lunchtime, the kitchen at the Program Center is also available for students' use.	The homestay option includes breakfast and dinner on weekdays. Breakfast, lunch and dinner are included on the weekends. We have families who can accommodate food allergies and certain selective diets however it is important to note that you will share your meals with the family. You can eat lunch inexpensively at the university cafeterias (approx. \$5 for a 3-course meal) and in local restaurants. At lunchtime the kitchen at the Program Center is also available for students' use.	Students in the Dorms buy their own food and cook for themselves in the common kitchen area. This may be a good option for students who have selective diets or who have very restrictive food allergies. Basic cookware is provided. Each individual room has a refrigerator. Most students take their meals at the nearby university cafeteria (approx. \$5 for a 3-course meal). There is also an inexpensive snackbar located on the dorm campus.
<b>Where will I do my laundry?</b>	Many of the apartments have a washer but not a dryer. It is uncommon to have a dryer in France due to the very high costs of electricity, so people line dry their clothes. If there is no washer, students will need to take their laundry to a laundromat.	The Residence has both washers and dryers available (for a fee).	Your family will either do your laundry for you or show you how to use the washer. Most families do not have dryers and it is very common to line dry all clothes.	The Dormitories have both washers and dryers available (for a fee).
<b>Do I have to pay rent?</b>	No, all rent is included in your program fee and paid by Program Center staff on your behalf.			
<b>Do I have to pay for utilities (gas, electricity, water)?</b>	No, utility usage within a reasonable range are included in your Program Fee. Students who surpass typical consumption will be responsible to pay the additional charges.	No, utilities are included in your Program Fee.	No; however, please be respectful of your family and use water and electricity conservatively, as utility costs are very high in France.	No, utilities are included in your Program Fee.
<b>Where will I stay during holiday/school breaks?</b>	You may stay in your apartment during breaks.	You may stay in the Residence during breaks.	You may stay with your host family during breaks. Whether you choose to stay or not, it is important to keep your host family aware of your plans.	You may stay in the dorms during breaks.
<b>Can I arrive early or stay late?</b>	Apartments are not available before the start of the program. Students arriving early in Montpellier will need to make their own accommodation arrangements. Apartments are not available after the official program end date. Students must make other arrangements if they plan to extend their stay in Montpellier.	The Residence is not available before or after the program. Students arriving early or staying late in Montpellier will need to make their own accommodation arrangements.	Host families are not expected to host students before or after the program. Students arriving early or staying late in Montpellier will need to make their own accommodation arrangements.	Dormitories are not available before or after the program. Students arriving early or staying late in Montpellier will need to make their own accommodation arrangements.

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<b>Which is the best option if I want to be independent?</b>	You may come and go as you please but you must be respectful of your roommates.	You may come and go as you please. The Residence is a good option for independent students since you will be living in an apartment setting with no roommates, but you must be respectful of noise within the building.	You can come and go as you please, but you should be respectful of the family and inform them of your schedule so they know when to expect you.	You may come and go as you please. The Dormitories are a good option for independent students since you will be living in an apartment setting with no roommates, but you must be respectful of noise within the building.
<b>Which is the best option if I want to go out a lot at night?</b>	Many students find that an apartment is a convenient option if you plan to go out a lot at night.	You will find it very convenient to go out at night since you will be in the city center and will not disturb roommates.	Bus and tram service ends between 11pm and 2am depending on the night. If you wish to stay out later you should plan to take a taxi home or arrange to spend the night at the apartment of another program participant.	You will find it very convenient to go out at night since you will be in the city center and will not disturb roommates.
<b>Can I have overnight guests or guests from out of town?</b>	You may have occasional guests in an apartment as long as your roommates agree. Hosting friends or family from out of town should be discussed with your roommates well in advance.	An occasional overnight guest is allowed in the Residence but you must register your guest with the Front Desk.	Overnight guests are not allowed in homestays unless your family has given you permission to invite a friend to stay. Please ask friends and family from out of town to make their own accommodation arrangements.	Occasional overnight guests are allowed in the dormitories but you must register them at the Reception.
<b>What about safety?</b>	Many traditional apartments have a locked entry with a call box, prior to entering the common area shared by fellow residents of the building. As in apartments in the US, students are advised to be sure to lock their doors every time they leave their apartment and when they are inside the apartment. Health & safety are topics covered in both pre-departure and arrival orientations.	The Residence has a reception area with a controlled entry. As in apartment buildings in the US, students are advised to be sure to lock their doors every time they leave their apartments and while they are inside the studio. Health & safety are topics covered in both pre-departure and arrival orientations.	Since host families live in a variety of environments (apartments, single family homes, etc.) you will talk with them about the procedures for entering and leaving the home. Health & safety are topics covered in both pre-departure and arrival orientations.	The Dormitory campus, as well as your individual building entrance is locked and only residents can enter. As in dorms in the US, students are advised to be sure to lock their doors every time they leave the room. Health & safety are topics covered in both pre-departure and onsite orientations.
<b>What if I don't like my housing option?</b>	If you are unhappy in your housing situation, talk to the on-site staff about your options to change. Please keep in mind that there can be an initial adjustment period when you first arrive, so make sure to give your housing a chance! You may come to love it.			
<b>Anything else to keep in mind?</b>	You will be living in a French apartment with neighbors who are not students. You will be expected to behave as such. Also, because electricity, heat and water costs are much higher in France, you will be given a reasonable budget for utilities and will be expected to consume within these limits.	Housing in the Residence is sought after by UofM, French and International students alike. Please complete your housing request form as early as possible if you will be requesting this as your number 1 option.	It is possible that you will be placed with a family in a suburb of Montpellier and will have a daily commute to class like the majority of Montpellierains. This often means that you have more space in the home. You will be connected to the city via the public transport network.	Most students who choose the Dormitory option have an advanced level of French. It is a very affordable and immersive way to interact with your peers and you will be expected to be a bit more autonomous.