WELLESLEY-in-AIX
Student Guide

FALL 2021
TABLE OF CONTENT

MESSAGE FROM THE RESIDENT DIRECTOR..............................................................................................................3
MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR EXPERIENCE FROM THE START .............................................................................4
I. PRE-DEPARTURE INFO & ARRIVAL ......................................................................................................................5
   1. PASSPORT, VISA & OTHER DOCUMENTS ......................................................................................................5
   2. INSURANCE .....................................................................................................................................................5
   3. TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS ..............................................................................................................................6
   4. WHAT TO PACK: SOME TIPS .........................................................................................................................6
   5. ORIENTATION ...............................................................................................................................................8
   6. SAFETY & SECURITY – GENERAL ADVICE .................................................................................................10
II. PRACTICAL INFORMATION – FRANCE ...............................................................................................................11
   1. CALENDARS & HOLIDAYS ............................................................................................................................11
   2. TELLING TIME .............................................................................................................................................11
   3. HEALTH MATTERS: GENERAL INFORMATION .........................................................................................12
   4. PERSONAL SAFETY & WELL-BEING ............................................................................................................13
   5. DRUGS, ALCOHOL & FRENCH LAWS ........................................................................................................14
   6. ELECTRICAL OUTLETS & MISCELLANEOUS ..........................................................................................15
   7. MEDIA & NEWSPAPERS .............................................................................................................................15
   8. TIPPING (le pourboire) ...............................................................................................................................15
   9. WORK & INTERNSHIPS ...............................................................................................................................16
  10. RECOMMENDED READING ........................................................................................................................17
  11. MOST FREQUENTLY-ASKED QUESTIONS ... AND RESPONSES! .............................................................18
  12. LE « SAVOIR-VIVRE » IN FRANCE ...............................................................................................................20
  13. ON THE ROLE OF FOOD & MEALS IN FRANCE ......................................................................................21
  14. POLITENESS, VERBAL & NON-VERBAL COMMUNICATION ....................................................................22
  15. HOUSING IN AIX .........................................................................................................................................23
III. ACADEMICS: GENERAL INFORMATION ........................................................................................................26
   1. ACADEMIC CALENDARS: FALL 2021 .........................................................................................................26
   2. HIGHER EDUCATION & CULTURAL DIFFERENCES ..................................................................................27
   ACADEMIC POLICIES & GUIDELINES ...........................................................................................................29
   VOCABULARY OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN FRANCE ...................................................................................30
   3. AIX-MARSEILLE UNIVERSITÉ (AMU) .........................................................................................................31
   4. FRENCH GRADING SYSTEM & CONVERSION SCALE ..............................................................................34
   5. SCIENCES PO-AIX .........................................................................................................................................34
   6. WIA COURSES .............................................................................................................................................36
   7. OTHER ACADEMIC INFORMATION ............................................................................................................39
   8. ENSURING YOUR ACADEMIC SUCCESS IN AIX ....................................................................................39
   9. EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES & STUDENT LIFE IN AIX ...................................................................43
  10. LIBRARIES ...................................................................................................................................................43
IV. AIX-EN-PROVENCE ...................................................................................................................... 45
1. WELLESLEY-IN-AIX CENTER: TAVAN ..................................................................................... 45
2. THE CITY .................................................................................................................................. 46
3. SAFETY & SECURITY .................................................................................................................. 46
4. HEALTH & MEDICAL MATTERS .............................................................................................. 47
5. GROUP ACTIVITIES & TRIPS ORGANIZED BY WIA ............................................................... 50
V. PRACTICAL INFORMATION - AIX ............................................................................................ 52
1. MONEY & FINANCES ................................................................................................................ 52
2. VOLUNTEER & COMMUNITY SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES .................................................. 55
3. LEISURE ACTIVITIES, CLUBS, ETC. ....................................................................................... 55
4. MARKETS / CAFES / RESTAURANTS ...................................................................................... 59
5. RELIGIOUS SERVICES & GROUPS .......................................................................................... 60
6. SHOPS & SHOPPING HOURS, BOOKSTORES ........................................................................ 60
7. POST OFFICE .......................................................................................................................... 61
8. PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION .................................................................................................... 61
9. TRAVELING OUTSIDE AIX ........................................................................................................ 63
WELLESLEY-IN-AIX CODE OF CONDUCT ................................................................................... 64
USEFUL CONTACT INFORMATION ............................................................................................... 65
MESSAGE FROM THE RESIDENT DIRECTOR

This guide is a “special edition” that reflects program changes and updated policies resulting in part from the Covid-19 pandemic which continues to wreak havoc in many countries and generate debate with respect to health protocols, mandatory vaccines, travel restrictions, etc.

At this writing, France has reopened after a series of lockdowns since March 2020, but public health measures are still in place, e.g., masks in indoor spaces, proof of Covid tests for unvaccinated travelers, recommended social distancing, a pass sanitaire for restaurants, cultural venues and gatherings of more than 50 people.

In addition to the Covid Fact Sheets and July 14 updates you received via email - and that we trust you shared with your parents or guardians - we urge you to stay informed of Covid-19 developments in France and Europe by consulting U.S. Embassy, Global Rescue and WHO web sites, especially just before you leave the U.S.

**Remember that Covid 19 data, health policies and restrictions differ across countries and can change quickly and suddenly. Do not assume the situation is the same in all European Union countries or comparable to the U.S. Double-check all entry requirements and make sure you have the necessary documents.**

Staying informed is an individual responsibility, as is personal health and safety, but our actions and behavior have consequences for others. Thus, we ask you to consider the collective well-being of everyone involved in the WIA program: administrative staff, instructors, homestay hosts, classmates, etc. This is emphasized in the Health & Safety Pledge which you must sign and send to the WIA director prior to arriving in France. Respect, empathy, and solidarity will be our motto as we navigate fall semester together.

Another key reminder: WIA is an immersion program, as reflected in the objectives emphasized in your application essays: developing a deeper understanding of France, experiencing the culture and daily life firsthand, studying alongside French peers, improving your language skills by living with French hosts and communicating as much as possible in French. Achieving these goals implies a personal commitment to engage locally and discover France. There is no shortage of beautiful places in Provence and within train distance from Aix, and WIA staff and homestay hosts will be delighted to recommend accessible weekend destinations in France.

Keep in mind that a 4-month semester passes very quickly and that language acquisition is a process that requires time, effort and daily practice. This is also a unique opportunity to be more than a tourist, to gain insights and intercultural skills rarely available to short-term travelers.

The WIA staff is committed to helping you achieve your personal goals while being attentive to the well-being and satisfaction of all those who contribute to the program’s success as well as your individual experience. In short, we are all in this together.

**Bienvenue dans l’équipe!**
MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR EXPERIENCE FROM THE START

A few general tips and advice from WIA alumni and staff based on their experience:

- **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 key!

- **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.

- **Try to monitor your time on Facebook or Skype with U.S. friends.** You are going abroad to have new experiences and encounters. This entails a willingness to « disconnect» and to interact with locals face-to-face in their spaces.

- **Try to overcome your shyness.** Asking questions is often a great way to get the conversational ball rolling and shows that you are curious and open. Invite a classmate for coffee or to a movie. Take the first step! And if someone invites you, say yes!

- **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 and read for pleasure. Watch the « 20 heures » news with your French hosts. Go to a French movie or event once a week. Listen to the radio. Remember, language acquisition is a daily process.

- **Speak French with other WIA participants, especially in public.** Speaking English will mark you as a tourist and may discourage people from approaching you or addressing you in French. *Jouez le jeu!*

- **Adopt a student lifestyle!** From movie and museum discounts to lunch in student cafeterias, try to live like a local student and avoid creating a “U.S. bubble” by hanging out exclusively with WIA friends or at the Tavan center. Ask young host family members and French students in your classes about their favorite cafés or pubs, student hangouts and activities in Aix.
I. PRE-DEPARTURE INFO & ARRIVAL

1. PASSPORT, VISA & OTHER DOCUMENTS

Your passport must be valid for the duration of your stay, so be sure to check the expiration date and renew it asap if necessary. All non-European citizens 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 should be addressed to Kristiana Graves Floss at OIS: 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.

Campus France and visa fees will be reimbursed to your U.S. bank accounts by Wellesley College. You should contact Kristiana if you have questions regarding stipends in US dollars.

1. If you received a simple VLS (visa de long séjour) for a stay of 4-5 months: You will not be allowed to work in France. Only the VLS with TS (titre de séjour) gives non-European students the right to work. You can still babysit or give English lessons, though.

2. If you received a VLS-TS (titre de séjour) at your consular appointment: You must validate this visa once in France. This is done online. WIA staff will assist you and WIA will pay the 50-euro fee. This type of visa allows you to work part-time.

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

You can order this card online and start using it 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 after two weeks or so, even if you take classes only at Sciences Po; it is the same card for both institutions.

2. INSURANCE

All WIA participants benefit from SOS International coverage for emergencies and medical evacuation, for example. ISOS coverage is affiliated with Cigna Global/Lloyd’s International.

Wellesley’s & your SOS membership number: 398241914650
Web site: www.internationalsos.com

As for your regular health plan (e.g. parental insurance), you should review the policy and verify whether it covers the following and also be aware of reimbursement amounts.

- Medication, accidents and emergencies during personal travel.
- Mental health counseling services. (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 may be asked to produce original receipts in order to be reimbursed by your insurance company. The WIA program does not handle insurance claims.
3. TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

From the U.S to France

Wellesley’s Office of International Study will make the necessary travel arrangements for you. The following costs are included in the comprehensive program fee:

- A round-trip ticket to and from France from your city of departure.
- Transportation from the airport to your accommodations upon arrival.
- Transportation to the train station or airport on your departure day from Aix.

Note: Departure dates may vary. The program officially ends two days after the last possible date of final exams in Aix. Be sure to check all academic calendars.

Advice: Inquire about the change fee if you are uncertain of your departure date from France or want the freedom to extend your stay after the program ends. This is a personal expense.

Luggage limits: In general, one checked suitcase weighing 23 kilos (50 lbs) and 2 carry-ons (e.g., purse or backpack and a computer) are allowed. Double check size and weight limits for specific airlines. A second checked suitcase can be quite costly depending on the airline.

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

4. WHAT TO PACK: SOME TIPS

Weather & clothing

Don’t overpack! The weather can be hot in Provence in August and September and even into October, so you will need summer clothes initially. November and December are more damp than cold, and snow is quite rare. When le mistral (northern wind) blows, it can get chilly, so bring a couple of sweaters and clothing that you can layer.

Good walking shoes are a must! A rain jacket or light raincoat will also come in handy.

Bring a swimsuit and outdoor clothing, especially sneakers with good treads for hikes to the Sainte Victoire mountain and elsewhere in Provence.

French students tend to dress quite casually: jeans, t-shirts, etc. They generally do not go to class wearing shorts, gym clothes, or anything resembling beachwear or pajamas, however. Especially in the south, women often wear dresses and skirts and tend to be a bit more fashion-conscious than students on a typical U.S. campus.

In France, you’ll find stores such as Monoprix, Zara, H&M, or C&A where you can buy reasonably-priced clothing. Chain stores like Go Sport or Decathlon specialize in athletic wear 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.
Essential items to bring:

✔ **One good photocopy of your passport (photo page) and your student visa**, as well as vaccination certificates and all Covid-related documents (e.g., negative test result).

✔ 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, ideally 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 for withdrawals abroad.

✔ 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 also makes for conversation topics in the early days.

✔ Contact lens solution or any other health or beauty product that you use on a regular basis. You’ll find these products in France, but brands may not be identical.

✔ **If you come with an iPhone or other U.S. smartphone, it must be “unlocked” in order for you to insert a French SIM card for use in France and Europe.**

✔ An open mind, a sense of humor and a positive attitude!
5. ORIENTATION

The pre-session will take place entirely in Aix in 2021-22 and include an oral/conversational French class every morning at IS-Aix, a French as a Second Language institute; tutorials and information sessions with WIA staff; some social events, walking tours and a day trip. We will keep you busy – in French!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pré-session à Aix : 22 août au 6 septembre (sujet à modification)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Samedi 21 août</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Arrivée à l’aéroport Marseille-Provence où Marie Demars (assistante WIA) ou Monique vous accueillera et organisera des taxis pour le transport à Aix.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Installation à la résidence-hôtel Mirabeau Séjours et Affaires en plein centre d’Aix. On vous remettra un dossier de bienvenue et un « kit Covid »..</strong></td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Dimanche 22 août</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>matin</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Supermarchés ouverts de 9h à 13h pour faire vos courses.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>12h – 15h</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Déjeuner de groupe en ville et balade autour du cours Mirabeau</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>17h</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Réunion de groupe à Tavan. Présentation : Intro à Aix</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Lundi 23 août</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>10h – 12h</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Visite pratique d’Aix avec Marie Demars.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>12h30</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>RV statue du Roy René</td>
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<tr>
<td>Départ à pied avec Marie pour se rendre à IS, centre de FLE</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>13h – 13h45</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Session d’infos avec Anna Diaz, directrice d’IS</td>
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<td><strong>14h – 15h30</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Groupe 1 TCF et Groupe 2 cours</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>16h – 17h30</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Groupe 2 TCF et Groupe 1 cours</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Mardi 24 août</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>9h – 12h30</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>IS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cours d’expression orale (une pause est prévue de 10h30 à 11h)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>14h – 15h30</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Cours groupe B1 à IS / Cours groupe B2 à Tavan</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Mercredi 25 août</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>9h – 12h30</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>IS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cours d’expression orale (une pause est prévue de 10h30 à 11h)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>14h – 15h30</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cours groupe B1 à IS / Cours groupe B2 à Tavan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>16h00</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Test PCR administré par une infirmière à Tavan</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>17h00</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Session à Tavan : Vivre avec des hôtes français</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Jeudi 26 août</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>9h – 12h30</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>IS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cours d’expression orale (une pause est prévue de 10h30 à 11h)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>14h – 15h30</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cours groupe B1 à IS / Cours groupe B2 à Tavan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>18h30</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Apéritif sur le patio à Tavan avec hôtes d’accueil et équipe WIA</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Vendredi 27 août</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>11h</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RV Mirabeau</td>
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<tr>
<td>Départ pour visite du campus Schuman (AMU) avec Marie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>12h30 - Tavan</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Déjeuner de groupe. Chacune apporte son pique-nique !</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>14h - Tavan</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Présentation sur Cézanne par Lucile STELLAKIS, historienne de l’art et guide-conférencière, suivie d’une visite privée de l’atelier de Cézanne</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Samedi 28 août</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Après-midi</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Départ du Mirabeau et installation chez hôtes d’accueil. Il faut libérer vos chambres à 12h mais vous pourrez laisser vos bagages.</td>
</tr>
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8
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Jour de la semaine</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Activités</th>
<th>ACCOMMODATIONS &amp; MEALS DURING FIRST WEEK</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dimanche 29 août</td>
<td></td>
<td>Journée libre pour faire connaissance avec vos hôtes d’accueil</td>
<td>During the first week, you will be housed in individual rooms at the Mirabeau-Séjours et Affaires residence-hotel located close to the Rotonde, the hub of Aix. All rooms have a double bed, a small kitchenette with a fridge and micro-wave and an en-suite bathroom. You will receive a food allowance for the week and, outside of a couple of group meals organized by WIA, you will be responsible for your own meals. There are a couple of supermarkets in the neighborhood, and staff will suggest reasonably-priced restaurants, cafés and take-out places. Marie Demars, the WIA assistant, will do a practical walking tour of Aix to show you key places. If you are unable or do not wish to walk, you may purchase a 10-ride bus ticket at the Office du Tourisme until you receive your bus pass for the semester or year, provided by the program. You will be within 15- to 20-minute walking distance of most places you need to go during the first week, and you will find that it is often faster to walk than wait for buses in Aix!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lundi 30 août</td>
<td>9h – 12h30 IS</td>
<td>Cours d’expression orale (une pause est prévue de 10h30 à 11h)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mardi 31 août</td>
<td>9h – 12h30 IS</td>
<td>Cours d’expression orale (une pause est prévue de 10h30 à 11h)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mercredi 1er sept</td>
<td>9h – 12h30 IS</td>
<td>Cours d’expression orale (une pause est prévue de 10h30 à 11h)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Jeudi 2 sept</td>
<td>9h – 12h30 IS</td>
<td>Cours d’expression orale (une pause est prévue de 10h30 à 11h)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vendredi 3 sept</td>
<td></td>
<td>Journée à Cassis et découverte des calanques en bateau ! Un programme détaillé sera distribué.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Samedi-dim 4-5 sept</td>
<td></td>
<td>Salon des Sports au complexe Val de l’Arc. Dimanche à 17h30 – Pizza party chez une amie provençale de WIA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lundi 6 sept</td>
<td></td>
<td>Début des cours WIA et à Sciences Po</td>
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</table>
6. SAFETY & SECURITY – GENERAL ADVICE

We strongly advise you to enroll in the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) on the U.S. State Department web site. [https://step.state.gov](https://step.state.gov). This will enable you to receive alerts and travel advisories directly.

Another excellent resource is Country Information sheets on the USDOS web site [https://travel.state.gov](https://travel.state.gov) which also includes specific advice for students and women travelers.

Basic safety precautions during your time in France:

❖ In all hotels, always close and lock your door. Place any valuable items (e.g., jewelry, passport) in the small safe usually located in the closet.

❖ Be careful when using an ATM (DAB ou distributeur automatique de billets) to withdraw cash. 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 in public spaces. In Paris or Marseille in particular, you may be approached by groups of adolescents (usually female) asking you to sign a petition of some sort. This is a scam. Make it clear you’re not interested. Pickpockets easily recognize and prey on tourists.

❖ If you have a backpack, always carry it in front of you on public transportation. Or 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 a cell phone on a café table where they can be easily snatched.

❖ When checking a phone GPS or a map, for example, step away from the middle of the sidewalk in order to be less conspicuous. If you look as if you know where you’re going, you’ll be less of a target.

❖ Note to women: Observe local women, their behaviors, facial expressions and body language especially in public. Seemingly innocent acts like saying hello or nodding, smiling, making eye contact with someone you don’t know may be interpreted as an invitation or result in unwanted attention. In that case, it’s often best to walk away.

The issue of women’s safety and le harcèlement de rue has received a great deal of attention in recent years, following reports and surveys indicating that over 90% of French women and girls, especially in major cities, reported some form of harassment (verbal and non-verbal) in public spaces, notably transportation. Videos are available on You Tube demonstrating strategies for extricating oneself from these situations or coming to someone’s assistance without exacerbating the situation. This will also be addressed in a session on health and safety.
II. 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 or studying for exams.

Public holidays in France are often linked to a historical event or key 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).

French public holidays include the following:

- November 1  All Saints Day (la Toussaint)
- November 11 World War I Armistice
- December 25  Noël
- January 1   le Nouvel an
- April     Easter Monday (lundi de Pâques)
- May 1     Fête du Travail (Labor Day)
- May 8     World War II Armistice (Fête de la Victoire)

Restaurants and small shops or grocery stores may be open on these days, but businesses, schools and public buildings are closed.

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.

- 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)
- 5:30 pm = dix-sept heures trente
- 9 p.m. = vingt-et-une heures

Watch your pronunciation and listen carefully, especially when making appointments!

- 16h (seize) vs. 6h (six) heures
- 10h (dix) vs. 2h (deux) heures
3. HEALTH MATTERS: GENERAL INFORMATION

**IMPORTANT:** Wellesley College and Wellesley-in-Aix do **not** offer free health services or facilities abroad and cannot assure medical care or counseling. As legal adults, students are responsible for their health and well-being while abroad. Only a parent or legal guardian can make a decision in the event of a medical emergency. On-site WIA staff cannot give medical advice, make health-related decisions or handle insurance claims. Students should call International SOS first for medical assistance.

The health care system in France is excellent and much more affordable than in the U.S. A visit to a general practitioner costs around 25 euros. Specialists may charge 50 to 60 euros. It is also possible to call **SOS Médecins** at all hours if you are unable to get yourself to a doctor or hospital; a 2-person team of practitioners will make an emergency house call.

**Doctolib** is a platform to make online appointments: www.doctolib.fr.

The confidential medical forms you submitted to Wellesley are uploaded on the OIS portal in case you need them. Staff can assist students in making appointments and act as translators, if necessary, but only with permission of the student and physician.

Information on hospitals and medical centers is provided in the Aix section.

**Reminder:** It is your responsibility to know what is and isn’t covered by SOS International and your (or your parents’) health insurance plans. Any questions regarding benefits and reimbursements should be addressed to Cigna Global at 1-800-437-6448.

Advice: If you have any chronic illnesses or conditions (e.g., allergies) that require prescription medication or regular shots, you should bring a medical file with you. If you are taking prescription medication, bring enough to last for your entire stay if possible.

**Note:** French pharmacies will **not** fill a U.S. prescription. If you run out of medication, you will need to see a physician in France and obtain a new prescription. A doctor’s note from the U.S. specifying the kind of medication you are taking will be useful in this case.

Keep in mind that brands of medication differ from country to country, and you may not find the exact same medication in France. For example, Ritalin is available in France but not Adderall. Similarly, contraceptive brands may differ, hence the advice to bring enough for the semester or year.

Advice: Do online research or ask your physician about availability of certain medications in Europe, especially if you plan to travel to different countries.

See [https://www.cdc.gov/travel/](https://www.cdc.gov/travel/). Enter France and click on Extended Stay/Study Abroad.

**Note:** Medication should never be mailed and may be confiscated by customs officials. It’s best to have a visitor from the U.S. bring additional medication.
If you see a French doctor, he/she will automatically give you a form (une feuille de soins) that you may need to submit directly to your insurance company or Cigna for reimbursement.

A word on French medical coverage or “la sécu”:

The term sécurité sociale in French refers to medical insurance, not retirement pensions! The first question one is asked in a doctor’s office or medical center is ”Avez-vous la sécu?”

All French citizens and permanent residents are covered and have a carte vitale which they must present at the time of consultation. You will not have one but nevertheless benefit from reasonable French medical fees if you are asked to pay up front.

Useful vocabulary:

- 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
- consultation sur rendez-vous — by appointment
- un certificate medical — a doctor’s note to participate in a sport

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, incidents of violent or handgun-related crime are less frequent than in many places in the U.S. The main risks, especially in large cities, are petty theft and pickpocketing.

The national French anti-terrorist plan known as Vigipirate was already in effect before the terrorist attacks in 2015 and 2016; it was reinforced and security was tightened afterwards. Expect your bags to be systematically checked in museums and also to see military-looking patrols in public sites, such as airports, train stations or even major tourist areas.

While in France, stay informed of world events and consult the U.S. State Department’s travel and worldwide alerts at https://travel.state.gov WIA staff also send updates.

Note: Wellesley College and WIA strongly discourage students from renting motorized vehicles or driving in France, especially in the south. Car theft is particularly rampant in southern France, and students have sometimes been victims of scams. Individual cultural allowances cannot be used for activities deemed high-risk (e.g., extreme sports).

Per the Covid-related Health and Safety pledge that all students must sign and submit prior to arrival in France, you must inform the WIA Director via e-mail if you leave Aix and provide key details (e.g., dates, destinations, accommodations). If anything occurs in France or elsewhere, you should contact the Director immediately to let her know you’re okay.
As the two largest cities in France, Paris and Marseille combine the positive and negative traits of many world cities: sketchy neighborhoods, pickpockets, assorted trafficking, tourist scams, etc. The main precaution is to always remain vigilant and aware of one’s surroundings and to avoid taking unnecessary risks.

**Common-sense precautions to take no matter where you are in France and Europe:**

- ✓ 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, can be 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 if you are at a café or in a tourist area. Be aware of your belongings when taking photos.
- ✓ 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 or be mistaken for a tourist and spoken to in English, speak French even with other U.S. nationals!

**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](http://www.sida-info-service.org)

Sexually-transmitted diseases are called *MST* (*maladie sexuellement transmissible*) in French.

You may be surprised to see vending machines selling condoms in public places, including restrooms, bars and restaurants, metro stations, cinemas, etc. In France, this is viewed as a *public health service*; it is not intended to encourage certain behaviors but rather seen as a preventive measure.

Although it may be tempting to seek new experiences while abroad, it’s important not to put yourself in risky situations. As a rule, if you wouldn’t do something in the U.S., it’s probably not a good idea to do it abroad either.

**5. DRUGS, ALCOHOL & FRENCH LAWS**

As legal adults in France (age 18 or above), you are responsible for your actions and must respect local laws. WIA staff can assist you in medical emergencies but cannot make decisions, obtain or give confidential information, or take any kind of legal action on your behalf.

Wellesley College’s honor code also emphasizes students’ responsibility and concern for fellow students’ well-being. Moderation and personal safety go hand-in-hand, especially when...
traveling abroad. *It is crucial to exercise common sense and good judgment at all times.*

You are free to purchase and consume alcoholic beverages in Europe and you 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. You are subject to French laws, and neither the U.S. Consulate nor Wellesley College or WIA can provide legal counsel. *Any deliberate violation of French laws or drug-related incidents will result in expulsion from the WIA program.*

Finally, 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 reporting it to local authorities and filing a complaint if necessary. In keeping with the U.S. Clery Act, all such incidents must also be reported to Wellesley College, but they are recorded anonymously, and confidentiality is respected.

6. ELECTRICAL OUTLETS & MISCELLANEOUS

**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., laptop, camera). You can buy one at the airport.

All homes and businesses in France must be equipped with smoke detectors. Whether you opt for a homestay or a single room at the Rossini residence hall there should be one in or very near your room. If there isn’t, you should notify WIA staff immediately.

Smoking is prohibited inside restaurants and in public buildings and spaces, and restaurant patrons can only smoke outdoors. You will find that smoking is less “stigmatized” in France than in the U.S., however, and many young people smoke. If you’re allergic to smoke, you should not hesitate to say so.

7. MEDIA & NEWSPAPERS

We urge all students to adopt the 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, such as *Le Monde*. It’s important to have a French perspective on events.

Ask your homestay hosts which magazines and newspapers they read … and why!

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 attentive or friendly.
9. WORK & INTERNSHIPS

As in the U.S., internships are highly competitive in France and sometimes mandatory for French students enrolled in 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 with résumés, cover letters, and interviewing tips.

There are regulations 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 specifies the link with academic goals 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*). The WIA tutor 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.jobaviz.fr/
  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 with a long-stay visa or dual nationals who hold an EU passport are allowed to work in France part-time (18 hours per week) without a work permit. Employers must declare student workers and produce a contract. A business that offers to hire and pay you in cash is engaging in illegal behavior and taking a major risk. So are you.

Any student may earn extra money by babysitting, picking up French children after school, or giving private English lessons. Rates vary from 10 to 15 euros per hour. In Aix, **Book-in-Bar**, the local English bookstore, has a bulletin board where people post ads. Check it out!
10. RECOMMENDED READING

This guide can’t possibly cover every topic or address every question you may have. You will find many resources on France, including student blogs, YouTube videos, etc. *A vos claviers!*

A great resource to help prepare for the experience of living abroad is *What’s Up With Culture?*, an online cultural training program developed by Dr. Bruce LaBrack and colleagues at the University of Pacific. [http://www.2.pacific.edu/sis/culture](http://www.2.pacific.edu/sis/culture)

Check out the many blogs, videos and podcasts related to French language learning, life in France as seen by expats, such as Oliver Gee, an Australian living in Paris whose online podcast *The Earful Tower* is entertaining and often loaded with useful tips.

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

If you only have time to read one book on France, we highly recommend Barlow & Nadeau’s *The Bonjour Effect: The Secret Codes of French Conversation Revealed* (2016) by Canadian authors Julie Barlow & Jean-Benoît Nadeau

Other authors & titles:

- Adam Gopnick. (2001) *Paris to the Moon*

A couple of recent books on contemporary France that have received a lot of media attention:

11. MOST FREQUENTLY-ASKED QUESTIONS … AND RESPONSES!

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

Read! Start by reading this guide carefully and then work on your French as much as possible! Try to read, watch or listen to something in French at least a few times a week via Internet, e.g., front page of Le Monde or TV5, so that you’ll be informed of current events in France and have things to talk about with your French hosts and people you meet. The more you practice your French before arriving, the easier it will be to adapt and converse.

How much money should I bring?

Have about 100 euros in cash upon arrival for expenses in the first couple of days. You can use an ATM thereafter to withdraw money. Check with your U.S. bank about ATM fees.

During the semester, Wellesley College will deposit in your U.S. bank account a monthly stipend, mainly for lunches. A Wifi connection and laundry are included in the homestay. Students living at the Rossini receive more funds to pay for all food and also laundry expenses. The program provides _all_ students with a local bus pass for the semester/year. (See Finances).

Your main expenses will be books and school supplies, cell phone, personal travel and entertainment. Note: No reimbursements are given if you miss meals in a homestay on account of travel or choose to stay elsewhere with visitors. _All personal travel is at your own expense._

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

See the Housing section. A session will be devoted to this in Aix. 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 on everyone’s part. Be patient! And be yourself!

All WIA hosts are carefully selected and genuinely interested in _exchange and communication_. This is not a mere “business arrangement” and you are not a customer. The key to a positive experience is willingness to interact and engage with host family members, respect their homes and show a genuine interest in their lives and in France. It’s a 2-way street!

During the first week, you will receive a “checklist” of practical topics, e.g., meal times, keys, laundry, etc, to go over with your hosts in the first few days. Hosts also receive it, and the aim is to facilitate the conversation about “house rules” or daily routines and make sure everything is clear. Don’t be afraid to say you don’t understand something; no one expects you to know the word for every household appliance or kitchen utensil!

As a general rule, don’t expect to be treated like an “adopted child”, at least not right away. If you offer to help by setting the table or doing chores, and if you enjoy cooking or baking and offer to prepare a special dish, you are more likely to feel at home. _Ne soyez pas timide!_

All hosts have had prior experience with WIA or international students and understand students’ desire to go out, spend time with friends, travel, etc. As the semester progresses and you become more independent, try to find a balance between spending quality time with your hosts and your other social activities. _Communication is key!_
Is it possible to change housing?

Yes, but it won’t happen immediately, and no changes will occur in the first two weeks. Student housing is competitive in Aix; residence halls fill quickly, and WIA does not have an unlimited supply of homestays or rooms at the Rossini. All contracts are signed well in advance, and any changes entail a process and take time. You must speak to the Resident Director about possible options. Changes are made only if something cannot be resolved after trying to work it out.

We cannot overstate that it takes time to adapt and feel comfortable in a new environment, especially in another language. Miscommunication with host nationals is perfectly normal and often linked to language or cultural differences that you may need help analyzing and interpreting accurately. Look at it as a learning opportunity!

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 WIA Director’s knowledge or approval. No reimbursements will be given.

What kind of assistance is available in Aix?

All kinds – that’s why Wellesley has on-site staff! The Director oversees all staff and program operations and activities, acts as liaison with Wellesley’s partner institutions in Aix and is the on-site academic advisor. The Program Assistant also provides assistance and practical advice, especially in the area of student life and extra-curricular activities.

WIA also collaborates with an experienced tutor who studied at AMU and spent a year at Wellesley so is familiar with both higher education systems. She works with individual students on a by-appointment basis and can also offer small-group sessions by request with students enrolled in the same non-WIA courses.

Another valuable resource person is a U.S.-trained bilingual therapist who has worked with numerous U.S. students in Aix; her contact information is provided in the section on health matters in Aix. She meets the group during the first few weeks and does a session in English on cultural adaptation and cross-cultural differences.

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.

What’s the best way to meet people and make French friends?

Join a club or group of some kind: sports, music, volunteering, etc. Check out student groups and clubs at AMU and Sciences Po. Make this effort within your first month in Aix.

This guide contains tips and recommendations from previous WIA students. Highlight the ones that appeal to you and that you’d like to check out. It’s important to have a strategy!

A final word: The more you travel on weekends, the harder it will be to make French friends. French students don’t go away every weekend or travel outside of vacation periods; they tend to socialize with their friends or spend time with family on weekends. When in France…
12. LE « SAVOIR-VIVRE » IN FRANCE

This term is difficult to translate in English and combines notions of courtesy and politeness, cultural practices, and implicit “codes” familiar to the French, as well as a certain “art of living” of which the French are proud. Certain aspects are also part of child-rearing practices in France.

You will no doubt notice that the French are quite proud of their history, traditions, culture and patrimoine or cultural heritage. Conversation is also considered an “art” in France and remains an essential part of daily life despite the proliferation of social media. Awareness of behaviors that characterize le savoir-vivre or une bonne éducation will be discussed in Aix.

A few examples and some tips:

● When invited to dinner in someone else’s home (other than a homestay), it’s customary to bring a gift such as flowers or nice chocolates. This gesture will be 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” taught to French children, and it can make a huge 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 plait.

● 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, making suggestions, allowing a customer to taste something, etc. Remember, patience is a virtue! Moreover, you may come to appreciate such exchanges when you are on the receiving end.

● When encountering a situation or behavior that you don’t understand, try to keep a sense of humor and avoid being defensive, judgmental or critical. It’s normal to feel unsettled by attitudes or reactions that seem « bizarre ». Ask someone who knows French culture well to help you interpret or understand an incident that may have baffled or upset you.

● Male-female relations differ around the world, and gender identity is not discussed as much as in the U.S. Many North American women describe French and southern European men as “sexist” or “macho” and are surprised when approached or spoken to in public spaces (e.g., Vous êtes très jolie, Mademoiselle.). Women of color sometimes report receiving even more attention, especially in smaller, less diverse cities.

In most cases, the best tactic is to avoid eye contact, ignore comments and walk away. Responding (especially in English) may only encourage the behavior. If it persists, a very firm Ça suffit! or Laissez-moi tranquille! often does the trick.

● Political correctness is often viewed as an “American phenomenon” in France. Attitudes toward diversity and difference may be expressed more openly and explicitly in France. You may hear comments about groups or individuals that might be deemed insensitive or even inappropriate in the U.S. or even cause some discomfort. How to react?
The French generally don’t shy away from a debate or heated discussion, nor do they necessarily seek consensus. Don’t be afraid to engage and express your opinion. How you react to what you perceive as an offensive remark is a personal choice and will also depend on the specific context and individuals involved. If you feel strongly about an issue, don’t hesitate to disagree or explicitly say you don’t find a joke or comment funny or even to suggest changing the subject. If you need some “language coaching” in this area, just ask!

- Be aware that French people tend to be curious about people’s origins, especially when they detect an accent. Asking a person where he/she comes from is not necessarily rude or offensive in France. Context and tone matter. There are strong regional identities in France; French nationals may see themselves first and foremost as Breton, Corsican, Parisian, etc. You will find that many Aix residents don’t originate from Provence and many enjoy talking about their family roots and history. 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. In turn, you can ask the same question!

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 end up being a source of real learning and personal enrichment, and even contributing to your future career. Stay open!

13. ON THE ROLE OF FOOD & MEALS IN FRANCE

Food, cooking and meals are central to life in France and a major conversation topic! If you’re living with French hosts or are invited to someone’s home, the following may be useful:

- Evening meals are an important part of family life: everyone talks about his or her day. 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. 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 follow their lead.

- Meal times are generally later than in the U.S. Dinner may occur between 7:30 and 9:00 pm, and many restaurants open at 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 if you’re delayed.

- 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! Do your best to join in!

- The French don’t eat or leave food in their bedrooms. Use the kitchen, and don’t leave dirty dishes anywhere. It will not be appreciated and may create tension.
14. POLITENESS, VERBAL & NON-VERBAL COMMUNICATION

Politeness is expressed differently depending on the language and culture. In France, it’s important to pay attention to register - formal, colloquial or informal (i.e., slang or argot) - when talking to people. Factors like age, status, and length of relationship matter. For example, one does not use slang with professors in France; it’s considered impolite. Social norms in France may seem 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 thank someone, whereas 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 somewhat, you may add: Vous allez bien?

• Never say « Salut! » or « Ouais » to a professor, office employee, storekeeper, etc. It is not “cool” and excessive familiarity may be viewed as disrespectful. Pay attention to such cues and try to use the appropriate register in more formal or official contexts.

• It is also essential to mind your language in emails to professors. You should address them as Monsieur or Madame, always be polite, refrain from asking for an immediate reply, and sign Cordialement or Respectueusement. Ask a French person to read your email before sending it to a professor or person of authority, especially if you are making a request.

• 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 leads to an invitation.

• The French readily correct children and young people – and non-French speakers communicating in French! Waiters, storekeepers or others may correct your French or even respond in English, especially if they hear you speak English and assume that you’re a tourist. Don’t hesitate to say that you are a student or prefer to speak French. Most people will be pleased and switch to French if you ask.

• In general, the tu form is used to address people your own age and younger and vous with adults unless they suggest using tu (Tu peux me dire tu.) In the south of France, people tend to be less formal and suggest using tu more quickly. Some French hosts may invite students to call them by their first names right away, others not. Keep in mind that individual differences and preferences also exist. Rather than make assumptions, ask if you’re unsure.
15. HOUSING IN AIX

The housing questionnaire you submitted included basic information about homestays and the Rossini residence hall in Aix. Key points are reiterated below:

**Homestay placement process**

Hosts may include a retired couple, a single hostess, a family with children still at home, etc. All are eager to interact with students and cite communication and exchange as their primary reason for hosting a WIA student. In sum, they are not doing this primarily for financial reasons, and the feedback from previous WIA participants confirms this.

WIA staff have visited their homes and briefed hosts on program goals and expectations. Most have prior experience with WIA students. Selected hosts also fill out a questionnaire and may have requests or preferences, especially with regard to food constraints. If you are a vegetarian or have minor food allergies, you will be placed with hosts willing to accommodate you.

We cannot guarantee homestays for students with severe food allergies or highly specific needs, e.g., gluten-free, vegan, kosher diets. A single room at the Rossini where you can make your own meals is a better option.

It is crucial to be *flexible* and remember that all requests cannot be satisfied. When determining initial placements, highest priority is given to health-related issues, notably allergies and dietary needs. Thus, if you are allergic to cats or dogs, you will not be placed in a home with pets, and that will take precedence over other requests, such as wishing to live with children.

Very few hosts live in the heart of Aix where space is more limited and apartments are the norm. You may live in an apartment or a house; in either case, you will have your own room and likely share a bathroom. You will receive a bus pass for the entire semester/year, and most students prefer to walk which is often faster than taking multiple buses.

Housing changes are not automatic and none will occur in the first two weeks. It takes time to feel comfortable and adjust to a different household routine. If, for some reason, your homestay is not working out or you are having difficulty, you should speak to the Director about alternatives. The only available option may be a single room at the Rossini, however.

**Additional Homestay Tips**

The following suggestions are intended to facilitate the adjustment process and help you to maximize and enjoy the homestay experience - for both you and your hosts.

✔ A small gift or specialty from your home town or region, e.g., photo calendar, food item, is a nice gesture and conversation-starter when you arrive. They’ll appreciate it!

✔ Try to avoid having preconceived ideas and comparing your hosts to your own family or to other homestay hosts. Each “family” has its own history, routine and interests, and while there may be some similarities, individual differences may also come into play.

✔ Use the WIA "checklist" to clarify points with your hosts in the first few days, especially with respect to daily routines, use of appliances and communication. What may seem “obvious” or “normal” may not be to the other party. That’s why the list was created.
Utilities (i.e., gas, electricity) are costly in France, hence “reflexes” like not leaving the TV on or turning off lights when no one is in the room; lowering the heat in bedrooms when leaving in the morning; not taking long showers or leaving water running unnecessarily. French homes tend to be less heated than in the U.S., so have a sweater or sweatshirt handy if it feels chilly. In sum, try to be as energy-conscious as possible.

Where food is concerned, remind your hosts as politely as possible if necessary of any allergies or food restrictions. They may occasionally forget, and you will find that the French don’t like to waste food.

Expect to eat breakfast on your own most days due to different schedules – but not beyond 10 a.m. Your hosts will likely ask you what you eat in the morning. In France, it’s usually bread with butter and jam or maybe cereal. Don’t expect a big breakfast or croissants every day. As for lunch, French students usually go to university cafeterias. This is why you receive a monthly stipend; your hosts are not obligated to invite you to lunch and it’s a bonus if they do. The main meal will be dinner, and hosts are expected to provide a balanced meal although you shouldn’t rule out an occasional “pizza night”, for example. In general, be prepared to eat what the rest of the family is served.

Try not to take offense if your hosts correct your French; they’re trying to help you progress. If they don’t do it and you’d like them to, let them know. Similarly, asking you questions about your life and family generally means they want to get to know you.

When in doubt, double-check and politely ask if you can use the kitchen to bake something, watch TV or invite a friend over, for example. Don’t expect to be able to invite weekend or overnight guests in your room. If your hosts tell you that you can have occasional guests, consider it a privilege and offer a small gift for their hospitality.

Don’t let “minor issues” accumulate; if you feel uncomfortable or are puzzled by a reaction or incident that may have caused tension, you should discuss it with WIA staff. Sometimes a simple clarification or advice on how to address an issue with hosts can set things right and later become an amusing anecdote.

**Rossini Residence Hall**

This private student residence for students in the city center 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 or “studios” consist of a twin bed, desk, small table, and also a private shower/toilet/sink and kitchen alcove with a small fridge, micro-wave and two burners for cooking simple meals. The WIA program pays for a wifi connection and provides all linens (sheets, towels ...), dishes and cooking utensils, and small appliances, e.g., coffee maker. There are supermarkets and a laundromat and around the corner from the Rossini.
Nearly all 125 or so residents of the Rossini are French students enrolled in various institutions in Aix, and many come from other cities or regions. There is an advantage to living alongside French peers, but keep in mind that this is not a U.S.-style dorm where students leave their doors open and friends wander in and out.

If you’re interested in meeting fellow residents, it’s up to you to make an effort. Do this early on! Check out the Facebook page. Occasional activities or events are organized in the common room downstairs. Join in! You can also talk to the Rossini staff and offer to plan an event.

**Students housed at the Rossini are entirely responsible for their living space.** Initial supplies (e.g., toilet paper, laundry & cleaning products) are provided by WIA, but you must replenish them yourself using your 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 the Rossini manager and WIA staff immediately.**

**Note:** A WIA staff member does monthly inspections of Rossini studios for health and safety reasons and in keeping with an agreement with landlords. *If accommodations are not deemed sufficiently clean after an initial visit and follow-up visit, WIA reserves the right to send in a cleaning person and deduct a 30-euro fee from students’ monthly allowance.*
III. ACADEMICS: GENERAL INFORMATION

WIA’s partner institutions in Aix are Aix-Marseille University, specifically the humanities division or Faculté ALLSH (Arts, Lettres, Langues et Sciences Humaines), also informally known as the Fac de Lettres and the Institut d’études politiques (IEP) or Sciences Po-Aix.

The recently renovated main AMU campus in Aix is situated on the avenue Robert Schuman and therefore known as Schuman.

Around 40,000 students are enrolled at AMU-Schuman when one takes into account the various facultés or undergraduate and graduate divisions (law school, management, science & technology, etc.). The original Université de Provence dates back to the 15th century! In 2012, three separate institutions merged to form AMU, the largest university in France.

Sciences Po-Aix, created in 1956, is one of nine independent IEP in France. A smaller, more competitive and selective grande école, it has an enrollment of approximately 2,000 undergraduates and specializes in the social sciences, notably political science, economics, international relations, and history. Most French students at Sciences Po have gone through a rigorous two-year preparatory course and the concours (competitive exam) to be admitted.

1. ACADEMIC CALENDARS: FALL 2021

Note that WIA and Sciences Po dates are essentially the same with the exception of fall break. Classes and exams will end before the holidays in December. It is possible that certain professors at Sciences Po may take a fall break and make up a class, but there is no guarantee. Students who take courses at AMU must be prepared to stay and take exams in January.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>SCIENCES PO</th>
<th>AMU</th>
<th>WIA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Start date</strong></td>
<td>Sept 6 for most classes</td>
<td>Sept 13</td>
<td>Sept 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fall break</strong></td>
<td>Monday, November 1</td>
<td>Oct 25 – Nov 2</td>
<td>Oct 25 – Nov 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>End of fall courses</strong></td>
<td>Before holidays: Dec 18-Jan 2</td>
<td>Week of Dec 13</td>
<td>Week of Dec 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Final exams</strong></td>
<td>Week of Dec 13 in most classes</td>
<td>First 2 weeks of January</td>
<td>Week of Dec 13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**IMPORTANT!** Exam schedules are not available until 2-3 weeks before dates indicated above. 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 medical proof. Missing an exam without notifying anyone or providing a doctor’s note will result in a grade of Défaillant which translates into a course grade of F on the WIA transcript.
2. HIGHER EDUCATION & CULTURAL DIFFERENCES

Higher education differs across countries, and adapting to a different university system and academic standards is at once interesting and challenging! Like previous WIA participants, you are likely to be disconcerted or frustrated at times, which is perfectly normal. Remember that you have many resource people to help you navigate the French system and succeed.

Below are some cultural 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 costs rather low.

- As a result, French universities are not wealthy and offer far fewer facilities and services than in the U.S. Don’t expect state-of-the-art gyms or dining halls, libraries and computer facilities open 24/7, for example. In general, leave your U.S. expectations behind! The point of direct enrollment is to experience a different philosophy and approach. Think of it first and foremost as a cultural learning opportunity.

- The mission of universities in France is primarily intellectual: teaching and research. In general, French students do not rely on a university to provide a social life or individual attention. Student groups, activities and intramural sports exist, but are often managed by a Bureau des Élèves (BDE) staffed by student volunteers. Click on Vie étudiante on AMU’s or Sciences Po’s web site to see extra-curricular activities.

- The teaching approach and relations with professors in France may seem very “traditional” or formal to you: mainly lectures (cours magistraux), with students listening and taking notes and less discussion than in the U.S., especially in first- and second-year classes. Even in smaller groups (travaux dirigés or TD), there may be limited interaction, and the session may consist entirely of student oral presentations.

- Many AMU classes meet only once a week for 3 to 4 hours whereas lectures at Sciences Po meet for 2 hours. This may be the most difficult adjustment and will likely be tiring, especially at the outset. At the same time, it will allow you to measure your progress during the semester, notably your listening comprehension and note-taking skills.

- In France, undergraduates are expected to be autonomous, with minimal supervision, no weekly assignments or quizzes, etc. Do not expect a detailed syllabus; at most, you may receive an outline of weekly topics and a bibliography. It will be up to you to inquire about key books (if you lack background knowledge) and set up a reading schedule, review your notes and fill in any blanks. The WIA tutor can help.

- Professors may recommend books or post articles, readings and PowerPoint presentations on a learning platform, but they won’t actually 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 and organize your time.

- Ongoing assessment (le contrôle continu) does not refer to weekly graded assignments and often consists of two or three grades during the semester. Moreover, these may occur late in the semester which means you may not know how you’re doing, hence the importance of keeping up with the material, devoting time every week to reading and reviewing class notes, and organizing study groups or weekly tutorials.
• Most professors in France don’t have an office or office hours (*heures de permanence*) and some may not provide an email address. This doesn’t mean you can’t approach them, however; it’s often best to do so in person before or after class. In fact, many enjoy meeting and interacting with their international students and are familiar with WIA. Don’t be afraid to introduce yourself and speak to them!

• Remember, help is available!

Take advantage of all possible resources: the WIA tutor, individual professors who can recommend key reference works, your *French classmates* for class notes, the WIA staff who can also offer guidance and tips. Don’t wait until the end of the semester if you’re having difficulty or have received a disappointing grade during the semester. Set up an initial session with the WIA tutor, a former AMU student, who understands professors’ expectations and can provide guidance.
The following policies reflect Wellesley and French university standards. Failure to comply with them may result in poor grades or not receiving academic credit for courses in Aix.

- There is no Add/Drop option in French universities. Per Wellesley and WIA policy, however, you may withdraw from a course within the first five weeks without a transcript notation. No withdrawals are allowed after the course has ended or just before or during exam periods. All withdrawal requests must be made in writing (via email) to the WIA Director with whom you should speak before making this decision.

- All WIA students are required to maintain 4 units per semester. This usually means four 1-unit courses (i.e., 36 contact hours/semester) at WIA or AMU or three 1-unit and two ½-credit lecture classes at Sciences Po.

  **Note:** You must obtain and submit written authorization from an advisor/dean at your home institution for a reduced course load (i.e., fewer than 4 credits) in Aix.

- You are required to take all exams in all courses. If you miss a final exam at AMU or Sciences Po for no legitimate reason, you will be marked absent and receive a grade of Défaillant for the course, in which case you will not receive credit. 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 generally set by the university administration, not faculty. In theory, professors are not allowed to administer exams in advance or make “special arrangements” and most are unwilling to make exceptions, viewed as unfair.

- Students who require additional time on exams for medical reasons must make an appointment with a French physician early on and present a certificate to appropriate administrators. They are allowed one-third additional time for exams.

- Always have your French student i.d. card with you on exam day. (Note: All WIA students receive an AMU card.) You may not be allowed to take an exam if you have forgotten your card. If you lose your AMU student card during the semester, 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 from France are allowed other than for emergencies. The WIA Director must be informed of any emergency and will notify AMU or Sciences Po administrators, Wellesley College or students’ home institutions.

- Keep in mind that WIA courses are taught by faculty from our French partner institutions even though they are tailored for WIA participants, include detailed syllabi and more ongoing assessment as well as individualized attention, for example. You will nevertheless be graded according to the French system (see conversion scale below) and expected to put in the necessary time and effort to review course material on your own outside of class and, if necessary, seek assistance from the WIA tutor.
un amphi
l'assiduité
la B.U. (fam.)
un collège
un commentaire composé
un commentaire de texte
un contrat pédagogique
le contrôle continu
un cours magistral (CM)
crédits ECTS
le C.R.O.U.S.
un cycle d’études (1er, 2e, 3e)
un devoir en temps limité (ou sur table)
une dissertation
un dossier
un exposé oral
la "fac"
une fiche de lecture
une inscription administrative
une inscription pédagogique
une Licence
un mémoire
Parcoursup
un partiel
une plaquette / un polycopié
un relevé de notes
un « Resto U » ou RU
une thèse (de doctorat)
un T.D.
des T.P.
une U.E.

amphithéâtre or lecture hall (large classes)
attendance
la bibliothèque universitaire (library)
junior high or middle school in France
literary textual analysis/paper of 5-7 pages
analysis of a historical doc or non-literary text
official course registration at AMU
grade based on 2-3 assignments (vs. a single exam)
lecture class
European credit system: 6 credits = 1 full course in US
student services (cafeterias, dorms, etc.)
set curriculum culminating in a degree
1er cycle = B.A.; 2e cycle = M.A.; 3e = Ph.D
in-class test; timed exam
writing assignment of 6-8 pages (on specific topic)
research paper (usually 10-15 pages in length)
oral presentation
faculté = université (usually public)
paper on an assigned book (summary/analysis)
course registration in a specific class
undergraduate degree (3 years); 1er cycle
Master’s thesis (or honor’s thesis)
admissions platform for French students to indicate
university choices and degree preferences
an exam (not necessarily a mid-term)
course catalogue or course pack
transcript
Restaurant Universitaire ; student cafeteria
doctoral dissertation ; culmination of 3e cycle
Travaux dirigés; smaller group (linked to a CM)
Travaux pratiques (mainly in the sciences)
Unité d’Enseignement (course unit)

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

En français, on …
… fait des études de (sciences politiques ou économiques, d’informatique …)
… suit un cours (verbe suivre) de (biologie, littérature, sociologie…) = take a class
… passe un examen = to take an exam
… réussir à un examen = to pass vs. échouer = to fail
… obtient un diplôme = to get a degree
3. AIX-MARSEILLE UNIVERSITÉ (AMU)

AMU enrolls over 10,000 international students (and more than 60 nationalities) in its multiple satellite campuses. The main ones for WIA students 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.

- **MMSH**: Maison Méditerranéenne des Sciences de l’Homme, located on the west side of Aix and accessible by bus. Site of some Anthropology and Ancient History courses.

*These are the only AMU divisions with which Wellesley has an agreement and where you may take classes and earn credit from Wellesley.*

**Note**: You will visit the Schuman campus during the first few days in Aix.

**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 set curriculum with many required courses and few electives. There are no “distribution” or “general education” requirements in France; this happens in high schools, and, in theory, the baccalauréat exam ensures general knowledge in many areas. In sum, university is synonymous with a specialization in France.

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.**

**Undergraduate degree in France : la « Licence »**

The undergraduate degree or la licence in France is generally obtained in three years. 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 at AMU and done well. They are more specialized and demanding in terms of workload but also have fewer students than L1 classes.

**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 at AMU

Depending on the discipline or level, there may be either a single weekly class of 3- 4 hours or two separate mandatory sessions per week (on the same or different days):

- **Un cours magistral ou CM**: usually held in an amphithéâtre (lecture hall)
- **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.

Courses may be co-taught by two different professors. In courses where there is a CM and TD, you must complete all work in order to receive credit. The TD professor often assigns grades.

Note: Certain psychology courses at AMU are taught by a “team” of guest lecturers that change frequently. This can prove problematic in terms of evaluation. It is best to avoid these classes.

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
- 3 ECTS = 1/2 Wellesley unit

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

Courses that do not earn academic or transfer credit for Wellesley College students

- **Studio arts (arts plastiques)**: Non-credit courses in painting, drawing, pottery, etc. are available outside the university. These are generally considered an extracurricular activity.

- **Economics or Management courses** offered at AMU’s Faculté d’économie et gestion.

- **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. Levels, classes and pedagogical approaches differ in France, which can lead to difficulties in transferring credits.

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 build a schedule that enables you to attend 5-6 classes in the first two weeks (including WIA classes). By process of elimination, you will reduce the choices to four or five.

**Step 1: Administrative registration (une inscription administrative)**

All students must pre-register at AMU prior to arrival in France via the MoveOn platform. This is an administrative formality. Instructions are sent via email and students must send the PDF confirmation form to the WIA Director. There is a second administrative registration in Aix.
Step 2: Course registration (une inscription ou un contrat pédagogique)

Once you have finalized AMU course choices, you will meet with the WIA Director to complete an online contrat pédagogique. This is essential in order to be officially enrolled for exams and obtain grades in AMU classes.

Post-registration course changes / Adding & Dropping / Exams

- Course registration procedures are not the same as for degree-seeking French students. When in doubt, always ask the WIA Director who acts as the intermediary with administrative services and international programs staff at AMU and Sciences Po.

- French students are not allowed to make changes once registration is final. In this instance, WIA policy prevails, and you may withdraw from a course up until the final week of classes if you have a 5-course load or if a reduced course load has been approved by a dean or advisor in your home institution.

- 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 and no transfer credit.

- Per AMU and Sciences Po policy, unless you have a medical certificate, you will receive a zero if you miss a scheduled exam. It is your responsibility to check the final exam schedule online and note all dates and times.

Transcripts & Credit Transfer

Wellesley students: All courses related to language, French or Francophone literature or cultures and French linguistics generally fulfill requirements for the French major at Wellesley and transfer as 200-level courses. You will still need to take two 300-level classes upon your return to Wellesley in order to complete the French major.

Non-Wellesley students: Check with your academic advisors to find out which specific courses may apply to a French major or minor or fulfill other requirements.

Note: You are advised to avoid taking courses similar to classes already taken in the U.S.

If you need to submit an English translation of a course description to seek approval for credit transfer, speak to the WIA Director who will translate the document. If you are asked for this documentation upon your return to the U.S. but did not provide the necessary information to the Director, you will have to create the syllabus yourself from your class notes.

Transfer Credit Policy & Transcripts

The Wellesley College Registrar’s Office handles credit earned in the WIA 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 WIA transcript indicating exact course titles and grades received is sent to Wellesley and forwarded to external students’ home institutions. Other U.S. 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.
4. FRENCH GRADING SYSTEM & CONVERSION SCALE

You will receive numerical French grades in all 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 for French students is 10 which translates into a C+ per the conversion scale below, approved by Wellesley College. A C is the minimum grade required for credit transfer at Wellesley. Other 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>France</th>
<th>United States</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18 à 20</td>
<td>A+</td>
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<tr>
<td>15 à 17</td>
<td>A</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>A-</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>B+</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>D+</td>
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Final grades & credit Transfer

You will not receive your final grades before leaving France. It generally takes four weeks or so after final exams for grades to arrive at the WIA office.

The WIA Director then converts grades and sends WIA transcripts directly to the Office of International Study at Wellesley. OIS then forwards them to non-Wellesley students’ home institutions.

Any questions about transcripts after your return to the U.S. should be addressed to Kristiana Graves Floss at OIS.

5. SCIENCES PO-AIX

International students who wish to enroll at Sciences Po-Aix have several options:

- Full-time, year-long certificate program (CEP) consisting of 7-8 courses per semester.
- Full-time year-long program (PEPA), more flexible but with no certificate awarded.
• Full-time, single-semester program (PEPS) of 7-8 courses.
• Part-time program (PEPS-Choix libre) that allows enrollment in up to two cours magistraux (lecture courses) per semester.

WIA students are generally enrolled in the latter and complete their 4-unit course load with AMU and WIA classes.

The curriculum for degree-seeking French students at Sciences Po is a five-year one and ultimately culminates in a Master’s degree. All French students are expected to go abroad during their third year, either to study or do an internship. Consequently, there are no 3rd-year classes at Sciences Po. You will be able to choose among 2nd and 4th year lecture courses depending on your French skills, prior knowledge of the topic and motivation.

The Sciences Po curriculum, like the student body, has become more diversified over the years. There are courses in English and even in other languages. All WIA students are required to take all of their courses and do all work in French.

All lecture classes (CM) meet 20 hours, some twice a week over five weeks (most 4th year classes) or two hours per week over 10 weeks (most 2nd year classes). Five-week classes are scheduled during three terms: Sept-Oct, Oct-Nov, Nov-Dec. This enables students to spread out classes and avoid a 5-course load all semester. The disadvantage is that if a 3rd-term class is cancelled or proves problematic, there may not be an alternative. Consequently, it is preferable to choose a 10-week class or courses offered during the first and second terms.

At least two CM in French are offered each semester exclusively for international students, including European or Erasmus students. In Fall 2021, they will be La vie politique française and Les territoires français face à la mondialisation. You may sign up for these even though you are not enrolled full-time at Sciences Po. Other CM are open to French and international students and therefore a bit more challenging.

Course offerings and registration at Sciences Po

Preliminary course offerings and schedules are generally not available until July and always subject to last-minute changes. The WIA Director might receive a tentative schedule in July. Pas de panique! By the time you arrive in Aix, we should have all this information.

A representative list can be found on the web site: www.sciencespo-aix.fr. Click on International (top of page), then on Etudier à Sciences Po. In the menu on the left, select Cours to see a list of 1st and 2nd semester classes. Titles in red indicate there is a description. Sometimes these are previous versions and the professor has changed, but they will give you an idea.

All registration will occur in Aix, with the Director’s assistance.

Instruction, evaluation and grading methods at Sciences-Po

By definition, a CM or lecture class consists largely of note-taking, with little discussion unless there are few students enrolled. Much depends on class size and, of course, the instructor. In any case, all students at Sciences Po are expected to do a significant amount of outside research and independent reading and to essentially master course content on their own.

In Fall 2021, WIA is prepared to organize an additional one-hour weekly group tutorial for
students enrolled in the same Sciences Po courses if they need extra support. This will involve discussion of readings, summaries of key lecture points, practice in doing 10-minute oral presentations on major course topics, etc. The goal is to create a study group and prepare students for final comprehensive exams.

Traditionally, final grades at Sciences Po have often been based on a single individual oral exam on a randomly-chosen course topic and administered by the professor at the end of the semester. Some professors may substitute a one- or two-hour timed written exam, more rarely a research paper written outside of class.

Whether oral or written, this grade is generally the only one and will therefore determine the final course grade. You will find that grades are not negotiable in France, and that there is no such thing as a make-up exam unless there is a legitimate medical reason or personal emergency.

6. WIA COURSES

In Fall 2021, WIA will offer four courses reserved for program students. All meet twice a week for 90 minutes. Students are expected to take at least take at least one unit in the French system (i.e., two Sciences Po classes or one AMU course), but if someone has a compelling reason and receives permission to take only WIA courses, an exception may be possible.

WIA and Sciences Po professors have the necessary resources and experience to successfully shift to online classes or a hybrid model should that become necessary due to the Covid-19 situation. Those courses can therefore be ensured. We cannot guarantee that this would be the case at AMU, however, due to the size of the university and classes and numerous faculty.

Fall 2021 WIA courses:

1) *Expression française écrite et orale: niveau avancé*

Professor: Madame Elodie Burle-Errécade  
Schedule: Monday & Wednesday  9h30-11, Tavan Center

Includes advanced grammar review and instruction, stylistics, reading a variety of texts, writing practice (academic & creative), oral presentation skills, methodological issues. Due to the small class size, it is tailored to the needs and levels of the students and is highly interactive.

It is required for students who score below a B2 level on the French test (TCF) administered during the first week. It is optional for other students.

2) *Traduction*

Professor: Madame Ruth Menzies  
Tentative schedule: Wednesday a.m. and Thursday p.m. (TBD), Tavan Center

Focuses on translation (French-English and English-French) of various kinds of texts, common idiomatic expressions and cultural concepts. It aims to reinforce stylistic and grammatical knowledge and enhance vocabulary, with an emphasis on common errors made by English speakers in French.
3) **Histoire de l'immigration en France et à Marseille**

Professor: Madame Céline Regnard  
Schedule: Monday 17h30-19h & Wed 17h – 18h30, Tavan Center

See tentative course outline below. Two mandatory site visits – to Marseille and the Camp des Milles (WWII internment camp just outside Aix) – will take place outside of class time, probably on a Friday. No previous knowledge required.

**Semaine 1**  
6 et 8 septembre - Présentation du cours et de la méthode de travail - Introduction : la France un pays d’immigration

**Semaine 2**  
13 et 15 septembre - L’immigration de la Révolution française à 1848 (2 séances)

**Semaine 3**  
20 et 22 septembre - A partir des années 1870 : les débuts de l’immigration de masse en France

**27 et 29 septembre : pas de cours (professeur absent)**

**Semaine 4**  
4 et 6 octobre - Marseille, ville d’immigration jusqu’aux années 1910 (2 séances)  
Visite – Lieux d’immigration à Marseille (date à confirmer)

**Semaine 5**  
11 et 13 octobre - La fin du XIXe siècle : nationalisme, antisémitisme, loi de 1905 (laïcité) (2 séances)

**Semaine 6**  
Lundi 18 oct - L’immigration pendant la Première Guerre mondiale / Merc 20 : Partiel de mi-semestre

**Semaine 7**  
1er novembre : Ferié  3 novembre - Artistes immigrés à Paris 1900-1930

**Semaine 8**  
8 et 10 novembre - L’entre-deux-guerres : l’immigration entre renouvellement et tensions

**Semaine 9**  
15 et 17 novembre - Vichy et la Seconde Guerre mondiale (2 séances)  
Visite du Camp des Milles à Aix (date à confirmer)

**Semaine 10**  
22 et 24 novembre - L’immigration européenne en France depuis 1945 (2 séances)

**Semaine 11**  
29 novembre et 1er décembre - L’immigration coloniale et post-coloniale en France

**Semaine 12**  
6 et 8 décembre - Enjeux et questions d’aujourd’hui et examen final (2.5 heures)

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4) **Art, architecture et urbanisme en Provence**

Professor: Monsieur Jean-Dominique Brignoli  
Schedule: Tues & Thurs 16h30 – 18h, Tavan Center
See detailed description below. Note that five mandatory site visits scheduled on Saturdays are included, with graded assignments. Three of the day trips are open to all WIA participants and are an integral part of the program.

**Art, architecture et urbanisme en Provence**

Le cours a pour but de montrer l’évolution historique, artistique, urbanistique, architecturale de la Provence à travers différents exemples : Glanum, Arles, Avignon, Aix, Marseille. Pour des raisons d’importance et de proximité, l’accent sera mis sur les deux dernières villes en insistant sur leurs différences : Aix, ville de l’intérieur, rurale et « aristocratique » et Marseille, port vers la Méditerranée, marchande et « ouvrière ».

Il s’agira d’étudier la naissance de l’urbanisme en Provence dans l’Antiquité, son évolution au Moyen Âge et à l’époque moderne et ses bouleversements à partir de la révolution industrielle et pendant l’époque contemporaine. Parallèlement à ces évolutions urbaines, les monuments principaux (cathédrales, églises, Hôtels de ville, hôtels particuliers...) et les œuvres d’art subsistantes (sculptures, peintures, arts décoratifs...) qui apparaissent au cours de l’histoire de ces villes seront étudiés stylistiquement. Leurs particularités esthétiques seront analysées en détail afin d’en saisir leurs caractéristiques par rapport aux grands mouvements artistiques européens et français.

**Programme prévisionnel** :

- **Septembre** :
  - **Époque celte et Haute Antiquité** – Légendes, histoire et archéologie : l’oppidum celte d’Entremont, la cité phocéenne de Massalia et la ville celte de Glanum.
  - **Époque romaine** – Histoire et archéologie : développement urbain et monumental (Aix et Marseille et l’exemple d’Arles) ; Massilia et Aquae Sextiae.

- **Octobre** :
  - **Moyen Âge** – Bouleversement des plans urbains de l’Antiquité ; polynucléarité des villes médiévales ; affirmation d’Aix en tant que capitale provençale et de Marseille la ville « à côté » de la Provence ; Avignon, la cité des papes ; choc du XIVe siècle.
  - **Jeudi 21 octobre : examen de mi-semester (1h30)**

- **Novembre** :
  - **Époque moderne** – Mutations sociales et transformations urbaines ; naissance d’un nouveau type d’habitation : l’hôtel particulier ; affirmation d’un style, du baroque au classicisme à la française ; Marseille premier port de la Méditerranée par la volonté de Louis XIV.

- **Décembre** :
  - **XIXe siècle** – Les bouleversements de l’ère industrielle et du nouvel art (Réalisme, Impressionnisme et post-Impressionnisme) ; Marseille transformée ; Marseille capitale régionale et porte de l’Orient et de l’empire colonial ; Aix, la « belle endormie ».
  - **Époque contemporaine** – Les bouleversements artistiques de l’Avant-Garde ; la Reconstruction d’Après-Guerre et les mutations sociales ; Aix-en-Provence ville universitaire et culturelle ; les nouvelles Marseille et Aix-en-Provence du début du XXIe siècle.
  - **Mardi 7 décembre : examen final (3 h)**

**Sorties prévues et obligatoires avec compte-rendu écrit (devoirs notés):**

1- **Glanum et Baux de Provence – Samedi 18 septembre 2021 – 8h30-17h** – visite de ce site unique, une cité celte hellénisée puis romainisée, pique-nique, puis le site fortifié des Baux et les carrières de Lumières (programmation Cézanne)


4- Aix-en-Provence – Samedi 20 novembre 2021 – 10h-17h – déambulation dans Aix devant les façades des somptueux hôtels particuliers, de la rue Gaston de Saporta au pavillon de Vendôme, en passant par la place de l’Hôtel de ville, de la place d’Albertas à l’église Saint-Jean-de-Malte, en terminant par le cours Mirabeau.


7. OTHER ACADEMIC INFORMATION

Tutoring and academic support

French universities and specific academic departments increasingly offer support in the form of peer tutors, especially for first-year French students who also need assistance or advice.

WIA also hires a program tutor, who is available to help students with the methodology of French academic writing, oral presentations, exam strategies, grammar trouble-shooting, etc. You will meet her in Aix during the early weeks, and her contact information and schedule will be posted at the Center.

8. ENSURING YOUR ACADEMIC SUCCESS IN AIX

The advice below is intended to help you succeed and avoid unpleasant surprises at the end of the semester or after your return to the U.S. Most 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 check 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 often assume that classes are "easy" because of the lack of weekly assignments and less feedback from instructors than in the U.S. This is often a false assumption. Remember that roles and responsibilities are different. Professors in France will expect you to learn the material and do outside reading on your own.

- 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 in university classes: le dossier de cours**

Academic departments or advisors in the U.S. may request more detailed information about your classes in France. In some cases, there may only be a one-page outline of weekly topics and a bibliography. If is therefore essential that you document your work regularly.

The *dossier de cours* serves that purpose. You will receive a Word version via email and should revise it weekly. *You will be expected to submit these at the end of the semester for each non-WIA course in which you did not receive a syllabus or course outline.*

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 a translation of your *dossiers de cours*. If you haven’t submitted them and have no documentation of course content, transfer credit may be denied.
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 :

Semaine 4 :

**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.
▪ 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 U.S. experiences and take really good notes.
▪ Don’t be afraid to approach the teachers – 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 not to stress too much.
▪ As long as you work hard and take advantage of all the resources WIA has to offer, you will be fine.

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 works.
▪ Take classes that actually interest you.
▪ Test upper-level classes and take them; first-year classes are are a very low level sometimes.
▪ 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.
▪ Don’t take classes because they seem easy because they WILL be too easy & uninteresting.

On study strategies:

▪ Rewrite or go through your notes each week. Take notes on your computer!
▪ To get the most out of your classes, you need to make a reading schedule and stick to it to feel purposeful.
▪ Make a list of key topics from each class and read more about them to acquire more info that would be very useful on exams.
▪ Figure out Amétice ASAP and make sure you’re following in class.
▪ Start studying early. It takes so much longer to read notes/books in French.
▪ See if your classes have Facebook pages; those were so helpful!
▪ 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!
▪ If you have to do an exposé with a French student, have confidence in yourself.
▪ Be active in class. Try your best to participate. 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!
▪ 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 and Sciences Po which 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 that you are an exchange student and your card is pending. (You can use your AMU acceptance letter.) Even if the class is allegedly full, go back! If you’re motivated and enthusiastic, chances are you’ll get in.

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. 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 Elèves and make inquiries. Talk to the WIA tutor – a former 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)

This brand new library on AMU’s Schuman campus opened last year. Take advantage of it!

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 on the west side of Aix, not 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 also a nice place to study.
4) Méjanes Library

“La Méjanes” is the largest public library in Aix and part of the Cité du Livre, 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
previous courses or donated by 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.
IV. 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 20-25 minutes on foot from Aix-Marseille University. It is often faster to walk!

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

**Le Centre Tavan**

The WIA Center includes staff offices, a large classroom/meeting space, a computer room and small library. A kitchen with a fridge and micro-wave is available to students, and you may also eat on the patio in nice weather.

In keeping with the WIA immersion goal, *Tavan is a French-speaking environment* and the use of French is strictly enforced. Tavan is not a recreational space 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 keys to Tavan. **It is forbidden to lend or duplicate keys.** If you lose them, notify WIA staff who will explain how to replace them.

**Uses of Tavan:**

- You may keep food in the fridge but you 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.
- Two computers and printers are 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.
If your parents or friends send you packages, tell them to write on the package «EFFETS PERSONNELS USAGÉS SANS VALEUR COMMERCIALE» (= Used personal items of no commercial value)

Otherwise you may have to pay a hefty customs tax.

```
Your name
Wellesley in Aix
16 rue Emile Tavan
13100 Aix-en-Provence
```

What is not allowed at Tavan:

- speaking English!

We take the language pledge seriously. It exists for your benefit and that of other WIA students and we will enforce it. Repeated violations may result in your being asked to leave the center.

- taking naps or using the center as you would your private space at home.

- consuming alcohol except when there is a reception or event 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 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. 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.

**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 in Aix.

Commissariat de police / Main Police Station 04 42 93 97 00
U.S. Consulate in Marseille 04 91 54 92 00

**4. HEALTH & MEDICAL MATTERS**

French universities don’t provide free health services of the kind found on U.S. campuses. This is why students are required to have health insurance with overseas coverage.

All residents in France have a primary care physician or médecin traitant for routine care. A consultation with a médecin généraliste (GP) costs around 25 euros, and a specialist at least 50 euros. **SOS Médecins**, for emergency “house calls” (i.e., late at night or on weekends when doctors’ offices may be closed) costs approximately 100 euros.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>EMERGENCY NUMBERS IN AIX</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>From a cell phone</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>SAMU (911 equivalent):</td>
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<tr>
<td>Firemen / EMT</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOS Médecins in Aix</td>
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**HOSPITALS & MEDICAL CENTERS IN AIX**

Centre Médical d’Aix-en-Provence 14, rue de la Fourane (near AMU) Open 9am-9:30 pm daily, including weekends. Walk-in hours, 4 generalists, emergencies.

Centre Médical - Espace Forbin 8, rue Condorcet (off cours Gambetta) Several GPs and some specialists. Walk-in hours or by appointment.
Hôpital Privé de Provence
Emergencies: 235 av. Nicolas de Staël
(outside city center)
24-hour emergency services
https://www.hopital-prive-de-provence.com
Directory of specialists on web site.

Clinique Axium
21, avenue Alfred Capus (near WIA)
Appointments can be made online.
https://www.cliniqueaxium.fr

Hôpital d’Aix (public hospital)
Avenue des Tamaris (near WIA)
Emergencies, including psychiatric.
Multiple specialists.

There are laboratories all over Aix if you need a blood test or some other kind of test. Some labs only accept checks as payment, however.

VACCINATIONS
If you need a yellow fever, typhoid, hepatitis A, or other vaccination, make an appointment at the vaccination center: 6 av. Pasteur, Monument Joseph Sec  Tel: 04 42 91 94 87

COUNSELING & MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES
Living and studying abroad constitutes a major transition and can prove stressful, especially for students leaving the U.S. for the first time or individuals prone to anxiety. Adjusting to a new culture, language and educational system is tiring, physically and mentally, particularly during the early weeks. This is perfectly normal and should not cause undue concern.

Research on cultural adaptation suggests that most people experience highs and lows during an extended sojourn abroad; it is natural to feel homesick or frustrated at times. These feelings are usually short-lived, however. Remember that it’s a process. Staying positive and using the relaxation strategies that work best for you during stressful moments will help you deal with the inevitable cultural challenges and misunderstandings.

If you feel overwhelmed or need additional support, professional counseling is available. The ISOS plan includes five telephone sessions with a mental health professional provided you contact ISOS directly. You will be put in contact with an English-speaking therapist.

If you prefer an in-person session with the English-speaking therapists listed below, you may have to wait a few days, as emergency consultations are not always possible with private therapists. Their hourly rate may vary from 80 to 110 euros. You should contact Cigna Global about reimbursements, however.

If you have been seeing a therapist on a regular basis, you should discuss your needs with him/her and come up with a strategy for addressing them while abroad.

Advice: Ask your therapist to put something in writing in a sealed envelope that you can give to a professional in France; this will save time and allow a local therapist to better assist you.
OTHER MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES:

**SOS Help:** English-speaking listening line (3 – 11 pm every day) 01 46 21 46 46

**SOS Amitié:** French-speaking line

**Aix-Marseille Université – Service Inter Universitaire de Médecine Préventive et de Promotion de la Santé (SIUMPPS)**
Counseling, stress-reduction workshops, nutritional advice, students with disabilities.
2, rue Le Corbusier – Immeuble New Centraix – 2nd floor. Tel : 04 42 65 74 01 (or 02)

**CAP 48** – Emergency psychological unit at Hôpital d’Aix, avenue des Tamaris (central Aix, near the WIA center). Daily cost (for overnight stays): 800 - 850 euros per day, not including sessions with a psychologist.

*Note:* Students who require additional time to take exams on account of a medical condition must go through the aforementioned office at AMU. One-third additional time for exams is the norm in French universities.

**A final word on health matters:**

We cannot overemphasize the importance of students’ personal responsibility for their health and well-being while abroad.

Students’ rights to privacy and confidentiality are respected, and no information shared with on-site staff is communicated to others without the express permission of students (outside of an emergency or hospitalization in which case parents are contacted).

WIA staff are obligated to report medical emergencies involving hospitalization to Wellesley College, and parents or legal guardians are also notified.
5. GROUP ACTIVITIES & TRIPS ORGANIZED BY WIA

The program organizes several one-day outings and one weekend trip each semester. Destinations may vary from one semester to the next, but we tend 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. These events are an integral part of the program.

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

Note: For insurance-related reasons, visiting friends or family cannot participate.

Fall 2021 outings and dates are indicated in the table below. They are subject to change depending on the public health situation in France. These trips are considered an integral part of WIA’s cultural programming.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activités WIA (tentative schedule)</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>1er Semestre 2021-22</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Vendredi 3 sept</td>
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<td>Samedi 11 sept</td>
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<td>Samedi 18 sept*</td>
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<td>Samedi 2 octobre*</td>
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<td>Samedi 16 et dimanche 17 octobre</td>
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<td>Samedi 6 novembre*</td>
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<td>Jeudi 25 novembre</td>
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<td>Jeudi 10 décembre</td>
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*Obligatoires pour les étudiants inscrits dans le cours WIA Art, architecture et urbanisme en Provence
Many students used an SNCF Carte Jeune to travel by train 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
- Isle-sur-la-Sorgue

**On the Côte d’Azur**
- **Nice**
- Grasse
- Cannes
- Toulon
- Saint-Paul-de-Vence
- Hyères
- Antibes
- Saint-Tropez
- Menton
- Monaco

**Other regions and cities to visit:**
- **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)
- Grenoble
- Toulouse
- Montpellier
- Bordeaux
V. PRACTICAL INFORMATION - AIX

1. MONEY & FINANCES

How much money you spend will depend on your financial situation, habits and travel plans during the semester. The monthly allowance you receive from WIA/Wellesley in your US bank accounts is sufficient to cover your lunches and incidentals 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.

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

1) Monthly stipend: mainly for lunches and deposited directly into your U.S. accounts by Wellesley College via OIS.

- **360€ per month** for students in homestays (with 7 evening meals per week)
- **700€ per month** for students living at the Rossini (includes food and laundry expenses)

2) Individual cultural reimbursement of up to €200 per semester for activities of your choosing: dance, yoga 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, but the basic principle is to encourage all students to engage in activities that involve meeting locals and interacting in French. No more than 100€ will be reimbursed for transportation expenses within France.

*Note:* Personal travel on weekends and during vacation periods are a personal choice and expense. No reimbursements are given for meals not taken with hosts who have committed to providing meals or food for the entire semester.
MONEY-SAVING TIPS

Always carry your **student card** and ask for a student discount (une réduction étudiant).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FOOD</th>
<th>OUTINGS</th>
<th>SHOPPING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A balanced meal in a university cafeteria <strong>le Resto U</strong> (RU) costs around 3€30.</td>
<td>Some museums are free for students (with a student i.d.).</td>
<td>Look for good deals at outdoor markets for clothes &amp; gifts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A great way to meet French students and save money!</td>
<td>Make the most of your <strong>Cultural Allowance</strong> (see above) to visit monuments, exhibits, museums.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do as the locals: buy <strong>local fresh produce</strong> in the open-air markets for your lunch.</td>
<td>Buy a <strong>Carte Cinétoile</strong> (see cultural allowance) and see films for only <strong>6€30</strong>.</td>
<td>Think <strong>second-hand shops</strong> for buying clothes and accessories.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Download the ‘<strong>Toogoodtogo</strong>’ <strong>application</strong> on your phone to buy <strong>fresh produce at reduced prices</strong> at the end of the day.</td>
<td>Check “The Fork” website for good deals on restaurants and specific cuisines.</td>
<td>Check ‘<strong>Groupon</strong>’ website for reduced prices of all kinds.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>French students are often on a tight budget: ask them about their favorite eateries and cafés – and join them!</td>
<td>Remember that in restaurants, menus are cheaper at lunch time.</td>
<td>Check blogs and websites for ‘<strong>les bons plans</strong>’ (= good deals)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
WIA student tips: Where to eat or hang out in Aix

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cafés / Tea rooms</th>
<th>Eateries</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Student-friendly / activities</td>
<td>Low budget (10€ or less)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Book In Bar**
- **Columbus Café**
- **Mana Espresso**
- **Meow Cats Café**

- **Nooï**
- **Le Tuyau**
- **Crêpes à Gogo**
- **Aux Petits Oignons**
- **Pizza Capri**
- **Pittz Falafel**
- **Maison du Burger**
- **Le Garde Manger**
- **Lumberjack**
- **Maison Nosh**

- **Bagelstein**
- **Simply Food**
- **Fresh Box**
- **Manlio’s**
- **Istanbul Kebab**
- **Pita Pit**
- **Bigbrod**
- **Toasty Poke**
- **Piacere**
- **Kabbaz**
2. VOLUNTEER & COMMUNITY SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteering (le bénévolat) on a regular basis is another great way to meet French people while feeling useful. If you’re interested, talk to the program Assistant or student life mentors and ask for help if necessary. Don’t delay, for the longer you wait, the less likely you are to make it happen.

There is no shortage of activities and opportunities to get involved in Aix, but you must be proactive and actively seek them out. Students who do so tend to make greater progress in French and have a more satisfying experience.

Speak to the Assistant if you are interested in the following opportunities:

- **EPHAD La Bastide du Figuier**
  Activities, conversation, games with elderly and disabled persons.

- **Secours Populaire** [www.secourspopulaire.fr/13/comite-de-aix-en-provence](http://www.secourspopulaire.fr/13/comite-de-aix-en-provence)
  Food and clothes distribution, tutoring, helping children with their school work.

- **Secours Catholique** [www.bdr-aixenprovence.secours-catholique.org](http://www.bdr-aixenprovence.secours-catholique.org)
  Varied activities, including after-school tutoring, social activities.

3. LEISURE ACTIVITIES, CLUBS, ETC.

**How to find a club or organization**

- ✔ See suggestions from past WIA participants.
- ✔ Look into student associations and groups at Sciences Po & AMU. Do this early on!
- ✔ A directory of associations of all kinds in Aix is available at the WIA center.
- ✔ Consult the *Petit Futé* guides at Tavan for other suggestions and ideas.
- ✔ Talk to your French hosts and WIA student life staff and ask for advice!
- ✔ Check out websites and Facebook pages.
- ✔ Ask French students in your classes!
- ✔ Use the Meetup-Aix web site.

**ACTIVITIES RECOMMENDED BY WIA STUDENTS**

- **Maisons des jeunes et de la culture** [www.mjc-aixenprovence.fr/](http://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.

**Meetup-Aix**: [https://www.meetup.com/fr-FR/](https://www.meetup.com/fr-FR/)
Join a Meetup group to share in fun activities with kindred spirits!
TIPS FROM PREVIOUS WIA STUDENTS: HOW TO MEET FRENCH STUDENTS

N° 1 TIP: Don’t be afraid to start a conversation! Join clubs and actually talk to people!

- The easiest way to do it is in class! I exchanged phone numbers with people sitting next to me with the excuse of sharing notes.
- Join the Erasmus Facebook group, ask a student for notes, become friends with your host siblings and they will introduce you to their friends.
- I met most of mine through my church. But you have to be PROACTIVE!
- At the very least, make sure you go to at least some kind of group meet-up per week.
- Speak French in public! French students are more likely to approach you.
- Take advantage of the Erasmus Buddy Program!
- Don’t be afraid to talk to people and just be yourself!
- Check out student clubs & sports teams at Sciences Po: rugby team, rowing, etc.
- Ultimate frisbee team – a great group of people! Everyone is so kind and welcoming.
- Mauvais Genre at Sciences Po : debating group (feminist and gender issues)
- Choramu – a choir with weekly rehearsals in Marseille. Great director, sweet people.
- You have to make the first move and really put yourself out there.

SPORTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sports at the University</th>
<th>Bureau des sports Sciences Po</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Centre Sportif Universitaire (CSU)</strong></td>
<td><strong><a href="http://www.sport.univ-amu.fr">www.sport.univ-amu.fr</a></strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong><a href="http://www.sport.univ-amu.fr">www.sport.univ-amu.fr</a></strong></td>
<td><strong><a href="http://www.sciencespo-aix.fr/contenu/bds/">www.sciencespo-aix.fr/contenu/bds/</a></strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fitness Centers & Gyms

Private gyms generally cost around 30€/month. Try to negotiate a 4-month membership at a student rate – it often works!

| Bengym                                      | L’Orange Bleue                  | Keep Cool                      |

Swimming Pools

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Piscine Yves Blanc</th>
<th>Piscine Plein Ciel</th>
<th>Piscine du Centre Sportif Universitaire</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Track &amp; Field</td>
<td>Frisbee</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>---------------</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aix Athle Provence</td>
<td>AUC Ultimate Frisbee</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Squash</th>
<th>Fencing</th>
<th>Cycling</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Squash du Pays d’Aix</td>
<td>Club d’Esèrce du Pays d’Aix</td>
<td>Amicale Vélo Club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.squashdupaysdaix.com">www.squashdupaysdaix.com</a></td>
<td><a href="http://www.escrime-paysdaix.fr/epa">www.escrime-paysdaix.fr/epa</a></td>
<td><a href="http://www.acvcaix.com">www.acvcaix.com</a></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dance</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Swing, Hip Hop, flamenco, orientale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Espace Jeunesse</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ballet</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Modern Dance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ecole Solange Savine</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yoga</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abhy Yoga</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.yoga-aix.com">www.yoga-aix.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ARTISTIC ACTIVITIES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Drawing &amp; Painting Classes</th>
<th>Choirs</th>
<th>Theater workshops</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Atelier Indigo</td>
<td>Choramu (AMU)</td>
<td>Théâtre Ainsi de suite</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lignes et Couleurs</td>
<td>Sing IEP (Sciences Po)</td>
<td>Espace Jeunesse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L’Atelier libre</td>
<td></td>
<td>MJC Prévert</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Cooking classes

My Lovely Cook (sessions for WIA students): cooking class and shared meal in a private home
25€ /person. Sign up in advance (maximum 5 per group). Reimbursed from your cultural stipend!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>L’Atelier des Chefs</th>
<th>L’Atelier de cuisine de Mathilde</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.atelierdeschefs.fr/fr/cours/">www.atelierdeschefs.fr/fr/cours/</a></td>
<td><a href="http://www.lateliercuisinedemathilde.com">www.lateliercuisinedemathilde.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Puycard Atelier Chocolat</th>
<th>Le Jardin d’Oren à Rognes (BIO)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

WIA students are strongly urged to sign up for at least one organized, regular activity involving weekly interaction with French students or locals.

CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

Check l’Agenda Culturel: monthly events guide available at the Office du Tourisme
www.aixenprovence.fr

VENUES

Music, theater, dance
‘Carte des Théâtres’ (18-30 ans) : (15€) to get reduced-price theater, concert tickets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Conservatoire d’Aix</th>
<th>Grand Théâtre de Provence</th>
<th>Pavillon Noir</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

MUSEUMS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Musée Granet &amp; Collection Planque</th>
<th>Centre d’Art Caumont</th>
<th>Fondation Vasarely</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

CINEMAS

www.lescinemasaixois.com/
‘Cinétoile card’ (29 euros) to get reduced-price movie tickets
Buy online: www.lescinemasaixois.com/nos_offres#cinetoile

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Le Cézanne</th>
<th>Le Renoir</th>
<th>Le Mazarin</th>
<th>Institut de l’Image</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9 screens, foreign films often dubbed in French</td>
<td>3 screens, movies in original language with French subtitles</td>
<td>3 screens, movies with French subtitles</td>
<td>at the Cité du Livre shows classic films and holds festivals</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4. MARKETS / CAFES / RESTAURANTS

Open air markets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Every morning 8am - 1pm</th>
<th>Place Richelme</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fruits and vegetables</td>
<td>Place Richelme</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Every Tuesday / Thursday / Saturday morning

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place Richelme, Place des Prêcheurs, Place Verdun</th>
<th>Place de la Mairie</th>
<th>Cours Mirabeau</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8am - 1 pm</td>
<td>8am - 1 pm</td>
<td>8am - 2:30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fresh produce, cheese, breads, fish, etc.</td>
<td>Flower market</td>
<td>Clothing and fabric market,…</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Cafés, bars, clubs

As a major student town, Aix offers an active night life, particularly in good weather. Ask your French classmates where they hang out and whether you can join them!

Restaurants

Check out the Petit Futé and La fourchette.com (Renamed The Fork) for recommendations!

www.petitfute.com
www.lafourchette.com/ville/aix-en-provence

RESTAURANT RECOMMENDATIONS FROM WIA ALUMNI

Mana Espresso: local products, vegetarian, cakes & great coffees
Piaccere Little Italy: Italian cuisine
Le Petit Bistro: nice atmosphere & food, ‘formule’ 23€
Chez Jo: Pizzeria et Provençal specialties
Tapas Café: Spanish & South American tapas & cocktails
La Table marocaine: Moroccan cuisine
La Fromagerie du Passage, restaurant, wine & cheese shop
Green Bowl: Asian vegetarian cuisine, gluten free
Sushi Shop: dine-in, take-out & great lunch specials
Jacquou le Croquant: French country cuisine: duck, foie gras, etc.
Juste en Face, 6 rue de la Verrerie. Mediterranean specialities in a nice setting
La Maison des Fondues: a bit expensive, but great food
5. RELIGIOUS SERVICES & GROUPS

Catholic

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

Protestant

- Église protestante unie de France 4, rue Villers
- Église réformée évangélique 15, rue de la Masse
- ICCP International Christian Community of Provence 15, rue de la Masse
  Service for International students on Sunday evenings
- Église protestante évangélique Le Chemin Impasse Grassi
  Sunday, 10 am

Other religious communities and groups

- Synagogue 3, rue de Jérusalem
- Mosques 5, rue des Gondraux / 3, rue E.Henriot
- GBU: Groupe Biblique Universitaire
  Bible study group Tuesdays, 8pm 33, avenue J. Ferry
- FEU: Foyer Evangélique Universitaire 2a, rue Montmajour
  Lieu d’accueil et de vie, café, animations (near AMU)

6. SHOPS & SHOPPING HOURS, BOOKSTORES

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

On Sundays and holidays, a few small grocery stores open in the town center (usually only in the mornings): Petit Casino, Vival, Cocci Market, Proxi Market.

Monoprix is a chain of supermarket/department stores throughout France.

Two locations in Aix: Cours Mirabeau and Allées Provençales. Open all day.
Monday-Saturday 8:30am to 9:00pm; Sunday 9 am to 1 pm.

Monop’ (smaller version) several shops dotted around the town.
Monday-Saturday 8:30am to midnight; Sunday 9 am to 1 pm

Casino (near WIA) and its “satellites”: Casino Géant and Le Petit Casino

Carrefour Market located near the Rossini residence hall.

Picard is a chain of high-quality frozen foods in France. Look for the blue snowflake!
Librairie Goulard is the main bookstore located on the Cours Mirabeau.

Book In Bar is the local English-language bookstore with a café and free wifi.

See Le Petit Futé for addresses of used bookstores in Aix.

7. POST OFFICE

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

- La Petite Poste, Place de la Mairie (closed between 12h -13h45)
- La Grande Poste, at the Rotonde

If you need to send a package or letter overnight:

FedEx: 0820 123 800
UPS: 0821 233 877

8. PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

The only form of public transportation in Aix is buses. Aix-en-Bus is a network operating within Aix and to nearby villages. WIA provides all students with a bus pass for the term.

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. If there is a WIA group activity scheduled in the evening, students who live outside the center may be reimbursed for taxis.

➢ Inter-city buses

From the bus station, la Gare Routière (av.de l'Europe) you can catch buses to numerous destinations, including the Aix-Marseille daily buses to the TGV train station and airport.

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 (Ligne Express Régionales): www.info-ler.fr/465-3C-Horaires-de-bus-et-cars-de-la-Region-Sud-96-Provence-Alpes-Cote-d92Azur-3E-LER.html

Cartreize : www.lepilote.com/fr/part10/le-reseau/80

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.

www.navetteaixmarseille.com
By train

- From the Gare SNCF (town-center), leave daily trains to Marseille and regional trains to towns north of Aix and in the Alps. [https://www.gares-sncf.com/fr/gare/frqxb/aix-provence](https://www.gares-sncf.com/fr/gare/frqxb/aix-provence)

Note: It’s not a good idea to take late-night trains to or from Marseille.

- From the Gare TGV (located 18 km from the center of Aix) leave fast trains to Lyon, Paris, Lille, Nice.


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.

Students may use their cultural stipend to purchase a Carte Avantage Jeune which costs 49 euros and enables you to buy discounted train tickets (anywhere from 25% to 50%).

By plane

- **Aéroport Marseille-Provence**

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.

Travel time, Marseille-Paris: around 1 hour

**Regular airlines:** [www.marseille.aeroport.fr](http://www.marseille.aeroport.fr)

**Low cost airlines,** such as Easy Jet or Ryan Air: [www.mp2.aeroport.fr](http://www.mp2.aeroport.fr)

**Taxis in Aix and Marseille**

Aix: 04 42 27 71 11 or go to the Rotonde, next to Cézanne’s statue.

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 an inexpensive hotel and spend the night, especially if you are alone. *The area near Saint-Charles train station is not safe at night and should be avoided.*
9. TRAVELING OUTSIDE AIX

All students are required to inform the WIA Director via email when they leave Aix for the weekend or during a school break and provide details on departure and return dates, destinations, etc. This is a safety and security issue in the event of a major emergency.

The WIA Director also notifies the group via email when she will be away from Aix and indicates who the emergency contact person is in her absence.

As the emergency contact person in Aix, the RD is responsible for communicating with Wellesley College or students’ home institutions in case of a crisis or emergency.

We may need to contact you if you’re away from Aix and we also may need to reassure both your home institutions and guardians that you’re safe and accounted for. It’s normal for parents and loved ones to worry, especially if they hear or read disturbing news accounts. Remember that they may be hearing a different perspective on events occurring outside the U.S.

Repeated failure to notify WIA staff of your absences from Aix and whereabouts may result in Wellesley College or your home university being notified.
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 them. They complement the "Wellesley College Honor Code" (http://www.wellesley.edu/GeneralJudiciary/procedures.html).

All program participants are 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 may 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 and confirm my participation in group events and activities.

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, solo travel.

4) be respectful of my homestay hosts and their home and make a genuine effort to interact and converse with them at mealtimes, participate in household tasks and generally be considerate of their needs and occasional desire for privacy.

5) immediately report to WIA staff any problem related to my housing and accommodations in Aix (e.g., theft, property damage, malfunctioning equipment, etc.)

6) 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.

7) comply with all academic policies of WIA and its partner institutions and meet with the WIA Director monthly to discuss my academic progress and courses and provide the necessary information to ensure transfer credit.

8) be an excellent ambassador of the WIA program and a “good citizen”, i.e., showing consideration and respect for French hosts, WIA staff and fellow students, and understanding that my behavior and actions may impact other WIA participants and the WIA program in general.

Date:

Name:

Signature
USEFUL CONTACT INFORMATION

WELLESLEY COLLEGE, MASSACHUSETTS

WELLESLEY COLLEGE
106 Central St.
Wellesley, MA 02481
Tel: (781) 283-2733

OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL STUDY
Wellesley College
Schneider Hall – Office 216/217
Wellesley, MA 02481
Tel: (781) 283-2320

Director, Office of International Study: Jennifer Thomas-Starck (at Schneider Hall)
jthomass@wellesley.edu

Program Assistant -OIS: Kristiana Graves Floss
kgraves@wellesley.edu
Tel: 781-283-2320

Campus Director WIA – French Dept: Professor Hélène Bilis
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
mfecteau@wellesley.edu
Office: 04 42 38 16 04 From US: 011-33 - 4- 4238 -1604
Mobile: 06 25 43 59 62 From US: 011-33 - 6- 2543 - 5962

Program Assistant – Aix Marie Demars
Office: 04 42 26 35 52
mdemars@wellesley.edu

Aix-Marseille Université
29, avenue Robert Schuman
13090 Aix-en-Provence

Institut d’Etudes Politiques
25, rue Gaston de Saporta
13090 Aix-en-Provence
Student contact: Antoine Raimond