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.

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Tel: 608-265-6329 Fax: 608-262-6998
Web: www.studyabroad.wisc.edu
Kate Hamoonga
IAP Study Abroad Advisor
(608) 265 6296
hamoonga@bascom.wisc.edu

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.

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
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 online 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
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
Arrival Date: May 27
Program Start Date: May 28
Program End Date: June 25
Departure Day (for students who are not doing the farm internship): June 26
Internship start date: June 26
Internship end date: July 26
Departure date: July 27
Preparation Before Leaving

Refer to the Pre-Departure Checklist on pages four and five of 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 6 months beyond the length of your stay abroad.

Visa
Students on the summer program should enter on a tourist visa. They will be given a stamp for 90 days in their passport.

Handling Money Abroad
The official currency of France is the Euro. As of 02/2010 the exchange rate was €1 EURO = $1.357 USD per U.S. dollar. You should bring some money with you in cash for incidental purchases. It is possible to convert almost any currency into Euro at the Airport when you arrive. Banks are normally open from 9:00 am until 4:00 or 5:00 pm, depending on the branch.

ATMs and Debit Cards
ATMs are readily available in Angers and throughout France, in banks, savings 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.

Credit Cards
Credit cards are accepted at most stores in France, but stores usually have a minimum purchase requirement around €15. You can also use your credit card to make phone calls from public telephone booths.

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.

Other items to remember are: alarm clock, copy of all documents (passport, visa, etc.), French-English dictionary, 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 U.S. is 110 volts. An adapter or 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.

Travel and Arrival Information
Students should meet at the youth hostel in Paris on Thursday May 27. 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. The entire day is free since the program starts on Friday May 28. Gaël Roul will be there from 8am to give you your Metro Ticket if you wish to have a walk in Paris. We all will meet at 3pm for room allocation. After a 2 day tour of Paris, the group will be transported to Angers.

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 five private agricultural university colleges.

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 2010 summer program is: Sustainable Food Culture.

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, chocolate factory.

A weekly schedule is included at the end of this handbook.

**Cultural Field Trips**
Upon arrival in Paris, you will participate in a 2-day tour of Paris, visiting famous museums, monuments and having some free time to explore the city. You will then be transported to Angers, along the way visiting Versailles the city of Amboise and the Castles of Amboise and Chenonceau. During the fourth weekend, you will visit Saint Malo, and over the 5th weekend, on the way back to the Paris Airport, you will visit Mont Saint Michel, the War museum of Caen and the American Cemetery.

**Optional Farm Internships**
You can choose to participate in a four-week 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.

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. If you are participating in a farm internship, you will be required to write a final paper to receive your grade.

**Equivalents and Course Equivalent Request Form (CERF)**
Each course you take abroad must be assigned a UW-Madison “equivalent” course in order for your grades and credits to be recorded on your UW-Madison transcript. In order
to establish UW-Madison course equivalents for your study abroad courses, you will submit a Course Equivalent Requests through your My Study Abroad account. Detailed information on the UW course equivalent process that you will use through your My Study Abroad account is available in the IAP Study Abroad Handbook.

Prior to departure, if you are participating on an internship, you should meet with your academic advisor to talk about your possible course equivalent options for internships. Some departments have a specific course number that is used for an internship, or there might be an internship requirement within your major. To receive credit for your internship, you will need to submit an internship syllabus that can be downloaded from your My Study Abroad account.

**Credits**

10 ECTS (European Credit Transfer System) credits will be awarded to you for passing your courses on the ESA summer program. 5 ECTS credits will be awarded for each month of the internship.

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>10</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>French Grade</th>
<th>UW-Madison Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14-20</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12-13.9</td>
<td>AB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-11.9</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8-9.9</td>
<td>BC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-7.9</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>.1-5.9</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

- **Restaurant des Beaux Arts**: 35 boulevard du Roi Rene
  - Closest cafeteria to ESA
  - Open Monday-Friday, 11:30 am - 1:45 pm & 6:35 pm - 8 pm
- **Restaurant Belle-Beille**: 3 boulevard Lavoisier
  - Open Monday-Saturday, 11:30 am - 1:30 pm & 6:30 pm - 8 pm
- **Restaurant La Gabare**: 55 quai Felix Faure
  - Open Monday-Friday, 11:30 am - 1:30 pm

**Student Life**

**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 your host family during the internship.

**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 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 270,000 people 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.

Transportation
Bus
The local bus service, called COTRA, runs a very extensive network throughout Angers. Single trip fares cost about €1, but passes are available for reduced student fares. For information on schedules, the network and bus stops or to buy a season ticket, go to the COTRA office: Place Lorraine in downtown Angers by the Jardin du Mail. You can also reach the COTRA office by phone, at 02-41-33-64-64.

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
Place de la gare
49100 Angers
Tel: 02-41-86-41-63
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 check-in luggage when flying within the EU (unless traveling trans-Atlantic on the same trip).

Communications
Telephone: 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.

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 in B above.

Post Office
Post offices are generally open 8:00 am to 6:00 pm Monday through Friday and 8:00 am to 12:00 pm 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
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.

ADDITIONAL RELEVANT INFORMATION/WEBSITES OF INTEREST
U.S. State Department Students Abroad site:
http://www.studentsabroad.state.gov/

UW-Madison International Academic Programs
http://www.studyabroad.wisc.edu

ESA
www.groupe-esa.com

U.S. State Department:
http://travel.state.gov

Center for Disease Control
http://www.cdc.gov/travel/
Current exchange rates
http://www.oanda.com

Lonely Planet
http://www.lonelyplanet.com

Ouest-France (Regional Newspaper for Pays de la Loire)
http://www.ouest-france.fr/

Angers Tourism
www.angers-tourisme.fr
www.ville-angers.fr
www.nta-angers.fr

Travel guides & other good 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.

Recommended Travel Guides:
• Savoir-Flair: 211 Tips for Enjoying France and the French by Polly Platt
• Rick Steves' France 2006 by Rick Steves & Steve Smith
• Eyewitness Travel Guide to France
• Frommer's France 2006 by Darwin Porter & Danforth Prince
• When in France, Do as the French Do by Ross Steele
• Lonely Planet France by Nicola Williams et al.

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