

Georgia Institute of Technology **BEST (Biomolecular Engineering Science and Technology)-Lyon, France**

Frequently Asked Questions

1. How can I apply to this program? Is there a deadline? Are there any restrictions? Applications are accepted via the Georgia Tech Office of International Education. February 15 is the program deadline. Students are encouraged to apply early since the program size is limited. Students must have satisfactorily completed course prerequisite requirements (unless waived) by the end of spring semester. Students must also be in good academic and disciplinary standing. The program is open to ALL undergraduate majors. To apply see: www.lyon.gatech.edu. Applicants to the program are typically notified within 2 weeks of submitting a completed application starting in early November.

2. What are the dates of the program? The program is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, May 15-Friday, July 15, 2022 (~ eight weeks). **Students are expected to depart the US on Sunday, May 15 arrive in Lyon, France and check in to housing on Monday, May 16, 2022. Housing checkout is Friday, July 15, 2022.**

3. Where is the program held? What credits may I earn by participating in this program? Participants will reside and complete GT coursework using facilities at CPE, École Supérieure de Chimie Physique Électronique de Lyon, a “Grandes Ecoles”*, institution located in Lyon, France. CPE Lyon was created in 1994 as a result of the merger of two major schools of engineering in Lyon: the École Supérieure de Chimie Industrielle de Lyon (ESCIL), and the Institut de Chimie et Physique Industrielles de Lyon (ICPI). The ESCIL was established in 1883 with the support of the Chamber of Commerce in Lyon. Its very first director was Jules Raulin, one of Louis Pasteur’s students. Among his successors were Victor Grignard, who received the Nobel Prize for Chemistry in 1912 and Marcel Pretre, founder of the Institut de Recherche sur la Catalyse. The ICPI Lyon was founded 1919 in the framework of the Université Catholique de Lyon by Professor Lepercq. The ICPI Lyon was initially a school of chemistry but electronics and information processing programs of study were opened in 1958 in order to adapt to industry’s new requirements.

As a French center for excellence in chemistry and technology, CPE Lyon is currently viewed as a top school of science and engineering in Rhône-Alpes. CPE Lyon covers several fields of chemistry (organic chemistry, analytical chemistry, process engineering) as well as those of electronics, telecommunications, and informatics. The school trains scientists and engineers that will work in all sectors of the economy regionally, nationally and internationally. It graduates approximately 250-300 Masters degrees in chemistry, chemical engineering, electronics, telecommunications and computer science, and communication networks.

*Note: There are two types of higher education institutions in France: Universities and “Grandes Ecoles”. Both types possess esteem faculties, research and academic environments, technology transfer. However, Ecoles typically have smaller student enrollments, highly selective admission standards, flexible educational programs, significant research activities, high-level of academic exchanges (students, professors, researchers) and strong ties to industry.

Program participants may earn between 5-8 credits by successful completion of CHEM 2311RBT-Organic Chemistry I, CHEM 2312RBT-Organic Chemistry II, CHEM 2380RBT/RB1-Synthesis Lab I. FREN 1001RBT-French I and BIOS 3450RBT-Cell Biology) are slated to be offered summer 2019. **Note: This is a faculty-led GT abroad program. You will be registered for GT courses. Students are only allowed to enroll for a maximum of 8 credits.** Note: If you plan to enroll in BIOS 3450, you must have completed BIOS 1510 and be currently enrolled (or have completed CHEM 2311).

4. What are the program costs? Are scholarships available? An estimate of program costs can be found at: <https://atlas.gatech.edu/index.cfm?FuseAction=Programs.ViewProgramAngular&id=10015> .

The tentative program fee (including the application deposit) for Summer 2022 is \$4,900. Program fees are expected to cover housing, site visits, cultural activities, lab/instructional costs, CISI insurance (for the program dates) and some lunches/dinners. ***This fee does not include airfare to France (approximately \$1300-1800), local transportation, books, lab coat, tuition, Institute fees, passport/visa fees, and some meals.***

The application includes a \$500 fee which is applied towards the total program fee (above). Remaining program payments are made through to Bursar's Office via your oscar account. Additional program fee deadlines: ½ remaining program fee (due April 1) and ½ of remaining program fee (due May 1). Please check with the program director if you need additional time to pay the program deposit.

The \$500 application deposit may be fully refunded if the applicant is declined for the program; the program is full; or if the applicant wishes to withdraw his/her application or acceptance by February 1, 2022. Additional programs deposits due in April and May are nonrefundable.

Students will be charged in-state tuition based on the number of course credits. For study abroad tuition rates, please see: www.bursar.gatech.edu . The tuition rate for summer 2022 is estimated to be \$340 per credit hour. Out-of-state students receive an out of state tuition waiver (thus charged the equivalent of in-state tuition....plus Institution and technology fees). See the Institute calendar for deadlines on full summer tuition payments.

Students are encouraged to consult the GT Office of Financial Aid (or www.finaid.gatech.edu) regarding financial assistance and using HOPE or Zell Miller Scholarships (if applicable). Students are required to register for at least 6 credits if receiving loans. Scholarships are available for study abroad, see: <http://oie.gatech.edu/oie-administered-scholarships> .

5. What cultural and scientific excursions planned for the program?

Below is a tentative list of course-related activities/excursions to be spread over the 8 weeks which directly relate the topics covered in the BEST disciplines:

- Visit to the High Field NMR centre in Lyon (contains a 1000 MHz instrument)
- Visit to a local chemical company (possible companies are Sanofi-Aventis, Rhodia, Institut Français du Pétrole)
- Visit Louis Pasteur Museum, Pasteur Research Institute, and Marie Curie Museum in Paris

Students will also visit the historical part Lyon (Vieux). These visits will provide perspectives on understanding Lyon in all its facets: urban planning, economic, social, religious, political and cultural. The program director and local faculty/students will be accompanying the students on these visits.

6. What language preparation will I need? Instruction for CHEM 2311RBT, 2312RBT, CHEM 2380RBT/RB1, BIOL 3450RBT will be provided in English. Prior to arrival at CPE in Lyon, participants will receive resources to learn basic French vocabulary/communication in order to conduct daily functions (greetings, order food, ask for help, etc). **Students are encouraged to these materials prior to departure.** Student participants may elect to enroll in FREN1001RBT if not already fluent in French.

7. What housing will be used while in residence at Lyon? Each student will be assigned to a private room with a small private bathroom (unless limitations exist in housing). The room contains a standard single bed, 80cm wide by 190cm long. Bed linens (sheet, cover) and pillows are provided. There is personnel in the

housing residence reception office, 24 hours every day, and have instructions concerning fire safety. Coin-operated washing (laundry) facilities are present at the residence. Students will have a small fridge in the room, and there is a shared kitchen on the floor. The appliances available in the kitchen are a microwave oven and electric hotplates to warm or cook food.

Note: Most housing in France (northern Europe) does NOT have air conditioning (this includes the above student dorms), however, you may purchase a fan (20-35 euros) that runs on 220 volts upon arrival in Lyon if needed. The average temperature for June-July in Lyon, France is 73-80 ° F in the day and 53-61° F at night with humidity at ~10-20% (most days are very nice).

8. What dining areas are accessible? What appliances exist in the room?

Le Double Mixte (cash)

19 rue Gaston Berger, 69100 Villeurbanne

Open 6:30 am to 7:00 pm

Salads, sandwiches, yogurts, fruits, drinks

Restaurant L'univers Café (cash, bank card)

128 boulevard du 11 novembre 1918, 69100 Villeurbanne

Open 7/7 days from 11:00 am to 11:00 pm

Kebab and pizzeria

Mosaic restaurant (cash, bank card)

8 rue Léon Fabre, 69100 Villeurbanne

Open 7/7 days from 11:00 am to 11:00 pm

Kebab

There is also one supermarket approximately 10 minute walk from the residence :

Carrefour market (cash, bank card)

61 avenue Roger Salengro, 69100 Villeurbanne

Open from Monday to Saturday: 8:30 am to 7:00 pm

Food, drinks, bread...

Other than dining halls, students will have a small fridge in the room, and there is a shared kitchen on the floor. The appliances available in the kitchen are a microwave oven and electric hotplates to warm or cook food. Students may use the restaurants listed above for dining which are close to campus. There are also local fast food restaurants near housing and a few tram stops away (e.g. McDonalds, food court at La Part Dieu Mall). Most students have breakfast in their rooms in the morning, use the meal voucher for lunch at Le Double Mixte, and visit fast-food restaurants (pizza, gyros, mcdonalds, or other places in the evening).

9. How do I make flight plans? Students are required to purchase their own roundtrip ticket. Websites such as www.fareboom.com, www.skyscanner.com, www.kayak.com, www.expedia.com, www.travelocity.com or others can provide comparisons on different ticket prices. Students are encouraged to monitor fares prices to find the best deal (usually on Tuesdays or Wednesdays at least 2 months prior to departure for the best rates). Be sure to sign up for the airline's frequent flyer program. Students may fly round trip to Lyon, France. However, if you are planning additional time after the program, you may also want to consider your arrival and departure dates as well as cities (example: arrive in Paris, use the TGV rail to Lyon, and depart from Lyon for home) or (example: roundtrip to Paris, use the TGV rail to Lyon). The link to the TGV is <http://en.voyages->

snf.com/en/ . The fare may not be much different. Students may look for program travel partners via a groupme page: https://groupme.com/join_group/86020943/mtJgPvkA (summer 2022 program).

10. What are the exchange rates? How do I get cash? Can I use my credit card or bank card? For exchange rates, please see <http://www.x-rates.com/>

You should notify your credit card company of your location so that it does not get “locked” when first used outside the US. ATM credit cards and bank debit cards may be used in many locations in France. It is recommended that you have some cash (~100 Euros) or a bankcard ATM so that you can withdraw any Euros if needed. Be sure to check your bank or credit card’s fee policy prior to using internationally. You may wish to get some Euros from your bank prior to leaving (airport exchanges kiosks do not have as good rates as your bank).

11. When am I in class? Are the weekends open? Classes are expected to be held on variable days M-F (typically 3 lectures per week). The program schedule is posted for participants in early April. There will be an excursion to Paris as part of the program. Other weekends (i.e. Saturdays and Sundays) are expected to be open in the last 4-5 weekends of the program. Students often travel in small groups to neighboring countries/cities for the weekends. **(Please be sure to review Covid requirements before travelling to other countries.)**

12. Will I need a laptop? Will I have access to the internet? Will I need an electrical adapter? Yes, you should bring a laptop with wireless capability. You will have access to the internet while on campus in Lyon. Much of the coursework material will be posted on the web (via canvas).

Most of modern electronics use dual voltage/dual frequency adapters. There is a big possibility that your gadgets might work on European grid. If you take small plastic adapter (on your power supply cable) where S/N is located, there should say something like: 100-240V, 50-60Hz then you're set. If it's just 110V and 60Hz then you really need power adapter. In case it is dual, then you only need adapter plug. Be sure to get a few (~2) outlet adapters before leaving the US (it is cheaper here...check Walmart, Amazon, Target, etc). European outlet adapters have two metal prongs.

13. What about cellphones, phone cards, skype? Check with your local phone carrier. Calling internationally can be expensive, however, texting can be reasonable. In regards to a SIM card, check the internet for possible vendors prior to leaving for Europe, you may be able to get a cheap card if you have an unlocked phone. Otherwise, you can get an international SIM card with you arrive in Europe (assuming you have an unlocked phone). I encourage you to use skype, viber, whatsapp or similar web-based program to communicate with family and friends.

As an alternative, you may wish to bring with you an “unlocked” cell phone and then purchase a SIM card for the phone when you arrive in Lyon. You would be able to text (no too expensive) as well as call (if needed).

14. I am a US citizen. How do obtain a passport? You may apply for a passport at <http://travel.state.gov/passport/> . Students are highly encouraged to apply **at least 2 months prior to departure**.

15. Is a visa required to participate in this program? Am I restricted to France or can I travel to other countries? US citizens are only required to have a valid passport since the program is less than 90 days and France does not require a short-term visa. Your passport must be less than 10 years old and valid for at least

90 days after your date of departure from the Schengen territory. In case you do need a visa, it must have at least two blank `visas` pages available.

US citizens are allowed to travel to other countries Schengen area (25 other EU countries). Though the UK is not a part of the Schengen agreement, it is possible to travel from France to the UK (e.g. Eurostar train or air). Just be sure to take your passport; you will pass through passport control.

Non-residents and US permanent resident (green card holders) should check to see if they are required to obtain a short term visa, <http://www.campusfrance.org/en/page/short-stay-visas-less-90-days> or <http://www.consulfrance-atlanta.org/spip.php?article2740> . If a short-term visa is required, the student should visit the French consulate in Atlanta within 3 months prior to departure (but not less than 3 weeks prior to departure). To apply for short-term visa, please see: <http://www.consulfrance-atlanta.org/spip.php?article2740>. Non-residents should also consult with a GT International Education Advisor prior to departure. Travel for non-residents should carefully review the number of allowed entries on the short-term visa (if applicable). If nonresidents and green-card holders wish to travel to the UK, a UK-approved visa from that country is also likely required.

Before you travel abroad: Please make sure that you have at least 6 months beyond the return date on your passport. Otherwise, the airline may not book your return ticket or you may encounter problems with immigration control.

16. Is insurance required? All students in the BEST-Lyon program must have health insurance prior to departure. Via your program fee deposits, GT Office of International Education will purchase insurance on your behalf with provider, CISI, that corresponds to the program departure and return dates. For a summary of the insurance plan, please see information provided at OIE information sessions prior to departure.

If you wish to purchase insurance coverage outside the dates of the program, information will be provided at the mandatory student orientation meetings. It is highly encouraged that you have insurance coverage for any additional dates outside the program.

17. Will there be predeparture meetings with participants and faculty prior to the start of the program? Yes, there will be a meeting in February and April to discuss preparing for the program and answer questions. This meeting will be for accepted program participants and faculty only.

18. Could the program be canceled as a result of the COVID pandemic? Georgia Tech continues to monitor the covid-19 pandemic and its impact on study abroad programs. The program is slated to be offered for the summer of 2022, and thus applications are being reviewed. The “go/no-go” determination date for the program is tentatively slated to be announced on March 15, 2022 at the latest. If the program is cancelled, participants will be refunded the \$500 study abroad application fee and encouraged to consider courses offered in summer on the GT-ATL campus.

18. Who may I contact if I have additional questions? The Program Director is Dr. Cameron Tyson, [cam.tyson\(at\)chemistry.gatech.edu](mailto:cam.tyson(at)chemistry.gatech.edu).