France, Paris Film International Seminar
Program Handbook
Summer 2013

The France, Paris Film program is offered by International Academic Programs (IAP) at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. This IAP Program Handbook supplements materials you receive from IAP 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, academics, etc.) should be directed to International Academic Programs at UW-Madison.

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Contact Information

On-Site Program Information
Your primary contact in Paris will be UW Professor Aliko Songolo, the Resident Director. Professor Songolo’s on-site contact information will be given to you when you arrive in Paris.

Professor Aliko Songolo
Department of French and Italian
740 Van Hise Hall
Tel: (608) 262-5937
Email: asongolo@wisc.edu

In Paris, the ACCENT Paris Center coordinates the on-site logistical assistance for the program. Their contact information is:

ACCENT Paris Center
89 rue du Faubourg Saint-Antoine
75011 Paris FRANCE
Tel: +33 (1) 53 02 01 30
Fax: +33 (1) 53 02 01 31
Emergency Contact Information
In case of an emergency, call the main IAP number (608) 265-6329 between 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday; after-hours or on weekends call the IAP staff on call at (608) 516-9440.

Embassy Registration
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
2 avenue Gabriel
75382 Paris Cedex 08
Switchboard Tel: +33 1 43 12 22 22, Fax: +33 1 42 66 97 83
http://france.usembassy.gov

Program Dates
Depart U.S. Monday, May 20, 2013
Arrive Paris Tuesday, May 21*
Last Day of Program Monday, June 17
Depart Paris Tuesday, June 18, 2013

* Students are advised to arrive in the morning as there may be afternoon/evening events planned. See section below, titled “Travel and Arrival Information” for more information about ACCENT group pick up.

Preparation Before Leaving
Refer to the Pre-Departure Checklist in the IAP Study Abroad Handbook for essential information.

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 six months beyond the length of your stay abroad.

Visa
No Visa is required for U.S. citizens for programs less than 90 days in France. Please contact your study abroad advisor if you are not a U.S. citizen as you may need to apply for a visa depending on your citizenship. If you are an international student here at UW, you also need to contact your International Student Services advisor to prepare the necessary paperwork for your US visa.

Handling Money Abroad
The currency in France is in Euros. For the latest currency exchange rate, visit www.x-rates.com. Detailed information on handling money abroad is available in the IAP Study Abroad Handbook.

Paris Tipping Advice
Service charges are included on all restaurant bills at a cost of between 10 and 15 percent. However, it is fair to add a little more if the meal and service have been exceptional. Taxi drivers expect small tips of between 5 and 10 percent of the fare. Parisian porters, doormen and room service staff can be offered a gratuity of approximately €3-5. It is also common practice to give a small tip (€2) to ushers in cinemas and theatres.

Packing
All manner of clothing is possible in France, within the limits of decency and good taste. Participants on other Paris study abroad programs stressed the fact that French students usually dress “much nicer than U.S. students.” Also, you will only see children in France wearing shorts in the summertime so plan accordingly. Be sure to pack a sweater and light raincoat, as it can be surprisingly cool in Paris in May. Also, be sure to bring comfortable walking shoes, since we will be moving around the city on foot as well as in the metro.

Electronics
French electricity runs on 220 volts, while US runs on 110 volts. With the difference in currency, we recommend that you avoid taking U.S. electrical appliances. If you do, pack an adapter together with your electrical appliance, so that you do not have to spend valuable time looking for adaptors and transformers during your stay.

Travel and Arrival Information
You are responsible for making your own travel arrangements. Make sure that you arrive in the morning of the arrival date (see above for current date). You may arrange to fly with other students on the program or on your own to Paris.

ACCENT representatives will meet students at the airport at a designated group pick-up time at the airport. Participants missing the designated group pick-up are responsible for checking in at
the ACCENT Paris Center between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. on the scheduled date of arrival and are responsible for all transfer arrangements and costs.

Participants who are unable to check-in by 5 p.m. should be prepared to make and pay for their own accommodations for the first night, checking into the ACCENT Paris Center the following morning by 9 a.m.

If you arrive in Paris prior to the program arrival date, you will need to arrange your own accommodations. The ACCENT pre-departure student handbook provides detailed arrival directions for participants. Follow these directions to the ACCENT Paris Center. The ACCENT Paris Center is open from 9AM – 5PM and is located at:

ACCENT Paris Center  
89, rue du Faubourg Saint-Antoine  
75011 Paris FRANCE  
Tel: +33.1.53 02 01 30  
Fax: +33.1.53 02 01 31

On-Site Orientation
The Accent Paris Center will provide an on-site orientation in Paris covering practical matters as well as cross-cultural living and learning, giving students the tools they need to make the most of their time in Paris. An informational briefing is provided the day of arrival followed by a more extensive orientation the next day.

The general orientation will include a tour of the ACCENT facilities and address local customs, money, personal safety, emergency contingency plan, telephones, mail, and transportation. Specific information will be provided to students on their housing facilities and an orientation packet containing maps and practical living information for Paris. A Seine River tour of Paris will also be organized for participants, along with a Survival French course.

The Academic Program

General Information
Paris’s love affair with the cinema began in 1895 at the first public screening of a film in the basement of the Grand Café. From surrealism to the New Wave to Amélie, filmmakers and viewers have found Paris a stimulating place in which to create and watch films. This program offers the chance to be a cinéphile in Paris for four weeks. Students receive an overview of French film history through daily screenings and seminars, walking tours of famous locations and exhibition sites, and class visits from people working in the industry today.

The overview of French film history focuses on industry history, aesthetics, and the idea of national cinema. Students first master basic film vocabulary, then explore such issues as French cinema’s historic competition with Hollywood, its reliance on both genre and art cinema, and the changes in filmmaking practices and film style as a result of the New Wave. The class will view French films (both on DVD and in Paris cinemas) from the silent era to the present. A number of classical Hollywood films that have exerted an influence on French cinema will also be shown.
This seminar will also situate contemporary French film in light of the concept of "national cinema." Since W.W.I., France has struggled to maintain a viable industry in the face of Hollywood’s domination of the world market. The course will explore the ways in which France has accomplished this, and consider also the extent to which “French cinema” remains a meaningful economic and cultural category. To many scholars, the very idea of the "nation" is under great strain. Is national identity still important to French filmmakers, trade organizations, critics, and audiences? Or, in light of identity realignment and media globalization, has the concept of French national cinema diminished in importance as a critical category? Is French cinema more properly thought of as European cinema or global cinema?

The class will meet daily at the ACCENT center in the 11th arrondisement for screenings and lectures. The class will usually see films together in the afternoons or evenings. All instruction will be provided in English. The class will supplement the viewing of films with walking tours of “cinematic Paris.” The class will visit important exhibition sites, such as the legendary Cinémathèque française, and Studio 28, one of the first art house cinemas and the site of many surrealist film premieres.

Classes will be held at the ACCENT Paris Center, which is located in the 11th arrondissement near Place de la Bastille. The nearest métro stations are La Bastille and Ledru-Rollin. The ACCENT Paris Center is open Monday through Friday from 9AM to 5 PM. The Center is a resource for students to check e-mail, ask questions, collect their mail, and take advantage of a variety of student services. The Center has extensive practical and cultural information including travel guides and information, a lending library of English and French books (both academic and fiction), and listings of practical locations of banks, doctors, laundry facilities, etc.

Participants will earn 4 credits in Communication Arts 613: Broadcasting and Film Topics OR 4 credits of French 299: Directed Study. This course is for graded credit and cannot be taken for Pass/Fail. Make sure to consult with your academic advisor on which of the two course equivalent options is best for you before selecting the course.

For the latest on French cinema:
http://www.frenchculture.org/

Credits
Students will receive 4 UW credits in Communication Arts 613: Broadcasting and Film Topics OR 4 credits of French 299: Directed Study.

Grading
Assignments may change each year, but typically students are graded on participation, a screening journal, a research project, and a final exam.

Living Abroad
France
France is a country whose metropolitan territory is located in Western Europe and also comprises various overseas islands and territories located in other continents. Metropolitan France extends from the Mediterranean Sea to the English Channel and the North Sea, and from the Rhine to the Atlantic Ocean. French people often refer to Metropolitan France as L’Hexagone (The "Hexagon") because of the geometric shape of its territory. France is bordered by Belgium, Luxembourg, Germany, Switzerland, Italy, Monaco, Andorra, and Spain. France is also linked to the United Kingdom via the Channel Tunnel, which passes underneath the English Channel.

The French Republic is a democracy that is organized as a unitary semi-presidential republic. It is a developed country with the sixth-largest economy in the world. Its main ideals are expressed in the Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen. France is one of the founding members of the European Union, and has the largest land area of all members (with a population of roughly 60.4 million people). France is also a founding member of the United Nations, and a member of the Francophonie, the G8, and the Latin Union. It is one of the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council wielding veto power, and it is also an acknowledged nuclear power. France is the most popular international tourist destination in the world, receiving over 75 million foreign tourists annually.

(Information in the above paragraphs was adapted from Wikipedia: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/France.)

**Paris**

Paris, the capital of France with a population of 2.1 million people, stimulates the senses, demanding to be seen, heard, touched, tasted and smelled. The city contains breezy boulevards, impressive monuments, and great works of art. When not in class, students will have plenty of time to explore the Bastille, a bustling, hip neighborhood full of wonderful cafes, bars, restaurants, and boutiques. Cultural monuments within walking distance include the Opera Bastille, the Musée Picasso, and the Place des Vosges (the most beautiful square in Paris). On the weekends, students may wish to take day trips to Giverny (where Claude Monet lived and painted), Chartres (which has an exquisite cathedral), or Versailles. Weekend destinations might include Normandy or the Loire Valley.

Participants will be given a student ID card granting free access to most National museums in Paris. For specific information on the sites of Paris, visit the official website for the City of Paris at http://www.paris-france.org.

**Housing**

You will live in double-occupancy rooms in the Cite Universitaire or similar student residence for the duration of the program. Exact housing placements will be given to participants upon arrival. It is important to be prepared for a commute to your classroom space at the ACCENT center every day on the metro as the Cite dorms are located in the southern part of the city.

**Transportation**

Paris’ public transport system is one of the most cheap and efficient in Europe, making the city highly accessible. France has a good rail network with frequent TGV (high-speed trains) running to all corners of the country, and linking the city to the rest of Europe.
All participants will work with the Resident Director to purchase a metro pass valid for the bus and metro for the duration of the program. The Paris subway system includes the Métropolitain (Métro) and the RER (Réseau Express Régional). It is a massive network so no matter where you are in Paris, chances are there is a metro station within a few blocks. Other methods of getting around the city include bus and tram routes. At night, the Noctambus network takes over in the heavily trafficked areas once both the underground and the day buses are no longer in operation.

**Travel outside of France**
You are strongly encouraged not to travel to any areas designed as hazardous or unsafe by the U.S. State Department. Make sure to check with the U.S. State Department, Embassy or Consulate regarding the safety of any areas which you are planning traveling to or through before you make any travel plans. You need to leave a travel itinerary with the Resident Director as well as with a family member or friend in the U.S. in case someone needs to get hold of you as well as for your own safety.

**Safety**
Keeping all of your money in one place is not advised - guard against possible loss by leaving a small stash of money in your room or buried in your backpack, with record of the travelers check serial numbers and your passport numbers. Additional safety tips are available in the IAP Study Abroad Handbook and the ACCENT Pre-Departure Student Handbook.

**Health**
France has a very high standard of public health and cleanliness, with very few endemic or widespread diseases. Tap water is clean and drinkable throughout the country. Local fruits, vegetables, and fish, whether purchased from shops or outdoor marketplaces, will be clean and of high quality, though it is always best to rinse fruits and vegetables before eating. You should observe health precautions similar to those that would apply while traveling in the United States.

**Communication**
**Mail**
You can receive mail at the ACCENT Paris Center. Mail should be addressed as follows:

Your Name  
C/O ACCENT  
89, rue du Faubourg Saint-Antoine  
75011 Paris  
FRANCE

Mail between the U.S. and France may take from one week to ten days to reach its final destination.

**Telephone**
In France, you may purchase a disposable cell phone for use while in Europe, or utilize prepaid telephone cards available from shops or cafes to use in pay phones. Additional communication tips are available in the IAP Study Abroad Handbook. In an emergency, a family member or
guardian can contact the ACCENT Paris Center at their contact information in the front of this handbook.

When making calls, keep in mind time zone differences (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). Some of above steps can vary if you are using a calling card.

E-mail
The ACCENT Paris Center provides students with limited access to an on-site computer lab. Although the computers have internet capabilities, students are encouraged to use the labs primarily for academic research and coursework. Even though a laptop computer is not required for the course, many students appreciate having their laptops with them in order to communicate with friends and family easily via email.

Like in many large European cities, Paris has a great number of public Internet cafes (cyber-cafes). The staff at the ACCENT Paris Center will provide you with addresses of nearby cyber-cafes. Email is, by far, the easiest and cheapest way for students to stay in touch with friends and family back home.

Skype: 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.

To create a Skype account, users must download the application from www.skype.com and create a user name and password. Once the application is installed onto their computer, they can search for friends either by first and last name or using their friends' Skype usernames. Once a friend is added to a users contact list, they will be able to see whether that person is available to chat. If two users both have web-enabled video cameras for their computers, they will be able to chat face to face. For users without a web cam, a microphone is all that’s required for calls to another computer.

Websites of Interest:
U.S. State Department Students Abroad site:
http://www.studentsabroad.state.gov/

Bon Voyage