The Ecole Superieure d’ Agriculture d’ Angers (ESA) program is offered by International Academic Programs (IAP) at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in conjunction with the Ecole Superieure d’ Agriculture d’ Angers. This IAP Program Handbook supplements handbook(s) or materials you receive from Ecole Superieure d’ Agriculture d’ Angers as well as the IAP Study Abroad Handbook and provides you with the most up-to-date information and advice available at the time of printing. Changes may occur before your departure or while you are abroad.

Questions about your program abroad (housing options, facilities abroad, etc.) as well as questions relating to your relationship with your host university or academics (e.g. course credit and equivalents, registration deadlines, etc.) should be directed to International Academic Programs at UW-Madison.

This program handbook contains the following information:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contact Information</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Contacts</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home University Contact Information</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency Contact Information</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Embassy Registration and Information</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Dates 2016</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preparations Before Leaving</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immigration Documents</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Handling Money Abroad</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Packing</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electronics</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel and Arrival Information</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Academic Program</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ecole Superieure d’Agriculture (ESA)</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESA Summer Program Courses and study field trips</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University Facilities</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CONTACT INFORMATION

Program Contacts
Monica Theis
Program Leader
UW Madison Department of Food Science
Monica will be in Angers for the last two weeks of the study abroad program and will be available in Madison prior to departure as a resource for students.

Alejandra Carril
Summer Program Assistant
Ecole Superieure d’Agriculture
55 rue Rabelais - BP 30748
49007 Angers cedex 01, France
Tel: 33-2-41-235-654
Fax: 33-2-41-235-532

Gaël Roul
g.roul@groupe-esa.com

Home University Contact Information

UW-Madison Information
International Academic Programs (IAP)
University of Wisconsin-Madison
106 Red Gym, 716 Langdon Street
Madison, WI 53706
Tel: 608-265-6329 Fax: 608-262-6998
Web: www.studyabroad.wisc.edu
Emergency Contact Information

IAP Emergency Number
In case of an emergency, call the main IAP number (608) 265-6329 between 8:00a.m.-4:30p.m. (Central Time) Monday-Friday; after-hours or on weekends call the IAP staff on call at (608) 516-9440.

Emergency Numbers in France
- Ambulance: 15
- Fire Brigade: 18
- Police: 17
- European Emergency Number: 112
- SOS Help (English Speaking Crisis Line): 01-46-21-46-46
- Centre Hospitalier Universitaire (CHU; University General Hospital): 02-41-35-36-37
- La maison des etudiants (students’ centre): 02-41-22-69-10 (Provides students many free services, including consultation with MDs, medical advice, help from social workers, access to information and documentation centre.)

Embassy Registration and Information
All program participants who are U.S. citizens must register at the U.S. Embassy before departure as this will help in case of a lost passport or other mishap. You can register on-line at https://travelregistration.state.gov. If you are not a U.S. citizen, register at your home country’s embassy or consulate.

U.S. Embassy in Paris, France
2 Avenue Gabriel
75382 Paris Cedex 08 France
Tel: +33 (0)1 43 12 22 22
Fax: +33 (0)1 42 66 97 83
Email: citizeninfo@state.gov
Web: http://france.usembassy.gov/index.html

Program Dates 2016
Departure date from US: May 25
Arrival Date in Paris: May 26 – Meet at youth hostel
Program Start Date: May 26
Program End Date: June 23
Departure Day (for students who are not doing the farm internship): June 24-26, 2016
PREPARATIONS BEFORE LEAVING

Immigration Documents

Passport

A passport is needed to travel to France. Apply immediately for a passport if you do not already have one. Passport information and application forms can be found on the U.S. State Department website (http://travel.state.gov/passport). If you already have your passport, make sure it will be valid for at least 6 months beyond the length of your stay abroad.

Visa

US Citizens on the summer program should enter on a tourist visa. They will be given a stamp for 90 days in their passport. If you are not a US citizen, a visa may be necessary. Please contact your study abroad advisor at IAP immediately.

Handling Money Abroad

The official currency of France is the Euro (€). You should bring some money with you in cash for incidental purchases. You can request a small sum of Euros from most US banks before departure to assist with immediate payments. It is possible to convert almost any currency into Euros at the airport when you arrive. Banks are normally open from 9:00am until 4:00 or 5:00pm, depending on the branch. To view the current exchange rate and to print a traveler’s cheat sheet, you can visit this website: http://www.oanda.com/currency/converter/.

ATMs and Debit Cards

ATMs are readily available in Angers and throughout France, in banks and post offices. ATMs are open 24 hours a day and take several different cards. Be sure to ask your bank about any international charges you may receive from using ATMs abroad and to notify them that you will be abroad so they do not freeze your account.

Credit Cards

Credit cards are accepted at most stores in France, but stores usually have a minimum purchase requirement around 15€. It is important to notify your credit card company that you will be abroad so they do not freeze your account.

Packing

Pack light. The weather in France can be unpredictable, so be sure to bring clothes that can be layered. Students typically dress fairly nicely, in jeans and a shirt, slacks and a shirt, or the latest fashion. You should also plan to bring at least one nice outfit because you may need to give a presentation or have another formal occasion during your stay. Remember that the climate is milder than in Wisconsin, so do not bring too many sweaters and sweatshirts. To check the weather you can use this website for a general guide: http://www.wunderground.com/.
Other items to remember are: alarm clock, copy of all documents (passport, visa, etc.), French-
English dictionary, a gift or token for your host family (suggestion: picture book from Wisconsin),
journal, and a small bag for weekend trips.

**Electronics**

The electricity current in France is 220 volts, whereas the US is 110 volts. A plug adapter will be
needed in order to fit the sockets abroad (two round prongs instead of our flat plug). An electricity
converter may be necessary for certain electronic items. If you buy an adapter/Converter, make sure it
will work for the specific item for which you need it. Check with a local electronics store, such as Radio
Shack or Best Buy, for assistance on finding the adapters and converters needed for your area.

**Travel and Arrival Information**

**Arrival day**

Students should meet at the youth hostel in Paris on **Thursday, May 26, 2016**. You will be able to leave
your luggage at any time of the day in the Youth Hostel but rooms are NOT available before 3pm. Gaël
Roul will be there from 8am to give you your Metro Ticket if you wish to have a walk in Paris. The group
will meet at 3pm for room allocation. After two days in Paris, the group will be transported to Angers.

**Travel from Paris to Angers**

On **Sunday, May 29, 2016**, the group will travel to Angers by train (TGV). This train ticket is included in
the cost of the program.

**Departure Day/End of Program**

The program ends on **Thursday, June 23**. You have the opportunity to extend your stay with your host
family (accommodation and food included) until **Sunday, June 26**. You will plan your trip back to the US
during one of these 3 days: June 24, 25, or 26. The train ticket from Angers to the International Airport
Roissy Charles De Gaulles (Paris) is NOT included.

**The Academic Program**

**Ecole Superieure d'Agriculture (ESA)**

ESA was founded in 1898 by Jesuits and representatives of the agricultural world. The school has been
instrumental in the development of agriculture in Western France, the first region in Europe in the
agricultural and the food industry sectors. Since the Jesuits left in 1970, the school has become a non-
profit making organization managed by alumni. Since its creation in the late 19th century, the school has
diversified. The curriculum now includes several courses in agriculture, viticulture and oenology,
livestock farming, horticulture and landscaping, the food industry, agro-business, the environment and
land-use planning. With about 2,630 students, ESA is the largest higher agricultural institute in France.
The university welcomes around 300 international students every year. ESA belongs to FESIA, a French
consortium of four agricultural institutes.
ESA Summer Program Courses and study field trips

The ESA summer program is a four or eight-week program beginning in early June. The purpose of the program is to introduce students to the French way of life, France’s role in the European Union and the rich heritage of French culture, while at the same time providing concentrated study in agricultural fields. The theme for the 2016 summer program is: From the farm to the table...A sustainable Food Chain

With some basic instruction in French but all other classes conducted entirely in English, the program combines lectures, educational field trips, and cultural visits to a wide variety of places.

Week 1 and 2: Sustainable Agriculture Classes during these weeks will focus on crop production and agroecology, animal production and sustainable livestock farming, and agribusiness. Study field trips may include vineyards, organic pig farms, dairy farms, goat farms, liquor distillery, AOC Maine Anjou Cattle breeding farm.

Week 3 and 4: Wine and regional food product development
Classes during these weeks will focus on oenology, wine making process, viticulture, food science and technology, international marketing, sensory analysis and consumer behavior. Study field trips may include liquor distilleries, vineyards, organic bakery, and/or a chocolate factory.

Cultural Field Trips
Cultural excursions change each year. Please refer to the program syllabus for details.

Optional Farm Internships

You can choose to participate in a four-week non-credit internship following the four weeks of classes at ESA. Internships take place on a farm; industry internships are also available but only in exceptional cases as they are generally very difficult to find, particularly for non-French speakers. A farm family will host you and share their daily life and work with you during your internship. Students can request the type of farm they would like to work on but it can be difficult to give the student their top preference. It is difficult to get an internship with a winery in July, after the summer courses, because there is no manual work on wineries during that period. The most common placement is on a dairy farm.

PLEASE NOTE: Farm internships are often physically demanding. You should be willing and able to do hard physical work for 8 to 9 hours each day. Internships without physical work are rare, so students needing any special accommodations must contact their study abroad advisor during the application process to determine what sorts of placements may be available.

- Students generally receive free food and accommodation and sometimes some pocket money, depending on the farm’s financial situation and the student’s work ethic and involvement in farm and family life, but no salary.
- Sometimes the farmers can pick their students up from ESA; if not, transportation to the farm is the student’s responsibility
- All students must be aware that working on a farm is often physically demanding. Students must be able to do hard physical work for 8 to 9 hours per day!
• Students should be interested in the life and work of the farm and interact with the farm family as much as possible. Students must be aware that they will have to adapt to other types of living conditions and cultural contexts.
• Note that the farm family does not get any financial reward whatsoever from ESA. Your financial contribution helps ESA organize the internships.
• ESA organizes the internships together with a club of farmers, called Echanges Agricoles Internationaux (EAI), and generally the members of the club accept foreign students not because they need cheap farm workers but because they are interested in sharing their daily life and work with young people from foreign countries.

Course Information
Syllabi will be provided for the courses upon arrival in Angers. Most likely papers and quizzes will be the assessment tools used.

Course Equivalent Request (CER)
The four-week academic program will be assigned one UW-Madison course equivalent in order for your grades and credits to be recorded on your UW-Madison transcript. The 2016 academic program is currently equated with the following course equivalents:
• French 299: Directed Study
  OR
• Food Science 400: Study Abroad in Food Science

It may be possible to request an alternate course equivalency for the academic program. Look in your My Study Abroad account for details. You can log into your My Study Abroad account to enter in your course equivalent selection.

Optional Farm Internship Equivalent Request
The optional internship is a non-credit experience so you cannot expect to earn any academic credit for the work you complete.

Credits
8 ECTS (European Credit Transfer System) credits will be awarded to you for passing your courses on the ESA summer academic program.

These credits will be converted to UW-Madison credits using the following conversion scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ECTS Credits</th>
<th>UW-Madison Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Pass/Fail/Drop/Audit
Please refer to the IAP Study Abroad Handbook for academic policies.

Grades and Grade Conversions
You will receive a transcript from ESA with French grades on a 20 point scale. The following scale will be used to convert your grades to UW-Madison equivalents.
### French Certificate

As a student studying abroad in France/on a program with French language, you are encouraged to consider adding a French certificate to your degree. This flexible, 15-credit program also strengthens the applications of students who intend to pursue careers or graduate study in areas where French is useful. 6 credits from study abroad can be applied towards the French certificate. To read more about the certificate, please visit this website: [http://frit.wisc.edu/undergraduate/french/french_certificate](http://frit.wisc.edu/undergraduate/french/french_certificate).

### University Facilities

#### Libraries

ESA’s multimedia library contains a collection of 35,000 books, 300 magazines, including 10 daily newspapers and 40 foreign magazines, and numerous electronic resources.

ESA Library hours:
- Monday-Thursday 8:45 am - 7:45 pm
- Friday 8:45 am - 5:30 pm
- Weekends & Holidays Closed

#### Computer Labs

ESA has several computer rooms with Microsoft Office software and internet access.

#### Cafeterias

Angers has four university cafeterias with a variety of food ranging from traditional French meals to quick meals, pizzas, grilled dishes, pasta or sandwiches:

- Restaurant universitaire des Beaux Arts: 35 boulevard du Roi René
  - Closest cafeteria to ESA
- Restaurant universitaire Belle-Beille: 3 boulevard Lavoisier
- Restaurant universitaire “La Gabare”: 55 quai Félix Faure
- Restaurant universitaire Sciences médicales: Rue Haute de Reculée
Living Abroad

France

On the western edge of Europe, France is situated between England and Italy, Belgium and Spain, North Africa and Scandinavia. This is, of course, how the French have always regarded their country—at the very center of things.

France’s most salient characteristic is its exceptional diversity. The largest country in Western Europe, France is about 80% the size of Texas and extends from the coastal plains in the north to the beaches of the south; from the wild coastline of Brittany to the to the top of the Alps, with cliff-lined canyons, dense forest and vineyards in between. The highest point in Western Europe, Mont Blanc, is situated in the Alps on the border between France and Italy. Metropolitan France also has extensive river systems such as the Loire, the Garonne, the Seine and the Rhône, which divides the Massif Central from the Alps and flows into the Mediterranean Sea at the Camargue, the lowest point in France. Corsica lies off the Mediterranean coast.

Over the centuries, France has received more immigrants than any other country in Europe. From the ancient Celtic Gauls and Romans to the more recent arrivals from France’s former colonies in Indochina and Africa, these peoples have introduced new elements of culture, cuisine, and art, all of which have contributed to France’s unique and diverse civilization.

French cuisine is rich and varied, creative and innovative; each region specializes in certain dishes, cheeses and wines. In France, people usually eat three meals a day. Breakfast, eaten when they get up, is usually quick and consists of a hot drink and a baguette with butter or jam. Lunch and dinner, eaten around 12 or 1:00 pm and 8:00 pm, respectively, typically consist of a starter, a hot main course (meat or fish with vegetables), followed by cheese and dessert. The French drink a lot of bottled water, although tap water is perfectly safe to drink throughout the country (although it may not taste very good). Although France produces a lot of wine, fewer and fewer French people are regular wine drinkers.

Angers

Angers is a city of 150,000 people (almost 400,000 in the metropolitan area) situated along the Maine River in western France’s Loire Valley. The city is about an hour and a half train ride from Paris and about 100 kilometers inland from the ocean.

The region hosts the greatest variety of crop and animal production in Europe, including cereals, oilseeds, vegetables, flowers, fruit, wine, cattle, pigs and poultry. This agricultural diversity, along with modern processing plants, numerous food companies and research centers make Angers an ideal setting for an agricultural institute of higher learning. Angers is known as the Most Flowered City in Europe for its many parks, gardens and fresh cut flowers. Angers also hosts a middle-age fortress where the longest tapestry in the world can be seen. It is also the home of the famous Cointreau liquor and of a number of modern industries.
Housing
For the first four weeks of the program, students have the option of staying with a host family or with a French student. If you choose to participate in the farm internship, you will stay on the farm with a host family during the internship.

Transportation

Bus/Tram
There is a local company, Irigo, who runs the bus and tram service in town. Currently, you can buy a one-way ticket for €1.40 (from vending machines) or €1.50 (from bus drivers). You can also buy 10-trip cards from Irigo vending machines at any tram stop and certain bus stops. Other ticket options and information can be found on the Irigo website (only in French): http://bustram.irigo.fr/

Bicycle
Riding a bike is an inexpensive, fast and convenient way to travel throughout the city. ESA rents bikes to students at a low cost.

Taxi
Taxi fares in France are strictly controlled and all taxis have meters. Fares are more expensive in the evening and late at night.

Train
The French railway system is a fast and convenient way to travel between major cities. Société nationale des chemins de fer français (SNCF) is the national railway operator, and also runs coach buses to smaller municipalities that were part of old, discontinued railway lines. The train can also be a less expensive way to travel if you are able to take advantage of one of SNCF’s many reduced rates. For example, there are promotional fares available if you travel with a companion, reserve your ticket well in advance, or are 15 to 25 years old. Certain reduced rates are only good on certain trains, at certain times or have a limited number of seats available - so plan your trips well in advance! In addition to the normal train, France also has high-speed trains, TGV trains. These trains travel at 300 km per hour, compared to the 160-200 km per hour that normal trains travel. This can cut a trip that would normally take 8 hours down to three. Prices depend on if you are traveling at peak or off-peak time. For more information, including train timetables, fares, and details on reduced-fare travel, visit:

SNCF Train Station
1 Place de la Gare
49100 Angers
Tel: +33 (0) 892-35-35-35
Web: www.voyages-sncf.com

Air
Traveling by air can be a relatively cheap and convenient way to visit other European countries. Several airlines, including Ryanair, Sky Europe, and Easyjet, provide flights throughout Europe at a very
cheap rate. The cheap flights allow access to almost all of Europe, but enforce a 20-kg limit for checked luggage when flying within the EU (unless traveling trans-Atlantic on the same trip).

**Communication**

**Telephone**

When making calls, keep in mind time zone differences [www.timeanddate.com/worldclock](http://www.timeanddate.com/worldclock). To make an international call to the United States, dial the access code for the country from which you are calling plus the United States country code (always “1”) followed by the appropriate U.S. area code and local number. To call internationally from the United States, dial “011”, the country code, city access code (if necessary) and the phone number. Country and city codes can be found online [www.timeanddate.com/worldclock/dialing.html](http://www.timeanddate.com/worldclock/dialing.html). Some of above steps can vary if you are using a calling card.

**Calling to France**

International access code: 011
Country code: 33
Angers city code: 2

To call France from the United States, your family and friends must dial the international access code, followed by France’s country code and Angers’ city code, and finally your phone number: 011 + 33 + 2 + telephone number

**Calling from France**

International access code: 00
Country code: 1

To call the United States from France, you will need to dial the international access code, the United States’ country code, the area code and phone number: 00 + 1 + area code + telephone number.

**Calling within France**

Please note that when you make calls within France you must include a 0 before the city code: 02 + telephone number. However, the 0 is dropped when friends and family make international calls to France, as shown above.

**Post Office**

Post offices are generally open 8:00am to 6:00pm Monday through Friday and 8:00am to 12:00pm Saturday. However, hours may vary from office to office.

**Internet**

Internet cafes, or Cybercafes as they are known in France, have recently become more abundant throughout the country, but rates are still fairly expensive. Rates start at around €1.50 per hour but prices around €4 to €9 per hour are more common.
Cybercafes often provide other services such as printing, scanning and CD burning for an additional fee. If you have a laptop, it would be very useful to have it in France. Most universities have either an ethernet hookup or wireless available for students to use. Wireless or Ethernet connections in your accommodations depend on where you live. Although Cybercafes are common, they are usually closed on Sundays.

**Skype/Google Voice**

Skype is a free, downloadable software application that allows users to make live video and voice calls over the internet. Skype users can also add money to their account and can then use the service to call land lines and cell phones internationally at very low rates. Additionally, Skype also provides an instant messaging function as well as file sharing. See the following link for more information: [http://www.skype.com/en/](http://www.skype.com/en/)

Google Voice allows you to call landlines in the USA for free and internationally for low rates. See the following link for more information: [https://www.google.com/googlevoice/about.html#tab=international](https://www.google.com/googlevoice/about.html#tab=international).

**Additional Relevant Information**

**Websites of Interest**

- U.S. State Department: [http://travel.state.gov](http://travel.state.gov)
- Current exchange rates: [http://www.oanda.com](http://www.oanda.com)
- State Department Students Abroad site: [http://www.studentsabroad.state.gov/](http://www.studentsabroad.state.gov/)
- Lonely Planet: [http://www.lonelyplanet.com](http://www.lonelyplanet.com)
- UW-Madison International Academic Programs: [http://www.studyabroad.wisc.edu](http://www.studyabroad.wisc.edu)
- ESA: [www.groupe-esa.com](http://www.groupe-esa.com)
- [www.nta-angers.fr](http://www.nta-angers.fr)

**Books about France**

Learn as much as you can about France before you leave. Travel guides are helpful for providing background information on France’s history, geography, politics, and culture as well as for assisting you if you travel to other regions of the country. Novels also provide a glimpse into French history, landscape, and way of life. The list below is by no means exhaustive and IAP cannot guarantee the accuracy of the information in all of the books below.

**Recommended Travel Guides**

- *Lonely Planet France* by Nicola Williams et al.
- *Rick Steves’ France 2016* by Rick Steves & Steve Smith
• Eyewitness Travel Guide to France
• Frommer's EasyGuide to France 2016 by Lily Heise et. al
• When in France, Do as the French Do by Ross Steele

**Recommended Novels**

• A Year in Provence by Peter Mayle
• Paris, Paris: A Journey into the City of Light by David Downie
• True Pleasures: A Memoir of Women in Paris by Lucinda Holdforth
• Chasing Matisse: A Year in France Chasing My Dream by James Morgan
• Paris Stories by Mavis Gallant
• Paris: The Collected Traveler compiled by Barrie Kerper

**Student Testimonials**

“The classes were very intense but intriguing. The normal class session (that is a day without an educational or cultural trip) lasted from 8 AM to about 6 PM. There were a wide variety of topics covered in the class such as French meat production, sustainable agriculture, intercropping, global trade policy, EU agricultural policy, French culture & language and French agronomy being some of the topics that were covered.”