PROGRAM Q & A's

SUNY at the Sorbonne SEMESTER PROGRAM

For answers to questions regarding application procedures, program information, responsibilities of participants, pre-departure orientation materials, departure and post-departure information, registration, financial matters, grades, credits, withdrawals, cancellations and expulsions, please read THE HANDBOOK FOR STUDY ABROAD.

1) **What college or university will I be studying at?**
   Participants will follow language and humanities courses at the Sorbonne's language school specifically geared towards French language instruction for speakers of other languages, *Cours de Civilisation Française de la Sorbonne*. In addition, a director's course taught by the Paris program director, Celine Garelli, will be offered. Students attending the program through SUNY Oswego will receive Oswego credit.
2) **Do I have to be a SUNY Oswego student in order to attend this program?**
   No you do not. We accept SUNY Oswego students, other SUNY students and students from outside the SUNY system, public or private.
3) **What is the required GPA in order to attend this program?**
   The required GPA is 2.50.
4) **What courses are offered in this program?**
   You must register for 12-15 credits to be considered a full-time matriculated student. Students will take 9 credits of language and phonetics instruction, 3 hours of the Director's Course and 2, two-credit lectures in the humanities, for a total of 16 credits. Offerings in the humanities depend on the student's proficiency level. For more details on the offerings, please click the link under the "Courses" section of the program brochure.
5) **What internship placements are available?**
   Students demonstrating in a strong intermediate French proficiency or above may choose to do an internship.
6) **How do I apply for this program?**
   Go to www.oswego.edu/intled to begin the SUNY application by choosing the "Apply Now" button on the top right-hand side of the program brochure. Follow all instructions provided and read all of the material provided, especially the Learning Content area. The first part of the application process you will fill out the general information about yourself. You can type your Study Statement online and submit it.

You can also send the recommendations to your professors via email and they can reply the same way. You will need to provide an official transcript which you can have sent to us from the Registrar's Office. We will log it in once we receive it. After all of your acceptance materials have been received, we will review your application. If accepted, you will receive an acceptance letter via email. After reading your letter, be sure to accept it so that the next batch of forms required will be displayed. You will need to download, complete and return the forms to us. Any material submissions that are received will be logged in by the International Education staff. If you have any questions or concerns, be sure to contact your program coordinator.

7) **Can I receive financial aid for this program?**

Financial aid is available to matriculated students that meet the requirements. Students are encouraged to meet with a representative from the Financial Aid Office at their home university to discuss the options available. Students should take the program budget sheet along with a copy of your invoice to show the financial aid representative.

8) **Will I need a passport and visa to travel to France?**

Yes, all students must have a valid passport to travel to France. ALL students who are participating in the program must also apply for a visa (unless you have dual French citizenship). This process includes an in-person appointment at the French Consulate in NYC (or servicing consulate if not a NY resident). SUNY Oswego will provide you with the necessary documents and instructions for you to apply. This process starts right after acceptance into the program.

9) **Do I make my own flight arrangements?**

Yes, students will be provided with the in-country arrival date. Students are free to make their own travel arrangements to Paris. You should arrive to Paris Charles de Gaulle Airport in the morning of the first official day of the program. You can check with other program participants to compare costs of various flight itineraries that you might find on your own.

10) **Will I be met at the airport by the program director?**

Yes. The program director will meet students at the designated meeting place during the designated meeting time and then take you to your accommodations.

11) **What should I expect to do when I arrive?**

Meet the rest of the group and program director and move in to your accommodations.

12) **Where are the classes held and how often are they offered per week?**

Language courses and lectures are usually held 3 times per week. The lectures are held one to two times a week. Your final schedule will depend on your proficiency level and the courses you select.

13) **Will my credits transfer to my home university?**

You will be given an Overseas Course Approval Form which will have to be completed by your home school academic advisor. SUNY Oswego students will receive the actual course grade and credit. Students from other universities must check the policies on their own home campus to see how the credits will transfer.

14) Who will I be living with?

This depends on your housing choice (residence hall (*foyer*), host family or independent). Foyer students will be sharing the hall with other international students and French students. Host family students will, obviously, stay with a family and those choosing independent arrangements may choose to lease an apartment with other program participants if they wish.

15) How will I do my laundry?

In the residential facilities, there are laundry machines for your convenience. There are also laundromats throughout the city where you can drop off your laundry and pick it up later that day for a fee.

16) Where can I receive mail?

You can receive mail at your residential address.

17) Will there be a meal plan?

There is no meal plan offered with this program however students choosing to stay at Foyer Didot will have a meal plan of breakfast and 72 dinners included in the housing cost. Note: space is limited here and may not be available to students every semester.

18) How much money should I bring with me?

It's difficult for us to say how much money you should bring. Everyone has different spending habits. You should plan to have at least $200 set aside per week. This includes food and spending money. If you plan to travel a lot, then you will need much more. Bring a debit card with you. Be sure to check with your home bank to see if it is accepted in Europe and if they have affiliated banks. Be sure to give your bank the dates you will be overseas so that they won't block your credit/debit card(s). It is also good to have a major credit card with you as a back-up.

19) **Are there phones in the residential facilities?**

Generally, your residence hall, apartment or family will have a landline phone. While receiving calls may be free, dialing out can get quite expensive. Therefore, it is a good idea to purchase a pay-as-you-go cell phone once you get to London. There are many different services that provide reasonable phones and plans.

20) Are there internet facilities? Should I bring my laptop?

There are internet facilities (such as cybercafés) throughout the city. Most common rooms in the residence halls, such as the living room are wireless. In the Fondation des Etats-Unis there is wireless in the rooms. It is a personal choice as to bringing a laptop. Most students do bring theirs. You will need to keep in mind that you will need a converter/adapter since the electricity is different in France.

21) Is the cost of housing included in the program differential?

No, the housing is separate and will only be billed to you by SUNY Oswego if you are choosing the *foyer* or host family option. Once your housing placement is confirmed by the Paris program director, we will add this to your bill.

22) How will I get to class?

Depending on where you are housed will determine how you get to class. Some facilities may be within walking distance and others may be farther away where you will have to take the metro (underground subway) to get to your class.

23) Who can I turn to with my questions or concerns?

You will have a program director that is responsible for solely your group. You will also have a weekly course with her. Any questions or concerns can be brought to her and she will work to best advise you or resolve the issue.

24) Will there be a pre-departure orientation and/or an in-country orientation?

SUNY Oswego Office of International Education and Programs will hold an on-campus orientation for program participants before the end of the semester. Upon arrival in Paris, you will receive a full orientation provided by the Paris program director.

25) What if I want to arrive earlier than the group or stay on after the end of the program?

You may travel overseas before the official beginning date of the program, but you will not be able to move in to the program arranged housing until the first official day of the program. Also, you will not be able to stay on in the residence once the program is over. If you plan to travel, there are many storage facilities where you could leave the bulk of your belongings in order to travel light.

26) Is it easy to travel to other countries?

Living in Paris, you have access to many airports and train stations that can take you anywhere you want to go. Start planning in advance for the trips you think you want to take. Not only is it less expensive, but the semester will fly by so quickly, that you won't want to miss any opportunities to travel and see Europe. Try to find plane tickets from less expensive airlines, such as Ryan Air and Easy Jet. You can also take advantage of the Euro-star or TGV trains, which operates right out of Paris. The Euro-star is the high-speed train that travels across the English Channel that connects you to Paris and other cities in continental Europe. Before travelling, be sure to research youth hostels. These are inexpensive and you can meet a lot of great people. Sites like hostelworld.com are really easy to use; they rate hostels based on cleanliness, location and security.

27) Is it expensive?

Yes, it is expensive due to the exchange rate which is rarely in our favor. Paris is a very expensive city. However, it is easy enough to find inexpensive cafes or small restaurants to eat at. Of course another way to save money is to shop at the supermarket and buy groceries and cook your own meals. This will be a substantial savings.

28) What happens if I get sick?

For minor issues you may visit the local pharmacist. For more serious matters, you would go to the nearest hospital for care. The Paris program director would also advise you on what to do and where to go.

29) How can my parents get hold of me in case of an emergency?

If you choose to purchase a cell phone while you are there, they can contact that way. Also, you can provide them with the contact information of the program director in the event of a **true emergency**.