

WELLESLEY-IN-AIX

GUIDE AIX-PARIS (G.A.P.)



Katie Nicolaou, Spring 2017



Gillian Courtney, Spring 2017

FALL 2017

Table of contents

Bienvenue à WIA	p.2
I. Pre-departure information & arrival in Paris	p.3
1. Passport, visas and other documents	p.3
2. Insurance	p.4
3. Travel arrangements	p.5
4. What to pack: some tips	p.5
5. Paris pre-session	p.6
6. Safety & security	p.8
7. Group activities & museum visits	p.9
8. Practical information – Paris	p.10
II. Practical information - France	
1. Calendar & holidays	p.12
2. Telling time & making appointments	p.12
3. Health matters	p.13
4. Personal safety & well-being	p.14
5. Drugs, alcohol & French laws	p.15
6. Electrical outlets & miscellaneous	p.16
7. French newspapers & magazines	p.16
8. Tipping	p.16
9. Work & internships	p.17
10. Recommended reading	p.18
11. FAQ	p.19
III. Le savoir-vivre en France	p.22
IV. Academics – General information	p.25
Fall 2017 academic calendar	p.25
Higher Education & cultural differences	p.26
Academic policies and guidelines	p.27
Vocabulary of higher education in France	p.27
Aix-Marseille Université (AMU)	p.28
French grading system & grade conversion scale	p.32
IEP / Sciences-Po Aix	p.33
WIA courses	p.34
Other academic information	p.35
Ensuring your academic success in Aix : advice	p.35
Extracurricular activities & student life in Aix	p.38
Libraries	p.38
V. Aix-en-Provence	
1. Wellesley-in-Aix Center	p.39
2. The city	p.40
3. Safety & security	p.41
4. Housing	p.42
5. Health & medical matters	p.44
6. Group activities and trips organized by WIA	p.47
VI. Practical information - Aix	
1. Traveling outside Aix	p.48
2. Money & finances	p.48
3. Volunteer & community service opportunities	p.49
4. Leisure activities, clubs, etc.	p.51
5. Cafés, restaurants & markets	p.54
6. Cinemas	p.55
7. Religious services	p.55
8. Laundromats	p.56
9. Bookstores, shops & shopping hours	p.56
10. Museums	p.56
11. Post office	p.57
12. Public transportation	p.57
Wellesley-in-Aix code of conduct	p. 59
Opportunities for Wellesley College students	p. 60

BIENVENUE à WELLESLEY-IN-AIX !

Your journey has begun! We look forward to helping you take advantage of the many opportunities available through the WIA program and to guiding you in your own discoveries of Provence and France!

Your objectives are multiple and varied: developing a deeper understanding of France and Europe, gaining different perspectives on the U.S. and the world, studying alongside French peers, improving your French, exploring Provence, making new friends, etc. This guide is intended to help you in that process, and we encourage you to share it with your parents or guardians. You will receive a copy in your welcome packet upon your arrival in Paris.

Keep in mind that your experience in France will be unique and depend on *your* efforts and choices on a daily basis. Like past WIA students, you will find that a semester passes very quickly, hence the importance of being proactive from Day 1 and seizing every opportunity - cultural, linguistic or social – to speak French, observe cultural patterns and differences, participate in local groups and embrace a new and different lifestyle.

Below are a few suggestions and general advice from WIA alumni and onsite staff:

- **Take advantage of every opportunity to meet someone and speak French!** Don't be afraid to talk to other students in your classes, professors, your neighbors, shopkeepers and market vendors, etc. Communication is the key to integration.
- **Join an activity or club at the university (or elsewhere) as soon as possible!** The best way to meet people is through a shared interest or passion: a sports team, musical group, hiking, cooking, volunteering, yoga, to cite just a few. French-English language exchanges also exist in Aix, so sign up for a "language buddy"!
- **Monitor your time on Facebook or Skype with U.S. friends.** You are coming to France to have new experiences and encounters. This entails a willingness to « disconnect» and to interact with locals face-to-face and in *their* spaces. As previous students consistently say, don't be afraid to put yourself out there!
- **Try to overcome your shyness.** Asking questions is a good way to get the conversational ball rolling and shows you are curious and open - something the French appreciate. Invite a classmate for coffee or to a movie. If you wait for them to approach you; it might never happen. It's up to you to take the first step.
- **Work on your French skills *every day*.** Review and rewrite your class notes. Read the front page of *Le Monde* or buy a weekly magazine related to a personal interest and read for pleasure. Watch the « 20 heures » evening news with your French hosts. Go to a French movie or lecture once a week. Listen to the radio. It's a *daily* process.
- **Speak French with other WIA participants, especially in public.** Speaking English will mark you as a tourist in Paris and Aix and may also discourage people from approaching you or addressing you in French. *Jouez le jeu!* You'll be glad you did !
- **Adopt a student lifestyle and habits in France!** From movie and museum discounts to free university clubs and low-cost student cafeterias, do your best to live like a French student, not a tourist. Try to strike a balance between your desire to travel in Europe and the goal of making local friends and being involved in the Aix community.

PRE-DEPARTURE INFO & ARRIVAL IN PARIS

1. PASSPORT, VISA & OTHER DOCUMENTS

As you know, you must have a valid passport for the duration of your stay, so be sure to check the expiration date of your current passport. ***All non-European students who stay more than three months in France must have a student visa.*** The Office of International Study (OIS) at Wellesley provides all the necessary information and facilitates this process.

All visa-related questions prior to departure should be addressed to Kristiana Graves at Wellesley's Office of International Study: kgraves@wellesley.edu

Note: Late arrivals in France will not be allowed due to failure to secure a consular appointment and obtain the necessary student visa prior to the program start date.

Your Campus France and visa fees will be reimbursed to your U.S. bank accounts once you are in France and all visas have been duly verified.

All full-year students should request and receive ***un VLS-TS*** (*Visa de long séjour valant titre de séjour*) and ***an OFII form*** (Office Français de l'Immigration et l'Intégration). **Bring this form with you.** If you didn't receive one, don't worry, but let the RD know in Paris.

1. If you receive a simple VLS (*visa de long séjour*) of 5-6 months :

You will not be allowed to work in France. Only the VLS with TS (*titre de séjour*) gives non-European students this right.

2. If you receive a VLS-TS and OFII form at your consular appointment :

The OFII forms will be sent to the Marseille immigration office upon your arrival. There is no longer a physical exam, but you will have to go to Marseille to have your visa stamped. WIA staff in Aix will set up the appointment.

3. International Student i.d. card (ISIC):

You can order this card online and start using it right away in Paris for student discounts. We highly recommend it! Web site: <http://www.isic.fr>

You will receive a student card from Aix-Marseille Université within 1 month of your arrival.

2. INSURANCE

All WIA participants benefit from Travel Assist and ACE/EuropAssist for medical emergencies. For detailed information: http://www.wellesley.edu/ois/emergency_info

It's also a good idea to double-check your insurance policy and verify that it covers

- Medication, accidents or medical emergencies during personal travel.
- Counseling services, if desired. (Note: Not all policies cover this abroad.)
- Loss or theft of jewelry and other expensive personal valuables.

Note: In the event of loss or theft of valuables such as jewelry, cameras, laptops and other electronic devices, you will have to produce original invoices in order to be reimbursed.

3. TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

From the U.S to France

You must purchase your own airline ticket and make sure you arrive in Paris by 5 p.m. on the program start date. You will receive a stipend of 1,500 USD in your U.S. bank accounts from Wellesley College for your travel expenses. This amount covers:

- A round-trip ticket from your home (or other city) to France and back to the U.S.
- Transportation from CDG-Roissy airport to the Citadines-St Germain hotel in Paris.
- Transportation from Aix to the airport (Marseille or Paris) on your departure day.

Note: One-way tickets are *always* more expensive than round-trip tickets even if you have to pay to change your return date (i.e., in January or May). *Be sure to ask about the change fee.*

Luggage limits: In general, one checked suitcase weighing 23 kilos and 2 carry-ons (e.g., purse and computer) are allowed. Double check size and weight limits for specific airlines. A second checked suitcase can cost an additional \$100 or more depending on the airline.

A backpack or small carry-on suitcase will come in handy for the train journey from Paris to Aix. Your larger suitcases will be picked up in Paris prior to our departure for Aix.

Note: If you take medication daily, be sure to pack it in your carry-on luggage.

How to get from Paris CDG-Roissy airport to the Citadines-Saint Germain des Prés

- **By taxi:** fixed rate of 50 euros. If you're traveling with another WIA student, share a taxi! Proceed to the taxi stand. Don't accept a ride from someone claiming to be a taxi driver at the arrival gate; you may be overcharged.

- **By Air France bus, then taxi.** Anyone can take an AF bus. Line 4 goes to Montparnasse and line 2 to Etoile (Arc de Triomphe). You'll then have to take a taxi to the Citadines (around 15-20 €). Bus fare: around 20 euros 1-way. Every 30 min or so from 6 a.m.

Information and online tickets available at: <http://www.lescarsairfrance.com>

Advice: Do NOT take the RER B (suburban metro) from CDG airport to central Paris if you have a lot of luggage and are unfamiliar with the RER. Theft is rampant on this line and tourists are an easy target.

Reminder: You must arrive at the Citadines for the first group meeting at 5 p.m. If your flight is delayed, send an email or SMS to the RD or leave a message at the Citadines.

<p>Citadines - Saint-Germain-des-Prés 53ter, Quai des Grands Augustins (en face du Pont-Neuf) 75006 Paris Tél : 01 44 07 70 00</p>

4. WHAT TO PACK: SOME TIPS

Weather & clothing

Don't overpack! August is usually quite hot in Paris whereas January is cold. Provence is summer-like in September, so you'll need light clothing. But it will get chilly in Aix from December, so bring sweaters and clothing you can layer. Good walking shoes are a must! A rain jacket or light raincoat will also come in very handy.

French students tend to dress casually: jeans, t-shirts, etc. That said, they generally do *not* go to class wearing shorts, sweatsuits, flip-flops or anything resembling beachwear or pajamas. Women, especially in the south, often wear dresses and skirts and tend to be a bit more fashion-conscious or "chic" than students on a typical U.S. campus.

In Paris, Marseille and Aix, you'll find stores such as Monoprix, Zara, H&M, or C&A where you can find reasonably-priced clothing. Chain stores like Go Sport or Decathlon specialize in sports clothes and gear. There are also used clothing stores, called *dépôts-vente*, and markets where you can easily pick up inexpensive items like gloves, hats, scarves, etc.

Bring a swimsuit and outdoor clothing, especially decent walking shoes with good treads for our hikes to the Sainte Victoire mountain and elsewhere in Provence!

When **le mistral** (northern wind) blows in Provence, it can get quite cold, but snow is unusual in Aix. Anything is possible, though, including occasional cold spells in January and February. If visitors from the U.S. come, they could also bring you some warmer clothes.

Essential items to pack :

- **One good photocopy of your passport (photo page) and your student visa.**
- Student card (from your home university and/or an ISIC).
- Insurance cards and information. (Claim forms are usually available online.)
- **All prescription medication you are taking** (enough for the entire semester).
- An electrical adaptor plug for your laptop, camera, etc. **Electrical outlets are not the same in the U.S. and France.** Adaptors are easily found in the U.S. and airport shops.
- Your U.S. bank debit card to withdraw cash. Advice: Inquire about ATM fees.
- A guidebook for France and/or Europe (e.g., *Time Out*, *Lonely Planet*). We have many guides in the WIA library in Aix that you can borrow during the semester.
- If you have a preferred and not-too-heavy grammar book, it might come in handy, as will a pocket-size phrase book for practical situations.
- If you like to cook or bake, a few favorite recipes to share with your French hosts.
- If you opted for a homestay, a book of photos or a calendar of your city or region is always a nice gift and provides conversation topics in the early days and weeks.
- Contact lens solution or any other health or beauty product that you use on a regular basis. You'll find these products in France, of course, but brands may not be identical.

5. PARIS PRE-SESSION

- The Paris pre-session will enable you to
- ... get to know other WIA program participants.
 - ... prepare for certain practical and cultural aspects of living in France.
 - ... meet with the Resident Director to confirm your housing in Aix.
 - ... (re) discover museums and neighborhoods in Paris with an art historian/guide.
 - ... meet Wellesley alum and members of the Wellesley Club who live and work in France.

You will receive an updated schedule in your welcome packet upon your arrival at the Citadines. ***All activities during the pre-session take place in French and are mandatory.***

WELLESLEY-IN-AIX 19 au 27 août 2017		
Samedi 19 août	Journée	Arrivée et installation aux Citadines. Remise des pochettes de bienvenue.
	17h	Réunion de groupe aux Citadines St Germain. Présentations de l'équipe WIA, pot de bienvenue & introduction à Paris Apportez vos pochettes de bienvenue !
Dimanche 20 août	9h30 & 11h	Visite pratique du quartier St Germain avec Monique. RV à la réception (2 petits groupes). Venez avec le plan du quartier des Citadines.
	14h00	Visite de l'Île de la Cité et du Quartier Latin avec Corinne JAGER Rendez-vous devant la statue équestre d'Henri IV sur le Pont-Neuf
	19h30	Dîner de groupe à la Grande mosquée de Paris (restaurant marocain)
Lundi 21 août	9h30 – 11h	Séance avec Hélène BILIS, professeur de Wellesley
	14h	Visite du Marais, Place des Vosges & la Bastille avec Corinne Rendez-vous à l'extérieur du métro Pont-Marie (15 min à pied de l'hôtel)
	17h – 19h	RV individuels avec Monique x 4 étudiants (Cf. planning)
	19h30	Petit groupe 1 – Dîner avec Monique Fecteau
Mardi 22 août	9h30 – 11h	Séance avec Hélène BILIS, professeur de Wellesley
	RV à 13h	Opéra Garnier, monument du Second Empire – visite avec Corinne RV devant l'entrée à gauche de l'Opéra pour visite à 13h30
	17h – 19h	RV individuels avec Monique x 4 étudiants
	19h30	Petit groupe 2 – Dîner avec Monique Fecteau
Mercredi 23 août	8h30	Descendre vos gros bagages pour transport à Aix N'oubliez pas de mettre l'étiquette avec votre nom et l'adresse de WIA !
	9h30 – 10h30	Séance avec Monique : Vivre avec des hôtes français
	11h – 12h30	RV individuels avec Monique x 3 étudiants
	12h30	Petit groupe 3 – Déjeuner avec Monique Fecteau
	RV à 18h45	Visite du Musée du Louvre avec Corinne à 19h RV devant la statue équestre de Louis XIV (à l'extérieur du musée)

Jeudi 24 août	9h30 – 11h	Séance avec Hélène BILIS, professeur de Wellesley
	RV à 13h45	Visite du Musée Marmottan (œuvres de Monet) avec Corinne
	RV à 20h30 devant théâtre	Spectacle musical <i>Les virtuoses</i> au Théâtre des Nouveautés – 21h Adresse : 24, bd Poissonnière, 75009 M° Grands Boulevards (lignes 8, 9)
Vendredi 25 août	9h30 à 10h30 10h45 à 12h	Séance avec Hélène BILIS, professeur de Wellesley Séance avec Monique
	RV à 13h30	Visite du « nouveau Quartier latin » (quartier de Bercy) avec Corinne
	18h à 20h	Réception avec Wellesley Club of France chez Madame Sally KATZ 100, avenue de Flandre – 19 ^e arrondissement
Samedi 26 août		Journée libre!
Dimanche 27 août	8h-9h15	Petit déjeuner de groupe aux Citadines. Descendez avec vos bagages.
	9h30	Départ des Citadines, transfert en autocar à la Gare de Lyon
	10h37	Départ du TGV pour Aix-en-Provence
	13h40	Arrivée à Aix et transfert en autocar au Centre WIA. Visite du Centre WIA et réunion de groupe avant l'arrivée des hôtes vers 16h.

ACCOMMODATIONS IN PARIS

We will stay at the Citadines-St German-des-Prés residence-hotel. It is ideally located on the left bank of the Seine, near Notre-Dame. Rooms have been booked from the night before your arrival date so that you can settle in immediately if you arrive on an early morning flight.

The Citadines chain is not a traditional hotel but more like a residence. You will share a room with another program participant and be expected to keep your space tidy every day. All linens are provided. Rooms are cleaned every 3 or 4 days for stays of one week or more.

The « studios » or rooms all have twin beds; a kitchenette with a micro-wave, small fridge and dishwasher; bathroom with a tub; and a separate toilet. All have wireless access. There is a laundry room and a small exercise space. Web site: <http://www.citadines.com>

Breakfast is not included, and we suggest you take advantage of your kitchenettes and buy snacks and groceries at local supermarkets. We will do a practical walking tour of the area.

The following extra costs are not included and you will have to pay them yourself.

- Phone calls made from your room.
- Laundry. (There is a laundry room in the basement and you can purchase tokens.)
- Breakfast (13- 14 euros)

The Director will provide more details at the first group meeting.

MEALS & TRANSPORTATION IN PARIS

If you sent your bank information to Wellesley College, you will receive the equivalent of 48 euros per day in your U.S. bank accounts prior to your departure for the duration of the Paris stay. This amount mainly covers food and local transportation costs.

This guide contains addresses of cafés and restaurants in the St Germain neighborhood. There will be a couple of group meals in Paris, including a small-group dinner with the Director.

You will receive a *Pass Découverte* for the metro and bus, valid from Monday to Sunday. The pass will not be “charged”; you will have to do this yourself. Approximate cost is 25 euros for the week. The public transportation system in Paris will be explained at the first group meeting, and you will receive some metro tickets for the first couple of days.

COMMUNICATION & MOBILE PHONES

Once in France, you can purchase calling cards that enable you to phone the U.S., but the most economical way to communicate with friends and family is via Skype.

You will need a French phone number in France. If you prefer to use a U.S. smartphone or iPhone, you will still need to buy a SIM card to have a French number. Many students prefer to buy a small French cell phone to make and receive local calls. It is difficult to give advice about cell phones, as prices change constantly, and much depends on your habits and use. If you intend to use an iPhone, make sure to inquire about “unblocking” it for use abroad.

As you will not have a bank account in France, you will not be able to sign a phone contract. It's best to purchase a prepaid card (*une carte pré-payée*) that you can recharge. Previous students favored Orange or Free. Compare prices on: <http://www.meilleurmobil.fr>

6. SAFETY & SECURITY

As with any major metropolis, one must be vigilant in Paris and on one's guard in certain areas and on public transportation. The greatest risk is theft and pick-pocketing, especially on the metro and in tourist areas (e.g., Eiffel Tower, Sacré Cœur, the Louvre). This topic will be addressed at the first group meeting, and the Director will brief you on common-sense precautions to take and specific areas to avoid at night.

We urge you to consult the U.S. State Department's web site which provides details and advice on safety issues and common scams in various countries and major cities, including Paris. <http://www.travel.state.gov>

Basic precautions:

- ❖ At the Citadines and in all hotels, always close and lock your door. Place any valuable items (e.g., jewelry, passport) in the small safe in the closet of your room.
- ❖ Be careful when using an ATM (*un distributeur automatique de billets ou DAB*) to withdraw cash with your U.S. card. Don't withdraw the maximum amount (usually 300-400 euros) and never carry too much cash on you.

- ❖ Always be aware of your surroundings and people crowding you, especially on public transportation. In Paris, you will likely notice and be approached by groups of adolescents (usually female) asking you to sign a petition of some sort. Make it clear that you're not interested. Pickpockets easily recognize and prey on tourists.
- ❖ If you have a backpack, always carry it in front of you on the metro, for example. Use a bag with a strap that you can wear across your body. *Never* put a wallet or card holder in your back pocket. *Never* place a bag or backpack on the ground or under a table – or a cell phone on a table - where they can be easily grabbed.
- ❖ When checking a map, whether on a device or a paper version, step away from the middle of the sidewalk or street in order to be less obvious. If you walk straight ahead as if you know where you're going, you'll be less of a target.
- ❖ Note to women: Observe Parisian and local women and try to adopt their behaviors and facial expressions, especially in public spaces. Saying hello, smiling or making eye contact with someone in a public space may be interpreted as an invitation and result in unwanted attention. If that happens, it's often best to change seats or cars.

7. GROUP ACTIVITIES & MUSEUM VISITS

Our professional art historian guide in Paris will conduct all museum and neighborhood tours in French. These visits are an important part of your linguistic and cultural immersion while in Paris. It's a good idea to read up on the sites in advance – and in French! - so that you can better understand and appreciate her tours even more.

The Paris pre-session is designed to facilitate your transition to France and get you accustomed to communicating in French, including with one another. Rest assured, you will have some free time every day to explore Paris and make your own discoveries, but the primary goal is *not* tourism. You will have opportunities to return to Paris later if you wish.

Aside from the organized group activities, past WIA students have enjoyed the following:

- *Le Musée de Cluny (musée du Moyen-âge)*
- *L'Orangerie (Monet's water lily series)*
- *Le Musée Rodin*
- *Le Petit Palais et le Grand Palais*
- *L'Institut du Monde Arabe*
- *Le Musée des Arts Décoratifs*
- *Le Musée d'Art Moderne (peinture, photo, métro Iéna)*
- *Le Musée de la Mode et du Design*
- *Le Musée de l'Histoire de l'Immigration*
- *Les Catacombes*
- *the Père Lachaise & Montparnasse cemeteries*
- *Luxembourg Gardens, Tuileries garden near the Louvre, le jardin des Plantes*
- *le Parc et la Cité des Sciences de la Villette*
- *le Marché aux Puces (samedi, dimanche et lundi, 9h à 19h, Porte de Clignancourt)*
- *la Défense & the Arche de la Défense (vue superbe jusqu'à la place de la Concorde !)*
- *open-air markets (marchés en plein air) – 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.*

Detailed information is available in the weekly *Officiel des Spectacles*, a bargain at 1 euro!

8. PRATICAL INFORMATION - PARIS

Universities & Librairies

Even though you won't be studying in Paris, you may want to see Sciences-Po, the original Sorbonne (U. of Paris IV) and the beautiful Sainte-Geneviève library in the Latin Quarter (near the Panthéon) or the Bibliothèque Nationale de France in the Bercy area. The Sorbonne-Nouvelle (U of Paris III), created just after May 1968, is near the colorful and lively rue Mouffetard and Grande Mosquée, neighborhoods frequented by students in Paris.

Bookstores

You'll find all types of literary and academic books, textbooks, dictionaries, and used books at **Gibert Jeune and Gibert Joseph**, around the place Saint-Michel near the Citadines

At the **FNAC** chain, you can purchase books, electronic devices, adaptors and also buy tickets to concerts and cultural events. The closest ones to the Citadines are:

- 136, rue de Rennes (Métro : Montparnasse-Bienvenue)
- Forum des Halles (Métro : Les Halles)

U.S. Consulate /U.S. Embassy in Paris

<http://france.usembassy.gov>

2, avenue Gabriel, 75008

Tel: 01 43 12 22 22

See web site for services available to U.S. citizens, including how to replace a passport.

We urge you to enroll in the **Smart Traveler Enrollment Program** (STEP) on the U.S. State Department web site. This can only be done by individuals; there is no group registration.

<https://step.state.gov>

Medical facilities & Emergency numbers

If you have minor ailments that don't require prescription medication (e.g., antibiotics), you should go first to a pharmacy, marked with a big neon green cross. Pharmacists in France can advise you on the most appropriate over-the-counter medication for your symptoms.

If you need to see a doctor in Paris, the following medical center is close to the Citadines and you can go without an appointment, but will have to wait your turn.

Institut Arthur Vernes 42, rue d'Assas, 75006 M° St-Placide ou Rennes

<http://www.institut-vernes.fr>

If you need assistance at the Citadines, you can call S.O.S. Médecins. 01 47 07 77 77

Equivalent of « 911 » in France: dial 15 from a landline or 112 from a cell phone.

Reminder: In case of an accident or medical emergency, contact the WIA Director immediately. As your « primary emergency contact » in France, she will assist you and also contact your parents and home institution in the unlikely event that you are hospitalized.

Restaurants in Paris recommended by previous WIA students

- Salon de Thé de la Mosquée de Paris (*also a Moroccan restaurant*)
39, rue Geoffrey St. Hilaire (5ème) Métro : Place Monge
- Little Breizh (*Excellent crêpes, including organic!*)
11, rue Grégoire de Tours (6ème) Métro : Odéon
- Chez Angelina (for its famous hot chocolate!)
226, Rue de Rivoli, près du Louvre (1er) Métro : Concorde
- La Palette
Opposite the Ecole des Beaux-Arts. 43, rue de Seine (6ème). A 5-min walk from Citadines !
- La Crêperie des Canettes
10, rue des Canettes (6^{ème})
- Au Sauvignon
Small & friendly wine bar and café well known to locals. 80, rue des Saints Pères (6^{ème})
- Chez Fernand (near Citadines)
9, rue Christine, 75006 Classic French dishes in a bistro setting.
- L'As du Falafel (student favorite in the Marais & Jewish quarter)
34, rue des Rosiers, 75003 M° Saint-Paul

Supermarkets near the Citadines St. Germain :

- **Carrefour Market**, deux entrées : rue de Buci et rue de Seine
- **Monoprix**, 50, rue de Rennes (6^{ème}), à l'angle du Boulevard Saint-Germain
- **Monoprix**, 24, Boulevard Saint-Michel (6^{ème}), au coin de la rue Pierre Sarrazin

You will receive a neighborhood map with these places marked and we will do a walking tour of the area on the second day so that you can locate them.

Mobile phones

There are two Orange stores near the Citadines: on bd. Saint-Michel and 126, bd Saint-Germain where employees can assist you in choosing a plan for your needs. The Free store is located near the Place de la Madeleine (Metro: Madeleine).

Reminder: if you wish to use an iPhone, you will have to unblock it in order to insert a French SIM card. Look into this before leaving the U.S. ***You will need a French mobile number.***

Taxis

In theory, taxi drivers are required to go to the nearest taxi stand and wait in line for customers. If you're near a train station and try to hail a cab, for example, it may not stop even though the green light on top of the car indicates it's free.

Look for the nearest stand (often near a bus or metro stop), indicated by a square blue sign with the word Taxi or call one of the companies below.

- **Taxis G7 : 01 47 39 47 39**
- **Les Taxis Bleus: 01 49 36 10 10**

Public transportation: RATP (metro & bus)

You will receive a *Découverte* pass-card in your welcome packet. It will be up to you to charge it for the week (Mon to Sun). A weekly ticket cost around 25€ for unlimited use.

Otherwise, you can purchase books of 10 metro tickets (*un carnet*) for around 15 euros.

The metro doesn't operate 24 hours a day. It runs later on weekends, but on weekdays it stops shortly after midnight: Check operating times on <http://www.ratp.fr>

Le Noctilien (night bus) operates late at night but only on major arteries, i.e., it doesn't stop everywhere. **If you're out late at night, we strongly advise you to take a taxi home.**

PRACTICAL INFORMATION – FRANCE

1. CALENDARS & HOLIDAYS

Keep in mind that school and university calendars, as well as holidays, differ in the U.S. and France. Note academic dates and encourage visitors to avoid coming during orientation, exam periods or at times when you will be busy with academic work and less available.

Public holidays in France are frequently linked to a historical event or an important date in the Catholic religion. If the actual date falls on a Thursday or a Tuesday, schools and businesses may be closed on Friday or Monday in order to offer an extended weekend (*faire le pont en français*). Public holidays include the following:

- November 1 All Saints Day (la Toussaint)
- November 11 World War I Armistice
- April 17 Easter Monday
- May 1 Fête du Travail (Labor Day)
- May 8 World War II Armistice

2. TELLING TIME

In France, time is usually indicated using the 24-hour « military system » as opposed to a.m. versus p.m., as in the U.S. In fact, these abbreviations don't exist in French, so get used to the 24-hour system!

- 1 a.m. = une heure (1h00) ou une heure du matin (less common)
- 1 p.m. = treize heures (13h00) ou une heure de l'après-midi (less common)
- 2 p.m. = quatorze heures (14h00)
- 3 p.m. = quinze heures (15h00)
- 4 p.m. = seize heures (16h00)
- 9 p.m. = vingt-et-une heures

Watch your pronunciation, especially when making appointments!

- 16h (seize) vs. 6h (six) heures
- 10h (dix) vs. 2h (deux) heures

3. HEALTH MATTERS

IMPORTANT: Wellesley College and Wellesley-in-Aix do not have health services or facilities abroad and cannot assure medical care. Students with specific needs must consult local health care professionals and be prepared to pay for these services up front. The program does not handle medical reimbursements.

Contact information is provided in this guide, and there is also a directory of English-speaking doctors in the Provence region on the U.S. Consulate-Marseille web site. WIA cannot guarantee immediate consultations or quality of care by specific health care professionals.

That said, there are excellent doctors of all kinds in France, and the health care system is very good and much more affordable than in the U.S. It is also possible to call *SOS Médecins* at all hours; a 2-person team will make an emergency house call.

Note: All students should be familiar with their (or their parents') health insurance plans and policies and know what is covered. These may vary. This is a *student responsibility*.

A visit to a general practitioner costs around 24 euros in France and must be paid in cash. Specialists charge more. As for counseling, the hourly rate may vary from 100 to 120 euros per hour. ***All health services must be paid by students at the time of consultation.***

Onsite staff can assist students in making doctors' appointments and steer them toward health care professionals in Aix who are familiar with U.S. programs and students. A list of local hospitals and practitioners seen by previous WIA students is included in the French section.

Advice: If you have any chronic illnesses or conditions (e.g., allergies) that require prescription medication or regular shots, bring a detailed medical file with you. If you are taking prescription medication, you should bring enough to last you the entire semester or year if possible. ***French pharmacies will not fill a U.S. prescription.*** You will have to obtain one from a French physician. A doctor's note specifying the kind or brand of medication you are taking and reasons for it will be useful, however. Keep in mind that brands differ from country to country, and you may not find the exact same medication in France.

Un peu de vocabulaire utile pour les consultations médicales :

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| ▪ un docteur/un médecin | doctor |
| ▪ une ordonnance | prescription |
| ▪ un médicament | medication |
| ▪ la pilule (du lendemain) | birth control pill (morning after) |
| ▪ un cachet (d'aspirine) | pill, tablet |
| ▪ un préservatif | condom (familier : une capote) |
| ▪ les règles | (menstrual) period |
| ▪ une consultation libre | walk-in visit |
| ▪ une consultation à domicile | house call (Oui, cela se fait encore en France!) |
| ▪ consultation sur rendez-vous | by appointment |

If you go to the doctor's for any reason, he/she will give you a form (*une feuille de soins*) that you will need to submit directly to your insurance company in the U.S. for a reimbursement.

For details about Wellesley's non-U.S. insurance policy, consult Wellesley Health Service, <http://www.wellesley.edu/healthservice/insurance>

Medication: In addition to an adequate supply of prescription medication, you might want to bring saline solution if you wear contact lenses.

Reminder: Medication should never be mailed; it can be confiscated by customs officials.

French medical coverage: « la sécu »

The term “*sécurité sociale*” in French refers to health coverage and medical insurance, not retirement pensions! In order to be enrolled in a French university, you must have *la sécu*. WIA pays this mandatory fee of 215 euros at the same time as tuition fees.

In theory, this means you have medical coverage in France, but the processing time is very long and also requires certified, costly translations of your birth certificate, so you can't benefit from reimbursements in the short term. The document you will receive along with your student i.d. card from AMU will nevertheless show that this fee has been paid and will enable you to benefit from the same lower medical fees that French people pay.

4. PERSONAL SAFETY & WELL-BEING

Unpredictable terrorist acts aside, there is no reason to feel less safe in France or Europe than in the U.S. In fact, statistics reveal less violent crime and fewer incidents involving handguns, for example, than in the U.S. Students generally report feeling safe on a day-to-day basis in Paris and especially in Aix. The main risks are petty theft or pickpocketing. Women sometimes report feeling “hassled” by men who seek their attention by making explicit remarks or approaching them in public spaces, such as parks, bars, or outdoor cafés.

The terrorist incidents that occurred in Paris in 2015 and in Nice in July of 2016 were deeply shocking to the French and the entire world. The national French anti-terrorist plan known as ***Vigipirate*** was already in effect before these tragedies; it was reinforced and security was greatly tightened afterwards and France placed on “high alert”. President Macron has recently reduced this alert.

We urge students to stay informed of world events and to regularly consult the U.S. State Department's travel and worldwide alerts at <https://travel.state.gov>

WIA staff send and post updates as they become available. ***All students must inform the WIA Director via e-mail whenever they leave Aix and provide details (e.g., dates, travel companions, destinations).*** If anything occurs in France or elsewhere, they should contact the Director immediately to let her know they are okay. In turn, she communicates with Wellesley College officials and notifies them that all students are accounted for.

As the two largest cities in France, Paris and Marseille combine the positive and negative traits evident in most world cities: sketchy neighborhoods, pickpockets, assorted trafficking, tourist scams, etc. ***The main precaution is to always be aware and vigilant and avoid taking unnecessary risks.*** By comparison, Aix will seem quiet and « safer », but keep in mind that it attracts many tourists at certain times of the year and, as a student town, has a vibrant night life, i.e., it also has its share of pickpockets and unsavory characters.

Some common-sense precautions to take no matter where you are:

- ✓ Tell someone where you're going if you travel or go out alone, especially at night.
- ✓ Avoid taking the metro or a night bus very late. After 11 p.m., take a taxi.
- ✓ Avoid walking home alone or in deserted streets and neighborhoods at night.
- ✓ Don't rent a car or other motorized vehicles. Lack of familiarity with driving laws and behaviors, coupled with car theft in southern France, are a recipe for disaster.
- ✓ *Never* hitch-hike in France, even if you're with someone else or are told it's safe.
- ✓ Always hold your bag or backpack close to your body and don't set it on the ground.
- ✓ Always ask where you are going if someone offers to take you somewhere outside of town or to places you don't usually frequent (e.g., clubs), especially at night.
- ✓ Walk confidently and look straight ahead of you, as if you know where you're going.
- ✓ Be sure to know how to call the police if necessary and explain a problem in French.
Number to call: 17 from a landline or 112 from a cell phone.
- ✓ Don't get distracted by your cell phone (text messages, conversations) in public transportation or when walking on the street. It makes you an easier target.
- ✓ If you don't want to attract unwanted attention in public spaces, speak French!

Sexually-transmitted diseases : le SIDA et les MST

As in other countries, there are people living with HIV (*le VIH*) or AIDS (*le SIDA*) in France. Information is available at: <http://www.sida-info-service.org> Sexually-transmitted diseases are known as *MST* (une maladie sexuellement transmissible) in French.

You may be surprised to see vending machines selling condoms in public places, including restaurant restrooms, metro stations, cinemas, etc. In France, this is viewed as a public health service; it is not intended to encourage certain behaviors but seen as a preventive measure. While it may be tempting to seek new experiences while abroad, it's important not to take unnecessary health risks. As a general rule, if you wouldn't do something in the U.S., it's not a good idea to do it in France or Europe.

5. DRUGS, ALCOHOL & FRENCH LAWS

As a legal adult in France and Europe (age 18), you are responsible for your actions and personal safety. The WIA Director can assist you in medical emergencies but cannot make medical decisions, obtain confidential information or take legal action on your behalf. In the event of an incident or emergency requiring hospitalization, Wellesley College and your parents or legal guardians will immediately be contacted.

Wellesley College's honor code emphasizes students' personal responsibility, academic integrity, and concern for fellow students' well-being. Moderation and safety go hand-in-hand, especially when traveling and living abroad. Studies have shown that students abroad sometimes engage in activities or experiment in ways they wouldn't in their normal environment. ***It is crucial to exercise common sense and good judgment at all times.***

As a legal adult, you are free to buy and consume alcoholic beverages in Europe and won't be asked for i.d. in a restaurant or bar. There is a French law against public drunkenness and rowdiness, however, and the police are authorized to detain offenders in a police station until they are sober. Once again, this is a public health and safety issue in France.

Be aware that France has some of the toughest drug laws in Europe. A violator's nationality is a moot point; you are subject to French laws while in France. Neither the U.S. Consulate nor Wellesley College can provide counsel or pay legal fees. ***Any willful violation of French laws or drug-related incidents will result in immediate expulsion from the program.***

If you are the victim of a crime while in France (e.g., theft, assault), you should immediately report it to the WIA Director who will assist you. In keeping with the U.S. Clery Act, all such incidents must be reported to Wellesley College, but they are recorded anonymously.

6. ELECTRICAL OUTLETS & MISCELLANEOUS ISSUES

Voltage in France is 220. This means you will need an adaptor plug (*un adaptateur*) for your laptop and any U.S. appliances or electrical or electronic devices (e.g., hair dryer, camera). You can buy one at most airports or at a FNAC in France if you forget to pack one.

Since March 2015, all homes and businesses in France must be equipped with smoke detectors. Whether you opt for a homestay or a room in a student residence, there should be one in or very near your room. If there isn't, you should notify the WIA Director.

In theory, smoking is prohibited inside restaurants and in public buildings and spaces, and restaurant patrons can only smoke on outdoor terraces, for example. You will find that smoking remains less "stigmatized" in France than in the U.S., however, and that many young people continue to smoke. If you're allergic to smoke, you should not hesitate to say so.

7. FRENCH MEDIA : NEWSPAPERS & MAGAZINES

We urge all students to adopt the general French habit of watching the nightly news ("le 20 heures") and keeping up with current events, even if you only read the front page of a major French newspaper online. The following dailies are the most frequently read:

- *Le Monde* (more or less equivalent to the *New York Times*)
- *Le Figaro* (conservative, right-leaning)
- *Libé* (liberal, more left-wing daily)

Weekly news magazines, i.e., akin to Time or Newsweek albeit more "politicized" are

- *Le Point, L'Express* (more right-wing views)
- *L'Observateur* (formerly the *Nouvel Observateur*, more left-wing)
- *Courrier International* (especially useful for International Relations & Political Science majors, topic-based articles from major world papers translated into French)

8. TIPPING (*le pourboire*)

- Taxi: it is customary to give a tip of 1 or 2 euros for a short ride and a bit more for a larger fare or longer distance (for example, to go to an airport). No fixed percentage.
- Restaurant, bistro or café: a 15% tip is automatically included in France (and should be indicated on the menu), but many people leave small change or a few coins on the table or slightly more in a nice restaurant, especially if the service is especially good or friendly.

9. WORK & INTERNSHIPS

As in the U.S., internships are highly coveted and competitive in France, partly because they are mandatory in certain business or professional schools. French students usually have to find their own internships, often via family friends or personal contacts. The WIA program does not have a list of pre-existing internships but staff can provide assistance and advice.

There are strict rules and laws regarding student internships in France, notably the following:

- All internships require a signed contract (*une convention de stage*) which defines the terms and states the link with the student's major or course of study. This contract is signed by the organization or company offering the internship; the student's home institution (France or U.S.); the student; and, in some cases, an internship provider.
- By law, unpaid internships cannot exceed eight weeks. For longer periods, interns must receive some sort of compensation (*une gratification*), such as a meal or transportation stipend. No stipend is required if the duration is less than 8 weeks.
- To apply for an internship, you must submit a French-style résumé (*un curriculum vitae*) along with a cover letter (*une lettre de motivation*). WIA staff can assist you with this and provide model letters.

Tips on finding an internship in France:

- Talk to everyone you know: homestay hosts, professors, French friends, WIA staff. The more people who are aware, the better your chances of finding something.
- Seek feedback and advice on your CV and cover letter to someone familiar with internships in France. This is culture-specific, and U.S. tactics may not be effective.
- Don't delay! If you want a summer internship, you need to start looking in February.
- Take advantage of all available resources, starting with the web sites below. The *L'Etudiant* site allows you to search by type of internship, city, dates, etc.

<http://www.letudiant.fr/jobsstages.html>

<http://www.crous-aix-marseille.fr/emplois>

<http://www.topannonces.fr/annonces-offres-emploi-u299.html>

For Paris, you can also check the job ads in the FUSAC. www.fusac.fr

Students or dual nationals who hold an EU passport are allowed to work in France part-time (approximately 18 hours/week) without a work permit. As for non-EU students, only those who received a **VLS-TS student visa** may legally work part-time in France.

The employer must declare the student worker, specify the nature of the job and produce a contract that specifies working conditions and hours. A business that offers to hire you and pay you in cash is engaging in illegal behavior and taking a major risk. So are you.

If you are not an EU citizen and do not have a visa that allows you to work in France, you can always earn extra money by babysitting, picking up French children after school, or giving private English lessons. Rates vary from 8 to 15 euros per hour.

In Aix, the English bookstore **Book-in-Bar** in the old center has a bulletin board where people looking for weekly English conversation or someone to pick up their children after school post ads. Check it out! These are great student “jobs” and enable you to meet new people. You can also post your own ad to give English lessons or create your own group.

Book in Bar
4, rue Joseph Cabassol
(opposite the Caumont Museum)
www.bookinbar.com

Recommended reading

This guide can't possibly cover every topic in depth or address every question you may have. You will find a plethora of resources on France, including student blogs and YouTube videos. *A vos claviers!*

If you've never lived abroad before – or even if you have! – one of the best resources to help you prepare for the experience is the University of the Pacific's ***What's Up With Culture?*** online cultural training program developed by Dr. Bruce LaBrack and others.

<http://www2.pacific.edu/sis/culture/>

The following oft-cited intercultural books or personal memoirs on France & the U.S. are readily available on amazon.com. Polly Platt was a Wellesley alumna, and her books are generally amusing and well-known in the expatriate community.

- Polly Platt. (1998). French or Foe? Getting the Most out of Living & Working in France, Distribooks. (A Wellesley College alumna!)
- Polly Platt. (2007). Savoir Flair: 211 Tips For Enjoying France & the French.
- Pamela Druckerman (2012). Bringing Up Bébé. www.pameladruckerman.com
- Pamela Druckerman (2013). French Children Don't Throw Food.
- Gilles Assoulin & Ruth Mastron. (2010). Au Contraire: Figuring Out the French !
- Pascal Baudry. (2007). Français-Américains, l'autre rive. / French & Americans : The Other Shore. Downloadable for free at: www.pascalbaudry.com
- J-B Nadeau & Julie Barlow. (2008). Sixty Million Frenchmen Can't Be Wrong.
- Raymonde Carroll. Evidences invisibles : Américains et Français au quotidien. English title (1990): Cultural Misunderstandings: French-American Experience
- Gopnick, Adam. (2001) Paris to the Moon
- Turnbull, Sarah. (2005) Almost French: A New Life in Paris

MOST FREQUENTLY-ASKED QUESTIONS ... AND RESPONSES!

1) How can I best prepare myself for my experience in France and Aix?

Read! Start with the GAP. In particular, the section on academics, the French university system and relevant vocabulary will facilitate your comprehension during information sessions in Paris and Aix. Also, try to read or listen to something in French every day via Internet, e.g., front page of *Le Monde*, so you'll be informed of current events and major topics in France; an occasional radio or program (online) such as TV5. The more you practice your French before arriving, the easier it will be to adapt at the outset.

2) How much money should I bring and in what form?

Have about 100 euros in cash upon arrival for expenses in the first couple of days. A taxi to the Citadines from the airport will cost 50 euros. You can use an ATM thereafter to withdraw money. There are ATMs all over Paris. Check with your U.S. bank about fees.

A cell phone will likely be your biggest personal expense during the semester. Plan on 30-40 euros/month. It is difficult to estimate exact costs, as this depends on your habits and use. The following web site is a good place to start: <http://www.meilleurmobile.fr>

During the semester, you will receive in your U.S. bank account a monthly stipend (mainly for lunches). A Wifi connection and laundry are included in the homestay. Students in independent housing receive more to pay for all food and laundry expenses. The program provides *all* students with a local bus pass for the semester/year. Your main expenses will be books and school supplies, cell phone, personal travel and entertainment.

3) What will the early weeks in Aix be like?

There will be an orientation period in Aix, mainly focusing on academics and including visits of WIA's partner institutions, sessions focusing specifically on course selection and registration, individual advising meetings with the RD, and some social activities. You will also take a diagnostic French language test to determine your level according to the European Common Framework; this will also help determine course choices.

The first 2 to 3 weeks in Aix are also an important time to get to know your French homestay hosts, a crucial part of the cultural adaptation process. For that reason, we strongly advise against friends or parents visiting you during that time. You will be busy settling in and being as "immersed" as possible in French. Keep in mind that this process is physically and mentally *tiring*, so it's important to be able to relax and decompress, too.

4) What can I expect from my homestay hosts? What will they expect of me?

We will discuss this in greater detail in Paris. Remember that adapting to a different lifestyle in another language is a *process*; don't expect to feel completely "at home" on Day 1. Your relationship with your hosts will evolve as you get to know one another; this takes time, effort and openness. Be patient. And be yourself!

You will receive a checklist of topics, e.g., meal times, keys, laundry, etc, to go over with your hosts in the first couple of days. The aim is to facilitate your conversation about any "house rules" or the daily routine and ensure that expectations are clear to everyone. Don't be afraid to say you don't understand something and ask for clarification – no one expects you to know the word for every household appliance or to understand slang!

Remember, communication is key!

As a general rule, don't expect to be treated like an "adopted child". Rather, think of yourself as a "privileged guest" in your hosts' home, at least at the outset. Your relations will evolve over time as you get to know one another. If you want them to take an interest in you, show interest in *their* lives and family. All hosts have prior experience with WIA or U.S. students; they will therefore understand your desire to go out, spend time with friends, travel on weekends, etc. At the same time, their home is not a hotel, and they are not tour guides. Mutual respect and sensitivity will go a long way toward building a good relationship and developing ties with family members. Relax and enjoy the process!

5) Is it possible to change housing?

Yes, but there is a process and no changes will be made in the first two weeks. Remember that *it takes time* to adapt to a new routine and feel comfortable in an unfamiliar environment, especially in another language. Discuss any issues that may arise with the WIA Director. Miscommunication is normal and often linked to cultural differences or behaviors that you may need help analyzing and interpreting. There is no need to feel embarrassed; rather, look at it as a learning opportunity. If the issue can't be resolved, a change can be arranged, and assistance will be provided.

Note: All housing is arranged by WIA and included in the program cost. Students are not permitted to make their own arrangements or change housing without the Director's knowledge or approval. No reimbursements will be given.

6) When and how will I select and register for my classes?

This, too, is a *process* that takes time and perseverance. During the first week in Aix, you will have ample time to consult course evaluations completed by previous WIA students and meet with the Director to discuss your academic goals. You will have two weeks in which to finalize choices after attending all the courses that interest you.

You will need to attend all classes that interest you from Week 1 and keep attending them until you have narrowed your choices down to 4 or 5 classes and have a workable schedule. You should start out with five classes so that you can drop one later in the event of an unexpected event. The level (first-, second- or third-year) will depend on your background knowledge of the topic, your French skills and your major. All advice is individualized.

The WIA program handles university registration (i.e., for a student card) and course registration is an online process that you will complete once you have a student i.d. card. All procedures will be thoroughly explained in Aix. *Pas de panique!*

7) Can I drop and add courses after the first two weeks?

Per Wellesley and WIA policy, you must maintain a 4-unit load all semester. It's not possible to add a course if you have missed the first week or two, especially at Sciences Po. If you start out with five courses, you may drop a course up until the last week of classes. *These are WIA policies.* French students are not allowed to drop courses once registration is over.

All communication with administrators in WIA partner institutions must go through the WIA Director. Students are not allowed to negotiate exam dates or make arrangements directly with professors, and attempts to do so may have negative grade consequences.

If you have questions, make an appointment with the WIA Director with whom you will meet monthly to discuss your classes and progress. Remember that tutorial assistance is also available. It's normal to be disconcerted by the French system and prescriptive rules for academic papers, so take advantage of all available resources and support early on!

8) What else should I know about academics?

The GAP outlines key differences between French and U.S. higher education and includes a useful vocabulary list in French. Read these sections carefully and learn the vocabulary!

International students directly enrolled at AMU or Sciences Po don't receive "special treatment" and are generally expected to do the same work as their French classmates and to adhere to all official dates (exams, vacations). Be prepared for this and take it into consideration when planning visits from family and friends or making travel arrangements. No make-up exams or assignments are given for unexcused absences, i.e., without medical proof or a doctor's note. There is also no such thing as "extra credit" work in France.

9) What kind of assistance is available in Aix?

All kinds – that's why Wellesley has onsite staff in Aix! The Director is an academic advisor, primary emergency contact and a resource person in other areas. She can also refer you to other helpful resources.

In the event of a medical or other crisis, confidentiality is respected, in keeping with the Family Educational Right to Privacy Act (FERPA) in the U.S. Your parents are only contacted in medical or safety emergencies or in the unlikely event of a legal problem. If your parents or legal guardians contact the WIA Director, you will be informed.

10) What's the best way to meet people and make French friends?

Join a club or group of some kind linked to a personal interest: sports, music, volunteering, etc. Check out student groups and clubs at AMU and Sciences Po. ***Make this effort within your first month in Aix.*** There are lists of tips for meeting French students, places and activities recommended by previous WIA participants in this guide. Highlight the ones that appeal to you and make a plan to look into them within the first three weeks. It's important to have a strategy and make the effort right away, as previous WIA students underscore.

A final word: Keep in mind that the more you travel on weekends and hang out with other U.S. students while in Aix, the harder it will be to make French friends or improve your French. As a rule, French students don't go away every weekend or travel outside of vacation periods; they tend to socialize with their friends and spend time with family on weekends. When in France...

III. LE « SAVOIR-VIVRE » IN FRANCE

This commonly-heard term is difficult to translate in English and combines notions of courtesy and politeness, cultural practices and implicit “codes” familiar to the French, and a certain “art of living” of which the French are proud. Certain expectations or behaviors are also part of child-rearing practices, especially in more traditional French families.

You will no doubt notice that the French are proud of their history, traditions, culture and *patrimoine*. Conversation is also considered an “art” in France and remains an essential part of daily life. Awareness of appropriate behaviors or language usages that characterize *une bonne éducation* or *une personne bien élevée* (i.e., well-raised or well-mannered) will help facilitate your integration. These will be addressed on site.

A few examples and helpful tips:

- ⊕ If you are invited to dinner in someone else’s home, bring a gift such as flowers or nice chocolates. Your gesture will be noticed and much appreciated.
- ⊕ Make it a habit to say « *Bonjour, Monsieur* » or « *Merci, Madame* » when speaking to a professor, employee, office worker or any adult, especially *before* making a request. This is one of the first lessons that French children learn, and it can make a difference in how the person reacts and how helpful he/she is.
- ⊕ In a restaurant or café, one attracts a waiter’s attention by trying to make eye contact or raising one’s hand and waving slightly. If necessary, the appropriate verbal cue is *Madame* or *Monsieur* or *S'il vous plaît*.
- ⊕ Service in the U.S. is known for being quick, efficient, and friendly. This is not always the case in France where speed and efficiency may matter less than conversational exchange, talking about the quality of products, giving advice or suggestions, allowing a market customer to taste something, etc. Remember, patience is a virtue! Moreover, you will come to appreciate such exchanges when you are on the receiving end.
- ⊕ When you encounter a situation or behavior that you don’t understand, try to keep a sense of humor and avoid being defensive, judgmental or critical. It is normal to feel unsettled by attitudes or reactions that seem « bizarre » in a new culture. Ask someone who knows French culture well to help you interpret or understand what occurred.
- ⊕ North American women often describe French and southern European men as “sexist” or “macho” and are surprised when men approach them in public spaces or comment on their appearance (e.g., *Vous êtes très jolie, Mademoiselle*.). In particular, non-Caucasian women may be perceived as “exotic” and attract unwanted attention. In most cases, the best tactic is to avoid eye contact, ignore comments and walk away. Smiling or responding in any way may only encourage the behavior. If it persists, a firm response such as *Ca suffit!* or *Laissez-moi tranquille!* often does the trick.
- ⊕ **Political correctness is often described as an “American phenomenon” in France.** Attitudes toward diversity and difference may be expressed more openly or directly in France, especially in smaller, less diverse cities than Paris. You may hear comments that would be deemed insensitive and unacceptable in the U.S. How you react is up to you and may also depend on the specific context and individuals involved. If you feel strongly about a topic, don’t hesitate to disagree or explicitly say you don’t find a joke or comment funny or suggest changing the subject.

- Asking a person where he/she comes from is not necessarily considered rude or “racist” in France. In fact, the French are often curious about people’s origins, especially when they detect an accent. There are also strong regional identities in France and French people may identify first as Breton, Corsican, Parisian, etc. You will discover that not all residents of Aix are “Aixois” or even from Provence. In sum, don’t be surprised if you are asked: “Where do you come from?” or “Where is your family from originally?” It may be asked out of interest or curiosity.

Keep in mind that your perspective will likely evolve over the course of your stay as you meet and interact with host nationals, French and other international students, etc. What may seem strange or difficult to understand in the beginning may bring great satisfaction, be a source of real learning and personal enrichment, and even contribute to your future career. Stay open!

ON THE ROLE OF FOOD & MEALS IN FRANCE

As you know, food, cooking and meals are central to life in France and one of the main topics of conversation! If you’re living with French hosts or are invited to dinner at someone’s house, the following information may be useful:

- Evening meals are an important part of family life: everyone talks about his or her day, and, in some cases, families watch the evening news together. It may take time to feel comfortable participating in conversations, but try to make an effort and don’t wait to be “called on”. Asking questions is often an effective strategy.
- Differences in eating habits – meal times, number of courses, ways of using utensils or serving and eating certain foods may be the source of puzzlement but also amusement! Observe what your hosts or other guests do, and try to follow their lead. Serve others, e.g., water, before you serve yourself.
- Meal times are generally later than in the U.S. Dinner may be served between 7:30 and 9:00 pm, and many restaurants don’t open until 8 pm. If you are invited to dinner at someone’s house, arriving more than 15 minutes late without letting the hosts know is considered rude.
- If you are in a homestay, you should be aware of dinner hours and *be on time*. Unless you have a class that ends late or have indicated you’ll be late for whatever reason, your hosts will wait for you before starting to eat. Let them know you’re running late.
- Don’t hesitate to offer to help set or clear the table. *Je peux vous aider à mettre le couvert ? / à débarrasser ?* Complimenting the cook is always appreciated!
- During meals with family or friends, the French love to converse, interrupt each other, joke or tease, etc. The livelier the conversation, the better! (See chapter on “La conversation” in Raymonde Carroll’s *Evidences invisibles*). Try to participate, even if you don’t understand everything.
- The French don’t eat or leave food in their bedrooms. Use the kitchen when at home, and don’t leave dirty dishes in other rooms. It will *not* be appreciated.

POLITENESS, VERBAL & NON-VERBAL COMMUNICATION

Politeness is expressed differently depending on the language. In France, it's important to pay attention to *register* - formal, colloquial or informal (i.e., slang or *argot*) - when talking to different people. Factors like age, status, and type or depth of relationship matter. For example, one does *not* use slang with professors in France; it's considered inappropriate, if not rude. Social norms in France may seem very formal to you, especially at the outset, but this will become easier and more natural with time and practice.

- In the U.S. it is common to say “Thank you very much.” to sincerely thank someone, while in France people more likely will say “*Merci mille fois*” or “*C'est gentil*” or “*C'est très aimable à vous*”. A simple « *merci* » might seem discourteous to some people.
- The French don't systematically respond “You're welcome” (*Je vous en prie*. ou *Il n'y a pas de quoi*.) but may instead smile or nod in thanks (non-verbal cue). People also tend to respond *Je vous en prie*. / *Je t'en prie*. more often than *De rien*. (informal register).
- Prior to a transaction or when entering an office, one generally says “*Bonjour Madame/Monsieur*” before asking a question or explaining the reason for one's visit. If you already know the person or have dealt with him/her before, you may add: *Vous allez bien?*
- Never say « *Salut!* » or « *Ouais* » to a professor, office employee, storekeeper, etc. It is *not* cool and being too informal may be considered disrespectful. Pay attention to how you express yourself in more formal contexts, and try to use the appropriate register.
- It is **essential** to mind your language in emails and communication with professors. You should address them as *Monsieur* or *Madame*, be polite and refrain from asking for an immediate reply, and sign *Cordialement*. Ask a French person to read your email before sending it to a professor or person of authority, especially if you are requesting a favor.
- People don't smile as much in France as in the U.S., especially to strangers. A smile implies familiarity and may be interpreted as an invitation or sign of interest (especially between men and women). Don't be surprised if a smile or direct eye contact generates an invitation.
- The French readily correct children, young people – and non-French people trying to communicate in French! Don't be surprised if waiters, storekeepers or others correct your French or even respond in English. They may simply assume you're a tourist, especially in Paris and Provence which draw many North American and British visitors. Take it as a sign of eagerness to help or of interest, not a critique of your French. ***Don't hesitate to say that you are a student living in Aix and prefer to speak French.*** Most people will be pleased and switch to French if you ask them to.
- In general, it's best to use the *tu* form to address people your own age and younger and *vous* with adults unless they suggest using *tu* (*Tu peux me dire tu.* or *Tu peux me tutoyer.*) In the south of France, people tend to be less formal and suggest using *tu* more quickly than in Paris, but you shouldn't assume this. Some French hosts may invite students to call them by their first names, others not. Keep in mind individual differences and preferences.

IV. ACADEMICS : GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Fall academic calendar: 2017-2018

If you are registered at both Sciences-Po and AMU, you must adhere to both calendars.

	SCIENCES PO	AMU
Start date: 1st semester	Monday, Sept 4	Thursday, Sept 7
Fall break	October 28 – Nov 5 (all classes, including WIA)	
Final exams	Week of Dec 18 (also in WIA classes)	Week 1: Dec 18 Week 2: Jan 8
Holiday break	Dec 23 – Jan 7	
Week of Jan 8	2 nd week of final fall exams at AMU	

Note: Exam schedules are not available until 2 weeks or so before official exam dates. Dates are not negotiable and may include Saturdays. You must take the same exams under the same conditions as your French peers. Do not make travel plans during these periods. No make-up exams will be given without a medical excuse. Missing an exam may result in a zero and a possible F in the course.

1. HIGHER EDUCATION & CULTURAL DIFFERENCES

Adapting to a different university system and academic standards can be challenging and, at times, frustrating. Learning conditions and teaching approaches vary across cultures, and, like your predecessors in the WIA program, you are likely to be disconcerted and baffled at times. *Vive la différence!* Remember that you have many resource people to help you navigate the French university system. If you need assistance, just ask! Below are some realities for which you should be prepared:

- Tuition costs (*frais de scolarité*) are much lower in France than in the U.S. and higher education may seem nearly free. In fact, higher education is heavily subsidized by the French Ministry of Education and taxpayers, thereby keeping the actual cost reasonably low for students, especially in public institutions like AMU.
- As a result, French universities are not wealthy and have far fewer resources, facilities, and services than in the U.S. Don't expect fancy athletic facilities or dining halls, libraries and computer facilities open late at night or on weekends. *Generally speaking, leave your U.S. expectations behind and be prepared to adapt.* The point of a direct enrollment program is to experience a different philosophy and approach to higher education, not to reproduce your U.S. lifestyle.

- The mission of universities in France is first and foremost *intellectual*: to transmit (through teaching) and expand knowledge (through research). In general, French students do not rely on a university to provide them with a social life or a plethora of services and extra-curricular activities. The latter do exist and are usually managed by a *Bureau des Eleves* (BDE), often staffed by student volunteers.
- The teaching approach and relations with professors in France will undoubtedly seem very “traditional” or formal to you: heavy reliance on lectures (*cours magistraux or CM*), with students listening and taking notes (often by hand) and few opportunities for discussion or dialogue. Even in smaller group classes or sections (*travaux dirigés or TD*), there may be little discussion and class time may be largely devoted to student oral presentations, with or without Power Point.
- Many AMU classes meet only once a week for 3 to 4 hours. This may well be the most difficult aspect to adjust to and may be quite tiring and require concentration, especially at the outset. At the same time, it will allow you to measure your progress, notably your listening comprehension and note-taking skills, during the semester.
- In France, students at the undergraduate level are expected to be able to work independently, with minimal supervision, weekly assignments, frequent quizzes, etc. In fact, it is rare for a detailed syllabus to be distributed; you may receive only a brief outline of weekly course topics and a bibliography. In most cases, it will be up to you to inquire about key books to read (if you lack background knowledge) and to set up a reading schedule, review your notes regularly and fill in blanks on your own or with the help of French classmates.
- Professors may recommend books or make articles, readings and PowerPoint presentations available through the *Amétice* platform, but they won’t check on your progress or comprehension of the material outside of exams or major assignments. ***In sum, you must take charge of your own learning.***
- Grading: most French professors do not assign weekly homework at the university level; this is a hallmark of secondary school in France. Your final grade may be based on only two assignments or exams, both of which may occur late in the semester.
Advice: You should avoid taking courses at AMU in which the final grade is based entirely on a single comprehensive exam at the end of the semester.
- Most professors in France do not have an office or hold office hours (*heures de permanence*) and may not provide an email address. Student-professor relationships tend to seem more distant than in the U.S. The professor’s main role is to teach; it’s up to the student to learn. This doesn’t mean you can’t approach them, however. You will find that many enjoy meeting and interacting with their international students.
- Remember, help is available. *Take advantage of all possible resources:* tutorial assistance offered by AMU or Sciences Po, individual professors who can recommend key books on a particular topic, your *French classmates* who can provide class notes, the WIA Director or tutor who can also offer guidance and tips. **Profitez-en!**

ACADEMIC POLICIES & GUIDELINES

Failure to comply with the policies and rules below may have a negative impact on your grades and result in your not receiving academic credit from Wellesley for courses in Aix.

- You are required to take all exams in your courses and do the same work as your French peers. If you miss a final exam, you will be marked absent and receive a grade of *Défaillant* for the course, in which case you will not receive credit from Wellesley. There are no make-up exams except in the case of a medical or family emergency.
- Do not make plans to leave Aix before the end of official exam periods. *Exam dates and conditions are set by the university administration and non-negotiable.* International students do not receive “special treatment” and, in theory, professors are not permitted to administer exams in advance or schedule make-up exams.
Advice: Plan to return to Aix at least two days prior to your first scheduled exam.
- Always have your AMU student i.d. card with you on exam day. (Note: Part-time students at Sciences Po don’t receive student i.d. cards.) You may not be allowed to take the exam without your student card. If you lose your AMU student card during the semester, you must go to the *Scolarité* office to request a replacement card.
- Exam and program dates take precedence over an internship or job opportunity in the U.S., personal travel, etc. *No early departures are allowed other than for emergencies.* The WIA Director must be informed of any emergency and will notify AMU or Sciences Po as well as students’ home institutions.
- Per Wellesley College’s academic policies, you may withdraw from a course within the first five weeks without a transcript notation. After that period, a grade of W will appear. No withdrawals are allowed after the course ends or just before or during the exam period. You should talk to the WIA Director first, and you must put the request in writing. *All students must maintain a four-course load throughout the semester.*

VOCABULARY OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN FRANCE

un amphithéâtre	= <i>amphithéâtre</i> or lecture hall (large classes)
l'assiduité	regular attendance
la B.U. (<i>fam.</i>)	la bibliothèque universitaire / library
un collège	junior high school in France
un commentaire composé	literary textual analysis/paper of 5-7 pages
un commentaire de texte	analysis of a historical doc or non-literary text
un contrat pédagogique	official course registration (online)
le contrôle continu	grade based on 2-3 assignments (vs. single exam)
un cours magistral (CM)	lecture class
un cours de soutien	support tutorial organized by WIA
crédits ECTS	European credit system : 6 credits = full course
le C.R.O.U.S.	= student services (cafeterias, dorms, etc.)
un cursus	set curriculum culminating in a degree
un <u>cycle</u> d'études (1er, 2e, 3e)	1er cycle = B.A.; 2e = M.A.; 3 ^e = Ph.D
un devoir en temps limité (ou sur table)	in-class test; timed exam

une dissertation	writing assignment of 6-8 pages (on specific topic)
un dossier	= research paper (usually 10-15 pages in length)
un exposé oral	oral presentation
la "fac"	<i>faculté = université</i> (usually public)
une fiche de lecture	paper on an assigned book (summary/analysis)
une inscription administrative	university registration (to receive student i.d.)
une inscription pédagogique	course registration in a specific class
une Licence	undergraduate degree (3 years); <i>1er cycle</i>
un mémoire	Master's thesis (or honor's thesis)
un partiel	an exam (not necessarily at mid-term)
une plaquette / un polycopié	course catalogue or course pack
un relevé de notes	transcript
un « Resto U » ou RU	<i>Restaurant Universitaire</i> ; student cafeteria
une thèse (de doctorat)	doctoral dissertation ; culmination of <i>3^e cycle</i>
un T.D.	<i>Travaux dirigés</i> ; smaller group (linked to a CM)
des T.P.	<i>Travaux pratiques</i> (mainly in the sciences)
une U.E.	Unité d'Enseignement (course unit)

NOTE ! un cours ≠ une course. Do not pronounce the final « s » in *cours*.

2. AIX-MARSEILLE UNIVERSITÉ (AMU) :

In 2012, the branches of the former *Université de Provence* merged to become **Aix-Marseille Université or AMU**: the largest French-speaking university in the world, with over 70,000 students in all of its branch campuses combined!

AMU also welcomes over 10,000 international students (and more than 60 nationalities) to its satellite campuses. Where WIA students are concerned, the main ones are:

- ✿ **Schuman**: Aix campus and home of the Faculté des Arts, Lettres, Langues et Sciences Humaines (ALLSH). Informally called the “Fac de Lettres” by most people.
- ✿ **Montperrin**: close to the Schuman campus, one of the Faculté des Sciences sites.
- ✿ **MMSH** : *Maison Méditerranéenne des Sciences de l'Homme*, located on the west side of Aix and accessible by bus. Site of many Anthropology and Ancient History courses.
- ✿ **Saint-Charles-Marseille**: located opposite the train/bus station. Site of some history and literature courses, as well as numerous science courses (e.g., neurosciences).

Note: Schuman campus renovations are ongoing and slated to end in 2018. You will visit the various locations and buildings where classes are held during the first few days in Aix.

Wellesley-in-Aix has an exchange agreement with the following divisions within AMU:

- ✓ **Faculté des Arts, Langues, Lettres et Sciences Humaines (ALLSH)**
- ✓ **Faculté des Sciences (since 2016-17)**

These are the only Facultés where you may take classes and earn credit from Wellesley.

The ALLSH division is divided into 5 different sections :

- *Lettres et arts* (Humanities and arts)
- *Langues, langages et cultures* (Languages, Linguistics, World Cultures)
- *Psychologie et sciences de l'éducation* (Psychology and Education)
- *Humanités, sciences historiques et sociales* (Humanities, History, Social Sciences)
- *Géographie, aménagement, environnement* (Geography, Environmental Studies)

Courses that do not earn academic or transfer credit from Wellesley College

- **Studio arts (*arts plastiques*)**: Non-credit courses in painting, drawing, pottery, etc. are available outside the university and considered an extracurricular activity for which you may be reimbursed from the individual cultural allowance offered by WIA.
- **Economics or Management courses** offered by the *Faculté d'économie et gestion* with which WIA does not have an agreement.
- **English or American studies**, i.e., courses taught in English. Students may take Comparative Literature courses offered in *Lettres Modernes*, taught in French.
- **Foreign languages (other than French)**, *unless* this is a second major. Any course must be approved by your department or major advisor in the U.S. Levels, classes and pedagogical approaches differ in France, which can lead to difficulties in transferring credits.

Prescribed curriculum vs. Taking courses « à la carte »

Unlike in the U.S., students in France choose their major in the first year and follow a pre-set curriculum with many required courses and limited electives. There are no “distribution” or “general education” requirements in France, as high schools offer a broad curriculum and, in theory, the *baccalauréat* exam ensures general knowledge in many areas. Thus, university is synonymous with a specialization. French students are free to change majors after their first year but they must start all over again in the new discipline if they switch.

Contrary to degree-seeking French students, you will be able to choose courses in different disciplines and at different levels (1st, 2nd and 3rd year), that is, “à la carte”. Your choices will depend on your major(s), your previous knowledge of the subject, and your level of French. *Final course choices will be made in Aix with the guidance and approval of the WIA Director and after consulting your academic advisors in the U.S.*

Note: If you enroll in two classes in the same discipline and year (e.g., 2nd-year linguistics), you will likely have the same French classmates in both which can be a plus.

Undergraduate degree in France : « Licence »

The undergraduate degree or *la licence* in France is generally obtained after three years of study: ***Licence 1, Licence 2 and Licence 3***. Course levels are similar to Grades I, II and III at Wellesley, or 100-, 200- and 300-level courses in many U.S. universities and colleges.

L1 = introductory courses

L2 = courses that assume some previous knowledge (basic pre-requisites)

L3 = advanced or more specialized courses that assume background knowledge

Many previous WIA participants have taken L3 classes and done well. They are more specialized and demanding in terms of workload and professors' expectations, however.

Note: If you have never taken a course in English in a specific discipline and do not have a B2 level in French, it is not advisable to take L3 courses.

Structure of « Licence » courses

Depending on the discipline or even year, there may be a single weekly class of 3 to 4 hours or 2 separate mandatory sessions per week (on the same or different days):

- ***Un cours magistral ou CM:*** usually held in an *amphithéâtre* (= lecture)
- ***Travaux dirigés ou TD:*** smaller group, may consist of student oral presentations related to course topics or analyses of documents, group size from 10 to 30 students.

Whatever the case, there may be two different professors who work somewhat independently or who each teach one half of the semester. In courses where there is a CM and TD, you must complete all work for both in order to receive credit.

Note: Certain psychology courses at AMU are taught by a “team” of professors or guest lecturers that change frequently. This may be disconcerting and can prove problematic in terms of grading and evaluation. Advice: it is best to avoid this type of course.

Credits: “ECTS” and U.S. equivalents

The European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) enables students from different European countries to transfer credits to their home institutions from another EU university. The number of ECTS granted is essentially based on the number of hours per course.

For courses at AMU: 6 ECTS = 1 Wellesley unit
9 ECTS = 1.5 Wellesley units

For courses at Sciences Po: a 2-hour *cours magistral* (CM) = 1/2 Wellesley unit

All WIA students are required to register for a minimum of **4 units per semester**. This usually means four courses unless you take two ½-credit classes at Sciences Po in which case you will have five classes.

Course selection and registration at AMU

In Aix you will meet individually with the WIA Director to discuss your academic goals, pre-select courses and put together a schedule that enables you to attend at least 7-8 classes in the first two weeks. By process of elimination, you will reduce the choices to five by the end of the second week. You should also communicate with your academic advisors in the U.S. during that period. The WIA Director can assist with translating course outlines in English if your advisors request more detailed information.

Step 1: Administrative registration (*inscription administrative*)

This process will be handled by WIA staff **once we have received photocopies of your passports and visa pages.** These are required in order to request student cards which may take from 10 days to two weeks. You will not receive your student cards the first week.

Step 2: Academic registration (*inscription pédagogique*)

Once you have selected your AMU courses, you will complete an online *contrat pédagogique* that must be signed by you and the WIA Director. ***This is essential in order for you to be officially enrolled for exams and obtain grades for AMU classes.***

Per AMU policy, unless you have a medical certificate or doctor's note, you will receive a zero if you miss a scheduled exam. No make-up exams are given for unexcused absences. ***It is your responsibility to know the final exam schedule and adhere to it; international students are expected to do the same assignments and exams as French students.***

Post-registration course changes / Adding and Dropping

- Course registration procedures are not the same as for full-time, degree-seeking French students. When in doubt, always ask the WIA Director who acts as the intermediary with administrative services and staff at AMU and Sciences Po.
- AMU does not have an Add/Drop policy, and French students are not allowed to make changes once registration is final. *According to Wellesley College and WIA policies*, you may withdraw from a course up until the final week of the semester if you have a 5-course load or if a reduced courseload is granted.
- ***All communication with AMU administration must go through the WIA Director.*** Failure to keep the WIA Director informed or to comply with academic policies may result in grades of F on your transcript.

Amétice / ENT (Espace numérique de travail)

This platform used at AMU will enable you to access your AMU email account, course documents and information and databases (JSTOR, Cairn). Some AMU faculty use it for all course information, others less so. It's up to you to inquire or verify at the first class session.

Transcripts & Credit Transfer

Note to Wellesley students: All courses related to language, French or Francophone literature or cultures and French linguistics will most likely count toward requirements for the French major at Wellesley and *transfer as 200-level courses*. Students from other universities should double-check to find out which specific courses may apply to a French major or minor.

Please note! You should avoid taking courses that closely resemble classes already taken in the U.S. for credit, especially in your major. If you are uncertain, send an email to your advisor, dean or head of department.

If you need to submit an English translation of a course description or outline to seek approval for credit transfer, speak to the WIA Director who will translate the document for you.

4. FRENCH GRADING SYSTEM & CONVERSION SCALE

You will receive numerical French grades in all university courses based on a system of 1 to 20. Grades of 17 and above are rare in the French system, which is essentially Pass/Fail. The minimum passing grade is 10 which translates into a C+ per the conversion scale below, approved by Wellesley College.

At Wellesley, a C is the minimum grade required for credit transfer. Some U.S. colleges and universities may award credit for a C-. A WIA transcript will be sent to your home institution with course titles translated into English and the French grade converted into a U.S. grade.

WIA grade equivalencies

<u>France</u>	<u>United States</u>
18 à 20	A+
15 à 17	A
14	A-
13	B+
12	B
11	B-
10	C+
9	C Wellesley credit awarded
<hr/>	
8	C- No credit
7	D+
6	D

Credit Transfer

You will not receive your final grades before leaving France. It generally takes 4 weeks or so after final exams for grades to arrive at the WIA office. The WIA Director then converts grades and sends the transcripts directly to the Office of International Study at Wellesley. OIS forwards them to non-Wellesley student's home institutions (Registrar's office).

Transfer Credit Policy

The Wellesley College Registrar's Office handles credit earned in the Wellesley-in-Aix program like all other transfer work: Credit is granted for a grade of "C" or better and course work is recorded on the official transcript with a notation of "TR" or transfer credit. Units count toward the degree but have no effect on the GPA.

A separate Wellesley-in-Aix transcript indicating course titles and grades received is also sent to the Registrar at Wellesley College and may be requested by students applying to graduate schools.

Other sending institutions may acknowledge and record credit earned in the WIA program according to their own credit transfer policies. External students should check with their home schools.

5. INSTITUT d'ETUDES POLITIQUES (IEP) / SCIENCES PO-AIX

Created in 1956, the IEP or “Sciences Po” in Aix is one of nine Political Studies Institutes along with Bordeaux, Grenoble, Lille, Lyon, Paris, Rennes, Strasbourg and Toulouse. Sciences Po - Aix enrolls nearly 2,000 undergraduates, including over 200 international students. The regular curriculum for French students is a five-year one, and all French students are expected to go abroad during their third year, either to study or do an internship.

International students may enroll full-time in a one-year certificate program (CEP) or for a semester (PEPS); the full-time courseload is 6 to 7 classes per semester. The *PEPS-Choix libre* option is for part-time students who may enroll in up to two *cours magistraux*. Most WIA students fall in the latter category, as they also take WIA and AMU courses.

There will be curricular changes at Sciences Po in 2017-18. Specifically, the *cours magistraux* will be more intensive and offered in three 5-week “blocks” during the semester. They will meet twice a week for a total of four hours (versus once a week for 2 hours in the past).

In the past, Sciences Po-Aix was mainly for political science, international relations and economics majors, but the curriculum, like the student body, has become more diversified over the years. There are courses in English and even other languages. **WIA students must take all their courses in French.** If you have at least a B2 level in French and there is a course that interests you, talk to the WIA Director.

Course offerings and registration at Sciences Po

Course offerings and schedules are not posted on the web site until just before the start of classes. The WIA Director will receive a preliminary list and send it via email to students as soon as it becomes available. The schedule may change up until the first week of classes.

Only the CM in French are open to WIA students. Other types of courses - *conférences de méthode*, language classes - are reserved for full-time Sciences Po students.

Due to the five-week schedule of lecture classes, you will have to attend all classes in which you are interested from Day 1 and make a decision about whether or not to enroll after the first session. It will not be possible to join a class if you have missed the first session or week.

In 2017-18, all WIA students enrolled at Sciences Po will be required to take two *cours magistraux* either in the same discipline (e.g., economics) or area (e.g., European Union studies) in order to earn one full credit or course unit. Each class will be worth .5 credit.

All WIA students will complete a pre-registration form at the end of the first week that the WIA Director will submit directly to Sciences Po.

Instruction and grading methods at Sciences-Po

Lecture courses may be quite large and not very interactive or discussion-based. Much depends on class size. In any case, students at Sciences Po are expected to do a significant amount of outside research and independent reading to master course content. Personal motivation and effort, as well as self-discipline, are crucial to succeed.

Up until now, the final grade in most CM classes has been based on an individual oral exam administered by the professor at the end of the semester. Occasionally, a one-hour written exam is scheduled, especially in larger classes. Whether oral or written, ***this grade is the only one in CM courses***. It is not yet clear if this will continue to be the case in 2017-18 with the five-week block system. Information will be available during the orientation week in Aix.

6. WIA COURSES

Each semester, WIA offers three courses reserved for program students. Students with a B2 level in French are expected to enroll in at least two (or three) regular university courses.

Fall 2017 WIA courses:

1) *Méthodologie & Expression écrite*

Professor : Madame Elodie Burle-Errecade

Schedule: Monday & Wednesday (time to be determined), Tavan Center

The aim of this course is to reinforce academic writing skills and introduce students to the types of assignments common in French universities: *commentaire composé* (in literature), *commentaire de texte* (history, philosophy), *dissertation* (literature, social sciences); *l'exposé oral ou écrit* (written or oral presentation).

It is required for students who test below a B2 level on the standardized French test (TCF) that will be administered in Aix the first week. It is optional for other students. Full-year students should take it in the fall to be well-prepared for university courses in the spring.

2) *Traduction*

Professor: Madame Christelle Klein-Scholz

Schedule: Wednesday 9h30 – 12h30 at AMU-Schuman (room to be confirmed)

This course focuses on grammatical translation and translation of various kinds of texts, common idiomatic expressions and cultural concepts. It aims at reinforcing French language skills by comparing French to English, with an emphasis on common errors made by native English speakers in French. It is generally accepted for French major credit.

Note to Wellesley students: This 200-level course fulfills a French major requirement.

3) *Histoire architecturale et développement urbain d'Aix-en-Provence et Marseille : De l'Antiquité à l'époque contemporaine - New course in 2017 !*

Professor: Monsieur Jean-Dominique Brignoli

Schedule: Tuesday & Thursday 16h – 17h30, Tavan Center

Study of the major monuments and architectural and urban development of the two major cities in Provence and analysis of the relationship between ways of life, aesthetics and socio-political issues and problems facing contemporary cities. Three site visits will be integrated.

Attendance Policy in WIA Courses

Attendance is mandatory in all WIA classes and all absences must be justified, i.e., medical form or WIA Director's approval.

Unexcused absences, particularly due to weekend travel, extended vacations and visitors, will be penalized in WIA courses and result in grade reductions. There are no make-up assignments or exams for unexcused absences.

7. OTHER ACADEMIC INFORMATION

Tutoring and academic support

French universities and specific academic departments increasingly offer support in the form of peer tutoring, especially for first-year French students who also need assistance or advice. Ask your French professors about available resources and take advantage of them!

WIA also hires a program tutor, who is available by appointment to help students with the methodology of French academic writing, oral presentations, exam strategies, etc. You will meet her in Aix, and her contact information and schedule will be posted at the Center. ***You must contact her directly to set up an individual appointment.***

8. ENSURING YOUR ACADEMIC SUCCESS IN AIX

The advice below is intended to help you succeed in France and avoid unpleasant surprises at the end of the semester or after your return to the U.S. Much of it comes from past students!

- Review and rewrite or complete your class notes *after each class*. This will help you progress in French and force you to verify facts and fill in any blanks (e.g., dates, names) that you didn't catch in lectures and are expected to know.
- Set up your own reading schedule from the outset, especially in the absence of a detailed syllabus, and **stick to it**. This is a *student* responsibility in France.
- Read at least two books cited in the bibliography or recommended by the professor. If you're not sure which ones are most useful, ask – at the start of the semester!
- Check the library at Tavan for books, especially if a class was taken by previous WIA students. There are also neighborhood libraries in addition to the AMU and IEP ones. You can also order books on amazon.fr and have them sent to the Tavan center.
- Organize study groups with classmates and invite French students to join. This is a great way to get to know your French peers as well.
- Students from the U.S. often conclude that classes are "easy" and professors are less demanding in France due to lack of weekly assignments or frequent feedback. *C'est faux!* The roles and responsibilities in France are different. French professors expect students to be self-motivated, take charge of their own learning and be autonomous.

- If you are having trouble with classes or feeling frustrated or discouraged, make an appointment to talk to the WIA Director. Don't wait until the end of the semester!

Documenting your coursework: le dossier de cours

Academic departments or advisors in the U.S. may request more detailed information about your classes in France. You should not expect to receive a detailed syllabus from French university professors; in some cases, there may only be a one-page outline of weekly topics and a bibliography – at best. It is therefore essential that you keep track yourself and *in writing* of course topics, assignments, books read, etc. on a regular basis.

The *dossier de cours* is designed for that purpose. You will receive a Word version via email and should revise it on a weekly basis. The WIA Director may ask to see it at your monthly individual check-in meeting. ***You will be expected to hand in these dossiers for each non-WIA course at the end of the semester;*** they will be kept in your file in Aix. If you need a translation to request transfer credit once back in the U.S., you will have to contact the WIA Director to request one. It will be based on your *dossiers de cours*. If you haven't submitted -- them and have no documentation of course content, transfer credit may be denied.

Dossier de Cours

Intitulé du cours: _____

Code ou n° du cours: _____ *Semestre:* 1 2

Professeurs et/ou responsable du cours: _____

PLAN DU COURS (“syllabus”)

Notez les principaux thèmes abordés en cours chaque semaine (en 2-3 phrases ou points)

Semaine 1:

Semaine 2:

Semaine 3 :

Etc.

CONTENU:

1. *Œuvres étudiées : Liste des livres ou articles lus ou des films vus*
2. *La bibliographie : Liste des livres de référence pour le cours ou vos travaux (pièce jointe)*
3. *Photocopies des documents clés distribués par les professeurs (à joindre au dossier)*

MODES D'EVALUATION

Précisez le type et la longueur des travaux notés

Exemples :

Travail 1 : Commentaire de texte de 6 pages du début de *Madame Bovary*. Fait à la maison.

Travail 2 : Exposé oral de 20 minutes en classe. Sujet: *La crise financière de (date)*

Travail 3 : Examen final sur table – dissertation sur (sujet)

ACADEMIC ADVICE FROM PREVIOUS WIA STUDENTS

General

- *Forget all your expectations and start over with an open mind. It'll save you a lot of frustration.*
- *Don't get too frustrated by the disorganization of the university. Don't worry!*
- *Don't expect things to be exact. Things always change, so be flexible.*
- *It's okay to be confused and not understand everything.*
- *Don't feel defeated because getting used to French classes will be difficult.*
- *Erase any expectations you have from your American experiences and take really good notes.*
- *Don't be afraid to approach the teachers – they might seem cold or intimidating but they are really quite nice.*
- *Talk to students in your classes!*
- *It's less about the academic experience and more about the cultural one. Try to be patient and not stress too much.*

On selecting courses:

- *Choose classes based on the books you'll read. Do all your reading.*
- *Be proactive. If you don't like a class at the beginning, try others until you find one that work.*
- *Don't be afraid of L3 classes (at AMU) if you have prior experience with the subject.*
- *Try to take classes where you are interested in or even know a bit about the subject.*
- *Test upper-level classes and take them; first-year classes are at a very low level sometimes and it can be frustrating.*
- *Start with five classes so you can drop one.*
- *Don't be afraid to take classes with no other Americans; it really forces you to reach out and make French friends or at least friendly acquaintances.*
- *Expect classes at IEP-Sciences Po to be much more intense than those at AMU.*
- *Avoid 4-hour classes as much as possible!*

On study strategies:

- *Rewrite or go through your notes each week. Attend every class.*
- *Read your weekly readings so following classes will be easier.*
- *Make your own reading schedule and stick to it. One or two hours a weekday of studying is necessary so you aren't stressed the last few weeks. Exams sneak up on you.*
- *Figure out Améthice ASAP and make sure you're following in class.*
- *Start studying early. It takes so much longer to read notes/books in French.*
- *In courses where memorization of facts is important, use a secondary source to study. Read the recommended texts and borrow notes from other students, especially French ones!*
- *Keep up with classes throughout the semester: reread your notes, look up background info.*
- *Be present in the class and talk to your professor if you didn't understand something.*
- *Don't stress out too much and try to find study partners, especially non-Americans!*
- *You can do it. Take the classes seriously and don't come in confident. Do the work early so you don't get any surprises in the end...*
- *If you have to do an exposé with a French student, have confidence in yourself.*
- *Be active in class. Try your best to participate but if you can't, actively listen & take good notes.*
- *Talk to other students in your class!! They often have a better idea of what's going on or, if they don't, know what to read, what's on the exam, if there's a class next week – at least you're in the same boat! Plus, they might become a friend!*
- *Don't be intimidated by the other students in your class. You can learn as much from them as from your professor. Also, go to lectures.*
- *Invest time in your classes. It's easy not to, but the classes I cared the most about were the ones I did the most work for, and the ones I ended up liking the most.*

9. EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES & STUDENT LIFE IN AIX

Athletics

AMU's *Service universitaire d'activités physiques et sportives* or SUAPS offers numerous and free classes and activities: tennis, swimming, fitness classes, hiking, climbing. There is a *Bureau des sports* at AMU. Sciences Po also has many student associations and organizes outings and events. If you're looking to meet French students, start there! A list of student activities is available on both AMU and Sciences Po web sites.

How to sign up

Be proactive! Registration occurs at the start of the semester and it's possible you won't yet have your student i.d., card yet, but go anyway and explain to the instructor that you are an exchange student and your card is pending. (WIA can photocopy your AMU acceptance letter.) Even if the class is allegedly full, go to the first one anyway and you may be able to get in. If you're motivated and enthusiastic, chances are there will be no problem.

You may be asked to provide a **medical certificate** before the first class depending on the sport. This requires a doctor's visit, but you can be reimbursed from your cultural stipend. Talk to WIA staff about it.

Student Groups & Organizations

Look under *Vie étudiante* on the web sites and go in person to the *Bureau de la Vie Etudiante* or *Bureau des Eleves* and make inquiries. Talk to the WIA tutor – an AMU student! - and French students in your classes to find out more. Your efforts will be rewarded!

Remember that French students don't rely exclusively or even mainly on the university to provide them with a social life. Many are involved in activities and socialize with friends in the city and in public spaces like cafés and pubs rather than on campus.

10. LIBRARIES

1) The « BU » (*Bibliothèque Universitaire*)

Located on the Schuman campus, the BU is open from 8:30 am to 8pm on weekdays, and from 9am to 1pm on Saturdays (closed Sundays). There is wifi access.

How to register at the BU: Go to the BU with your IZLY student card. The reception desk is at the entrance on your left.

2) « BS » (*Bibliothèque de Section*)

Each academic department has its own library. You can consult books on site but also borrow them. Check with the department or your professors.

3) MMSH Library

The Maison Méditerranéenne des Sciences de l'Homme or MMSH houses the anthropology department. It is to the west of Aix, not on the Schuman campus and accessible by bus. You will find a wide selection of works in the humanities: anthropology, history, sociology, popular culture, as well as many works on the Mediterranean area. It is a nice place to study.

4) Méjanes Library

“La Méjanes” is the largest public library in Aix and part of the Cité du Livre, conveniently located behind the main bus station and cultural area of Aix. www.citedulivre-aix.com

The Cité also includes a cinema that shows classic films and there are numerous lectures and other events throughout the year. It is a major cultural center in Aix. Check it out!

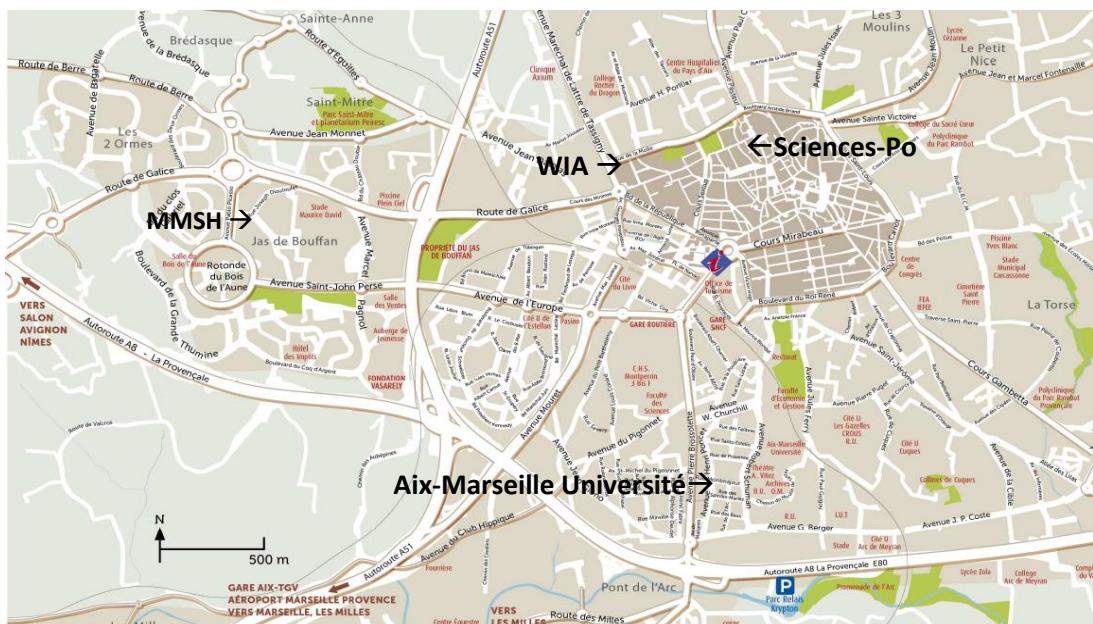
5) Sciences Po Library

For students enrolled at Sciences Po.

Don't forget to check out the WIA library at Tavan. Though small, it includes books used in frequently taken courses or donated by previous students. If there are several students taking a course with required readings, the program may purchase a key reference book that will be put on reserve. *Otherwise, books are considered a personal expense.*

V. AIX-EN-PROVENCE

1. WELLESLEY-IN-AIX CENTER: TAVAN



The WIA Center (*Centre Tavan*) is located about a 10-minute walk from both the *Rotonde* (city center) and Sciences Po and approximately 20 minutes on foot from Aix-Marseille University. It is often faster to walk than to wait for a bus.

WIA Center hours: Monday - Friday, 10am to 6pm, closed on weekends.

Le Centre Tavan

The WIA Center includes staff offices, classroom and meeting or study space. A kitchen is available to students, and you may also eat in the outdoor patio area in nice weather.

In keeping with the WIA immersion goal, ***it is a French-speaking environment*** and the use of French is enforced. Tavan is not an entertainment space or hangout for watching videos or U.S. series in English. Students who violate the language pledge will be asked to leave

Upon your arrival in Aix, you will receive two keys to Tavan: for the main gate and the downstairs entrance. **It is forbidden to lend your keys to anyone or duplicate them.** If you lose them, notify WIA staff who will instruct you on how to replace them.

Uses of Tavan:

- Students may keep food in the fridge and cook, but must clean up and do the dishes. We ask that you eat in the kitchen or on the patio, not in the lounge or classroom area.
- You may receive mail and packages at the Center, using the address below.
- There are 3 computers and printers available as well as wifi indoors and on the patio.
- There is a small DVD collection of French films that you may watch or borrow.

<p>Your name Wellesley in Aix 16 rue Emile Tavan 13100 Aix-en-Provence France</p>

☞ If your parents or friends send you packages, tell them to write on the package:
« ***EFFETS PERSONNELS USAGES SANS VALEUR COMMERCIALE*** »
(Used personal items of no commercial value)
Otherwise you may have to pay customs taxes which can be hefty.

What you **cannot** do at Tavan:

- speak English!

WIA staff and professors should not have to remind students to speak French. We take the language pledge seriously and expect you to as well, for your benefit and that of other students whose goal is to improve their French. Failure to comply with this rule may result in your being asked to leave Tavan and your advisors in the U.S. being notified.

- sleep over, take naps or use it as you would your private space
- go there on weekends (unless there is an organized WIA activity)
- consume alcohol except when there is a reception organized by the program

2. THE CITY

Aix has a population of about 145,000, including 40,000 students, mainly enrolled at AMU. It is located inland, 30 minutes north of Marseille and the Mediterranean coast. The population is less diverse than in Marseille which has drawn many immigrants throughout history, especially from North Africa.

Aix consists of many small streets in the city center, boutiques and shops, outdoor cafés and restaurants, a “cultural quarter”, and a few museums. It is also known for its colorful markets that attract many tourists, especially in the summer. It is a city rich in history and architecture and was the original capital of Provence, now known as the PACA (Provence, Alpes, Côte d’Azur) region. For a "virtual" tour, click on the Tourist office link: [Discover Aix](#)

Climate and weather in Aix

Provence has a temperate climate and is generally sunny in the fall and spring and very hot in summer. It can be cold in winter, albeit not as frigid as Boston or New England!

3. SAFETY & SECURITY

Aix is a safe city and most students feel comfortable walking everywhere although you should always be aware of your surroundings late at night and avoid deserted areas or parks, for example. As in other cities, the main problem is theft, including pickpocketing and bike theft. It's always best to walk with someone or in groups at night and, after midnight, to take a taxi. There's a taxi stand at the Rotonde or you can call one.

- WIA is one of several U.S. programs in Aix and during the tourist season, it also attracts many English speakers. Speaking English (or another language) in public draws attention and can make you a target. The more you speak French, the less likely you will be hassled or targeted – and the more likely you are to meet locals!
- Neighborhoods to avoid at night include public parks which may be deserted or attract unsavory characters, e.g., the *parc Jourdan*, *la Torse* and certain neighborhoods west and north of the city center. We will talk about this upon your arrival in Aix.
- *Note to women:* you may find southern men even more "clingy" or apt to make verbal comments than in Paris. The topic of gender relations and strategies (verbal and nonverbal) for minimizing feeling hassled or being bothered in public spaces will be addressed on site.

Important reminder: If you are a victim of theft, assault or have any concerns, you should contact the WIA Director and make an appointment to discuss the incident. Crimes should be reported to the local police and must also be reported to Wellesley College. It is also important to warn others of at-risk areas, incidents, possible scams, etc. Your safety and the safety of others is *everyone's* concern, and Wellesley College and the WIA program take this matter seriously. Assistance and counseling are available, both on site and in the U.S.

Commissariat de police / Main Police Station
10, avenue de l'Europe, 13100 Aix-en-Provence
(near the bus station)

04 42 93 97 00

U.S. Consulate in Marseille
Place Varian Fry, 13286 Marseille
(Métro: Estrangin-Préfecture)
U.S. Consulate Marseille

04 91 54 92 00

Sous-Préfecture in Aix (Administrative Services) 04 42 17 56 00
455, av. Pierre Brossolette
Services for non-French nationals 04 42 17 56 87

4. HOUSING IN AIX

In Paris, you will meet individually with the WIA Director to discuss your housing and homestay placement. Every effort is made to honor students' first choice. Final placements will be confirmed after all individual meetings have taken place, and all students will receive an email with their hosts' name and some basic information.

Keep in mind that no situation is perfect, and that all of your "criteria" may not be met. Factors such as allergies and dietary restrictions are given the highest priority when placements are made. Others, such as proximity to the city center (or to AMU) or a private bathroom are secondary. Try to remain as open-minded and flexible as possible.

Naturally, not all French families are identical despite some common characteristics, notably the desire to host a WIA student! As a rule, all have prior experience hosting international students, particularly from U.S. programs. All French hosts have been vetted by the WIA Director who has visited their homes and explained the program goals and expectations.

It is always risky to generalize, as each family has its own characteristics, habits and dynamics. A session in Paris will be devoted to living with French hosts.

➤ Homestay

Hosts have been selected and are looking forward to meeting you in Aix! They will come to the WIA center on the day of our arrival in Aix after the group meeting.

The term "family" has emotional connotations, hence the preferred term "hosts". There are all kinds of hosts: couples with children of different ages, retired couples, women with or without children, etc. They are sincerely interested in sharing their life and culture with a student. In sum, this is not a mere financial arrangement, and their home is not a hotel. Remember that you are a "privileged" guest and treat their home with respect.

Try not to compare your respective situations. Each one has advantages and perhaps a couple of drawbacks. Stay focused on what's important: interaction with hosts and family members and the opportunity to improve your French, learn about life in France and maybe even build a lifelong relationship. Keep a positive attitude and a sense of humor!

No changes will be made in the first two weeks. It takes time to adjust to a new environment and someone else's routine and habits as well as to get to know people. Some hosts may seem more formal than others at first, and the presence of children also has an impact on meal hours, house rules, etc. Your relationship will also evolve over time as you get to know one another better and adjust to each others' schedules and habits.

In all cases, you will have your own room and wifi access. As for meals, hosts provide breakfast food but students usually fend for themselves in the morning due to different schedules. Dinner times vary and may be anywhere from 7 pm (but not before!) to 8:30 pm.

Spending a semester living with French hosts is an interesting experience and often cited by students as a highlight of their sojourn. There can be challenges, however, and linguistic or cultural misunderstandings are normal. Your hosts will see you as adults and respect your privacy and desire to go out with friends, travel on weekends, etc. Try not to take offense if they correct your French or ask you questions; they're not necessarily prying but may simply be trying to get to know you and also help you progress in French.

When in doubt, ask questions and politely ask if you can use the kitchen to bake something or watch a DVD or invite a friend over to study, for example. ***Don't expect to be able to invite weekend or overnight guests in your room.*** You should advise friends to book Airbnb accommodations, an inexpensive hotel or a youth hostel. If your hosts tell you that you can have occasional guests, consider it a privilege and offer a gift for their hospitality.

You and your hosts will receive a "checklist" of points to go over in the first couple of days to facilitate communication and make sure that you know how to lock doors, use appliances, etc. The list also includes how to communicate if you're late coming home for dinner or decide to stay overnight at a friend's. In our experience, the more the expectations are clear from the outset, the more comfortable everyone will feel. Try not to stress and don't be afraid to bring up topics or express yourself. WIA staff can help you if you need some language "coaching".

➤ **Rossini Residence Hall**

This is a private residence for students in the city center and operates more like an apartment building than a dorm. The building is secure, and all residents must use a badge to enter the main gate and a code for the building. Two staff members live on site, and WIA staff have duplicate keys at Tavan in case of a problem.

The single rooms are self-contained "studios" with a twin bed, desk, small table, and also a private shower/toilet/sink and kitchen alcove with a small fridge and two burners for cooking simple meals. The WIA program provides a wifi connection and all linens (sheets, towels ...), dishes and cooking utensils, and small appliances such as a microwave and coffee maker. There are coin-operated washing machines in the building and a laundromat around the corner, as well as a Monoprix supermarket.

Nearly all residents of the Rossini are French students enrolled in various institutions in Aix, and many come from other cities or regions. In the last few years, WIA students have been the only residents from the U.S. There is an advantage to living alongside French peers, but keep in mind that this is not an American-style dorm where students leave their doors open and friends wander in and out or hang out in the hallways. If you want to meet fellow residents, it's up to you to make an effort. It's also possible to organize activities or events in the common room which has a ping-pong table. Talk to the Rossini staff and plan an event!

➤ Apartment rentals

This option is by request only, as WIA no longer rents apartments on a 12-month basis. For students who want independent housing, there is a fully-equipped studio apartment attached to a retired couple's home albeit with a separate, private entrance. It is on the east side of Aix. This is especially suited for students with dietary restrictions who prefer to do their own cooking, for example.

A furnished apartment may be arranged if two WIA students wish to share one, but advance notice is required in order to locate a suitable furnished rental. *Full-year students* may also share an apartment with French friends in the spring if they hear of an opening. WIA staff must vet the housing and will make the necessary financial arrangements with the landlord.

Students housed in apartments or at the Rossini are entirely responsible for cleaning their living space. They must buy their own supplies (e.g., toilet paper, laundry & cleaning products) using their monthly allowance. ***In the event of a problem or emergency, such as a damaged lock, electrical malfunction, plumbing problem or water leaks, students must notify WIA staff immediately.***

Note: All apartments and studios for which WIA pays rent are inspected monthly by WIA staff for health and safety reasons. *If the apartments are not deemed sufficiently clean after a warning and follow-up visit, a cleaning person will be sent and students will be charged a 30-euro fee, to be deducted from their monthly allowance.*

Living in an apartment allows greater freedom but also comes with responsibilities, including respecting one's neighbors who may not tolerate certain behaviors. Moreover, the drawback of living with another WIA student is the temptation to speak English which can seriously impede your progress in French. Consequently, students who choose independent housing are urged to sign up with *Bienvenue en Famille aux Etudiants Etrangers*, an association of Aix residents who wish to invite international students.

5. HEALTH & MEDICAL MATTERS

French universities don't provide free health services of the kind found on most U.S. campuses. This is why students are required to have health insurance with overseas coverage and why Wellesley contracts with Travel Assist and ACE/EuropAssist for medical emergencies, including repatriation. http://www.wellesley.edu/ois/emergency_info

The French health care system is very good and relatively low-cost because it is heavily subsidized. French pharmacists have solid medical training and can recommend over-the-counter medication and remedies for minor ailments and/or recommend seeing a doctor if antibiotics or other prescription medication is necessary.

Aix Public Hospital avenue des Tamaris (near Tavan)	Tel : 04 42 33 50 00
<u>From a cell phone</u>	<u>112 for any kind of emergency</u>
SAMU (ambulance or 911 equivalent):	15
Firemen / EMT	18
SOS Médecins (house calls)	04 42 26 24 00 (24/7)

If you need to see a doctor, you can either go to a physician or *centre médical* during walk-in hours (see addresses) and wait your turn or make an appointment if it's less urgent. To see a specialist, you will need an appointment. WIA staff can assist you. In every case, the doctor will give you a form or *feuille de soins* and possibly a prescription (*une ordonnance*). You must pay and then send this documentation directly to your insurance company in the U.S.

The WIA program does not handle medical reimbursements or pay medical costs; this is a student responsibility.

- A consultation with a *médecin généraliste* (GP) costs 24 euros, and a specialist at least 50 euros. You will be asked to pay at the end of the appointment, probably in cash.
 - *SOS Médecins*, a service that sends medical practitioners on “house calls” in emergencies (especially late at night and on weekends when doctors’ offices or clinics may be closed). Cost: approximately 100 euros.

A few addresses and names of practitioners consulted by previous WIA students:

Walk-in clinics/medical centers in Aix:

1) Near AMU (with 4 GPs)

Open 9am-9:30pm every day, including weekends
14, rue de la Fourane
Phone : 04 42 20 33 33

2) Espace Forbin – 8, rue Condorcet (parallel to Cours Gambetta)

Several GPs and some specialists.

➤ **Women's health :**

For questions regarding contraception and other family planning-related matters:
[Family planning in Aix](#)

GP : Dr SORDAGE (female)
19, cours Mirabeau
Phone : 04 42 27 61 46

Gynecologists

Dr Fabienne KOEGLER-MAILLET (female)
4, avenue des Belges Tél : 04 42 27 71 81

Dentists

Gérard BENATTAR Jean-Claude BELTRAN Alain COUNAS
Dental surgeon 1, rue Frédéric Mistral 23, avenue Victor Hugo
9, cours Sextius 04 42 38 06 81 04 42 38 99 19
04 42 38 34 24

Ophtalmologists

Jean-Marc REYMONDET or Michèle VINCENT-CASALS
13, place John Rewald 04 42 38 47 08

Dermatologists

Dr Franck BERTRAND
5, bd Roy René
04 42 27 76 81

Dr Paul ETZENPERGER
46, cours Mirabeau
04 42 27 96 14

Wellness & counseling services

There is a bilingual, U.S.-trained therapist in Aix, as well as many French professionals. As with other health providers, you must pay up front and file a claim with your insurance company to be reimbursed (unless the therapist can bill the insurance company directly). ***Counseling fees can cost 100 to 120 euros per hour.***

Therapist / Counseling Services

Chantal ZEDET-SAUNDERS

Licensed Family Therapist (California) / Bilingual English-French
66, avenue Maréchal de Lattre de Tassigny
Tél: 06 45 09 74 72
chantalzedet@msn.com

Medical Laboratories

Laboratoires d'analyses médicales
Chapelle – Harrach- Ceaux
17 bis, Cours Mirabeau

Laboratoire SELDAIX
15, Cours Mirabeau

There are many labs all over Aix, including one very close to the WIA center. You can also ask your homestay hosts which one they use and who their primary care doctor or *médecin traitant* is. In sum, there are many resources available; if you need assistance, just ask!

VACCINATIONS

In the unlikely event that you need a yellow fever, typhoid, hepatitis A, or other vaccination, make an appointment at the vaccination center:
6 avenue Pasteur, Monument Joseph Sec, Tel: 04 42 91 94 87

A final word: We cannot overemphasize the importance of students' responsibility for their own health and well-being while abroad. The WIA Director has a copy of students' confidential medical form in the event of an emergency or hospitalization but cannot make health-related decisions or give medical advice. She is obligated to report medical emergencies to Wellesley College and also contacts parents in the event of a crisis but must otherwise respect students' right to privacy and confidentiality.

6. GROUP ACTIVITIES & TRIPS ORGANIZED BY WIA

The program organizes several one-day outings and one weekend trip each semester. You will receive a detailed program in Aix. Destinations may vary from one semester to the next, but we do our best to choose places that might not be easily accessible for independent travelers or that are on the list of UNESCO's World Heritage sites in France, such as the following:

- ❖ Port of Cassis: a hike, boat cruise or kayaking in the *calanques*
- ❖ Hike to the top of the Sainte Victoire mountain immortalized by Cézanne
- ❖ Luberon region: hill towns of Gordes & Roussillon, the Sénanque Abbey.
- ❖ Avignon and its *Palais des Papes* and les Baux-de-Provence
- ❖ Arles, with its Roman sites and the nearby Camargue region
- ❖ Pont du Gard - Roman aqueduct & Nîmes, another Roman city
- ❖ Porquerolles Island – off the coast between Aix and Nice
- ❖ Weekend trip to Lyon, Montpellier & the Camargue or Occitanie region

We also take students to the *Grand Théâtre de Provence* in Aix for a classical or other music concert, a dance performance or other production. These events are an integral part of the program and enable you to discover the major sites in Provence and cultural life in Aix.

No refunds are given if you choose not to participate in WIA-organized group outings and cultural events.

Note: For insurance-related reasons, we cannot include visiting friends or family members in these outings.

WIA ALUMNI SUGGESTIONS: PLACES TO VISIT IN FRANCE

In Provence

**Marseille
**Arles
**Avignon & les Baux de Provence
**Cassis (*les calanques*)
Orange
Sanary-sur-Mer
Bandol
Nîmes
Gordes
le Pont du Gard
Martigues – the « Venice » of Provence

On the Côte d'Azur

** Nice
Grasse
Cannes
Toulon
Saint Paul de Vence
Hyères
Antibes
Saint-Tropez
Monaco

Other recommended regions and cities

**Lyon – France's third largest city located 90 minutes from Aix by train
Carcassonne
les Gorges du Verdon
The Loire Valley with its many châteaux
Strasbourg & Colmar (in Alsace, near the German border)
Toulouse
Montpellier
Bordeaux

VI. PRACTICAL INFORMATION - AIX

Upon arrival in Aix, students may borrow a copy of *Le Petit Futé* city guide to use during the semester. It contains everything you need to discover and enjoy the city!

1. TRAVELING OUTSIDE AIX

All students are required to inform the WIA Director in writing when they leave Aix for the weekend or during a school break and provide details on departure and return dates, destinations, travel companions, etc. This is not an attempt to invade your privacy but rather a safety and security issue. The Director is your primary emergency contact person in Aix.

- In case of an emergency, we may need to contact you or be able to tell your parents when you will be back in Aix and where you are if they have trouble reaching you directly. It's normal for parents to worry, especially if they hear something disturbing in the news.
- In the event of a terrorist attack, natural catastrophe or other major crisis, the WIA Director and staff must ascertain that all students are safe and accounted for. They communicate with Wellesley College and students' home universities and, if necessary, the Director sends an email to reassure parents.

Failure to notify WIA staff of your absences from Aix and whereabouts may result in Wellesley College or your home university being notified.

The WIA Director also sends the group an email prior to an absence from Aix and indicates who the emergency contact person in Aix is during that time.

2. MONEY & FINANCES

How much money you spend will depend on your financial situation, habits and travel plans during the semester. Personal expenses include books, phone costs and socializing. The monthly allowance you receive from WIA/Wellesley in your US bank accounts is sufficient to cover your lunches and daily needs in Aix *if you try to live like a typical French student*, e.g., eating in student cafeterias, not traveling every weekend.

You can use your U.S. debit card anywhere in Europe to withdraw money. Make sure the Visa or Mastercard logo is shown on the ATM, called a DAB (*distributeur automatique de billets*) in France. Check with your bank about fees when using your debit card abroad.

A few money-saving tips:

- In cafés, prices may vary according to time of day and whether you sit or stand. Ordering a drink on an outdoor terrace at midnight will cost more than standing at the counter inside the café in mid-afternoon, for example. Cafés also tend to be pricier in tourist areas.
- A balanced meal in a university cafeteria (*Resto U* or *RU*) costs around 3 euros. Even eating there just twice a week will allow you to save money for nicer restaurant meals!
- A full-price movie ticket costs 10-11 euros, but with a student card you will pay 7 euros. If you purchase a *Cinétoile card* in Aix for 23 euros, you'll only pay 6.10€!

- Always ask if there is a student discount (*une réduction étudiants*) when visiting a museum or purchasing a ticket. Sometimes museums are free for students.

If you lose your credit/bank card

- ✓ Call your bank's emergency number to stop payment immediately. *Only the card holder can do this*, so make sure you can access the bank's phone number quickly. For example you can send yourself an email entitled ICE (in case of emergency), or use Google Drive.
- ✓ Go to the nearest police station to report the theft or loss. You may need an official police report in order to get another credit card.

WIA STIPENDS: MONTHLY ALLOWANCE & CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

You will receive a monthly stipend for lunches and other expenses which will be deposited directly into your account in the U.S. by Wellesley College. The amounts are as follows:

- **350€ per month** for students in homestays (with 7 evening meals per week)
- **550€ per month** for students living in independent housing (e.g., Rossini)

In addition, you may be reimbursed up to **€ 200 per semester** for individual cultural activities of your choosing: dance or cooking classes, museum visits in France, a sports club membership, etc. You must provide a receipt (*un reçu*). This will be explained in Aix.

Note: Personal travel expenses and restaurant meals are not reimbursed. The only exception is an excursion organized by Sciences Po or AMU that includes French students.

3. VOLUNTEER & COMMUNITY SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteering (*le bénévolat*) on a regular basis is a great way to meet French people while feeling useful. If you're interested, talk to WIA staff. Do this early on in the semester; the longer you wait, the less likely you are to do it.

Secours Populaire

Contact : M. Gérard GERMAIN (Comité d'Encagnane)

or Mme Catherine PAUL, 06 81 58 64 92 (Comité du Jas de Bouffan)

30, bd Docteur Schweitzer Phone: 04 42 59 30 00 or 06 86 00 87 72

Activities: playing with children, food distribution, tutoring, making appointments.

Secours Populaire in Aix

Les Blouses Roses (Aix)

Contact : Mme Isabelle LAFOURCADE

Av des Tamaris, Maison de l'usager Phone: 04 42 33 54 24 ou 06 08 28 52 36

Activities: visiting with elderly patients or children, or young adults with disabilities.

Les Blouses Roses in Aix

Secours Catholique

Contact : M. Alain de FOURNOUX

2, bd Maréchal Leclerc

04 42 64 20 20 or 06 10 18 79 16

Activities: varied but includes tutoring or helping children with their school work.

Volunteer with SC

WIA also has contacts in a couple of schools for students interested in assisting English teachers and doing small-group conversation once a week, for example. Talk to WIA staff!

In sum, there is no shortage of activities and opportunities to get involved in Aix, but you must be proactive and seek them out. The earlier in the semester, the better!

SUGGESTIONS FROM WIA STUDENTS: THINGS TO DO IN AIX

- Check out student clubs & activities at Sciences Po: rugby team, Club gourmand, International Student Club, student-organized events and galas, etc.
- I participated in la Cave and loved it! Go regularly because going sporadically doesn't yield the same familiarity/friendships.
- I played for the Fac de Lettres soccer team.
- Ultimate frisbee team – a great group of people! Everyone is so kind and welcoming.
- Pays d'Aix Natation Masters Sprint group (for swimmers!)
- Fitness Park gym (above Casino supermarket near the WIA center)
- Zumba classes. Shake-Up studio (near Tavan) has a great student discount & is fun!
- Sports teams and hiking clubs (randonnées) at AMU and IEP
- Join a club, team, anything! Put yourself out there.
- AMU art history student association – they organize occasional museum nights.
- Book In Bar bookstore (in quartier Mazarin) – café with wifi, bulletin board ads
- Be a volunteer at the Secours populaire or Secours catholique
- Catholic student groups: foyer Shalom near AMU (FB page) & foyer Ste Claire (16, av. Paul Cézanne), la Cave (cathedral); St Esprit church (rue Espariat)
- LGBT groups : club Les Garçonnees at Sciences Po (gender issues) & Gayt'Up at AMU Twitter:: <https://twitter.com/anaisgaytup>
- Choram - a choir with weekly rehearsals in Marseille. Great director, sweet people.
- Drawing & painting classes at the Atelier Indigo.
- L'Atelier libre with Jacques Letrosne 'drawing & painting classes)
- Visit the Fondation Vasarely (contemporary art)
- Join the BFEE! (Bienvenue en France aux Etudiants Etrangers – French hosts)
- L'Atelier de soi yoga studio – inexpensive classes & a great teacher (Annie)
- Photography club at the MJC Prévert Cultural Center (boulevard de la République)
- La Cité du Livre is a gem. Also l'Institut de l'Image.
- Salsa & swing dance lessons at Rock Caliente.
- Participating in the Festival Tous Courts (in December).
- Go to the film festivals!
- Get the carte Cinétoile and see as many movies as you can, especially in French.
- Ainsi de suite atelier de théâtre (theatre group) with French students on Mondays !
- Coco Bohème – weekly language exchange event & great for studying. (near Tavan)
- Cooking classes at l'Atelier des Chefs.
- Aix City Ballet for dance classes.

4. LEISURE ACTIVITIES, CLUBS, ETC.

How to find a club or organization

- ✓ See previous page for suggestions from past WIA participants.
- ✓ Look into student associations and groups at Sciences Po & AMU. Do this early on!
- ✓ In September, go to the ASSOGORA event on the Cours Mirabeau. Clubs and organizations set up stands and do demonstrations and you can sign up on the spot.
- ✓ A directory of associations of all kinds in Aix is available at the WIA center.
- ✓ Consult the *Petit Futé – Aix* guide for other suggestions and ideas.
- ✓ Talk to your French hosts and WIA staff and ask for advice!

BFEE : Bienvenue en Famille aux Etudiants étrangers

For students in independent housing, this association matches you with French hosts who invite international students to their home for occasional meals or an outing or activity. It costs around 15€ to join and you can be reimbursed from your individual cultural stipend.

Headquarters located next to the **Pause-Midi café**

56, cours Mirabeau Email: bfee.aix@free.fr

Hours: Saturday 10:30 am to 12:00 (subject to change, so send an email)

Note: If you have difficulty reaching the BFEE, talk to WIA staff.

Other organizations (non-university affiliated)

Ateliers Interculturels

If you like interacting with children from 8 to 14 years old, you can introduce them to your country, your culture, your customs, your language... Organized by the city of Aix.

Phone: 04 42 91 99 93 Ateliers Interculturels

➤ **L'Agenda Culturel:** monthly events guide available at the Office du Tourisme .

➤ **Maisons des jeunes et de la culture**

www.mjc-aixenprovence.fr/

24, boulevard de la République (between the Rotonde and the WIA center)

All sorts of activities: hiking, climbing, music, theatre workshops, photography, etc.

➤ **La Cave** (highly recommended by WIA alumni)

Cathédrale St-Sauveur, La Cave on Facebook for meet-up information

34, place des Martyrs de la Résistance



Every Tuesday, there is an informal dinner at 8pm that costs 3.50€. It is preceded by a Mass at the cathedral, but you don't have to attend it. A good place to meet French and other international students in Aix!

Culture



Drawing classes at *Atelier Indigo*

40, rue de l'Opéra

[Atelier Indigo](#)

Painting classes

Lignes et Couleurs

16, rue Manuel

<http://www.lignesetcouleursaix.fr/>

Theatre workshop « *Ainsi de suite* »

Monday evening class with French students of all ages, ideal for improving your French!

[Théâtre « Ainsi de Suite »](#)

contact@ainsidesuite.com

Cooking classes

L'Atelier des Chefs

14, rue Constantin

[Ateliers de cuisine à Aix](#)

La Fromagerie du Passage

Passage Agard, entrance at 55, Cours Mirabeau
Restaurant, wine shop, cheese & wine tastings.

FB: [Fromagerie du Passage](#)

Concerts, cultural & artistic venues

Le Conservatoire d'Aix offers free weekly concerts. Be sure to arrive early for a good seat!
<http://www.aixenprovence.fr/Les-concerts-au-Conservatoire>

Le Grand Théâtre de Provence, offers a high-quality concerts and performances
<http://www.lestheatres.net/fr/toute-la-saison>

Centre d'Art Caumont
3, rue Joseph Cabassol

<http://www.caumont-centredart.com>

Café Culturel Citoyen, or, Le café 3C
23, bd Carnot

<http://cafeculturelcitoyen.org/>

Fondation Vasarely
1, av Marcel Pagnol

<http://www.fondationvasarely.fr/index.php>

Seconde Nature

27bis, rue du 11 novembre
Near WIA: concerts, exhibits, meet-ups

<http://www.secondenature.org/>

Espace 361°

2, rue de l'Annonciade
Gallery, exhibitions, creative workshops, conferences

<http://espace361.com/>

Sports/Dance

Lignes & Espace (ballet, modern, jazz, oriental dance classes)

2, bis Traverse de l'Aigle d'or

<http://lignesetespaces.fr/>

Salsa lessons at l'Expresso Café

20, avenue Jules Ferry

<https://www.facebook.com/expresso.cafe>

Ecole de danse moderne, Solange Savine

4, traverse Notre-Dame

www.danse-moderne-aix.fr

Club d'Escrime du Pays d'Aix - fencing

Maison des Arts de Combat, rue Henri Moissan

<http://escrime-paysdaix.fr/epa/>

Aix Université Club – Hockey sur gazon – field hockey

Complexe sportif du Val de l'Arc

Chemin des Infirmeries

www.hockey.auc.fr

Horseback riding at « Club Hippique »

320, chemin des Cavaliers

www.cham-aix.com

Pools

- Piscine Plein Ciel, av Marcel Pagnol Aix (quartier Ouest, Bus 2)

- Centre Sportif Universitaire (CSU)

Public pool near AMU, access with student sports card. Address: 35, avenue Jules Ferry

Fitness Centers & Gyms :

Private gyms generally cost 20 to 30 euros per month. You may be able to negotiate a 4-month membership at a student rate. Fitness Parks is the largest and least costly.

Fitness Park

1, av Maréchal de Lattre de Tassigny
Next to Casino supermarket
near Tavan center

L'Orange Bleue

19, bd Jean Jaurès
Not far from Tavan center

Keep Cool

4, av des Belges (Rotonde)
24, rue Irma Moreau
24, av Schuman (near AMU)

5. CAFES/RESTAURANTS/MARKETS

Cafés, bars, clubs

As a major student town, Aix offers an active night life, particularly in good weather. Addresses of bars, pubs, clubs are listed in *Le Petit Futé*. Ask your French classmates!

Open air markets

Every morning from 8am to 1pm! Small market at Place Richelme: fruits, vegetables, cheeses, breads, fish and seafood, etc.

Every Tuesday / Thursday / Saturday morning

From 8am to 2:30 pm clothing and fabrics market on the Cours Mirabeau.

From 8am to 1pm fruit and vegetable market: Place Richelme, la Rotonde & cours Sextius.

Every Saturday morning: flower market, Place de la Mairie near the Place Richelme

Restaurants & cafés

Check out the *Petit Futé* and lafourchette.com for recommendations!

WIA alumni favorites

Les Agapes, rue des Bernardines : French cuisine & Provence ambiance.

Chez Charlotte, rue des Bernardines: Simple but good food. Outdoor seating in summer.

Chez Jo, 59 rue Espriat. Pizzeria et Provencal specialties.

Crêpes à Go-Go, underground passage to left of Apple store. Best & cheapest crêpes in Aix !
Hours : Monday to Saturday, 11 am – 7 pm.

Geisha – Sushi Expérience, 53 cours Mirabeau. Dine-in, take-out or delivery.

Sushi Shop – dine-in, take-out & great lunch specials. 8, rue Thiers

Happy Days Café, Place Richelme.

Jacquou le Croquant, 2 rue l'Aumône Vieille. French country cuisine: duck, foie gras, etc.

Juste en Face, 6 rue de la Verrerie. Mediterranean specialities in a nice setting

La Chimère Café, 15, rue Brueys : sophisticated cuisine and ambiance

La Maison des Fondues, rue de la Verrerie : a bit expensive, but great food

O'Zen-Le Passage, across from Cézanne movie theater. Lunch buffet 19€, all you can eat.

Pizza Capri, at various locations in Aix. A must-try!

La Table marocaine, 10 rue Constantin. Considered the best Moroccan restaurant in Aix.

The Bagel Store, rue de la Glacière (behind Palais de Justice). Delicious!

Cafeism, across from Sciences Po, very popular with students!

6. CINEMAS

La carte « Cinétoile » :

This 23-euro card entitles holders to reduced-price movie tickets. You can order it online or get one in person at the Cézanne cinema.

There are four cinemas in Aix, **Le Cézanne** (9 screens, films often dubbed in French), **Le Renoir** (3 screens, movies in original language with French subtitles), **Le Mazarin** (3 screens, movies with French subtitles) and **l'Institut de l'Image** at the Cité du Livre which shows classic films and holds festivals. See link below for more information:

Cinémas aixois

➤ International film festival in Aix



The **Festival Tous Courts**: short films (competition held in early December)

7. RELIGIOUS SERVICES

Aix : Catholic

- Cathédrale St-Sauveur
- Église du St Esprit
Student Mass every Sunday at 7 pm
- Église St Jean de Malte
- 34, Place des Martyrs de la Résistance
40, rue Espariat
- Place St Jean de Malte, near Granet

Aix : Protestant

- Église réformée de France (Presbytère)
- Église réformée évangélique
- Église protestante évangélique Le Chemin
Sunday, 10 am
- 4, rue Villars
15, rue de la Masse
Impasse Grassi

Aix : Other religious communities and groups

- Culte israélite (Jewish)
- Culte musulman
- Église Mormone
- GBU : Groupe Biblique Universitaire
Bible study group that meets on Tuesday, 8pm: 33 av. J. Ferry.
- Synagogue : 3, rue de Jérusalem
Mosques : 5, r des Gondraux / 3, r Emile Henriot
48, av. Schumann

8. LAUNDROMATS

Coin-operated: 60, rue Boulegon
 3, avenue Saint-Jérôme
 3, rue Lapierre (à côté du Rossini)

A load costs 4-5 euros. Dryers: 1 euro for approximately 10 minutes

9. BOOKSTORES, SHOPS & SHOPPING HOURS

The most popular are **Librairie de Provence** and **Librairie Goulard**, both located on the cours Mirabeau near the Monoprix

See *Le Petit Futé* for store hours and addresses of used bookstores in Aix.

In Aix, most small shops close between 12:30pm and 2 or 3pm.

Monoprix is a chain of supermarkets and also a department store (larger version).

Two locations in Aix: Cours Mirabeau and Allées Provençales

Hours: Monday-Saturday 8:30am to 9:00pm; Sunday 9 am to 1 pm.

Monop' (smaller version) is located behind the Palais de Justice (on Place des Prêcheurs).

Hours: Monday-Saturday 8:30am to midnight; Sunday 9 am to 1 pm

Supermarkets:

Casino (near WIA) and its “satellites”: Casino Géant and Le Petit Casino (rue d’Italie)

Dia located between the Allées Provençales and the Rossini residence hall

U located on the boulevard du Roy René, near rue d’Italie

On Sundays and holidays, there are a few small grocery stores open in the center in the afternoon: Petit Casino, Vival, Cocci Market, Proxi Market, etc.

Picard is a chain of high-quality frozen foods in France. Look for the blue snowflake!

10. MUSEUMS

The most frequented in Aix are the **Musée Granet** next to the St Jean de Malte church and nearby **Planque Collection**, also part of the Granet and in a renovated chapel.

The **Caumont Center** (former music conservatory) in the Mazarin district was renovated in 2015 and is in a beautiful mansion. There is also a lovely restaurant with outdoor dining.

The **Fondation Vasarely** – contemporary art museum just outside Aix, accessible by bus.

Go online for detailed information. Also available in *Le Petit Futé* guide to Aix.

11. POST OFFICE

Hours: Monday to Friday, 8:30am to 6pm and Saturday from 9am to 12pm.

- La Petite Poste, Place de la Mairie
- La Grande Poste, at the Rotonde
- La poste Gambetta, at the corner of boulevard Roy-René and cours Gambetta

If you need to send a package or letter overnight:

FedEx : 0820 123 800

UPS : 0821 233 877

12. PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

➤ Local transportation – Aix-en-Bus

There is no metro in Aix; the only form of public transportation is buses.

The program provides all students with a "Jeune Plus" pass valid all year or semester.

The ticket office to purchase 10-trip tickets for 8 euros is located in the Office de Tourisme.

Note: Most buses stop operating around 9 or 9:30 pm on weekdays and 6 pm on weekends, and some may not run at all on holidays.

Note: If there is a WIA group activity scheduled in the evening and the event goes beyond bus hours, students who live far from the center may be reimbursed for taxis. Students who live in the same general area can share a taxi. Don't forget to ask for a receipt (*un reçu*) !

➤ Travel outside of Aix

You can take inter-city buses, including the Aix-Marseille daily *navettes* and buses from the city center to the TGV train station at the **Gare Routière** (avenue de l'Europe).

There are also buses to Cassis, Arles and other coastal or mountain towns in the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur (PACA) region; this is a great way to explore the region! Smaller towns and villages are not always accessible by train.

Note: A city bus is called "*un bus*". The term for buses between cities is "*un car*".

LER : <http://www.info-ler.fr/fr/lignes-horaires/carte-et-fiches-horaires-n287>

Réseau de bus Cartreize : <http://www.lepilote.com/fr/part10/le-reseau/80>

Shuttles between Aix and Marseille

The L50 *navettes* to Marseille leave every 5 minutes on weekdays during peak hours from the *gare routière* from 6am to 11:50pm. Travel time: 30-50 minutes. Cost: 2€ for a round-trip ticket valid for 24 hours with your Aix-en-Bus pass. Otherwise, cost is around 6 euros.

For more information: www.navetteaixmarseille.com

Train - Gare SNCF Aix centre-ville

Gare Aix Centre

The old train station, with daily trains to Marseille and regional trains to towns north of Aix and in the Alps. It's not a good idea to take late-night trains to or from Marseille.

Gare TGV

This train station is located 18 km from the center of Aix. The L40 bus leaves every 15 minutes from the *gare routière*. Travel time: 20-30 minutes. It goes on to the airport. If you purchase a 6-trip (or more) ticket, it will cost you less than a single-ride ticket.

Navette Aix TGV Aéroport



Travel time from Aix to Paris (Gare de Lyon) is 3 hours on the TGV.

TGV tickets are by reservation only and seats are assigned. You must pre-book.

The program provides all students with a *Carte Jeune* which enables you to buy discounted train tickets. The discount can be anywhere from 25% to 50%. The sooner you book, the less expensive the ticket!

Travel between Paris & Aix-en-Provence

A. By plane Travel time : 1 hour, 15 minutes

The Marseille-Provence airport is 32 km from Aix, and accessible by taxi (app. 60 euros) or the L40 shuttle bus which leaves every 15-20 minutes between 5:30 am and 11:30. Cost of 1-way ticket: 8€20. If you buy a multi-trip ticket, the cost is lower.

Aéroport Marseille-Provence

www.marseille.aeroport.fr

www.mp2.aeroport.fr for low-cost airlines such as Easy Jet or Ryan Air

Taxis in Aix and Marseille

Aix : 04 42 27 71 11 or go to the Rotonde

Marseille : 04 91 02 20 20

Marseille also has a subway. You can purchase tickets in subway stations.

Warning! If you go to Marseille at night for a soccer game, concert or other event that ends late, you may want to book a hotel and spend the night, especially if you are alone. The area near Saint-Charles train station is not safe at night.

WELLESLEY-IN-AIX CODE OF CONDUCT

The program rules below are intended to ensure compliance with French laws and your personal safety (and that of other program participants) as well as a rewarding academic experience. They reflect the program mission and goals and your commitment to the latter. They complement the "Wellesley College Honor Code" (<http://www.wellesley.edu/GeneralJudiciary/procedures.html>)

All program participants will be expected to sign this document upon their arrival in France. Your signature indicates that you have read the G.A.P., understand the rules and expectation, and pledge to respect them. Repeated violations will result in a warning and your advisors in the U.S. may also be contacted. Students who put themselves and others at serious risk may be dismissed from the program.

I agree to

- 1) speak only in French with other WIA participants during group activities, at the WIA Center, in class, with homestay hosts and at all WIA events or gatherings where WIA is represented.
- 2) read and respond to all email requests from WIA staff (especially the Director), within 48 hours.
- 3) inform the WIA Director by email of my absences from Aix (weekends, holidays ...) and provide relevant details in the event of a problem or emergency (departure and return dates, destination or itinerary, type of accommodation, travel companions, contact info).
- 4) not duplicate or lend my keys (e.g., Tavan Center, housing) to individuals not connected to the WIA program.
- 5) not house anyone in my room or apartment without first obtaining permission from my French hosts, the WIA Director (in WIA-rented housing) and, if applicable, my roommate.
- 6) immediately report any problem related to my housing and accommodations in Aix (e.g., theft, property damage, malfunctioning equipment, etc.) to WIA staff.
- 7) go to the mandatory medical appointment scheduled by the French Immigration Office (OFII) to obtain my residence permit (if applicable), in keeping with French visa regulations.
- 8) abide by the rules at the Tavan Center pertaining to the use of common areas and equipment, language of communication and respect for others' rights, including WIA staff.
- 9) take my studies seriously, attend all classes and do all required work, and meet with the WIA Director monthly to discuss my academic progress and courses and provide the necessary information to ensure transfer credit.
- 10) do my utmost be an excellent ambassador of the WIA program and "good citizen", i.e., showing respect toward others (French hosts, WIA staff and students, etc.) and understanding that my actions may impact other WIA participants and the WIA program in general.

Date:

Name:

Signature

OPPORTUNITIES FOR WELLESLEY COLLEGE STUDENTS

Award / Opportunity	Description & Criteria	Deadline in 2016-17
Dorothy Dennis Prize French Department	450 USD awarded for a special project in France during spring semester. Priority given to full-year WIA students and French majors. Others may apply. Email must be sent to the WIA Campus Director at Wellesley.	December 1
Maison Française *Room request 2017-18 * Resident Advisor position	Send application to Madame Tranvouez in the French Department, head of the French House. See French Dept web page.	February 15
“Senior thesis” in French	Contact a French faculty member via email regarding a topic and proposal.	March 1
Michèle Respaut French House Fellowship	Funds available to do a summer internship in France or a French-speaking country. Contact Prof. Scott Gunther, WIA Campus Director, about mandatory internship agreement. See GAP for info on internships in France.	April 15
Michel Grimaud, Germaine Lafeuille & Carlo François Prizes	Essay-writing or translation contests in the French Department http://www.wellesley.edu/french/honors	April 8
Nathalie Buchet Prize	Awarded to a junior and French major who intends to write a senior thesis in French. http://www.wellesley.edu/french/honors	April 29

Note: At WIA pre-departure meetings held at Wellesley College, students will receive information on Study Abroad Fund awards offered by the Wellesley Club of France for extracurricular activities in Aix. Awards are announced at the WCF reception in Paris.

USEFUL CONTACT INFORMATION

WELLESLEY COLLEGE, MASSACHUSETTS

WELLESLEY-IN-AIX

Wellesley College
106 Central St.
Wellesley, MA 02481
Tel: (781) 283-2733
Fax: (781) 283-3618

FRENCH DEPARTMENT

Wellesley College
106 Central St.
Wellesley, MA 02481
Tel: (781) 283-2403
Fax: (781) 283-3578

Director, Office of International Study:
Schneider Hall

Jennifer Thomas-Starck
jthomass@wellesley.edu

Program Assistant -OIS: Kristiana Graves

kgraves@wellesley.edu

Campus Director WIA – French Dept :

Professor Hélène Bilis
[hbilos@wellesley.edu](mailto:hbilis@wellesley.edu)

Admin. Assistant – French Dept:

Sarah Allahverdi
sallahve@wellesley.edu

AIX-EN-PROVENCE

Centre Wellesley-in-Aix
16, rue Emile Tavan
13100 Aix-en-Provence
Tel: 04.42.26.35.52

From US: 011- 33- 4 - 4226 - 3552

Resident Director - Aix:

Dr. Monique Fecteau
mfeceteau@wellesley.edu

Office: 04 42 38 16 04
Mobile: 06 25 43 59 62

From US: 011-33 - 4- 4238 -1604
From US: 011-33 - 6- 2543 – 5962

Aix-Marseille Université
29, avenue Robert Schuman
13090 Aix-en-Provence
WIA contact : Olivier PEREZ

Institut d'Etudes Politiques
25, rue Gaston de Saporta
13090 Aix-en-Provence
WIA contact: David Coates