

CIEE-Study Center Dakar, Senegal

French/Francophone Studies, African Studies, International Relations, Environmental Development Studies

The CIEE Study Center is located in the *Amitié III* neighborhood near restaurants, shops, cultural centers, and the largest public university in Senegal. CIEE students study exclusively with other CIEE participants in a building that shares facilities including a library, computer lab, café, and student lounge with *L'Institut Supérieur de Droit de Dakar* (ISDD). ISDD, a branch of the *Université de Perpignan Via Domitia* in France, offers degrees in political science and law and has a mostly Senegalese student body.

Website link: <http://www.ciee.org/study-abroad/senegal/dakar/language-culture/>

Internships: As an elective, students may participate in a community service project or internship for credit, consisting of 60 hours of practical experience, and a 30-hour seminar taught and coordinated by a CIEE hired instructor. Internship placements are determined on-site and based on students' academic or research interests as well as their French language proficiency.

Semester Dates (approx.)

Fall: mid-August – mid-December
Spring: mid-January – mid-May

Application Deadline

Mar 1 for Fall study
Oct 1 for Spring study

Location Facts: The Republic of Senegal, which achieved independence in 1960 after more than a century of French colonial rule, is one of the most democratic and developed countries in West Africa. Senegal has a population of nearly ten million, with two million living in Dakar. Dakar is the political and economic capital of Senegal and one of West Africa's most important and vibrant cities. Although French is the country's official language and Wolof the predominant language, other languages are spoken by the country's multiethnic population which is more than 90% Muslim.

For **Senegal Map** and other information: <http://geology.com/world/senegal-satellite-image.shtml>

ACADEMICS: Students take five courses each semester—three required and two elective courses. The three required courses constitute the CIEE core curriculum: Contemporary Senegalese Society and Culture (in French or English, depending on the results of a French language placement test completed upon arrival in Dakar), French language, and Wolof language. Students then choose two elective courses. Students may also take the two-credit Seminar on Living and Learning in Dakar in addition to their course load of five courses.

(Note: Students complete a French placement test upon arrival. Test results determine students' placement in French and their eligibility to enroll in French content courses. Based on the test results, students who demonstrate outstanding French language skills may be allowed to take an elective instead of the required French language course.)

REQUIRED COURSES:

AFST 3001: Contemporary Senegalese Society and Culture

(in English) This course addresses a wide range of issues relevant to contemporary Senegalese society and culture. In addition to the use of novels and films, guest lecturers discuss the complex interactions between history, politics, culture, and identity in contemporary Senegal. Students are encouraged to reflect critically, but non-judgmentally, on problems they find in their daily interactions with Senegalese. Through close observation and analysis, students refine their understanding of Senegalese society and culture.

AFST 3003: Contemporary Senegalese Society and Culture

(in French. Prerequisite: This section of the core course is open to students who place into Advanced French I or higher.) This course addresses a wide range of issues relevant to contemporary Senegalese society and culture. In addition to the use of novels and films, guest lecturers discuss the complex interactions between history, politics, culture, and identity in contemporary Senegal. Students are encouraged to reflect critically, but non-judgmentally, on problems they find in their daily interactions with Senegalese. Through close observation and analysis, students refine their understanding of Senegalese society and culture.

WOLO 1001: Wolof Language for Beginners

The goal of this course is to provide students with a basic functional knowledge of Wolof, so that they can comprehend and use the language in everyday situations. The focus is on cultural immersion through oral communication.

French Language Courses, include Intermediate French 2001 and 2002, Advanced French 3001 and 3002

CIEE students have access to local institutions and organizations for research and special activities. These include the West African Research Center (WARC), IFAN library at UCAD, and Baobab Center.

Language of Instruction: English, French

Eligibility:

- * Sophomore standing and above
- * Minimum 2.75 GPA
- * Language requirement = FREN 102

Housing and Meals: Housing and meals are included in the program fee. All students live in a Senegalese home in a furnished room. Living with a Senegalese family enables students to have daily contact with French and/or Wolof languages and learn about family and social life in Senegal, which are crucial aspects of the culture. While French is the official language of the country, Wolof is most commonly spoken in the homes of CIEE host families, and CIEE students quickly realize the challenges of living in a multiethnic and multilingual society, as they learn to function in both languages.

Host families tend to view U.S. students as “adopted children” and expect them to eat meals and spend time with their family and friends. Homestay placements are determined on the basis of a preliminary questionnaire and confirmed on site in consultation with the program’s housing coordinator. It is important to keep in mind that the Senegalese live simply, and such amenities as washing machines and microwaves are not commonly

available. Meals tend to be considerably less varied than in the U.S; rice and fish are considered staple foods in Senegal. A bi-weekly meal stipend is given to students so that they may supplement and vary their diet.

Although some students are within a 15-minute walk from the Study Center, others should expect to commute by bus or taxi on a daily basis. A transportation stipend is given to students living in the neighborhoods that are not within walking distance of campus.

Academic year students can stay with their host families during the break between semesters.

*****Due to the prevalence of peanuts and peanut products in the Senegalese diet and home, this location is unsuitable for students with peanut allergies*****

Excursions: Included in the program are day trips to historic Gorée Island, including the Slave House, Women's Museum, and Historical Museum, and to Toubab Dialaw, a fishing village and artist's colony. Occasionally, the program organizes excursions to Touba and other important religious centers. In previous semesters, CIEE has taken students on weekend trips to the mangroves of the Sine-Saloum region, Saint Louis, the former capital of French West Africa, and other parts of Senegal where they experience rural life. Depending upon your interests and course topics, additional trips and cultural activities in and around Dakar may be organized or subsidized by the program. Mid-semester, you'll travel in groups or individually and stay with either Peace Corps volunteers or local NGO staff working in the field. These visits will provide you the opportunity to better understand the contrasts and connections between rural and urban realities.

Costs: Amounts in US dollars. Winthrop students pay Winthrop tuition, room and board fees which include the CIEE program items checked (✓) below:

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| 200 | Study Abroad Application Fee |
| 325 | Study Abroad Participation Fee |
| ✓ | Tuition |
| ✓ | Housing, standard |
| ✓ | Meals |
| ✓ | On-site Pick-up and Orientation Fee |
| ✓ | Program Excursion Fee |
| ✓ | Health Insurance through CIEE |
| ✓ | Cultural Activities |
| 300 | Books/Academic Supplies |
| 250 | Immunizations for entering Senegal |
| 1750 | Personal Spending Money |
| 1650 | R/T Transportation to Location |
| 150 | Local Transportation |
| 135 | Passport |
| ✓ | Student Visa |

Revision date: Jan 15

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