UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN EAU CLAIRE

CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

Study Abroad



LYON & PAU, FRANCE

FALL 2018

Program Guide

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CONGRATULATIONS on being accepted to the UW-Eau Claire study abroad program in Lyon or Pau, offered through the University Studies Abroad Consortium (USAC). Living and studying in a foreign culture is both an exciting and a challenging experience. Past participants of study abroad report that the many advantages of international study include:

Building upon existing foreign language skills
Gaining new perspectives on a chosen academic field
Increasing understanding of different cultures
Enhancing personal development
Developing different perspectives on U.S. culture
Gaining self-confidence and independence
Learning skills for the future international job market

It is up to you to determine how you can best benefit from these possible advantages. This is your adventure!

This program guide is to be used together with the general study abroad handbook. The handbook has information that is valid for all study abroad programs. This guide will provide you with specific information for the Lyon and Pau programs. It is designed to complement the handbook, study abroad orientation, information from USAC, and your individual pre-departure preparations.

Please realize that although this guide contains all of the information available at the time of printing, it is impossible for any single resource to answer all of your questions. Your peer adviser will email additional information throughout the semester. Please contact the Center for International Education (CIE) staff, your peer adviser, and past program participants with your specific questions. You should also make use of the additional written and web resources listed towards the end of this guide.

Basic questions only <u>you</u> can answer include:

1) What are YOUR goals for this experience? Common objectives of students abroad include advancement in a future profession; desire to expand personal and academic horizons; need for a change; and wish to challenge oneself with immersion in a new culture.

2) Given the way the program is set up, how can you best prepare to meet your goals? For example, if one of your goals is truly being immersed in French culture, yet you are going with a group of UW-Eau Claire students, how can you ensure that you do not spend too much time with other Americans?

The information in this guide was current at the time of printing, though changes may occur at any time.

General Information

The Locations and Universities

UW-Eau Claire and University Studies Abroad Consortium (USAC) entered into a cooperative agreement beginning with the 2007-2008 academic year in order to offer the Pau, France program to students. In spring 2016, students had the first opportunity to study abroad in Lyon, France.

Lyon: Lyon is a city of approximately 1.5 million people located in east central France. Lyon is considered the capital of French cuisine and is also home to four universities. USAC classes and offices in Lyon are at the L'Université Lumière Lyon 2 or University of Lyon 2, which was created in 1973. The university has two campuses, Berges de Rhône and Portes des Alpes. Most of the language and elective courses are held on the Berge de Rhône campus. However, there is a tram that runs between the two campuses in case you need to get to the Portes des Alpes campus. L'Université Lumière Lyon 2 boasts about three times as many students as UW-Eau Claire with close to 30,000 students.

Stefano Pizzetti is the Resident Director for the USAC Lyon program and will assist you in navigating your new environment. Stefano is responsible for the overall operations of the program including securing housing, managing the courses taught to USAC students, and organizing field trips. Stefano comes to Lyon with a lot of resident director experiences, as he previously was the resident director in Viterbo, Italy. You can learn more about the Lyon program via the USAC site: http://usac.unr.edu/study-abroad-programs/france/lyon/about.

Pau: Pau is a city of approximately 100,000 people located in southwestern France and situated near the Pyrenees Mountains and the Atlantic coast. USAC classes and offices in Pau are located on the attractive campus of the University of Pau, situated in the northern part of the city about a mile and a half from the center of town. The University of Pau is of a similar size to UW-Eau Claire with approximately 10,000 students enrolled.

Robina Muller is the Resident Director for the USAC Pau program. Fluent in French, German, Spanish and English, Robina will organize transportation to your housing, provide an on-site orientation, and be available if questions or concerns arise during your time in Pau. The program assistant, Ryan Findley, a USAC alum, also provides additional assistance and resources while you are in France. You can learn more about the Pau program via the USAC site: http://usac.unr.edu/study-abroad-programs/france/pau.

USAC

USAC (whose offices are located at the University of Nevada-Reno) works with several member universities. These member universities guide the consortium and assist USAC with registration and grade report/transcript issuance for students participating in USAC programs.

You will be receiving information directly from USAC through email and your Gateway account, which is your USAC study abroad online account. The CIE is not copied on these messages. **Please forward any messages from USAC to Jenna Krosch (kroschjm@uwec.edu), the USAC-France coordinator in the CIE.**

Academic Calendar

Below are the **fall 2018 calendars for Lyon and Pau. Please don't book your ticket until the dates are confirmed by USAC.** Although dates are typically finalized when the optional group flight is announced, you should buy a changeable

ticket as USAC reserves the right to change dates if necessary.

Lyon, France Fall 2018 Tentative Dates:

Depart from U.S. on optional group flight (if on optional tour/field study)	August 28
Arrive in Marseille by 4pm for optional tour/field study	August 29-September 2
Depart U.S. if NOT on optional tour/field study	September 1
Arrival in Lyon by 3:00 pm/Move into housing (all students)	September 2
USAC Mandatory Orientation	September 3-4
Mandatory French language placement exams	September 4-7
Elective courses begin	September 10
Mandatory meeting with French professors	September 14
French language courses begin	September 17
Final exams and program end date	December 17-21
Move out of housing	December 22

To see the most up-to-date calendar, visit USAC's website: http://usac.unr.edu/study-abroad-programs/france/lyon/calendars

Pau, France Fall 2018 Tentative Dates:

Depart from U.S. on optional group flight (if on optional tour)	August 29
Arrive in Paris by 4pm for optional tour	August 30 – September 3
Depart U.S. if NOT on optional tour	September 2
Arrival in Pau before 7:00 pm/Move into housing (all students)	September 3
University & USAC Mandatory Orientation	September 4-5
Courses begin	September 5
Final examinations and program end date	December 20
Move out of housing	December 21

To see the most up-to-date calendar and when the internship dates are (if applicable), visit USAC's website: http://usac.unr.edu/study-abroad-programs/france/pau/calendars

ACADEMICS

There is additional information on academic topics such as eligibility, registration, class attendance, credits and course load, grades, transcripts, and accessing the UW-Eau Claire library while abroad in your Study Abroad Handbook.

Registration at UW-Eau Claire

Do not register for classes at UW-Eau Claire for the semester you will be abroad. The semester before your program departs, CIE staff will work with the Registration Office to enroll you in the USAC-France program under a **temporary course number (INTA 309-Lyon or INTA 303-Pau)** for 12 credits. This temporary registration for 12 credits will appear on your billing statements. You do not need to complete any other registration at UW-Eau Claire. **Once your grade report from USAC arrives, your Lyon or Pau classes, credits, and grades will be posted on your UW-Eau Claire transcript.** The INTA 309-Lyon or INTA 303-Pau registration code will remain on your transcript so that the university can maintain historical records regarding who has studied abroad. However, the INTA credit units will be removed and the INTA course will not be graded.

Registration in France

As part of the USAC admissions process, you are required to submit a preliminary course registration. You will find the Course and Tour Registration Form in your USAC Gateway account.

You will complete this form indicating your course and tour selections along with two alternative courses in case any courses become unavailable. You will submit the completed form directly to USAC.

Once you arrive in France, you will take a placement test and your registration is adjusted accordingly. You won't have much of a say in when your courses are as they are mostly determined by how you place in your placement test. You also won't have multiple time slots to choose from, like you usually do in the states. There is also a drop-add period and withdrawal deadline set by the Lyon and Pau resident directors. You will receive these dates from the respective USAC Office in France.

Credits and Course Load

Lyon: You are required to take a minimum of 12 credits for the semester and may take a maximum of 18 credits.

Pau: You are required to take a minimum of 15 credits for the semester and may take a maximum of 18 credits.

Dropping below full-time status at Lyon or Pau may result in loss of financial aid and/or insurance coverage and **must be approved in advance by the CIE.**

While the credit load may be similar to what you have at Eau Claire, please note that you can **expect to spend more time in courses in France**, and less time working on assignments outside of class. The contact hours for courses in France are higher than that in the states.

The course structure for the French language courses is going to be a little different than what you are used to at UW-Eau Claire. Instead of taking one French language course where you learn phonetics, grammar, etc. all within that one course, you will discover that in France, they break those apart into different time chunks and you may have different faculty teaching you phonetics, grammar, etc. This can also make you feel like you are in class a lot more than you're used to, but this is the norm in France.

Classes

Lyon: You will enroll in a minimum of 12 credits of intensive French language courses at the Institute of French Studies with other international students. A placement test administered after your arrival in Lyon will be used to place you into the appropriate level. You may also enroll in USAC elective courses or a course at L'Université Lumière Lyon 2. Please note that there are a number of restrictions on the courses that you can take at L'Université Lumière Lyon 2 and that USAC does not guarantee the transfer of the credit. Students interested in enrolling in a course at Lyon 2 should consult the USAC Resident Director upon arrival in Lyon. For a more detailed list of French language and USAC Lyon elective courses, please access the USAC web site: http://usac.unr.edu/study-abroad-programs/france/lyon/courses.

Pau: Based on the results of your placement test, you will enroll in three sequential language courses, plus a 1- or 3-credit French conversation course for a total of 12 credit hours. An example of a sequence would be Second Year French II, Third Year French I and II, plus French Conversation (12 credits). The language courses are taught at the Institute of French Studies at the University of Pau; your classmates will be other international students. In addition, you will take one or two elective courses taught specifically for USAC-Pau students. The elective courses are designed to familiarize you with the region and help complete requirements for other disciplines. Courses taught in French are appropriate for third

year students and above; courses taught in English are appropriate for all students. For a more detailed list of French language and USAC Pau elective courses, please access the USAC web site: http://usac.unr.edu/study-abroad-programs/france/pau/courses.

Course Equivalencies

You can find established course equivalencies on the academics page of the Pau or Lyon brochure page on UWEC's site. If you have any questions about the French course equivalencies, you should contact Dr. Jessica Miller, the French section head, in the UW-Eau Claire Department of Languages.

Grades

USAC grades will be reported to UW-Eau Claire using the standard U.S. grading scale:

(A) -Excellent Performance
(B) -Good
(C) -Average
(D) -Poor
(F) -Failure

Range between the letters is represented by plus or minus signs:
A-, B+, B-, C+, C-, D+, D-

Note: UW- Eau Claire students abroad are not allowed to take classes pass/fail, and that grades from Lyon and Pau are figured into your UW-Eau Claire GPA.

Transcripts and Credit Transfer

USAC will send a grade report both to your home address and to UW-Eau Claire upon completion of the program. However, your grades cannot be posted to your UW-Eau Claire record until UW-Eau Claire receives an **official grade report** directly from USAC.

If you are asked to complete a transcript release form by USAC, please have the transcript sent to the Center for International Education (see Contacts page for full address). Note that if you changed your registration late in the semester, this change might not be reflected in your initial transcript. In addition, if you have any outstanding financial charges, your transcript will be withheld until payment is made.

Transcripts & Graduation

If you are a senior studying abroad for your last semester, be sure to read the information about transcripts in your Study Abroad Handbook as studying abroad may cause a graduation delay. If you have more questions, please contact the France coordinator Jenna Krosch (kroschjm@uwec.edu) to discuss your individual situation.

DUEF French Proficiency Exam

The Université Lumière Lyon 2 and Université de Pau et des Pays de l'Adour offers French proficiency exams at all levels: beginner, intermediate, and advanced exams which are ranked from A1 to C2. All students will take the DUEF (Diplôme Universitaire d'Etudes Françaises = University Diploma of French Studies) at the end of their program. The exam consists of different parts including oral proficiency, listening comprehension as well as a writing section. All students will take this exam at the end of their program in both Pau and Lyon, however, it will not affect your UW-Eau Claire transcripts or grades. You will receive your diploma shortly after your program is over through the mail. The exam is included in the program fee.

In today's increasing interconnected global society, employers often seek job candidates who are proficient in a second language. This diploma will prove that students are proficient in the French language according to French national

standards, which may be beneficial in future job searches, especially students who are interested in an international career or teaching French.

French Academic System

It is important to keep in mind that cultural differences are not confined to life outside of the university. You are preparing to learn for a semester not only in a different language, but within a completely different university system, which is constructed on very different cultural assumptions.

Your courses are taught by French instructors, educated within the French academic system. Within this system, **teachers are expected to present ideas and information; it is the student's responsibility to make sense of the information.** Students need to learn independently and often work together outside of class to understand or expand upon the materials presented in class.

This is a very different approach to education from that of the U.S. system, where the teacher presents the exact information, in an orderly fashion, that students "need" to know in order to pass an exam.

The U.S. system of higher education increasingly operates under the assumption that students are **"customers,"** and that, as in business, the customer is (almost) always right. **This is not the case in French universities, where students are considered "learners."** To give a practical example: if a professor is ill and misses a class, students are required to attend a make-up session scheduled at the professor's convenience. **It is assumed that students will want to attend the session, because they are there to learn.**

Important differences that you may encounter:

1. **Syllabus:** You may not receive a syllabus for your class. As such, you will most likely not receive a breakdown of how your grade will be calculated and/or you may not be given a list of textbooks required for the class.
2. **Grades:** Although USAC will report your grades to UW-Eau Claire using the standing A-F scale, French universities typically grade students using a scale of 1 to 20, with grades 18 through 20 never awarded. A 16 is a very high mark with a 10 being acceptable.
3. **Testing:** Testing in France is intense and high stakes. To enter university all students must pass their BAC, which involves a week of oral and written exams. Once at university students must take comprehensive exams each year with part of the goal to weed out students. 50% of French university students do not make it past the first year. 90% of medical students fail their first year. Failed students are required to retake the entire year of studies.
4. **Student Services:** Another important difference to note is that “student services” are a relatively unknown concept at French universities. While the USAC office and Resident Directors will be ready to assist you, in general, the university does not have the mission, common to most U.S. institutions, of “student development.” It is there to provide access to academic resources. University students are considered adults who will work their way through the system, asking questions when necessary.
5. **Amount of Class Time**: While in the U.S. the university academic expectation is to be present in class and participate, most of the work and learning is done outside of the classroom through projects, papers, exam preparations or other homework activities. However, this is not the same standard in France. Students should prepare to spend longer hours engaging and participating in class, interacting with peers and gaining direct

feedback from the professor. Although more hours are spent inside the classroom doing work and interacting, there is therefore less outside of class work to be done.
Attendance is required and expected for every class in order to optimize the French learning experience.

Money Matters

Information about how payments are made, when they are due, the UW - Eau Claire withdrawal/refund deadlines, financial aid, scholarships, budgeting and ways to bring money abroad is in your Study Abroad Handbook.

Cost Estimate

You can find the most current cost estimate for your program, in easily printable format, on the CIE Lyon webpage and CIE Pau webpage. Be sure you are looking at the correct term. Remember that the cost estimate includes what you pay to UW-Eau Claire, what you pay to USAC, and what you pay directly to other vendors.

A few things to elaborate on that appear on your cost estimate.

Lyon Homestay: If you have opted to do a homestay in **Lyon**, the fees include breakfast 7 days a week and dinner 5 days a week. Yearlong students are provided housing during the winter break at no additional cost (subject to change, USAC will have final decision). If your family is available during the break, you can stay with the family. If your family is not available (traveling, etc.) during the winter break, you will move into the dorm temporarily.

Lyon/Pau Split Year: If you are combining semesters in Lyon fall and Pau spring, your housing is not covered over the winter break.

Pau Homestay: If you selected the homestay option in **Pau**, the USAC fees also include some meals: breakfast 7 days a week and dinner 2 days a week. Yearlong students are provided housing during the winter break at no additional cost (subject to change, USAC will have final decision). If your family is available during the break, you can stay with the family. If your family is not available (traveling, etc.) during the winter break, you will move to the dorm temporarily.

Personal Travel

The amount spent on personal travel varies greatly from student to student. It depends on your budget and your priorities. Students who want to be involved in their host community generally spend less time (and money) traveling. Others travel every weekend with correspondingly high costs and fewer close connections in their new home. Students who studied in France reported spending anywhere from $300 to $2,000 on optional travel. Below is how much travel students were able to do with the funds they had.

$300-600: Not much, I traveled a couple of weekends during my time abroad.

$900-$2,000: A moderate amount, I traveled about every other weekend.

USAC Payment Questions

If you have any questions about paying your housing deposit, housing, or the optional Marseille or Paris trip, please contact Miguel Perez in the USAC Accounting Office. You can reach him by telephone at 1-755-682-5882 or e-mail at Miguel.perez@usac.edu. You can pay with credit card, check, or money order.

USAC Refund Policy

In addition to the UW-Eau Claire refund policy outlined in the "Money Matters" section of the

Study Abroad Handbook, USAC has its own financial policies related to payment, cancellations, and changes. You can learn more about the withdrawal deadlines and penalties by referring to USAC Money Matters/Program Fees and Billing.

Currency Exchange

The currency of France is the Euro (€). One euro has 100 cents. There are 8 euro coins, ranging in amount from 1 cent to 2 euros. Coins have different designs in the various countries that use the Euro. Bills range from €5 to €500 and have a standard design across countries.

The exchange rate as of December 2017 was 1 euro = $1.17652 U.S. dollars. You can find current exchange rates at http://www.oanda.com/currency/converter/.

Traveler's Checks

Traveler's checks are increasingly rare and difficult to use. They generally must be cashed at a major bank, although, in some countries, post offices also off this service. You must have your passport with you. Most banks charge a fee for cashing the checks; it can vary widely. Before cashing a check, ASK what the fee is.

SCHOLARSHIPS

In addition to the scholarships listed in your Study Abroad Handbook, these may also apply for students in a France program:

Vernon J. Gingerich Memorial Scholarship

(One award @ $800)
Available to UW-Eau Claire students with a 3.0 GPA who spend a semester abroad immersed in a native French-speaking environment. Application forms are available in the Department of Languages and have historically been due around March 1. Check with the Department of Languages for the exact due date.

Martha Worthington Foreign Studies Scholarship

(Two awards @ $400)
Applicants for this scholarship must be majoring in a foreign language and have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher. There is also a preference for a financial need but it is not required. There is a first preference for a student majoring in French, but it is also not required Application forms are available in the Department of Languages and have historically been due around March 1. Check with the Department of Languages for the exact due date.

Gale Crouse Scholarship

(*One award @ $400*)
One annual award will be made to an outstanding French student wishing to complete a project involving a humanitarian cause in a French or Francophone environment. Application forms are available in the Department of Languages and are due around March 1.

There may be other Foundation Scholarships available based on your major or minor. You can search for other UW-Eau Claire Foundation Scholarships at https://scholarships.apps.uwec.edu/search.

USAC Scholarships

In addition to UWEC scholarships, USAC offers a variety of scholarships for students. To see more information, visit USAC's Scholarship website. You will have optional scholarship applications applied to your USAC Gateway account when they are open. Students are able to all that they are eligible for and can be awarded more than one scholarship.

USAC also offers an alliance scholarship just for UWEC students on one of their specialty programs. This application will be applied to your UWEC study abroad account in September for spring students and in **March for Summer/Fall/Academic Year students.** Your UWEC study abroad coordinator, Jenna, will email you when it is available. The number of awards will vary by term. Amounts will vary between $250 - $500.

HEALTH & SAFETY

Additional information on these issues, as well as information on CISI insurance, is included in the Health Issues and Safety Abroad sections of your Study Abroad Handbook.

Medical Facilities in Pau

There is a medical clinic on campus. The USAC-Pau resident director also has a list of doctors and therapists (English and French-speaking) that students have used in the past. During your on-site orientation in Pau, you will receive more information about what to do if you need medical care.

Medical Facilities in Lyon

There are medical facilities close to campus. The USAC-Lyon resident director will be able to assist you in identifying an English speaking doctor or therapist. During orientation in Lyon, you will receive more information on seeking medical care when in Lyon.

Counseling Services

Counseling services are available in Pau and Lyon; however, counselors may not speak English. In the past, an English-speaking counselor was located for a student but it involved advance planning with the CISI insurance and the resident director.

Students currently in counseling or who think they might need counseling support while abroad are strongly encouraged to contact the France study abroad coordinator, Jenna Krosch (kroschjm@uwec.edu) so that advance arrangements can be made.

Health Insurance

As part of your program fees to USAC you receive health insurance. Your USAC health insurance cards will be handed out at the on-site orientation. This insurance is in addition to the CISI insurance that you will receive through the UW system policy. You are not able to opt out of either one, both are required as they do have different levels of coverage.

Students studying in Lyon will have to obtain the mandatory French Social Security Health Insurance as well. It is mandated for all foreigners studying in Lyon and is not included in your USAC or UWEC fees.

Safety

Safety will be discussed during orientation in France. For specific information on crime, tips on how to avoid becoming a victim, and road safety in France, see the France Consular Information website. If you are the victim of a crime, or if you are arrested abroad, get in touch with the nearest U.S. consulate or embassy. U.S. consular offices will do what they can to help U.S. citizens in serious legal, medical, or financial difficulties. They can often direct you to a reliable doctor or clinic, help you contact family, or re-issue your passport.

Emergency Contacts

General emergency procedures are described in the Study Abroad Handbook and USAC staff are available if difficulties arise. You will receive an emergency contact card at the April orientation; be sure to keep it in your wallet at all times.

Emergency Situation

The world that we live in is always evolving and sometimes natural disasters and/or violent attacks happen in the unlikeliest places. In the event that there is an emergency in your city, your USAC resident director will be attempting to locate you and ensure your safety. Be sure you provide them with your contact information and any travel plans you have. The CIE will also be contacting you via email or phone to verify your safety. In the event of an emergency, continue checking your UWEC email. We would also encourage you to develop a plan on how you will communicate with family/friends back in the U.S.

After Hours Medical Concern

In France, for a medical emergency that happens at night (e.g. severely sprained ankle) and cannot wait until the next morning, you should call the European emergency number 112 (see below for more information). A doctor will ask questions and give advice over the phone to determine whether they will send an ambulance or you will take a cab to the emergency room at the hospital, or whether you can wait until the following morning to be treated.

911 Equivalent in France

If you are in an emergency situation in France, you will need to know how to reach the local police, fire, or ambulance services. In France, you have more than one option to reach emergency services:

1. Call the Universal European Emergency Number (24/7): 112
   (Equivalent to 911 in the U.S., redirects to other emergency numbers.)
2. Call the specific number for the service you require:
   a. Firefighters (24/7): 18
   b. Police (24/7): 17
   c. Medical Emergencies (24/7): 15

Save these numbers in your cell phone in case you need to use them quickly.

The U.S. State Department also provides a list of 911 numbers abroad. Like France, in some countries there are different numbers for fire, police, and ambulance. Plan ahead and research numbers before you go.

Required Documents

Passport information is included in your Study Abroad Handbook.

Visa

A visa is official permission to temporarily reside in another country and is granted by the government of that country. The CIE will ask you to make an appointment with the coordinator to discuss the steps. **However, it is your responsibility to keep up-to-date about student visa requirements for France, and to apply for and receive a visa from a French consulate or embassy in a timely manner.** Please read the "Visa" section of your Study Abroad Handbook for more information about what you should do to keep up-to-date on visa requirements.

USAC will also release very detailed information, including webinars and examples, on your Gateway account about how you go about obtaining a visa for France. The process can be lengthy, so please plan in advance.

Packing Tips

In addition to the general packing information in your Study Abroad Handbook, you should know the following about France.

Climate

Lyon: The climate in Lyon is moderate, with warm summers and a chance of showers year-round so bring a raincoat and umbrella. Fall is still warm with beautiful colors like you might experience in Wisconsin. The average temp will be 63°F (17°C) when you arrive in September, with the temperatures beginning to drop in October. In December, you will experience an average temperature of 40°F (4.5°C). In spring, you will arrive to daytime highs around 38°F (3°C). To explore Lyon in the winter you will want to bring a hat, gloves, and a warm coat. Spring can be a little slow to start but by the time you depart in May you should experience daytime highs between 68-84°F (20s°C) with plenty of sunshine.

Pau: Pau is known for its temperate climate. For fall, the average temperature is 65.5°F (18.6°C) in September when you arrive and 46.2°F (7.9°C) when you head home in December. For spring, the average temperature in January is 43.5°F (6.4°C). By April, the average temperature is 52.5°F (11.4°C). Past spring students say that at the beginning it will seem COLD and WET (even though Pau is warmer than Wisconsin). Pau also experiences rain on a regular basis so you should be sure to pack a raincoat and umbrella.

Bedding and Linens

Bedding is provided with both housing options, homestay and residence halls. However, you are responsible for bringing or purchasing towels and washcloths.

What to Pack

Your peer advisor will hand out a suggested packing list during the second orientation, later in the semester prior to departure.

USAC will also post a packing list onto your Gateway account.

GETTING TO FRANCE

Travel Arrangements

It is your responsibility to make travel arrangements to Lyon or Pau. USAC provides group flight information. **USAC strongly recommends that students take the group flight.** However, you are free to make your own travel arrangements as long as you arrive in Lyon or Pau on the designated arrival day and time.

Please note that you must arrive in time for orientation. Students who miss orientation will be charged $100 from USAC. **USAC will send you information on flights and arrival information to your USAC Student Gateway Account.**

HOUSING & MEALS

Housing Options

After your acceptance to USAC, you were asked to submit a housing questionnaire via your Gateway account where you indicated your housing preferences. You have two options for housing in both Lyon and Pau: 1) homestays with a family/French host or 2) university residence halls. Most USAC students opt to stay with families/French hosts. USAC will notify you of your housing placement upon arrival as last-minute changes are not uncommon. The homestay fee covers some meals. See the *Money Matters* section of this guide to see what meals are included. The residence hall fee does not include any meals. More details on each option are provided below.

Host Families

Most students opt to live with French hosts for linguistic and cultural reasons. Host households involved in the program come in all shapes and sizes—two parents with several children, a widow and her child, an older couple whose children are on their own, a single woman, etc. Some of them

have had students for years; some will be hosting for the first time.

Homestays are located in Lyon/Pau and their suburbs. The homestay is either located within 15-40 minutes walking distance or is connected to school via public transportation (buses). If you choose a homestay, you must commit to staying there for the whole session.

Family placement. On your housing preference form you should indicate if you want to be in a family with small children, pets or no pets, smoking or no smoking, etc. **Keep in mind that this is a preference list only**. Family assignments are made by the administrative office in Lyon and Pau.

Meals with your host family. Students in host families will be provided with some meals. See the *Money Matters* section for your location to see how many meals are included. Students living in host families can also purchase meals at the campus cafeteria for approximately 3 Euro.

Remember that you are a guest (even if a paying one) in your family's home and that this is not a hotel situation. Do not insist on being able to do things as you would in your own home. This is particularly important when it comes to food customs. You are most likely used to snacking when you wish, eating on the run, or inviting friends to meals. Be prepared for the following:

- Meals in France often involve sitting down with the whole family.
- Be open-minded when trying new kinds of foods.
- The refrigerator is often off-limits and between-meal snacking is less common than it is here. You may get hungry between meals, especially at the beginning. Go to the supermarket and buy some snacks or fruit that you can carry with you to school.
- If you know you will miss a meal, let your family know and ask how you should handle it. Do not expect that they will make other arrangements to feed you.
- Depending on your specific home situation, you will probably not be *expected* to help with setting or clearing the table for meals. Do it anyway. This is a great opportunity to talk and develop your relationship with your host family. In addition, these small efforts show that you are a considerate and appreciative guest in their home.
- In France, inviting a guest into your home implies a close relationship—it would be more usual to gather with friends at a restaurant, while the home is reserved for families.

Laundry: Laundry is included for students staying with the host families. Students are allowed a maximum of one load of laundry per week. Please note that many French families do not own a dryer, so you will need to hang dry your clothes.

Telephone/Internet: All calls in France, even local calls, involve a charge. Telephone bills in France are not itemized. As such, families will only allow you to use the home phone if you have a pre-paid French calling card. Not all families allow phone use so don't assume that you can use the phone. Ask permission each time you use the telephone. Keep phone calls to a minimum. The USAC resident director will go over phone use during the on-site orientation program.

Most families have WiFi but it is NOT guaranteed that you will have access to it.

Utilities: Some families impose restrictions on the use of hot water and the telephone. Electricity, water, and phone calls are very expensive in Europe. Many families are on the plan where electricity is discounted at night and extra expensive during the day, so ask when you should shower (don't take long, hot showers), wash clothes, etc. Don't ever forget to turn off the lights when you don't need them. Use natural light from windows whenever possible. Turn off the water when soaping up, brushing teeth, etc.

Get involved with your host family: Get involved as much as you can with your family. They are an important resource for you to learn from and a great resource to help you experience the culture of France! You may have an interest in cooking. By taking some mixes or recipes from home, you may easily gain entry into the kitchen. The French are very proud of their cuisine and are often thrilled when individuals show an interest in French cooking. Conversation is important in French culture. You can spend hours after a meal chatting and watching television or learning to play French games.

Financial arrangements of hosting: Some U.S. students are surprised that their host families receive money for having them in their homes. They are concerned that the family is only interested in them as a "customer." While USAC screens families to try to ensure that they have cultural interests for participating, **most** households participating do so at least partially for economic reasons. This is only logical, given the size of the typical French home and the disruption that hosting a student causes to family life.

Even for families with cultural reasons for participating, it is not easy to welcome a stranger into your home for a semester. The entire family needs to adjust its schedules and habits to accommodate this new person. In addition, there are very real costs associated with having another person in the home. Receiving some monetary compensation for this is only fair, and most families would not consider hosting otherwise.

Changing families: Keep in mind that any relationship is a two-way street. It is as much your responsibility to fit into the family as it is their responsibility to include you in their daily life. USAC expects you to commit to a host family for the full semester.

If you are having problems, please contact the USAC resident director to discuss the situation. The resident director may be able to offer valuable cultural insight and suggestions for improving the situation. Remember to give the situation some time and to be flexible and open-minded.

UW-Eau Claire is not involved in the actual family placements and changes must be done through USAC offices. However, CIE can consult with USAC and try to assist in bringing a positive resolution.

Residence Halls

Lyon: Students can choose from a single room in the University Residence Hall, or a shared or single room in the Private Residence Hall. Depending on the option you select, kitchen facilities will be available either in your room, or on each floor of the residence hall. You can also eat at the university restaurant inexpensively.

There are no on-campus residence halls at the university downtown campus, where you will be studying. The private residence halls are closest, with just a 5-minute walk to campus. The university residence halls are further away, with a 25-35-minute commute to campus.

Pau: Students living in the residence halls have two options: individual studio accommodation or

a shared (three bedroom) accommodation. Individual rooms include a shower and bathroom. In the shared accommodation, you will live with other USAC students, have a single room, and share bathroom and kitchen facilities. The residence halls are located relatively close to campus and the university cafeterias, as well as neighborhood bakeries, cafes, supermarkets, banks, and the post office.

French vs. U.S. Residence Halls: You should be aware that French dorms, unlike U.S. dorms, are not typically centers of social activity. French students view them much more like someone living in an apartment building would in the U.S., as their private dwelling. Oftentimes, French students return home to their family on the weekend. In all French universities, **each floor of each residence is mixed gender.**

What is provided for your room: Past students have had a single room. In addition to a bed, their rooms were equipped with a small refrigerator and hot plate along with a sink and cupboards to store dry food and dishes. Things from the previous student will be left in your room. This is normal! You can choose to use these things or to throw them away.

Please note that the less expensive rooms in the Private University Hall in Lyon are shared rooms.

Meals: You can eat at the university restaurants, which provide a wide range of food options for a modest cost (3 Euros/meal), cook your own meals, or both.

Laundry: Laundry is not included in your residence hall fees. Students living in the residence halls are expected to do their own laundry. There are no laundry facilities in the residence halls but there are two laundromats within walking distance of the dorms. The laundromats do have both washer and dryers.

Telephone/Internet: There are no phones in the residence hall rooms, but there may be pay phones in the buildings which use phone cards.

You will have access to internet but will most likely need to use an Ethernet cord to connect.

Community Involvement

To meet French students and others in the community, you'll need to get involved in activities. USAC can arrange speaking partners with French natives, and occasionally they receive requests from French families looking for English-speakers to tutor their children in English. There are many options if you like sports: soccer, basketball, ski club, backpacking, and others. There are also theater groups, church groups just get out and explore!

Communication

Information on accessing/forwarding your UW-Eau Claire email address and telephone calls through your computer (SKYPE) is in your Study Abroad Handbook.

Time Difference

France is seven hours ahead of Eau Claire. For example, when it is 1:00 p.m. on Thursday in Eau Claire, it is 8:00 p.m. on Thursday in France.

Email/Internet

Internet access is available for free in the campus computer labs. Also, Wi-Fi is available on both Lyon and Pau campuses.

Residence halls: There is no Wi-Fi in the university residence halls at Pau or Lyon.

Host families: Internet use is not included in your homestay fees. Most homestays have Wi-Fi but use of the family's Wi-Fi is not guaranteed. Do not assume that your hosts will allow you to use their computer/Internet service.

Snail-mail

You will be able to receive mail at the USAC-France office. This address will be provided to you in a USAC Update via your USAC Gateway account. International airmail takes 7-10 days to cross the Atlantic in either direction. Packages usually take at least two weeks, and sending from France can take longer than receiving in France. Any packages that arrive to France are subject to being searched by French custom officials.

Telephone Information

Calling from the U.S. to France: If you want to call someone in France before you arrive, you must first dial 011, which is the international dialing code. Next, you dial 33, the country code for France, and the rest of the number.

It is cheaper for your family and friends to call you in France than it is for you to call them in the U.S. The cheapest rates are through calling cards. Compare international calling plans and international calling cards to set your family and friends up with the best deals, or you/they may be surprised at the first bills!

From France to the U.S.: If you do not buy a cell phone, you will probably make use of public phones. One place with easy access to public phones is the main post office. At the "Poste," you can buy stamps and boxes and make phone calls.

Cell phones: Cell phones are very common in France. Some past participants have found it economical and convenient to purchase cell phones for their time abroad. If you think you might be interested, stop in a cell phone store for more information. These stores are everywhere and are not difficult to find. If you decide to bring your cell phone from the U.S. remember that you need to have it unlocked before you go in order to use it.

Telecarte: Nearly all public phones now require a "telecarte" instead of coins. They can be bought at the Poste or at a "bureau de tabac." This card can also be used for local calls. Also look for discount periods. Sundays have a 50% reduction and weeknights after 10:30pm have a 65% reduction. The Poste has the complete schedule of these reductions.

CULTURAL NOTES

General Information

Most French people are attached to their national and individual traditions and also to their freedom of expression. With family, friends, and acquaintances, they are never afraid to discuss important political, social, and cultural issues. You may wish to read up on U.S. and French politics before you leave in order to take part in such conversations.

French families are typically very close by U.S. standards. If you are invited to a French home, you should be aware of the importance given to meals: traditionally, on Sundays, a typical French family has a substantial lunch (what Americans would call dinner). What is meant by substantial is not so much the quantity of food but rather the variety of the numerous courses and the length of time (often several hours) spent at the table.

In France, art and culture, which elsewhere may be the preserve of a small elite, play a central role in the lives of inhabitants. This evidence is to be found not only in Paris and the larger cities but in every part of the country, in tiny villages and in the most remote corners of the countryside. The

intellectual does not stand apart from everyday life; he or she is part of it. The artist is accepted and respected, not derided as a different and eccentric species. A good example of this is the fact that the TV news often devotes some time to presenting the latest happenings on the cultural scene, such as films, exhibits, or concerts. The French government offers many subsidies to support the arts.

It is sometimes said that the French are rude. American tourists may feel this way because it can be difficult to strike up a conversation with a French person while standing in line at a store or sitting on a train. A better way to describe this behavior would be to say the French are generally more private than Americans. The French may not be as casual as Americans to become "acquainted" but it is often believed that if you have "un ami français" you will have him/her forever (or at least for a very long time).

On the other hand, social rituals, such as saying hello and goodbye, are important in France. As one student reported, everyone likes to "faire la bise." Kissing strangers on the cheek may seem very odd at first, but you will soon adjust.

French people eat fast (on the average). Don't worry. Meals are usually long, so even if you eat slowly you won't be too out of line. The French often seem to eat a larger quantity of food than Americans, but they snack less between meals. Coffee follows nearly every meal.

Another thing that takes getting used to is the time at which the French eat their evening meal. Supper is usually eaten between 7:30 and 8:30 p.m. This may be hard to get used to, but do your best. You may even find you prefer eating at the later hour. When traveling, don't try to eat at a restaurant until at least 7:00 p.m. (they'll think you're nuts if you try to eat dinner at 5:00 p.m.!).

A couple of hints: the French keep both hands (but not elbows) on the table during the meal, and bread is left on the table rather than on the plate (in spite of everything your mother has taught you).

French cafes are a must! They vary in size, price range, and quality of coffee, so it's best to give them a try and find your favorites. Explore! Every little street has a café that has its own personality, and meeting the owners and the waiters is a lot of fun! There are a few "rules" that should be adhered to in any French café:

1. Once you've ordered something in most cafés, you're free to sit there for as long as you like.
2. Never use the bathroom in a place where you haven't ordered anything. The restrooms at a café are reserved for its customers.
3. In most places the tip is included in the bill, as shown in the expression "service compris." If it is not included ("service non compris"), which is extremely rare, add 12 to 15%.
4. Usually the waiter will put your bill under a small tray often mistaken as and used for an ashtray. (It's to hold your coins.) Some places like it if you pay right away; others let you pay later.
5. Don't make the mistake of assuming that every bar/café/restaurant has "the customer is always right" as their motto. Many reserve the right to refuse service to anyone, and they exercise that right! If you're messing around too much or are too loud, they will not only ask you to leave, but they will make sure you have an escort to the door. The French are not very rowdy when it comes to their behavior in a bar. The atmosphere is much more reserved.

Government of France

France is a semi-presidential republic. This means that their government is very similar to ours with

the main exception being that the French have a prime minister in addition to a president. The president shares executive power with his or her appointee, the prime minister. The president is elected directly by the citizens of France. France is also a unitary nation instead of federal. This means that they don't have what we'd call state governments they operate predominantly on the federal level. However, three administrative subdivisions the *régions, départements* and *communes* have various legal functions, and the national government is prohibited from intruding into their normal operations.

France has multiple political parties which work together to form roughly two coalitions – right wing and left wing.

The foundational principles of the French constitution are: equality of all citizens, the rejection of special class privileges, presumption of innocence, freedom of speech and opinion, freedom of religion, protection from arbitrary seizure of property, and the accountability of the government to its citizens.

Pau Historical Facts

Pau is the birthplace of Henri IV, King of France. He was born in the castle in 1553. The castle now houses one of the world's largest tapestry collections.

Napoleon refurbished the castle in Pau and he used it as a holiday home during his reign of power.

Marie Antoinette spent many of her summers in Pau as well and her garden still remains at the castle.

Pau is the birthplace of Jean Bernadotte, the Marshal of France as appointed by Napoleon I. He became King of Sweden in 1810 and later King of Norway under the name Karl Johan. The main street in Oslo is named after him. His original home in Pau has been maintained and is open to the public for visits.

Lyon Historical Facts

In 43 BC, Lugdunum (Lyon) was founded. The Ampitheatre Gallo Romain was constructed during the reign of the Roman Empire and is still around today.

After the collapse of the Roman Empire, Lyon became known for its silk factories and traders.

During World War II, Lyon was the center for the French Resistance.

TRAVEL WHILE ABROAD

See additional travel information in your Study Abroad Handbook.

Field Trips

USAC organizes field trips each semester that allow students to become familiar with their host region in France. These bus trips generally take place on weekends and are included in the program fees. The exact dates and sites may change at the discretion of the Resident Director. Additional field trips are offered for a modest fee. You can find details on the USAC Website. Just look at the program calendar for your site and term.

Train Travel

SNCF (Société Nationale des Chemin de fer Français) is the national state-owned railway company in France. SCNF offers different railcard discount programs. If you plan to travel within France by train, you will want to buy a Carte Jeune 18-27 when you purchase your first ticket. The card gives you 25-60% savings on all ticket

purchases. There are also special last-minute deals exclusively for Carte Jeune cardholders.

If you are planning a train trip that requires reservations, couchettes or multiple tickets, you can make the reservation and purchase the ticket online at the SNCF site, go to an SNCF (the French national rail) sales office, or go to the ticket window at the train station. The SNCF sales office personnel usually have more time (and are therefore more patient and friendly) than those right at the train station. SCNF also has a number of mobile apps if you will have a smart phone during your time in France.

Don't be late for your train. They're nearly always on time and loading time onto the train can be between one and five minutes. Storage on the train can be scarce, especially if you're going to a large city like Paris. Bring only what you can comfortably carry and handle in a tight-fitting area. Be aware that there are thefts on trains and keep an eye on your bags.

WEB RESOURCES FOR FRANCE

City
Universite de Pau: http://www.univ-pau.fr/live/
L'Universite de Lumiere Lyon 2: http://www.univ-lyon2.fr/
Official Tourism Site of Lyon: http://www.en.lyon-france.com/
Official Tourism Site of Pau: http://www.pau-pyrenees.com/
Culture
France culture (in French): https://www.franceculture.fr
US Consulate French Culture site: http://frenchculture.org
Country
France-Diplomatie: http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/es/
French Newspapers: http://www.onlinenewspapers.com/france.htm
France Travel: https://www.ricksteves.com/europe/france

CONTACT NAMES & ADDRESSES

GENERAL UW-EAU CLAIRE & CISI CONTACT INFORMATION IS IN YOUR STUDY ABROAD HANDBOOK.

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http://usac.unr.edu/

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Email: Dominique.nelson@usac.edu

Questions on Bill- housing deposit, Marseille/Paris trip
Miguel Perez, Accounting
Email: Miguel.perez@usac.edu

Other Resources

The U.S. Department of State offers useful travel information on the "Travel and Living Abroad" section of their web site-
http://www.state.gov/travel/
Check the "Highlights" section.

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Consulate General of France in Chicago

205 North Michigan Avenue
Suite 3700
Chicago, IL 60601
Tel.: 312 327 5200
Visa Section: 312 327 5229, from 2:30 to 4:00 pm
Fax: 312 327 5201
Email: visas@consulfrance-chicago.org
http://www.consulfrance-chicago.org/

US Embassy in France

4, avenue Gabriel
75008 Paris
Tel. 011 33 43 12 22 22 (calling from US)
Tel. 01 43 12 22 22 (calling in France)
Metro stop Concorde on lines 1, 8, & 12)
http://france.usembassy.gov/



Revised December
2017 jmk