



2009 Hospitality Work in France

Location	Work placements available throughout the country, with the most available in the south (e.g.: Montpellier, Nice), the Alps, and in some Paris suburbs.
Start Dates	March, April, May, October, & November.
Program Fees	2-3 months: US\$1980. *EU Citizens may stay longer.
What's Included	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guaranteed full-time job placement. • Either accommodations and meals or sufficient, livable wages included. • 2 nights shared housing in a hostel with breakfast. • Training, orientation, evaluation, & assessment. • Certificate of completion or reference letter/letter of recommendation. • Full-time pre-departure briefing and local support in English.
What's Not Included	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International and local transportation (e.g. plane or metro tickets). • Personal expenses.
Benefits	For non-EU citizens, you will receive room and meals + pocket money (tips) <i>or</i> EU citizens' minimum wage (€8.17 per hour) + housing assistance.
Accommodations	2 nights shared hostel with breakfast included upon arrival in Paris. Included accommodations and meals are on jobsite and typically shared with other hotel staff members. Otherwise, you will have shared residence accommodations with access to necessary amenities. Housing assistance is readily available.
Country Facts	
Capital City	Paris
Population	~60.4 million
Currency and Exchange Rate	Euro (EUR); Daily exchange rates: http://www.xe.com/ucc/

Program Details & Highlights

Cultural Embrace offers several unique opportunities for you to work within the hospitality industry in France. Available jobs generally focus on the areas of food & beverage, housekeeping, kitchen assistance, culinary arts, cooking, front desk assistance, and customer service.

We typically pre-arrange your placement prior to departure, however, there may be some companies that want in-person interviews. In the latter case, we will secure at least 3 job interviews to ensure a job placement while in France. Our local partners are available to help you finalize the details of your placement, give you an orientation on France's customs, culture, and etiquettes. If, however, you do receive a work placement before your departure, you will travel straight to your placement and begin working immediately. Based on your nationality and visa regulations, you will either receive shared accommodations, meals while on-duty, and a living allowance of ~€50 per week (mostly for non European citizens), or earn at least minimum wage (~Euros 8.71/hour), which is sufficient income to afford local housing (pre-arranged) and living costs (for EU citizens). You are expected to work an average of 39 hours per week, with two days off per week. Each employer has its own working and schedule arrangement that you should be willing to accept.

Job possibilities will depend on your professional/educational background, work experience, and knowledge of French. An advanced, conversational level of French is required for all placements that involve front-line customer interaction. If you wish, *Cultural Embrace* can help you organize French lessons before your work placement. Job placements will also depend on availability and duration of stay. Participants coming for 6 months or longer will generally be more appealing to employers, and those coming for less than 3 months need to be more flexible with regards to what they are prepared to do and where they will work.

The summer is the busiest time of year for seasonal jobs, particularly in the Atlantic and Mediterranean cities. The winter period during holidays is also very popular in the ski resorts of the Alps. Paris generally has job prospects year-round and during the summer season in tourism-related positions. The best time for job hunting is before the high seasons (March, April, May, October, or November). Participants should avoid arriving in coastal regions in the middle of the summer season or in the Alps in the middle of the winter season, as most of the positions have been filled by these times. Paris in July-August is deserted by the Parisians and job opportunities are rare. *Because of these restrictions, Cultural Embrace will only be making placements for participants wanting to arrive in France in March, April, May, October and November.*

Accommodations are included in many of our placements; if you would like to have your accommodations included, you must be willing to work hotel based placements. These placements involve work such as housekeeping, restaurant, or front-desk positions. If

accommodations are not included with your individual job placement, *Cultural Embrace* will pre-arrange them prior to your arrival in France or have the details available for finalization upon your arrival. A rented flat in France generally costs between €400-€600/month, depending on the city location and time of year. Your wages will be sufficient to pay for your accommodations.

Visa and age requirements vary based on nationality, and work duration can range from 1-6 months. Please consult with a *Cultural Embrace* coordinator about the details of your specific country. However, **you must be over the age of 18, speak at an upper-intermediate level of French, be open-minded, and able to quickly adapt to new situations.** Send your application to us straight away so you can have the opportunity of a lifetime -- living and working in France!

Hospitality Work in France Offers:

- Practical experience in the hospitality/customer service industry.
- An immersion in French language and culture, allowing you to practice and improve your French language skills.
- An opportunity to broaden your perspective and worldview.
- An economical way to live and travel abroad.
- An opportunity to participate in and learn about local cultural activities (e.g.: art, cooking, crafts, dancing).
- Memorable travel experiences with the chance to see exotic sites you have always dreamed about.
- The chance to make lifelong friends from around the globe.
- Valuable work experience that strengthens your resume and exhibits your diligence, independence, and intercultural/international experiences.
- A great way to develop and support your self-confidence and interpersonal skills.
- A reference or letter of recommendation from your employer at the end of your employment term.

Cultural Embrace Offers:

- **Pre-arranged, Guaranteed Job Placement**
We guarantee a full-time placement in the hospitality/catering industry. You will either receive a job offer before your arrival in France or at least 3 interviews upon arrival.
- **Compensation**
Depending on the time of year and your individual placement, you will be offered either (1) accommodation and meals included at the place of your work plus a small stipend of ~120-200€/month or (2) minimum wage at €8.17 per hour. Either should be enough for you to afford basic necessities while in France. Accommodations are only included for hotel based work such as housekeeping, restaurant, or front-desk positions.

- **Housing & Meals**

If accommodations are not included with your individual job placement, *Cultural Embrace* will pre-arrange accommodations prior to your arrival in France or provide the details to finalize them upon arrival. A rented flat in France generally costs between €400-€600/month depending on the city location and time of year. Your wages, of course, will be sufficient to afford your accommodations.

- **Visa Assistance**

Cultural Embrace will assist you with the information and paperwork needed to obtain the appropriate visa (if necessary) from French immigration, but we have neither control over government decision-making nor the ability to guarantee government issuance and/or visa availability. Non-European Union citizens are limited to less than 3 months placement unless they are traveling on a student visa. Please inquire with your Programs Coordinator for more information.

- **Arrival Assistance**

An optional airport pick-up and transfer to lodging is available.

- **Arrival Orientation**

You will receive pertinent information regarding local transportation, banking, and safety. You will also receive tips on travel and communications and information on social and outdoor activities. Finally, our partners will familiarize you with the code of conduct and expectations for your new job.

- **Travel Insurance: Basic Major Medical Coverage**

Our policy provides basic medical coverage, as insurance is required to work for a French company. However, *Cultural Embrace* highly recommends purchasing additional travel insurance.

- ***Cultural Embrace* Cultural Kit**

Useful tips, advice, and information to help prepare you for the amazing adventure of living and working abroad.

- **Full-time Representation**

Cultural Embrace provides full-time, English-speaking representation in the United States and France prior to, during, and after your placement.

Program Requirements & Stipulations

- Must be 18-35 years of age (18-30 years old for Australians & Kiwis).
- Must be a full time student studying hospitality, catering, or tourism; otherwise, you must have relevant work experience in the field of hospitality.
- Able to communicate effectively in French (additional French lessons available for you to meet language criteria).
- Enjoy working with and serving others in a busy, fast-paced environment.
- Open to foreign cultures and living abroad.

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- High level of responsibility.
- Dedication to the full term of commitment.

Program Eligibility Based on Visa Requirements

Visa regulations change constantly and without warning – please double check the visa requirements by calling your local consulate or embassy. The following are some basic guidelines depending on your country of residence:

- EU countries plus Switzerland, Norway, and Iceland may work up to 12 months; placements available year-round.
- Countries with a Working Holiday Visa agreement with France (Canada, Australia, and New Zealand) may work up to 12 months; placements available year-round.
- Citizens of countries participating in the Visa Waiver Program may travel to France for tourism & business purposes for stays of 90 days (3 months) or less without obtaining a visa. The following countries are currently enrolled in the Visa Waiver Program: USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Brunei, Bulgaria, Chile, South Korea, Costa Rica, Croatia, El Salvador, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Israel, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Romania, Saint-Marin, Singapore, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

2009 Program Fees

2-3 Months (US citizens)	US\$1980/€1530
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EU, Canadian, New Zealand, and Australian citizens may extend their stay for up to twelve months. Please contact your Programs Coordinator for details and fees.

**Please note that prices are subject to change according to exchange rates.*

***Application fee credited towards program fee.*

****Can\$, Aus\$, Br£, and Euro€ can be accepted with an additional service charge for currency conversion*

How to Apply

1. Obtain the Work Abroad **Application Forms & Procedures** documents in one of two ways:
 - (a) Download the forms from our website at www.culturalembrace.com.
 - (b) Call **Cultural Embrace** at 1-512-469-9089/888-214-8570 (US toll-free) to have the forms mailed to you within 7-10 days.
2. Read the instructions carefully and complete all forms.
3. Submit your completed application packet to:

CULTURAL EMBRACE
7201 Bill Hughes Road
Austin, TX 78745 USA

Completed packets should include the following:

- Work Program Application.
- Signed Work/Intern Agreement.
- Copy of your passport (information page only).
- University/College transcript (official please).
- Copies of diploma or certificates related to field of interest (if applicable).
- Resume/CV in French and English.
- Cover letter in French and English describing why you want to work in France.
- Proof of French language level/skill.
- Two references, preferably professional and/or character references.
- Doctor's certificate verifying that you are in excellent mental and physical health.
- Copy of Police Clearance (obtainable from your community's local police station).
- Four 1½" x 2" official passport-size photos, with name printed on the back of each photo.
- One smiling full-length photo of yourself.
- US\$200 non-refundable deposit (credited towards your program fee).

Upon receipt of your application, a *Cultural Embrace* coordinator will contact you for a 20-30 minute phone interview. Once we accept you in to our program, you will receive an invoice for the remainder of your program fee. In order for us to contact our local partners to start your placement process, we require at least 50% of your program fee.

There is no deadline for applications - first come, first serve. We recommend submitting your application and program fee at least 12-16 weeks prior to your desired start date in order for us to organize and arrange your work placement with our local partners.

**Cultural Embrace* requires an expedited application fee for those applying 12 weeks or fewer before the desired date of departure. Applications received 8-12 weeks prior to desired departure date will be charged US\$150. Applications received fewer than 8 weeks before the desired departure date will be charged US\$250.

Frequently Asked Questions

1.) *What are the perks of a pre-arranged job placement?*

A pre-arranged job placement alleviates the stress of getting everything organized in a new country, and as a result, you will have more time and energy to work and have fun! Ultimately, your time in France will be an independent and memorable one, but we will

do whatever possible to ensure you have a safe, healthy, and comfortable experience before, during, and after your adventure.

2.) *What type of job placements can I find?*

Jobs are typically in food and beverage, kitchen assistance, and cleaning/housekeeping arenas. Front desk or office work and chef/culinary positions are limited, yet remain available to those with experience and high levels of French language proficiency.

3.) *May I choose the location of my placement?*

You can ask for a specific area, and we will try our best to meet your preference(s), but please keep in mind that we can only make placements according to hotel availability and acceptance.

4.) *How is housing arranged?*

Many hospitality employers have housing available for their staff, and most include or discount meals while on duty. Many of our pre-arranged placements include shared housing with other staff members and full-board although not all placements offer this option. If your job placement does not include on-site housing, we will pre-arrange your housing arrangements. Independent housing arrangements usually require a security deposit and the first month's rent upon arrival.

5.) *How long will I work and can I take time off to travel?*

Your work schedule will be assigned by your employer, but most positions average 39 hours per week, with 2 days off per week. Which days you have off from work may not be consistent each week. Each employer has its own working and schedule arrangement that you should be willing to accept. Of course, you are encouraged to travel, but please consult with your employer to see if you can organize a schedule that will be effective for all parties involved.

6.) *What type of visa assistance does **Cultural Embrace** provide?*

For most of our work programs, each country has a different process regarding visas, and **Cultural Embrace** will certainly assist you during the process. Please note, however, that any visa fees are the responsibility of the applicant. And, while we can assist you during the process, ultimately it is your responsibility to ensure that you have obtained the appropriate visa for your work experience. **Cultural Embrace** has no control over the visa process and cannot guarantee that your visa application will be accepted. Here's an overview of current visa regulations in varying countries:

- EU countries plus Switzerland, Norway, and Iceland may work up to 12 months; placements available year-round.

- Countries with a Working Holiday Visa agreement with France (Canada, Australia, and New Zealand) may work up to 12 months; placements available year-round.
- Citizens of countries participating in the Visa Waiver Program may travel to France for tourism & business purposes for stays of 90 days (3 months) or less without obtaining a visa. The following countries are currently enrolled in the Visa Waiver Program: USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Brunei, Bulgaria, Chile, South Korea, Costa Rica, Croatia, El Salvador, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Israel, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Romania, Saint-Marin, Singapore, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

7.) *What are the language requirements?*

Most employers will require an upper-intermediate level of spoken French. Your placement will be heavily influenced by your level of fluency, which will be assessed during a phone interview. If you wish to take French lessons before or during your time in France, **Cultural Embrace** will be happy to organize these as well.

8.) *Do I have to be a hospitality student or have specific experience?*

No, not necessarily. As you might expect, previous experience or knowledge of the hospitality industry is preferred, but not required. For these programs, you must be either a full-time university student or have prior work experience in the hospitality industry.

9.) *Do I have to bring specific clothes?*

Some hotels provide a uniform and some will ask you to wear black trousers or skirt with a white shirt. More details will be provided to you in your **Cultural Embrace** pre-departure kit.

10.) *How long will it take to make my placement?*

We ask applicants to apply at least 12-16 weeks in advance of your desired start date. The process may take less time than this, but we want to ensure that we have enough time to find a great placement for you! As mentioned above, there are additional administrative fees if you apply less than 12 weeks in advance, and we do not contact our local Australian partners until we receive at least 50% of the program fee payment.

11.) *When should I buy my plane ticket(s) and does **Cultural Embrace** provide any resources to help with plane tickets?*

Plane tickets should not be purchased until after your placement has been confirmed. **Cultural Embrace** works with consolidators and discount travel agencies that can help find cheaper tickets than those that are available to the general public. We have a partnership with STA Travel (1-877-236-1048) for great student/youth rates, and they

have a very nominal service fee if you need to make any changes before or during your travels.

12.) *What do I do if I have a problem or complaint within my work placement?*

You must speak to your employer or manager to give them an opportunity to explain or investigate the situation. If you feel the problem or complaint is not sufficiently addressed, then please contact your local representative in France as well as **Cultural Embrace** (Austin office) so we can mediate on your behalf.

13.) *Why should I pay **Cultural Embrace** to work abroad?*

Cultural Embrace and our in-country partners specialize in arranging a guaranteed work placement, housing, and insurance prior to your departure. CE's services will alleviate the troubles and stress of getting everything organized in a new country, which will allow you more time and energy to enjoy yourself while abroad. Ultimately, your time in Australia will be an independent and memorable one, but rest easy that we will do whatever possible to ensure you have a safe, healthy, and comfortable experience before, during, and after your adventure.

Fees ultimately vary according to project type, destination, and length of stay. Most of the costs go toward operational and field expenses (ie: housing, food, transportation, supplies, etc) plus the administrative fees to cover office and local support (e.g. legal, accounting, insurance, advertising, etc. services).

A Few Words. . .

At *Cultural Embrace*, we want to facilitate experiences that, first and foremost, help individuals become better acquainted with both themselves and the richly textured cultures of the world around them. We designed our Work France programs with this goal in mind, and feel we can offer you a number of fantastic opportunities to experience French culture first-hand. For anyone who has studied French language, history, or culture, living abroad within the country is paramount to cementing that knowledge and putting it to practice. For those without such a background, these programs serve as an unparalleled jumping off point to becoming acquainted with the intricacies and nuances of a country that has been intimately involved in world history. Regardless, when you return home, you'll have some fantastic memories to share with friends and family!

For any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at work@culturalembrace.com or you can call us at 1-512-469-9089/1-888-214-8570 (US toll-free).

Discover the Similarities. . .

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Share the Differences. . .