

Living Latin in Paris

What would you like to do?

I would like to attend the Paideia Institute's winter term of Living Latin in Paris, which focuses on Medieval and Renaissance Latin. It accomplishes this through a focus -one unique but growing in the field- of speaking and writing Latin actively, along with reading Latin *in situ* throughout Paris, particularly the Latin Quarter, where the program is based.

Who is this experience through? GVSU? PIC? Another organization?

This experience is conducted by the Paideia Institute, which is renowned in the field of classics for its intense and effective pedagogy.

When does this initiative take place? What are your payment deadlines?

The course takes place over winter break, spanning December 27, 2021 to January 3, 2022. Payment deadlines: a \$500 non-refundable deposit is required by October 15th 2020¹. The full tuition fee of \$1600 due November 15th 2021.

Specifically, how will this initiative help to advance your career and leadership goals?

I conduct, as the president of Eta Sigma Phi, the National Classics Honors Fraternity, biweekly spoken Latin workshops, designing materials to aid attendees, both faculty and students, in improving their active recall and speaking capacities. Attending Living Latin in Paris would allow me to spend a week in an intensive Latin-speaking environment, thereby strengthening my spoken Latin and allowing me to more confidently conduct my workshops, enhancing the learning experience for all. I'll take note of how Paideia implements spoken Latin as well, and artfully crib ideas.

I am attending Harvard Law School in 2024. When there, I hope to study legal history, particularly Roman and English Law, which both exert massive influence over the American legal system. Paramount to conducting rigorous and intellectually honest research in these fields is the ability to read primary texts in their original language. The Romans, even after the fall of the Latin West, wrote their legal texts in Latin. The English and their counterparts on the Continent, often wrote law or legal theory in Latin, with the Plantagenet and Early Modern periods drawing heavily from the Romans in both language and theory. The Plantagenet jurist Henry De Bracton coined the phrase which adorns the frieze of the Harvard Law Library: *Non Sub Homine, Sed Sub Deo et Lege* (Not below man, but below God and Law). The training provided in Medieval and Renaissance Latin would complement my skill in Classical Latin. This rigorous philological training is complemented by travel to locations of literary or historical significance within the city, where we will read the *in situ* Latin and discuss it in Latin, and by lectures in Medieval thought and history. The combination of linguistic skill and humanistic schooling would equip me to work in legal history.

Why is this initiative one of the best ways to help you achieve your stated goals?

The opportunity is truly unique. Latin as a whole is not overly studied, but the opportunities to develop as a Medieval or Renaissance Latinist outside of the context of embarking on a PhD or masters in said fields are even more crushingly limited.

What do you expect to learn/gain from this experience?

I expect to strengthen my proficiency in spoken Latin, gain a strong ability to work with Medieval and Renaissance texts, and gain a stronger handle on Medieval thought and history.

How can you apply what you have learned following this experience?

I will utilize my spoken Latin competency and methods I observe in my spoken Latin workshops, aiming to make them even more effective and engaging. My competency in Renaissance Latin can be utilized in my work for my Honors Thesis which investigates Senecan tragic characterization and themes in Herman Melville's *Moby Dick*, and Melville's reception of the Senecan drama as mediated through Shakespeare's plays, which are deeply indebted to Senecan drama and loom large in *Moby-Dick* as one of the novel's primary influences. Many English Renaissance texts contemporaneous with Shakespeare, such as treatises and poems composed by Sir Francis Bacon and John Milton, respectively, are in Latin. Being able to read these texts would benefit my thesis. The training would also indirectly improve my Classical Latin, making my work with Seneca and other Romans more efficient, allowing me to engage with the corpus more broadly, engendering a stronger understanding of the literary period.

I am, for my deferral period before law school, applying for UK and Irish graduate programs in Classics and Medieval Studies. I could utilize my Latin in conducting research for a master's thesis, along with simply enjoying the rich manuscript archives in Britain. This experience would also make me more competitive at top universities, helping me better strike at Oxbridge, St.Andrews, and Trinity.

At Harvard, I would utilize my Latin and training in medievalism to study legal history.

Finally, I would enjoy reading Medieval and Renaissance Latin on my own time. I read Latin everyday, and the Venerable Bede's *Historia Ecclesiastica Gentis Anglorum* (Ecclesiastical History of the English People) is held to be a rollicking good time.

How will you report back on your experience?

I'd be quite pleased to give a presentation, talk, or note concerning my experience and the Cook Academy's generous funding of it. I will additionally spread the word within the Classics department, its students, whom I will see regularly in my job as a Latin tutor, and Eta Sigma Phi. In interviews for graduate schools and jobs, I'd mention the Cook Academy's largess towards humanists when discussing the intellectually formative experience I had.

What is your expected budget (all costs/expenditures) for this experience?

Expenditure	Cost
Tuition, covering program instruction, transportation to and from site visits, museum and site admissions, and two group meals.	1600 USD
A triple room shared with other participants, the cheapest housing option available through Paideia	380 USD
Roundtrip flight from Traverse City to Paris	450-500USD
Food; Paideia recommends a minimum 30 Euro daily.	250 USD
Total Amount	2730 USD

What additional aid are you receiving to participate in this effort?

Indeed not a dime beyond my money made teaching Latin to children and college students.

How much are you asking for from the CLA to support this initiative?

2,500 USD.