



“Be Bold,
Be Free”



Welcome to ICES
Catholic University
Vendée, France

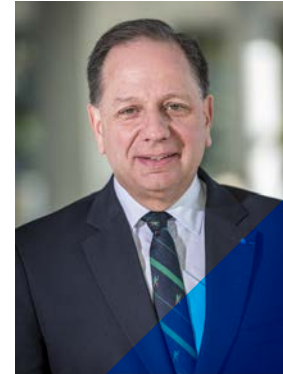


Un stage intensif d'anglais
pour progresser et acquiescer le niveau
nécessaire à vos études!

Welcome to ICES

Since 1990, we continuously strive for both academic excellence and personal success for our students. We offer our students the keys to success in their future professional and personal lives by providing a complete academic study experience as well as various extra-curricular activities. In addition to assisting our students in discerning their future career, we accompany them as they mature into responsible human beings. ICES is nationally recognized for its academic excellence and ambition, and we openly extend our training offer to international students. Through a large number of exchange programs with universities throughout the world, we encourage foreign students to come to ICES, to discover the French culture and education. We are keenly aware that an exchange semester or year abroad is a rich and memorable experience in a student's academic life and a stepping-stone toward their future careers.

Eric de Labarre, President of ICES



ICES is part of a large network of universities and we continually seek to develop new partnerships. Every academic year we welcome an ever-growing number of exchange students. They can discover both the French academic system and French culture. During our orientation week with numerous cultural activities and thanks to our classes of French as a Second Language, exchange students benefit from an ideal opportunity to discover Western France.

We provide a supportive study environment and are committed to making each student's study-abroad experience at ICES unique and successful!

Matthieu Breville, Head of International Office

This is ICES

ICES in a Nutshell

Established in 1990, ICES is a private Catholic University with an enrolment of over 1200 students. Known throughout France for its academic excellence and inspiring teaching methods, our approach emphasizes personal tutoring, a balance between rigor and creativity and reasonably sized classes. Our permanent professors and over 300 visiting professors from all over France and Europe encourage our students to research and to extrapolate from theory to practice; to go beyond their previous boundaries in what they already know and what they've already seen.

Located in the western part of France (in the region called "Vendée"), in La Roche-sur-Yon, ICES offers the ideal surroundings for study as well as cultural and sports activities.



Academics

ICES delivers Official State Diplomas in the following Majors:

Undergraduate Studies

English Language
and Literature



Spanish Language
and Literature

History



French
Literature

Law



Biology

Mathematics
& Physics



Political
Sciences

Economics



Graduate Studies

Law



History

Catholic
Studies



Political Sciences
& International
Relations

Church -
State Relations



Human
Ressource

Facts and figures



1 250
Students



87 Partner
Universities

8

Majors



320 Visiting
Professors



89.3% Success Ratio
(= Students finishing
diploma successfully
within the required time)



Campus Life and Community

Campus and Facilities

Located in the cosy city centre of La Roche-sur-Yon, ICES is easily accessible by public transports. Our modern main building offers excellent facilities for study: a 3-floor library (over 100,000 books and digital resources), highly-equipped modern computer labs and a student cafeteria.

A new campus will be built in 2019 in order to extend our sports facilities and offer new classrooms and dormitories.

Campus Ministry and Catholic Residence

The chaplaincy offers different activities (choir, prayer groups, mass, charity...) to all students. The Catholic residence, "Foyer Sainte-Thérèse" welcomes freshmen and exchange students. The Chapel is located just next to the student residence. Mass for students and other religious events are organised on a regular basis allowing our students to grow in spirituality and faith.

Student Unions and Clubs

Our clubs with various activities offer new ideas and experiences to all students. "Politeia", founded in 2005, organises student unions for current and former Political Science Majors. "COSH", founded by the History Department in 2013, provides activities related to history and culture with excursions in the Vendée region but also to Paris and throughout France. Since 2013, we also have a rugby team, and since 2016 even a surfing associations!

“As with all great things in life, my time at ICES was too short. I was welcomed with open arms and bid farewell with the most honest of wishes of return by friends with whom I will always cherish the greatest time of my life - early morning coffees in the cafeteria, students playing on a public piano, discussing philosophy, French grammar and, of course, a social life without repose. I think back upon my time at ICES with great nostalgia, smiling at the thought of great friendships made and thanking the teachers whose passion has inspired me to become the French teacher that I am today. Great times, great friends and great teachers - ICES promised me all of these, and I will always be thankful to them!”

Gareth, exchange student from South Africa ('14)

Conferences

Throughout the academic year, ICES organises conferences covering a wide variety of subjects such as history, philosophy, culture and current events. These conferences are open to the general public and a perfect place for a debate *à la française*!



Explore Life beyond Campus

La Roche-sur-Yon – City of Napoleon

La Roche-sur-Yon, also known as the City of Napoleon, is located only 30 minutes from the Atlantic Coast, 40 minutes drive from Nantes Airport and 3 hours from Paris. This means La Roche-sur-Yon is an ideal starting point for travelling throughout France and Europe easily! The Vendée Region has a rich history with multiple possibilities for cultural, gastronomic or historical experiences.

During the orientation week, ICES organises visits to the principle sights of the region for exchange students and thereby offers an initiation to French history, culture and gastronomy.

Cultural Heritage and Seaside

Les Sables d'Olonne, Yeu Island, Noirmoutier.... Just a few of the many beautiful seaside destinations within easy reach from La Roche-sur-Yon!

For those interested in French cultural heritage, there are many castles and sights near La Roche-sur-Yon. To mention just a few: the Logis of Saint-Sulpice-le-Verdon and the Bessay Castle.

The Loire Valley and castles are 3 hours drive from La Roche-sur-Yon, as well as the famous city of Bordeaux.

Sports

Undeniably, the Vendée region is a perfect location for water sports! For example, the famous around-the-world yacht race, the Vendée Globe, departs from Les Sables d'Olonne. Students may also enjoy surfing, canoeing, paddling, kite-surfing...

In addition to water sports, the Vendée region has excellent biking and equestrian trails. This close-to-nature region offers a wide variety of outdoor activities!





We are International

Constantly developing our collaboration network with foreign universities enables our students to broaden their horizons and begin participating in their role as global citizens through a study-abroad experience.

ICES offers this same experience to foreign students from wherever they come from around the globe: to learn French, to explore and discover French culture and customs!

We are International

- 87 partner universities all over the world
- Erasmus+ Member
- ICUSTA Member (International Council of Universities of Saint Thomas Aquinas)
- English Summer School with the University of Colorado Springs in July
- French Summer Academy in July

“Working with ICES over the past 5 years, we have hosted their students in Colorado and have had our students and faculty welcomed in La Roche-sur-Yon. Collaborating with an innovative partner like ICES, allows our students and faculty to experience authentic teaching and learning environments that would not be possible in our classrooms in Colorado Springs.”

Mary Hanson, Instructor from the University of Colorado Springs, English Summer School

“I have been associated with ICES for the past 14 years and have come to admire the institution's mission to bringing the world to their campus. ICES has an unusual commitment to international exchange. I have taught their students online for the past eight years and can attest to the quality of their English writing ability as well as their commitment to their studies. They genuinely look forward to the opportunities ICES presents to them to study abroad and think internationally. It has been easy for me to become caught up in their spirit to know the world---it permeates throughout the community among their staff and students. It is a genuine part of ICES's mission.”

Professor Joseph McFadden, President Emeritus, University of St Thomas, Houston, Texas

French Summer Academy

Our Summer Academy program proposes “French as a Second Language”: an ideal opportunity for studying French while discovering French Literature and History. The 3-week program in July offers classes taught by our native French teachers and also cultural visits and touristic activities to discover France and the Vendée region.

Immerse yourself in the French way of life!
Accommodations are proposed near the ICES campus.

ICES all over the world

Our Partners





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