



LA VAQUERIE FARM

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH BERRIDGE PROGRAMS

ESSENTIAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA GAP YEAR PROGRAMS

All applicants must meet the following essential eligibility criteria to be considered for admission on to our programs:

- Participants must be between the age of 18 - 22 years of age
- Participants must be of good academic standing at any school they have attended and not have been subject to disciplinary action, suspension, dismissal or expulsion.
- Participants must be choosing willingly and freely to participate on the program and not be required/counselled to join the program by a parent, guardian, doctor, therapist or court mandate.
- Participants must have a good level of English language proficiency as all our programs are taught in English.
- Participants must be open-minded and tolerant of the views and opinions of others.
- Participants must be willing to follow the policies and procedures of the program.
- Participants must be able to travel independently from their home city to the designated airport of the program without assistance from our staff
- Participants must have the ability to work and create both independently and collaborate willingly within a group.
- Participants must be able to self-medicate without the aid of assistance.
- Participants must be prepared to participate in and engage fully with the program which includes attending all group excursions, outings, and workshops.
- Participants must be prepared for experiential learning in a variety of weather conditions including rain and cool weather.
- Participants must be willing and able to be independent of program staff, particularly on field trips where they will be encouraged to spend time exploring in small groups.

- Participants must be willing and able to contribute to the running of our community which may include helping in the kitchen, maintaining our household and other day-to-day community tasks.
- Participants must be willing to fully disclose all physical and mental health conditions on their registration forms.
- Participants must be in sound physical and mental condition to attend the program and must not require any ongoing medical, mental or therapeutic treatment from an on the ground health professional while on the program.
- Participants must be willing and able to ask for support and guidance when needed and be able to articulate and advocate for their own needs.
- Participants must not have completed in-patient treatment for substance abuse, suicidal attempts or ideations and/or serious mental health conditions within the last 12 months.

PLEASE NOTE: Our program is not a therapeutic or specialized support program. We do not have therapists, psychologists, medical professionals, behavioral specialists, or special education staff on-site or on-call.

Participants must be able to manage the demands of international travel, changes in routine and environment, group living, and the day-to-day expectations of the program without regular therapeutic, behavioral, medical, or one-to-one support.

The program is not appropriate for participants who require ongoing in-person therapy, frequent professional intervention, significant behavioral or emotional support, or a level of supervision or accommodation that our staff are not trained or equipped to provide.

We are happy to discuss reasonable accommodations and encourage families to speak with us about any support a participant may need to determine whether the program can provide an appropriate and successful experience.

PARTICIPANT CODE OF CONDUCT

The Participant Code of Conduct holds participants on our programs to a high standard to protect our community, promote consideration and respect for individuals and support the aims of the program.

1. Participants must show courtesy and respect to everyone they encounter at all times. Participants must be respectful of other participants and staff, be conscious and accepting of differences and patient with the opinions and needs of others.

2. Participants must strive to create an environment that is inclusive for all groups—including but not limited to groups defined by race, class, gender, sexual orientation, socio-economic background—in order to foster a diverse educational community with a wealth of perspectives and experiences.
3. Participants should demonstrate a spirit of cooperation and exploration and to meet the intellectual challenges of the program through honest and hard work. Participants must refrain from all forms of dishonesty, including, but not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, supplying false information, or forgery.
4. Participants must respect property associated with the program. Participants will not borrow, use or disturb items belonging to other participants, staff, Berridge Programs or others without clear prior permission. Participants must show respect for and take reasonable care of our residence, other facilities and equipment and furnishings. Participants must not engage in any unauthorized entry, use or occupation of facilities not for use by our participants.
5. Participants must know and follow all policies and procedures listed in the Participant Handbook, as well as the policies presented by Berridge Programs staff and those in positions of authority.

Conduct leading to immediate dismissal from the program:

6. Participants must not commit acts of violence on persons or property or threaten to commit any acts of violence.
7. Participants must not engage in any form of sexual harassment in person or online. Sexual harassment is any unwelcome verbal or physical behavior towards another person. Some examples of sexual harassment include unwelcome or inappropriate touching, threatening or engaging in adverse action after someone refuses a sexual advance, making lewd or sexual comments about an individual's appearance, displaying pornographic images on computers, emails, mobile phones, etc, or making sexist remarks or derogatory comments.
8. Participants must not, possess or distribute illegal drugs. This includes cannabis products. Participation in an incident involving drugs is cause for an immediate dismissal, even if the participant did not consume or intend to consume these substances. Possession, sale or use of illegal drugs are classified as criminal offences in France and may result in prosecution.
9. Participants must not use, take part in or facilitate discriminatory language of any kind, including, but not limited to, discrimination based on gender, gender identity, race, national origin, ethnicity, age, religion, sexual orientation, disability, handicap, or intelligence.

10. Participants must not engage in any form of harassment or bullying in person or online. Harassment consists of conduct of any type (including, but not limited to, written, verbal, graphic or physical conduct) which has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's academic or work performance, or which creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive learning, residential or working environment.
11. Participants must not possess or consume any alcohol in any of our residences at any time except in conjunction with a sanctioned program activity (i.e. Cider making tour or organized wine tasting). Alcohol found in residence will be confiscated and result in dismissal from the program. The legal drinking age is 18 in France. Participants may consume alcohol on field trips but must do so in a manner that does not endanger their welfare or the welfare of other participants/staff or effect their attendance and participation on the program. Participants who are intoxicated to the point of slurring speech, falling down, needing to be carried or being sick will be immediately dismissed from the program with no refund of fees.
12. Participants must not tamper with or misuse fire alarms, firefighting equipment or safety equipment.
13. Participants must not engage in romantic or sexual relationships with anyone on the program including other participants and/or faculty/staff members.
14. Participants must not sell, purchase, produce or possess for use any weapons, explosives, fireworks or incendiary devices, even if these items are considered decorative and/or not intended for use.
15. We are a strictly no smoking program. Participants must not possess cigarettes, tobacco, legalized cannabis products and/or smoke or vape these products anywhere in and around the residence or on campus grounds. Cigarettes, vaping devices, tobacco and legalized cannabis products found in residence or in possession will be confiscated and result in immediate dismissal with no refund of fees.

RESERVED RIGHTS OF THE PROGRAM

1. The program reserves the right to enter or inspect any room when, at the discretion of the Program Director, it is deemed necessary for the security or maintenance of the residence or safety of the residents. This includes the right to inspect rooms for compliance with regulations regarding drug, alcohol, smoking, weapons and fire hazards.
2. The program reserves the right to inspect personal belongings including suitcases, backpacks, purses etc when, at the discretion of the Program Director, it is deemed necessary for the security or maintenance of the residence or safety of the residents. This includes the right to inspect belongings for compliance with regulations regarding drugs, alcohol, smoking, weapons and fire hazards.
3. The program reserves the right to take disciplinary action around participant behaviors deemed, at the discretion of the Program Director, as anti-social, unacceptable or dangerous either to the participant themselves or a member of the community. This may include the impositions of certain conditions for continuing residence or dismissal from the program at the discretion of the Program Director.
4. The program reserves the right to dismiss a participant whose physical or psychological health status demands, or comes to demand, more care than can be provided by the program. This includes, but is not limited to, threats or suggestions of self-harm, self-isolation, anxiety that affects your day-to-day functioning, living habits or repeated actions that negatively impact the community, causing other participants distress in a manner that makes the program socially untenable for you and others.