



SUMMER SCHOOL 2026 HERITAGE, ART OF LIVING AND TOURISM

in the Loire Valley, UNESCO World Heritage

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HERITAGE, ART OF LIVING & TOURISM



6 ECTS

**FOR TWO FULL WEEKS
OF ATTENDANCE**





INTRODUCTION AND LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

ESTHUA - INNTO France, National Institute of Tourism, is the leading European institution for higher education in Tourism. This year, Esthua is delighted to offer a two-week summer school on “heritage, art of living and tourism in the Loire Valley, UNESCO World Heritage”.

The Summer School is a university program in English allowing students to gain both theoretical knowledge and practical experience. In this program, you will have in-class presentations about the quality of the Loire heritage. You will also attend various tours to get a more immersive perspective and discover the beautiful sites of the Loire region.

With this Summer School of 2026, Esthua aims to provide a concrete and relevant response to the challenges of future tourism: valuing heritage, enhancing green tourism and developing teamwork with local partners.

We are looking forward to sharing all these moments with you!



Jean-René MORICE
ESTHUA Institute Director



Monday, 29 June

URBAN ARCHITECTURE OF THE LOIRE VALLEY

9.30 A.M. - 10.30 A.M.

Welcome coffee with the international and pedagogical coordinators.

10.30 A.M. - 12 P.M.

Presentation by Manon Magrez.

Discover the Loire Valley and Angers through an introductory lecture that presents the cultural, historical and touristic identity of The Loire Valley and the city of Angers. From UNESCO-listed landscapes to local practices and ways of life, this session provides key elements to understand the region and prepare for the afternoon tour.



Tuesday, 30 June

GASTRONOMY IN THE LOIRE VALLEY

9.30 A.M. - 11.30 A.M.

Presentation by Dénali Boutain.

In this course, we will explore the key players in French tourism («gourmet tourism»), their relationships, and the strategies they implement. Beginning with Michelin-starred chefs, we will examine their connections with producers, artisans, and merchants. We will also analyse the role of tourism professionals, political leaders, and local communities. Finally, we will investigate which distinctive products attract tourists.



Wednesday, 1 July

GASTRONOMY AND LIQUEURS IN THE LOIRE VALLEY

10 A.M. - 1.30 P.M.

Cooking workshop and tasting at *L'Atelier Gourmand*.

At l'Atelier Gourmand, you will have the opportunity to become a real chef for a few hours. Enjoy this workshop organised by a cooking professional who will teach you some great French cooking techniques.



Thursday, 2 July

EQUESTRIAN CULTURE IN THE LOIRE VALLEY

9.30 A.M. - 11.30 A.M.

Visit of the *Cadre Noir* of Saumur.

The Cadre Noir of Saumur is a prestigious equestrian institution, known for its excellence in equestrian art, especially in classical horse training. The Cadre Noir strongly contributes to the international reputation of French equestrianism. At the Cadre Noir, you will discover ancestral equestrian traditions. You will also attend a spectacular horse show.



Friday, 3 July

WINE CULTURE IN THE LOIRE VALLEY

9.30 A.M. - 11.30 A.M.

Presentation by Johanna Thomas.

The conference will be an introduction to the world of wine and its key aspects: What is wine? How is wine made? How is it consumed? How is it regulated? What is wine tourism? What are the general trends and challenges in the world of wine today? This course will also include an introduction to wine tasting (theory and practice!), an introduction to food and wine pairing with a meal at a local restaurant, and the visit of a local winery, to experience wine tourism first hand.



*Minor changes may occur



URBAN ARCHITECTURE OF THE LOIRE VALLEY

2.30 P.M. - 5 P.M.

Analysis of Angers' architecture by Manon Magrez.

Take part in a walking tour through Angers' castle and historic centre to observe the city as an open-air architecture book. From medieval ramparts to central squares and notable buildings, you will explore how the city's architecture and heritage have developed over time and reflects its history and society.



GASTRONOMY IN THE LOIRE VALLEY

2.30 P.M. - 4.30 P.M.

Visit of Saint Marthe's farm.

Sainte Marthe's farm has been producing organic and reproducible seeds for 50 years. Its goal is to be self-sufficient when producing food while preserving taste and maintaining diversity. Enjoy the visit!



GASTRONOMY AND LIQUEURS IN THE LOIRE VALLEY

2.30 P.M. - 3.45 P.M.

Visit of the Carré Cointreau.

The Carré Cointreau is happy to welcome you at the heart of its distillery. In a newly designed space, discover the ancient and unique art of producing orange liqueur. The Carré Cointreau will then offer you an exceptional cocktail experience in the bar.



EQUESTRIAN CULTURE IN THE LOIRE VALLEY

2.30 P.M. - 4 P.M.

Presentation by Sylvine Pickel-Chevalier.

Horse and equine heritage plays a key role in France, especially in the Pays de la Loire region. Through the Cadre Noir of Saumur, the main custodian of French traditional equestrian (UNESCO-listed), and the Vendée Stud, we will explore how horses have shaped the region's history. We will also see how tourism supports their conservation and revitalisation today. This evolution relies on stakeholders embracing a tourism culture. It requires diverse skills and collaborative cultural outreach projects with local communities.



WINE CULTURE IN THE LOIRE VALLEY

3 P.M. - 4.30 P.M.

Visit of the Haute-Perche wine estate.

Located in the heart of the Aubance Valley, just 10 km from Angers, the Haute Perche wine estate has 35 hectares of soils cultivated according to biodynamic principles. Founded in the 1960s and taken over in 2019 by a lover of the French art of living and fine wine, Haute Perche is, above all, a true expression of the Aubance terroir, where the gentle flow of the river meets the strength of schist.

**Minor changes may occur*

Monday, 6 July

BETWEEN HISTORY AND LEGENDS

9 A.M. - 12 P.M.

Visit of *Puy du Fou*

Puy du Fou is a unique historical theme park that focuses on spectacular live shows rather than rides. It brings history to life through dramatic performances featuring Vikings, Roman gladiators, medieval knights and royal courts.



Tuesday, 7 July

RELIGION AND CAVES IN THE LOIRE VALLEY

10 A.M. - 11.30. A.M.

Visit of the *Royal Abbey of Fontevraud*.

The Abbaye Royale de Fontevraud is a UNESCO world heritage site. As one of the largest monastic complexes in Europe, it is a real gem of French heritage. This abbey was founded in 1101 by Robert d'Arbrissel and was mixed gender: both monks and nuns used to stay there, which was very unusual for the time.



Wednesday, 8 July

THE PRESTIGIOUS CASTLES OF THE LOIRE VALLEY

9.30 A.M. - 11.30 A.M.

Presentation by Hedwig Verdure.

A journey through architectural history: Trace the evolution of architecture from the late Romanesque period to the 19th century through some examples of the Loire Valley castles. Many of them have stood the test of time, remaining among the most emblematic ones of their era.



Thursday, 9 July

THE PRESTIGIOUS CASTLES OF THE LOIRE VALLEY

10 A.M. - 12 P.M.

Visit of the *Château de Chambord*.

Built in the 16th century under Francis I of France, the majestic Château de Chambord is one of the biggest masterpieces of the French Renaissance. It is the symbol of royal power and architectural innovation of its time. Thanks to its famous double spiral staircase, inspired by Leonardo Da Vinci, two people can go up the stairs without even going past each other.



Friday, 10 July

THE LOIRE REGION, WHERE NATURE AND CULTURE ARE INTERTWINED

10A.M. - 11.15 A.M.

Introduction to the Loire tuffeau stone - visit of *Le Mystère des Faluns*.

Carved into the stone, the troglodyte heritage is one of the main identity features of the Loire River and its tributaries. At The Mystère des Faluns in Doué-en-Anjou, you will enjoy an art trail in majestic caves.



*Minor changes may occur



BETWEEN HISTORY AND LEGENDS

2.00 P.M. - 5.00 P.M.

Visit of *Puy du Fou*

Enjoy outdoor stages, realistic sets and impressive special effects in one of the most popular theme parks in France. Step into a living history book and meet hundreds of actors through choreographed battle scenes...



RELIGION AND CAVES IN THE LOIRE VALLEY

2.30 P.M. - 3.30. P.M.

Visit of the mushroom farm *Le Saut aux Loups*

In the Saut aux Loups mushroom farm, discover mushroom galleries that are carved into stone and learn about the fascinating harvesting process of mushrooms. Get ready to step into a place that feels half fairy tale, half science lab...

4.00 P.M. - 4.30. P.M.

Stop at the church *Église Notre-Dame de Cunault*



THE PRESTIGIOUS CASTLES OF THE LOIRE VALLEY

2.15 P.M. - 4.15 P.M.

Visit of the *Château de Serrant*.

As the last of the great Loire castles downstream, Serrant boasts over 500 years of history, from its medieval moats to the lanterns atop its towers. Begun under François I and completed under Louis XIV, it presents a harmonious blend of Renaissance and Classicism in its architecture. Embellished and preserved it through the Revolution, the castle underwent significant renovations. Serrant remains one of the largest inhabited Loire castles all year round.



THE PRESTIGIOUS CASTLES OF THE LOIRE VALLEY

2.30 P.M. - 5 P.M.

Visit of the *Château de Chambord*.

With its 440 rooms, 365 chimneys and its large towers, this castle has a very impressive size while still being very harmonious. In its estate, you can find the widest fenced garden of Europe and a very well-preserved wildlife. After centuries of significant history, it is now an UNESCO world heritage site and attracts hundreds of thousands of visitors every year.



THE LOIRE REGION, WHERE NATURE AND CULTURE ARE INTERTWINED

3.15 P.M. - 4.15 P.M.

Overview of the Loire River by *Croisières Saumur Loire*.

Step onboard for an exceptional boat tour and discover new dimensions of the Loire Valley. On a fishing boat, learn more about the landscape and environmental topics.



ANGERS



THE HISTORIC CAPITAL OF ANJOU

In the heart of the Loire Valley, Angers is a destination that encapsulates the very essence of France's allure. As a UNESCO World Heritage city, Angers boasts a rich history, serene quality of life, and a plethora of cultural gems that make it a haven for travelers seeking authenticity and beauty. From majestic châteaux to world-renowned vineyards; Angers offers a tapestry of experiences that encapsulate the charm and elegance of this remarkable destination.

Renowned for its good quality of life and nestled in the heart of France's third-largest winemaking region, Angers invites you to discover new experiences. Wander through the narrow streets of its historic quarter, admire its exquisite heritage buildings, explore by bike, savour finely crafted wines, and immerse yourself in a vibrant cultural scene. With its charming parks and rivers, and cycling routes, nature is never far away.

84 MINUTES FROM PARIS
(with the high speed train TGV)



In Angers, getting around on foot, by bike, or along the river offers a relaxed pace, where taking time to explore is a cherished value. Here, urban life and nature coexist in perfect harmony, creating unique, authentic, and enriching moments at every turn.

MAIN ATTRACTIONS IN ANGERS

- **Angers Castle:** its 17 towers stand as a testament to the city's historical significance. Now home to the impressive Apocalypse Tapestry, the world's largest medieval tapestry, Angers Castle offers a journey through time and artistry.
- **S' Maurice Cathedral:** as the epitome of Gothic-style Plantagenet architecture, Cathédrale St Maurice captures the imagination with its intricate design and profound spirituality.
- **Museum of Fine Arts:** immerse yourself in the history of Angers from 18th-century masterpieces by renowned French painters to contemporary artworks, this museum provides insights into the city's cultural evolution.
- **The David d'Angers Gallery:** housed in the meticulously restored Toussaint Abbey, the David d'Angers Gallery showcases the sculptor's works, offering a glimpse into the artistic brilliance that defines Angers.
- **Museum of Jean-Lurçat and Contemporary Tapestry:** witness history and modernity intertwine at the Museum of Jean-Lurçat. Jean-Lurçat's reimagined Apocalypse Tapestry and the awe-inspiring Chant du Monde tapestry both immerse visitors in a world of artistic marvels.
- **The Collegiate Church of Saint-Martin:** the Collegiate Church of Saint-Martin, a true architectural gem, stands as a masterpiece of Carolingian design, reflecting the city's cultural depth.
- **Terra Botanica:** it is a unique theme park dedicated to the botanical world. Enjoy 17 hectares of games, rides, adventure trails and theme gardens.

MOUTH-WATERING ANGERS SPECIALITIES

- **Quernons d'Ardoise:** a tribute to the roof slates that are typical of houses in this region, these are actually delicious blue chocolates. Crispy on the inside, they melt in the mouth!
- **Anjou Liqueurs:** Cointreau (orange liqueur), Giffard's Guignolet (cherry liqueur) and Menthe Pastille (Mint liqueur), all locally made.
- **Typical local dishes:** savour the culinary treasures of Angers, like, pike or perch with a delicate beurre blanc sauce, Crémet d'Anjou (sweet dessert made with fromage frais), pâté aux prunes (greengages baked in a pastry case)



Do you want to discover more?
> Visit [Destination Angers](#)



ABOUT ESTHUA NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TOURISM INNTO FRANCE

Have you heard of ESTHUA? ESTHUA, National Institute of Tourism - INNTO France, offers nearly 50 training programs, from undergraduate to master's level, preparing students for a wide range of careers in the tourism industry. With 40 years of expertise, this unique institution in Europe has more than 3,600 students, 70 professors, and over 500 professional contributors.

Over the past 40 years, ESTHUA has trained over 25,000 students and has continuously adapted its training programs to meet the evolving needs of the tourism sector, whether it be digital transformation, environmental sustainability, interculturality, new management approaches or others. Its programs also develop to align with the expectations of professionals.

ESTHUA has established partnerships with nearly 2,000 companies worldwide, all operating in tourism's fields. Additionally, ESTHUA actively supports and promotes research and innovation, with more than 60 research professors leading numerous projects in tourism studies.



ESTHUA
Université d'Angers





PROGRAM APPLICATION

To apply for the 2026 ESTHUA Summer School, please click on the following link to fill out the registration form:

Registration Form

- Since the number of spots is limited, we advise you to register as soon as possible.
- Summer School applications will be processed as we receive them and will close on Friday, 26 April at 11.59 p.m.
- **The Summer School will be in English. You will thus be required to have at least a B2 level in English.**



FEES

REGISTRATION FEES INCLUDE:

- Summer School tuition, classes and workshops (granting 6 ECTS credits at the end of the program)
- Lunches at restaurants (from June 29 to July 3 and from July 6 to July 10)
- Transport between ESTHUA and tour sites
- Unlimited public transport in Angers (one-month ticket)

NOT INCLUDED IN THE REGISTRATION FEES:

- Return trip between Angers and place of residence
- Visa fees
- Personal activities on weekends
- Evening and weekend meals
- Mandatory insurance for the trip

THE FEES VARY DEPENDING ON THE OPTION YOU CHOOSE:

- 1850€ - without accommodation
- 2500€ - shared accommodation* (with one other Summer School participant)

** At the hotel Séjours & Affaires Angers Atrium, from Sunday, 28 June to Saturday, 11 July (13 nights), breakfast included.*

CONTACT

INTERNATIONAL OFFICE

international.esthua@univ-angers.fr

ESTHUA, National institute of Tourism - INNTO France
University of Angers

National institute of Tourism,
7 allée François Mitterrand | BP 40455
49004 ANGERS

www.univ-angers.fr/innto



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