



Lang in Paris
Frequently Asked Questions
Spring 2016

If you were unable to find the relevant answer to a question in this guide, the Consulate General of France in New York can assist you as well. The consulate can be contacted from Monday to Friday at 212.606.3600.

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Pre-Departure

Who is API?

In advance of and during your time in Paris, you will be contacted by Academic Programs International (API), a partner of The New School. API provides a number of services for Parsons Paris, including dormitories, excursions, residence hall assistance and visa assistance. For Spring 2016, your primary contact at API will be Kandice Klumb (kandice.klumb@apistudyabroad.com).

What is the process to apply for a student visa?

The visa application process varies slightly depending on where you are applying for a visa. Students should always refer to the visa requirements of their local French consulate. For students who are legal residents of the US, the process is as follows:

1) Register with Campus France. Consult this guide:

<http://www.usa.campusfrance.org/en/page/i-have-been-selected-a-study-abroadexchange-program-france-more-90-days>

2) Make an in-person visa appointment with the French consulate that serves your address.

If you are a resident of New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, or Bermuda, please consult the following website to make an appointment at the Consulate General of France in New York:

<http://www.consulfrance-newyork.org/STOP>

3) Consult this checklist of documents to bring to the Consulate General of France in New York:

[http://dashboard.globalsemesters.com/gls/res/internal_programs_pdf/150510_lang_in_paris - spring 2016 - consular appointment checklist.pdf](http://dashboard.globalsemesters.com/gls/res/internal_programs_pdf/150510_lang_in_paris_-_spring_2016_-_consular_appointment_checklist.pdf)

4) Attend your appointments with all documents and passport. The consulate will let you know when you can return to retrieve your passport with visa.

5) Some students will also need to validate their French visa at the local French Immigration Office (OFII) once in Paris.

Students who do not hold US passports should check the consulate's website (www.consulfrance-newyork.org/) for specifics on the requirements for their passport type. They should still apply through Campus France though, and make appointments at the consulate.

Campus France and the French Consulate will require a letter from The New School. For Parsons, students may pick this up in 66 Fifth Avenue, Room 604. For Lang, consulate letters are available for pickup from the reception desk in the Academic Advising Office, 64 West 11th Street.

For what type of visa should I apply?

Students who need a visa (non-EU citizens) should apply for the Long Stay Student Visa. Students staying over 180 days are also required to submit the French Immigration (OFII) Form during their appointment with the consulate. This form is available on the French consulate's website. Students staying between 90 and 180 days in France, who would like to work while in Paris and/or potentially renew their visa while in France should also submit this form.

Any student going to France for over 6 months would automatically be issued a Long Stay Student Visa, so students who are attending for one semester and may want to extend, or legally work, should submit the OFII form. They will then have to validate their visa on-site in Paris. Semester students who choose not to submit the OFII form will be issued a visa that does not require validation on-site and cannot be renewed. Both extendable and non-extendable visas are known as Long Stay Student Visas, so be sure to specify if you would like the ability to extend your visa.

What should I pack?

To determine what to pack, please consult the following website to see what shared apartments already include:

<http://www.newschool.edu/parsons-paris/housing/>

What will the weather be like? What types of clothes should I pack?

You will be arriving in Paris during the winter and staying through the middle of spring. Parisian winters are usually a little milder than winters in New York City. The average highs are in the mid-40s and the average lows are in the high-30s. Towards the spring, highs will usually reach the mid-50s to low-60s in May. Snow is rare, but not unheard of, in Paris. Air conditioning is rare in much of Europe.

Paris uses Celsius to measure temperature. An easy and somewhat accurate way to convert Celsius to Fahrenheit is to multiply by 2 and add thirty ($C \times 2 + 30 = F$).

What about my prescription medications? Refer to the section, "Health Issues in France"

How do I access money in France? Refer to the section, "Living In Paris"

What are the semester dates for Spring 2016 in Paris?

Classes begin on Monday, January 25th. The last day of classes is Thursday, May 21st. For a full list of academic dates, please see Paris Academic Calendar at <http://www.newschool.edu/registrar/academic-calendar/parsons-paris/>. Note that Parsons Paris observes holidays not observed in New York.

When can I move-in? When do I need to move-out?

The move-in date is Monday, January 18, 2016. The move-out date is Saturday, May 21, 2016. If you have questions about these dates, please contact Tracy Rakusin at API (tracy.rakusin@apiabroad.com).

When should I book my flights?

Flight prices vary throughout the time of year. In general, flights are most expensive about a month to two weeks from your intended date of departure. Also, it would be advised to book your airfare before you visit the consulate and have your travel information available. The consulate will require either proof of a flight or an itinerary.

For some suggestions on discount travel, visit <http://newschool.abroadoffice.net/financing.html>, and click on the link for "Discount Travel Options for Students."

When will I register for courses?

Course registration for Spring 2016 in Paris will happen at essentially the same time as students staying in New York. For non-BAFA students, you should be activated to register on November 2nd. Any questions about registration should be directed to your academic advisor in New York.

You will receive more information about registration for Fall 2016 via email once in Paris. Again, you will register for courses in the same manner you have done so in the past (through MyNewSchool) where course offerings are available in late March and registration scheduled in early April. For questions about registering for your return semester to New York, please contact your New York based academic advisor.

Arriving in Paris

Into which airport should I fly?

Like New York, Paris has several airports available, the largest being Charles de Gaulle (CDG) and Orly (ORY). Most long-haul international flights arrive at Charles de Gaulle. If you are flying to Paris from another location in Europe, be sure to confirm which airport you are arriving. Both airports are serviced by RER trains.

What should I say at customs?

Students should present their passports and visa at passport control as they enter the country, and indicate you are in Paris as a student if asked.

How do I get from the airport to my accommodation?

Shared apartments are located in different neighborhoods in central Paris. As such, the total commuting time will vary. Students will receive the exact address of the shared apartment once they are placed in housing.

RER from CDG Airport:

<http://parisbytrain.com/charles-de-gaulle-airport-cdg-to-paris-by-train/>

Taxi Information from CDG Airport:

<http://www.aeroportsdeparis.fr/en/passengers/access/paris-charles-de-gaulle/taxi/paris-cdg-taxi>

Yellow Van Shuttle (a very popular option):

www.yellowvanshuttle.com

Living in the Apartments

What are the rules for the apartments?

In addition to any specific guidelines established for the shared apartments, students are still expected to adhere to university policies and responsibilities of The New School. More information about the policies is available online through the Residence Hall Handbook www.newschool.edu/student-services/student-housing/hand-book/ and through Student Rights & Responsibilities www.newschool.edu/student-services/rights-and-responsibilities/.

The specific date for your housing orientation will be included with your room assignments. It will include specific details on the rules and regulations for the shared apartments, along with a handbook for residents.

Where are the apartments located?

Shared apartments are located in different neighborhoods in central Paris. The total commuting time to the Parsons Paris building from these locations is 30 to 40 minutes from door-to-door. Students will receive the exact address of the shared apartment once they are placed in housing.

Can my parents drop me off?

Parents are welcome to help students move into the shared apartments, though unfortunately they cannot stay there.

What is provided in the apartment?

Please consult the following website to see what shared apartments include:

<http://www.newschool.edu/parsons-paris/housing/>

Can I receive mail at the apartments?

Students may have packages delivered to the *Parsons Paris* building during the school year (please note that while school is not in session, there will not be anyone present to accept packages). Packages will be received and held by the security agent for pick up. Students are responsible for tracking their own packages and checking with the security staff for deliveries. Students will need to show an ID and sign that they have claimed their package. It is not acceptable to have standard postal mail sent to the Parsons Paris building.

Living in Paris

Will my cell phone work in Paris?

Using your US cell phone in France is not advised. At Parsons Paris, the Office of Student Life will offer sessions during orientation for students about practical matters, including opening local bank accounts (mandatory for students participating in the RESS/*Regime Etudiant de Sécurité Sociale*) and purchasing cell phones/SIM cards at the same time through ORANGE, one of the main operators in France. If you do plan to use your US cell phone, make sure to contact your US-based carrier regarding rates, fees and options for international travel. All carriers have different options.

You can also download apps to smart phones such as Line, Viber, or Kakao Talk. If your smart phone is set to airplane mode, and you are in a location with Wi-Fi service, you can use these applications at no cost for free voice and/or video calls, text messages and even group chats. If planning to use one of these services though, make sure your friends and family back home have also downloaded the same app to their smart phones.

What is the emergency phone number in France? What if I need to contact someone at Parsons Paris in an emergency?

In France, the general emergency telephone number is 112. This number functions for medical, police and fire emergencies (similar to “911” in New York). If you need to contact someone at Parsons Paris in the case of an emergency, please call (from within France) 0671311593. If there is an emergency inside the Parsons Paris building, call 443 and “composer” from any fixed telephone in any room and you will reach security staff.

From outside of France, Parsons Paris can be reached at ++33 (0)1 76 21 76 45 (Office of Student Life) or ++33 (0)1 76 21 76 21 43 (Main Campus number). Additionally, in an emergency, API can be reached at 06 32 89 54 52. A non-emergency number will be shared with all students during orientation.

Is it safe to travel alone?

During orientation in Paris, a representative from the US consulate will speak to all students about safety in Paris, and provide an opportunity for questions.

For general safety information please consult the U.S. State Department’s Country Profile on France at <http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/english/country/france.html>. We also encourage students to enroll in the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP), which informs the US embassy that you are in the country, and provides any relevant safety or security announcements while abroad. It also helps friends and family reach you in the event of an emergency. You can enroll online through the link just provided for the country profile.

What do I need to know about French culture? Will I stand out?

For some general information on French culture, a useful website is provided by Culture Crossing, http://guide.culturecrossing.net/basics_business_student.php?id=71. Some additional resources on health and safety abroad, as well as other travel questions and concerns, please visit the resource website for The New School, <http://newschool.abroadoffice.net/travel.html>.

For information specifically about diversity, including students of color, LGBT students, and students with disabilities, visit <http://newschool.abroadoffice.net/cultural.html>.

How do I access money and manage finances while in France?

Tell your bank and credit card company that you are traveling:

It is important to notify *all* of your banks and credit card companies know that you will be abroad. Make sure to provide details on the time/dates you will be in France. Also, if you plan on traveling within Europe, it is best to let these companies know your plans in advance.

See if your bank has a partner in France:

Many larger banks partner with other bank companies in France to either waive fees or provide cheaper transaction fees. For example, Bank of America has a partnership with BNP Paribas in France.

Be aware of foreign transaction fees:

Foreign transaction fees are charged by most credit card companies on purchases made in a foreign currency, or on purchases that involve a foreign bank (regardless of whether a foreign currency is used). Usually foreign transaction fees are a percentage of the amount of each foreign currency purchase, with no minimum or maximum. Sometimes this fee is called a foreign exchange fee or currency conversion fee. Foreign transaction fees are charged by U.S. transaction processors, including Visa and MasterCard. The bank issuing the card may choose to pass that fee along to consumers; most do, and some may even add on their own fees.¹

Using your credit/debit card:

If you want to use your ATM card overseas, keep in mind that many ATMs abroad, particularly in Europe, do not accept PINs longer than four digits. If your PIN is longer, contact your bank to have it changed prior to departure. Also, if your PIN is based on letters rather than numbers, translate the letters into numbers before leaving the country; many ATMs only have numeric keypads. One more thing to keep in mind, most ATMs abroad will only let you access the primary account on your ATM card.²

Set up online payment:

For any bills where you need to submit timely payments, such as credit cards, you should set up online payment options if you have not already done so, or have the billing statements mailed to a parent or other designee to help manage while you are abroad. You obviously do not want to lapse several months in your bill payments, since this impacts your credit history.

Can I work while in Paris?

Refer to the earlier question, "What is the process to apply for a visa?" If you have secured an internship, and will be completing the OFII form, follow up with your academic advisor with any questions about having the internship recognized on your transcript.

Studying in Paris

Where do I purchase art supplies? Should I bring them with me?

Adam & Lavrut is an art supply store about 5 minutes from the campus for Parsons Paris. Further communication will be sent in the coming weeks with more details about the purchase of art supplies.

Will my laptop work in Paris?

Yes, your laptop will operate as normal while in France, though you will need to purchase an adaptor to plug in your laptop. You should plan to pack a couple adaptors anyway, anticipating you may need to plug in/recharge other devices while in France.

Is there Wi-Fi at Parsons Paris?

¹ <http://www.creditcards.com/glossary/term-foreign-transaction-fee.php>

² <http://www.independenttraveler.com/travel-tips/money-and-insurance/atms-abroad>

Parsons Paris is equipped with a computer lab consisting of 4 Mac desktops and 4 PC desktops. All machines are connected to two scanners, and print to either a B&W or a high-quality color printer. The Parsons Paris student lounge is also equipped with 4 Mac desktops for student use.

Wi-Fi is accessible throughout the building using your normal www.my.newschoo.edu login/password credentials. On-site technology staff is available to assist students having difficulties accessing the network.

Are tutoring services available while in France for writing, math or language?

Students are able to access these services through the University Learning Center in New York, arranging appointments via Skype. There is not an equivalent Learning Center on-site at Parsons Paris.

Who should I speak to about student life issues in Paris?

Edward Mills is the Director of Student Life at Parsons Paris. He is available if you have immediate concerns about your classes in Paris. Your academic advisor in New York is still your primary contact for most academic issues and registration concerns though. Edward may refer to your advisor if he feels your question warrants it.

What is the semester schedule in Paris? When is spring break?

Classes run from January 25th to May 18th. Spring break is from March 21st to March 27th. Additional days off include: Easter Monday (March 28th), Ascension holiday (May 5th), and Pentecost holiday (May 16th). A full schedule of important dates can be found on the registrar website:

<http://www.newschoo.edu/registrar/academic-calendar/parsons-paris/>

How do I get student discounts?

The International Student Identity Card (ISIC) is recognized around the world and allows you access to discounts on accommodations, travel and admission to many attractions. More Information on ISIC cards is available at www.isic.org. Cards are available online or in person. The nearest ISIC issuer to The New School is STA Travel New York in the East Village, 722 Broadway.

Getting around Paris

How does the Métro work?

Unlike the New York City subway, the Métro closes at night. The first trains in the morning begin running around 5:30am, and the last trains usually operate until just after midnight (and slightly later on Friday and Saturday nights). The Noctilien bus service provides night routes that can substitute most rail lines. Additional information about transportation will be provided during orientation.

Drugs and Alcohol

What are the laws around buying and consuming alcohol in France?

The legal age to buy and consume alcohol in France is 18.

Which drugs are legal in France?

French drug laws are not dissimilar to those of the US. Buying, possessing, or selling cannabis, opiates, or any other narcotics is illegal. Being found in possession of these items may result in criminal investigation pursuant to French law and deportation.

Am I allowed to have alcohol in the apartment?

Like in New York, the possession or distribution of alcohol in shared apartments is prohibited; refer *also to the section, "Living in the Dorm" above.*

Health Issues While Traveling

I have a prescription medication - what should I do to ensure I have access to this?

Many students who study abroad each year have prescription medication that they take along with them. From contraceptives and allergy medications, to antidepressants and ADHD medications, prescriptions have become a part of our everyday lives. Therefore, it is critical to plan ahead for your medication needs BEFORE you leave the United States.

Begin by speaking with your doctor about any and all medications that you take regularly. Determine if you will be able to take an adequate supply of medication with you, or if you will need access to a pharmacy or prescription provider during your time abroad. The US State Department suggests that you “bring an extra quantity (of medication) with you, and pack it in your carry-on luggage. Just remember to keep the medication in its original container and clearly labeled. In fact, you should check with the local embassy to make sure the medication is acceptable to carry into the country. Some countries may consider your prescription medication to be illegal.”³

We recommend that students pack copies of prescriptions (including brand names and generic names) as well as a letter from a doctor at home if regular medical care is needed. Keep in mind that beginning a new academic experience in foreign country is typically not best time to discontinue medical prescriptions, so plan ahead.

What about practicing safe sex in France?

Just like in the US, condoms and other forms of contraceptives are readily available in pharmacies.

What if I need to see a doctor while I am in Paris?

Parsons Paris does not have student health facilities on campus like in NYC. However, staff in Paris is equipped to make recommendations for, and appointments with, doctors near the shared apartments, the Parsons Paris building, and students’ local addresses. Orientation will cover how to complete your registration with social security, how to find a doctor, and how to be reimbursed using your French Social Security.

What counseling services are available in Paris?

Counseling services are not covered by the mandatory French state health insurance (*Securité Sociale*), and costs for hourly counseling sessions (in English) run anywhere from 50 to 100 Euros. Parsons Paris has established a relationship with an English-speaking psychologist to whom students requesting this support may be referred. The general recommendation is for students to see the psychologist once for an evaluation; and if interested in continuing ongoing treatment, she can assist with suggestions for therapists (or, if they both agree, continue to see each other).

Other Questions?

I still have questions! Whom should I contact?

For additional questions, feel free to contact the study abroad advisor/coordinator for your division. If you are a Parsons student, please contact Evan Iacboni (iacbone@newschool.edu). If you are a Lang student, please contact Dechen Albero (alberod@newschool.edu).

And if useful, we have also compiled some general information about how parents, family and friends can support you during the upcoming international experience at <http://newschool.abroadoffice.net/family.html>.

BON VOYAGE!

³ www.studentsabroad.state.gov