



# Hollins Abroad- Paris

Pre Departure Guide  
2014-2015

# Welcome to Hollins Abroad—Paris!



*You are about to embark on a unique academic and personal adventure that will change the way you think about yourself and the world around you. You will get the most out of the experience if you are flexible, open-minded, and willing to leave your preconceptions behind when you get on the plane. We hope that your stay in France will be a valuable and enjoyable one, as it has been for many students before you. You will be in one of the most exciting cities in the world, offering a wealth of cultural, social, and historic resources. How much you gain from your stay will depend on how much of yourself you put into your experience and how well you seek to adjust to a different culture. Be ready to experience what Paris and France have to offer.*

## Table of Contents

Addresses, Phone Numbers, and Websites	2
Academic Calendar 2014—2015	3
The Program	4
Preparing for Your Term Abroad	7
Travel and Arrival	9
Getting Along in Paris	11
Life in a French Family	11
Getting Around Paris	14
Finances	14
Health and Medical Care	15
International Student Identity Card	16
Americans Abroad	17
Culture Shock	17
Communications	18
Returning Home	18
Appendix	20
Safety	
Independent Travel	
Parisian Activities	

### MAPS

Map of Reid Hall  
Metro map

See separate PDF file

## Addresses, Phone Numbers, and Websites

### Hollins Abroad–Paris

Reid Hall  
4, rue de Chevreuse  
75006 Paris France (Métro: Vavin)  
Phone: 011 33 1 45 38 68 75 (from U.S.)  
Fax: 011 33 1 45 38 68 11 (from U.S.)

### Director

Mme Audrey Stavrévitch  
16, rue Chaudron  
75010 Paris  
Cell phone on arrival day and for  
emergencies: 00 336 99 34 52 78

### American Embassy

2, avenue Gabriel  
75008, Paris (Métro: Concorde)  
01 43 12 22 22

### Medical Emergencies

- dial 18 for the fire squad/paramedics\*
- dial 15 for emergency hospitalization by SAMU\*

**\*Please have someone call Audrey Stavrévitch on her cell or at the office to notify her of your situation.**

### Useful websites

For information on conditions in your host country, travel warnings and tips for Americans traveling and living abroad from the U.S. Department of State [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov)

For bulletins on health conditions around the world from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control [www.cdc.gov/travel](http://www.cdc.gov/travel)

For information on air travel from the Federal Aviation Administration [www.faa.gov](http://www.faa.gov)

For health information for traveler's: "Travel Health On-line" [www.tripprep.com](http://www.tripprep.com)

For an introduction to culture and cultural differences: "What's Up With Culture" <http://www2.pacific.edu/sis/culture/>

For students and parents: the State Department website provides GO! Guides and Tips to Go wallet cards [www.studentsabroad.state.gov](http://www.studentsabroad.state.gov)

## **2014-2015: ACADEMIC CALENDAR**

### **Fall 2014**

Friday, September 5	Arrival in Paris
Saturday, September 6	Orientation in Paris
Sunday, September 7 - Tuesday, September 9	Field trip to Normandy
Wednesday, September 10 - Friday, September 12	Orientation in Paris
Monday, September 15	Classes begin
Friday, September 19	Field trip to Giverny
Friday, October 24 – Sunday, November 2	Fall break
Thursday, December 11	Last day of classes
Saturday, December 13	Departure – End of the program

**Two optional trips will be scheduled along with an association of French and international students. All included.**

### **Spring 2015**

Sunday, February 1	Arrival in Paris
Monday, February 2 – Friday, February 6	Orientation in Paris
Monday, February 9	Classes begin
Friday, February 27 – Sunday, March 1	Field trip to Provence
Friday, April 10	Field trip to Giverny
Friday, April 17 – Sunday, May 3	Spring break
Thursday, May 14	Last day of classes
Saturday, May 16	Departure and end of the program

**Two optional trips will be scheduled along with an association of French and international students. All included.**

**T**his Pre-departure Guide provides important information to help you prepare for and make the most of your time in Paris and France. It is imperative that you read it now because there are things you will need to do long in advance of departure, such as applying for your passport and visa. You should also take this guide with you to Paris as it contains important names, phone numbers, and other information you will need upon arrival and during your stay.

---

**Read this guide now because there are things you will need to do long in advance of departure.**

---

## **The Program**

### **The Academic Program**

**T**he core of Hollins Abroad–Paris is the academic program. All courses are taught by French faculty and are directly related to Paris, France, or Europe. Most courses incorporate field trips to museums, galleries, theatre productions, or to architectural, historic, or other culturally important sites. Classes are held Monday through Thursday and each course meets for three hours per week. Attendance is required at every session and missing class will impact your grade.

Most courses require the purchase of coursepacks, more rarely of textbooks. Coursepacks for each class generally cost 15€. Tickets for theatre students average 120€ (6 plays). Coursepacks will be billed to your Hollins account in advance and will appear on your comprehensive fee bill. Theatre tickets will be billed after you have enrolled in Paris. Students in art classes will be required to purchase museum passes. Museum passes for the Musee d'Orsay are 15€ and for the Contemporary Art Museum 22 €.

**All classes are taught in French.** Our faculty are experienced in teaching U.S. students and all class sessions are designed for non-native speakers. If you have chosen your courses in accordance with the information on the course pre-registration form you should not have any difficulty understanding your instructors and you will find that your French skills will improve at a much faster rate than they would if you were taking your coursework in English.

Prior to departure, each student decides upon a tentative program of four courses and one or two alternates. **Final course schedules are determined during orientation in Paris in consultation with the program director.** Because levels of French vary among campuses, your placement in a French language class is based not only on your background in French but also on your performance on a placement test given during orientation in Paris.

Students who have completed four, or in some cases five, semesters of college-level French or the equivalent register for French 303: French Written Expression and French 304: French Oral Expression which are taken simultaneously. These students also choose two other courses except the French literature and theatre courses. Contemporary France, Introduction to European International Relations, Impressionism, 20th Century French Art, Architecture of Paris, France/Africa: Between History and Memory (recently added international studies course), and Paris as the Stage in Films are recommended for students at this level.

---

**Final course schedules are determined during orientation in Paris in consultation with the program director.**

---

More advanced students take French 311: Advanced Written and Oral Expression or French 321: Advanced French Composition, and three other courses of their choice. The French Theatre and literature courses are particularly appropriate for students at this level. Students with superior French skills

may place out of all of the language courses and take any course offered. Very advanced students of French who do exceptionally well on the placement test and who have at least a 3.0 GPA can register for a course at a French University, with permission of the director. They then undertake a supervised independent study in conjunction with a lecture class at the University of Paris. This is strongly encouraged as part of the unique Parisian college experience. Audit fees may apply. Beware that course offerings at French universities are not published in advance and can only be ascertained shortly before the start of each term so the specific choice of course can only be made once the student is in Paris. As the quality of the courses varies tremendously, we recommend that students “visit” a course during the first week to make sure it meets their expectations. Attendance at all lectures as well as substantial independent reading and writing in French are required. Lecture notes and written work are reviewed weekly by a Hollins Abroad faculty member.

Independent studies in studio art, applied music, and dance can be arranged at institutes in Paris for students majoring in those areas. Additional fees may apply for some independent studies. The Hollins Abroad office in Virginia can provide details. **Students taking studio art are responsible for any materials fees.**

**Hollins Abroad-Paris has a strict attendance policy and unexcused absences will automatically result in a lower grade.**

Juniors and seniors (sophomores with the Director’s permission) with a specific professional project related to their major may apply for an internship during their second term in Paris only. They must have the approval of the director and an excellent level of French (311 and above). Please note that internships and independent studies are not guaranteed and require advanced planning and preparation before arrival in Paris.

**Approval for any independent studies or internships must be obtained from your home campus before the term begins.**

We generally recommend against students enrolling for more than 16 credits (four courses). Students wishing to do so must have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 and permission of the program director and of their home institution. Students enrolling for two terms must achieve at least a 3.0 GPA in their first term in Paris to remain for a second term.

Hollins Abroad–Paris does not require students to sign a formal language pledge because pledges are difficult to enforce. However, **we ask that students speak only French in our facilities and strongly encourage all participants in the program to speak French at all times with the director, the faculty, and each other.** The more French you speak, the more your French will improve.

### **January Short Term**

The January Short Term is required for all Hollins University students attending Hollins Abroad–Paris for the full academic year. It is optional (at no extra cost) for full-year students from other institutions and for Hollins calendar year students.

The most popular Short Term option is a four-week intensive French language program at the Institut de Touraine. The Institut is affiliated with l’Université de Tours and enrolls students from all over the world. Classes meet for about 20 hours per week and include grammar, phonetics, oral expression and culture classes. Housing is with homestays arranged by the Institut. The Institut is located in Tours, one of the principal cities in the Loire Valley. This program is also open to one-term students at an additional fee. For more information, contact the Hollins Abroad office.

Other options for the Short Term include internships and independent studies in Paris and, for Hollins University students, any Short Term academic experience listed in the Hollins catalog.

## The Extracurricular Program

In addition to the extended trips to Normandy (fall) and southern France (spring) which are part of the curriculum, Hollins Abroad organizes overnight excursions to the Loire Valley and Burgundy or Lyons, in fall and to the Loire Valley and Normandy in spring, with guided visits to important historic and cultural sites and time to explore on your own. The cost is included in the Hollins Abroad comprehensive fee.

---

### **A Taste of France focuses on the role of food and wine in French culture.**

---

*A Taste of France*, is an optional, non-credit series of events which focuses on the role of food and wine in French culture. It includes a French cooking class, an introduction to wine and wine tasting, a visit to a world-famous bakery, and a cheese tasting with an introduction to some of the many varieties of French cheeses. There is a fee for this series and you must register for the series in its entirety.

## Meeting Students

Hollins Abroad purchases a membership for each student in *the Club International des Jeunes*, an association of French and international students where our students can meet others at weekly *ateliers conversation*, *ateliers theater*, and on inexpensive weekend trips. Other social events, including receptions with French students who are studying English at the Sorbonne, are arranged with Parismus.

---

### **Developing the skills to function successfully in your new environment will be an important part of your study abroad experience.**

---

The Hollins Abroad director is happy to assist any student who wishes to pursue an extracurricular interest (music, dance, a sport, etc.) while in Paris. We strongly recommend students become involved in extracurricular activities such as sports, and participate in volunteer opportunities. This is

a great way to meet people who are not in the program.

## Transcripts

Hollins University issues official transcripts to participants and their home institutions within two weeks of completion of the term **unless there is an outstanding balance on the student's account**. Be sure to complete and submit the Release of Transcript form included in your online post-decision materials.

## The Staff

The Director, Mme Audrey Stavrévitch, holds Masters degrees in comparative literature from Nanterre University and French as a second language from Sorbonne-Nouvelle University. She has also done graduate work and taught at the college level in the U.S. Mme Stavrévitch teaches a class each term and is available to help with any problems that may come up.

Both the director and her assistant are available to assist students with questions and concerns.

Developing an understanding of French habits and customs, and the skills to function successfully in your new environment will be an important part of your study abroad experience. The director and her assistant will explain cultural misunderstandings and help you find culturally appropriate ways to solve problems but will not resolve every problem for you. If necessary, they will intervene on your behalf, but in most cases, they will advise you and then ask that you make an effort to solve the problem yourself first. The result is almost always more satisfactory for you in the long run.

## The Facilities

The Hollins Abroad-Paris offices and classrooms are located in Reid Hall, a charming eighteenth-century building in the Montparnasse area, the center of artistic and literary life in Paris. Reid Hall is owned by Columbia University and houses several other respected study abroad programs. It is in an



excellent location, within easy walking distance of restaurants, shops, cinemas, the Luxembourg Gardens, the Latin Quarter, and the Sorbonne.

In addition to offices and classrooms, Reid Hall has a small library used by students for quiet study and two gardens with benches and chairs for reading or socializing. The building's bulletin boards are filled with announcements of upcoming social events and club activities, names and phone numbers of French students looking for conversation partners, families looking for babysitters, etc.

The program maintains its own small computer/reading room with three computers that are available for student use from 8:30 a.m. through 10 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and from 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. on holidays. All have high-speed internet access and can be used for research, typing papers, or email. Reid Hall is wired for Wi-Fi so laptops can be used for email and internet throughout the building and in the two gardens.

Wi-Fi sign-on information will be available at your on-site Paris orientation.

## Preparing for your Term Abroad

### Passport

**T**o travel abroad, you must have a valid passport. To avoid difficulties at customs in some countries, you should have a passport that is valid at least six months beyond your intended date of return to the U.S. If you need to apply for a new or renewed passport, you should begin the process early. Normal processing time is four to six weeks but it can take longer prior to peak travel seasons. You will need a valid passport to apply for your French student visa.

---

**We strongly advise you to begin the process of applying for your passport and visa at least 3-4 months prior to the start of your term abroad.**

---

Passport applications are accepted at designated post offices and, in a few cases, at other government offices. For forms, fees, and information on the application process and required documentation, go to [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov)

**U.S. passports are not issued outside the U.S. except in emergencies. Once you are abroad, keep your passport in a safe place and do not lose it.**

### Visa

Due to ever-changing immigration and visa regulations, students will be provided with instructions upon acceptance to the program. However, in general students studying in France for more than 90 days will require a student visa. The Director of International Programs will provide detailed instructions after acceptance to the program (for Hollins students, this will be during pre-departure orientation).

Students must verify that the dates on their visa correspond to the duration of their stay in Paris prior to departure. Any problems must be addressed immediately and directly with the consulate in the U.S.

---

**Carry your passport and immigration documents with you on the plane.**

**Do not pack them in the luggage you check with the airline.**

---

If you are an international student studying at an American university, we suggest you apply for your visa while in the U.S., before returning to your home country.

If you have a passport from a country in the European Union, you will not require a visa, but must enter France on that passport.

### **Power of Attorney**

We strongly suggest that you arrange to give a family member or trusted friend power of attorney for the period you are abroad, especially if you expect to receive any checks or important documents that will require your signature (including financial aid payments or agreements), need to file income tax returns, or need to take care of other legal matters while you are away.

### **Absentee Voting**

If elections will take place while you are abroad, you can apply for an absentee ballot using a form called the Federal Postcard Application (FPCA), which is available on-line at <http://www.fvap.gov/>

### **Quoi Emporter? (What to Take)**

The most important advice about what to take is **pack light**. The biggest mistake most students make is taking too much with them. You will be responsible for what you bring and occasionally have to carry it all around with you, so the less you take the better. Lightweight luggage is a good idea, especially if you plan to travel during breaks and the summer before or after your time on Hollins Abroad. Backpacks are handy but not necessary.

**Remember that you will have very limited storage space in your room.** While you are abroad you will accumulate books, gifts, souvenirs, etc., all of which must be brought or sent back home. The cost for excess baggage and for parcel post is very high, so if

possible leave some space in your luggage for things you will acquire. Airlines at the Paris airports and most U.S. airports are quite inflexible about baggage allowances. Most allow no more than two suitcases and one carry-on, all with weight and/or size restrictions. Extra luggage can cost \$100 or more. Your airline or travel agent can provide details about your luggage allowance. Also, remember to carry your passport and other arrival documents with you on the plane – don't pack them in the luggage you check with the airline. You will need them at both your departure and arrival airports.

Be sure your family has the numbers of your passport, a copy of your passport identification (photo) page, credit card(s), and traveler's checks and a photocopy of your plane tickets. **Make two photocopies of the identification page of your passport and visa for yourself and keep them separate from your passport.** These measures will help if your documents, credit cards, or traveler's checks are lost or stolen.

### **Clothing**

The weather in Paris is often grey, chilly, and damp in the late fall, winter, and early spring. You'll need a warm winter coat or jacket, rain gear, sweaters, gloves and a scarf. French law prohibits heating apartments above 68 degrees so bring warm nightclothes, warm lounging clothes, and warm socks or slippers for the colder months. As our returning abroaders advise, learn to layer! You will also need comfortable walking shoes, including warm, weatherproof shoes or boots for colder weather, and one pair of dressier shoes.

Casual clothing is appropriate for class and even the theatre. Bring at most one dressier outfit. People are less casual on a regular basis, but less dressy for special occasions.

### **Miscellaneous**

For safety, women should have a shoulder bag with a strap that you can wear across your chest (as the Parisiennes do), so that it cannot be pulled from you. You may wish to

keep cash and credit cards in an inside zipped pocket.

Handy items include a small flashlight for night trains, a battery-operated alarm clock, and a small toiletries case for traveling. If you have extra passport photos, bring them with you in case you need to replace a museum pass or other ID.

You will not need a laptop as all assignments can be handwritten and the program's computer room is available for those who wish to use it. However, some students find it handy to have a laptop with them for completing class work. You will need a plug adaptor but most newer laptops have built-in converters, so you should not need a converter. If you bring a laptop, be sure to check with the manufacturer's customer service so you know what, if any, adapters and converters are needed to use your computer in France safely. If possible, keep a copy of the sales receipt for your laptop with you to avoid having to pay customs duty on it. Laptops are popular targets of theft, so always keep your laptop with you when traveling. Using the internet solely for email and bundling messages to send all at once is less expensive.

The website <http://www.cbp.gov/> (click on Traveler Information and then on Know Before You Go brochure) will tell you how to avoid problems when bringing your belongings back into the U.S.

---

**Reading French newspapers and viewing French films will help you prepare for your time in Paris.**

---

### **Reading & Other Suggestions**

Reading French newspapers and books on French history, society, and culture, and viewing French films will help prepare you for your time in Paris. Most college libraries carry French newspapers and several are also available online. Your college's media center and local video outlets should carry films made in France. Here are some suggested readings:

*Tea with Sister Anna: A Paris Journal* by Susan Gilbert Harvey, a Hollins Abroad-Paris alumna (available in the Hollins bookstore and in the IP Resource Room on campus)  
*Paris: The Collected Traveler* by Barrie Kerper, a Hollins Abroad-Paris alumna  
*French or Foe: Getting the Most Out of Visiting, Living, and Working in France* by Polly Platt  
*Paris Past and Present* by M. Ercole Pozzoli  
*Paris to the Moon* by Adam Gopnik  
*Culture Shock!: France* by Sally Adamson Taylor  
*A Concise History of France* by Roger Price  
*France Today* by John Ardagh  
*Paris was Yesterday* by Janet Flanner  
*A Moveable Feast* by Ernest Hemingway  
*The Road from the Past: Traveling Through History in France* by Ina Caro. This is a combination tour guide and history book that covers many of the regions visited on Hollins Abroad excursions.

Good preparation will also make your personal exploration of Paris and France more valuable and enjoyable. Guidebooks that students have recommended include *Lonely Planet*, *Frommers*, *Rough Guide*, *Let's Go*, *Fodor's*, and *First-Time Europe*.

Useful websites include [www.lonelyplanet.com](http://www.lonelyplanet.com), [www.frommers.com](http://www.frommers.com), [www.ricksteves.com](http://www.ricksteves.com), [www.letsgo.com](http://www.letsgo.com), and [www.travel.roughguides.com](http://www.travel.roughguides.com).

## **Travel and Arrival**

***NOTE: If any of your contact information has changed since your original application, please notify the Roanoke Office. All of your pre-arrival information will be sent via email.***

### **Transatlantic Travel**

Hollins Abroad does not arrange for a group flight, as it is now generally less expensive and more convenient for students to book individually from their local airports or to use frequent flyer miles. **We recommend that you book a flight that**

**arrives at Charles de Gaulle Airport no later than 11 a.m. on arrival day** (*see the Academic Calendar at the front of this guide*). You can book through a travel agency, airline website, or through a student travel site such as Student Universe ([www.studentuniverse.com](http://www.studentuniverse.com)) or STA Travel ([www.statravel.com](http://www.statravel.com)). Once you have booked your flight, you must forward your complete itinerary (dates, departure and arrival airports, airline and flight number) to the Hollins Abroad office in Virginia so we can provide detailed arrival instructions.

**Students who arrive by the recommended time are met at the airport by Hollins Abroad staff. If you arrive after the suggested time, you will be responsible for making your own way from the airport to your accommodations. We will provide instructions.**

**Once you have booked your flight, you must forward your complete itinerary to the Hollins Abroad office in Virginia AND update StudioAbroad so we can provide detailed arrival instructions.**

Because of increased security, it is important to pay careful attention to the information on check-in and baggage restrictions provided by your airline including restrictions on liquids in carry-on luggage. The website of the Transportation Security Administration (<http://www.tsa.gov/>) has up-to-date information on what you can and cannot take on an airplane.

### **Fall Field Trip to Normandy**

A typical itinerary includes:

**Day 1:** Bus ride to Caen (about three hours), with lunch along the way. Arrival at hotel in Caen, walk around town, dinner.

**Day 2:** Visit to the Bayeux Cathedral and Bayeux Tapestry. Lunch in Bayeux. Visit to Mont Saint Michel in the afternoon.

**Day 3:** Visit to the Memorial de Caen. Lunch on the shore. D-Day beaches. St. Laurent American War Cemetery.

**Day 4:** Trip from Caen to Paris, with stops in the grand resort of Deauville, the picturesque harbor of Honfleur, and a visit to a cider factory or a stud farm, typical of Norman landscape and economy.

### **Spring Field Trip to Southern France**

Either during orientation or later in the term, the spring group takes a guided tour through parts of southern France. A typical itinerary includes:

**Day 1:** Train from Paris to Marseille. Visit of the cathedral and boat tour in *calanques*.

**Day 2:** Visit of La Cité Radieuse, by Le Corbusier architect and a gastronomical walking tour in the old part of the city.

**Day 3:** Nice and the Côte d'Azur. Visit to Chagall, Matisse and/or Modern Art museums. Free time for strolls in the old Italian part of the city or on the beach.

**Day 4:** Visits to the picturesque towns of St-Paul-de-Vence, the Fondation Maeght (a renowned modern art museum with a splendid sculpture garden), Antibes and its Picasso Museum.

### **Fall and Spring Arrival Programs in Paris**

The arrival programs in Paris are designed to introduce you to your new surroundings and help you adjust to your new environment. There will be group sessions about academics, homestays, where to find what you need, etc., and you will also take the short French placement test. Following the placement test, our Hollins Director will meet with each student individually to discuss course choices.

In both fall and spring, orientation includes guided tours of Paris, Giverny and Rouen, Versailles, and visits to the Louvre, Notre-Dame, Sainte-Chapelle, and other important or secret Parisian sites. All these visits are

conducted by a guide who specializes in art history and history.

## Getting Along in Paris

**Y**ou will find most French people polite and helpful, but you should expect a number of distinct differences between U.S. and French societies, quite apart from language. Remember that you are a guest in France and should try to adapt to French customs and habits.

---

**The homestay is an important part of your experience and we want you to be happy in your assignment.**

---

**Always try to speak French.** If you address shopkeepers, waiters and others in English, they will think you scornful of them and their language and will pretend not to understand you. If, on the other hand, you speak French, they may try to answer you in English out of courtesy. Don't take this as an indication that your French is inadequate but rather as an indication that they appreciate your attempts to use their language and want to reciprocate by attempting to use yours.

Remember, too, that customs, expressions, body language, and ways of interacting with others may be different and, at first, a bit confusing. Sit back and observe. Don't make assumptions based on your own cultural context. Behaviors that seem inappropriate or even impolite in the U.S. may have a completely different meaning in France, just as some of your American behaviors will seem odd to the French. Expect to experience some frustration at first. As you observe and adapt you will become more and more able to understand and fit comfortably into your new surroundings.

## Life in a French Family

**E**ach Hollins Abroad student lives with French hosts. This provides the opportunity for a true immersion experience. While sitting around the dinner table discussing the latest movie, the

government's new policies, or something funny that happened during the day, you'll develop conversational French skills and an understanding of the culture that you cannot gain through classroom study.

---

**Remember that you are a guest in France and should try to adapt to French customs and habits.**

---

You can be as involved with or independent of your French hosts as you choose. Most students choose to get to know their hosts well, but if you prefer to be very independent, please note that on your housing form. Be aware that less interaction with your hosts will mean less opportunity to improve your French and increase your understanding of daily life in France.

The Hollins Abroad staff in Paris maintains contact with the hosts on a regular basis to assure the students of the best possible living conditions.

## Your Placement with a French Family

Your application included a housing form requesting information about yourself and your needs and preferences in your housing placement. While we are generally able to accommodate most preferences, it is not always possible to fill all requests. If you have unique requirements or medical concerns that require special housing considerations, please contact the Hollins Abroad Office Virginia as soon as possible.

Most Hollins Abroad students prefer to be the only student in a homestay and this is the situation we recommend in most cases. While it may sound a bit overwhelming at first to be the only student in a home, most students find it a very rewarding experience with the greatest opportunity to improve French skills quickly. In most cases, there will be other Hollins Abroad-Paris students nearby. We do not encourage two students to stay together in a homestay and it is actually quite difficult to find host families that have two available rooms.

On rare occasions students may have compatibility problems with their assigned families. Our director does her best to place you in an appropriate family and Hollins prides itself in having a high success rate in this area. If you have any concerns about your placement, be sure to see our staff. They will work with you, including, if necessary, moving you to a different family. The homestay situation plays an important part in the success of your experience and we want you to be happy and satisfied in your assignment.

### **Things Provided by Your French Family**

**Linens:** You will get clean towels every week and clean sheets every two weeks.

**Keys to your apartment:** Be careful not to lose them because you will be responsible for the cost of changing the locks, which is very high.

**Heat and light:** Remember that by law buildings in Paris cannot be heated above 68 degrees Fahrenheit. In your homestay as well as in other locations you will need to dress warmly. There is no need to bring a study lamp; your hosts will provide adequate lighting in your room.

**Breakfast:** Breakfast is provided by your hosts except during breaks and includes your

---

**If you wish to stay in Paris during spring or fall break (NOT winter break), your housing with your French hosts is covered by Hollins Abroad. No meals are provided by your hosts or Hollins Abroad during breaks.**

---

choice of coffee, tea, or hot chocolate, *pain grillé* (toast), and *confiture* (jam). You should not expect your host family to provide orange juice, yogurt, or cereals, as these are not standard items in a French breakfast. If you want to buy your own, however, your hostess will reserve a space for you in her refrigerator. After a few days, if your daily schedule does not coincide with your family's, you can prepare your own breakfast. Always remember to leave a clean kitchen.

**Dinner:** Your family will provide dinner five days a week except during breaks. Fridays

and Saturdays are the "off days," and you are given an allowance for these meals at the beginning of each month along with your lunch money. Please understand that while your hosts will accommodate your food preferences as much as possible, they will be serving typical French meals. If you are a picky eater you'll need to be more flexible than usual.

### **Things Not Provided by Your French Family**

**Lunch:** You will receive a monthly stipend from Hollins Abroad for lunches and Friday and Saturday dinners. Lunches are not provided by your hosts. Do not be offended if you are home during lunch hour (especially on weekends) and you are not invited to join them for lunch. Some students eat lunch in nearby cafés or take advantage of the many *boulangeries* near Reid Hall. Others pack a lunch to take to the Luxembourg Gardens. There are also several *Restaurants Universitaires* quite close to Reid Hall, where you can get a complete meal for approximately 3€. These are French student restaurants to which you have access with the International Student Identity Card (see more info in this guide) you will receive from Hollins Abroad.

Dia is an inexpensive grocery chain which Hollins Abroaders have found to be a good place to stock up on snacks. The stores are located throughout Paris, with one just around the corner from Reid Hall, on rue Notre-Dame-des-Champs.

### **Rooming and Meals During Breaks**

Most students travel during breaks. If you wish to stay in Paris during a break, your housing with your French hosts is covered by Hollins Abroad but we ask that you **notify us and the family of your plans in advance**. No meals are provided by your hosts or Hollins Abroad during breaks. **No housing or meals are provided by Hollins Abroad during winter break.**

## **Guidelines for a Pleasant Stay in a French Home**

Be honest when completing your housing form. The more we know about the kind of experience you want to have, the more likely we are to place you with hosts with whom you will be compatible.

Always be courteous to your hosts, even if you do not wish to establish a friendship with them.

When in doubt about anything—just ask! Not only will you get an answer, but it will initiate conversation, help your French, and show that you are genuinely interested. For example, ask about homework assignments, ask for suggestions for things to do and places to go, ask about your own *quartier* and what's interesting in the neighborhood.

Bring a small gift for your hosts. Something representative of your region of the U.S. is always appropriate. Also bring photographs of your family; your hosts will enjoy seeing them.

If you have culinary talents, prepare an occasional American dish or meal for your hosts.

Act responsibly when your family is away.

Most families will let you store food in the refrigerator and prepare lunch at home, etc. Just be sure to ask first.

You may do your laundry in your host family's apartment; however, some hosts prefer that the student not touch the washing machine. If that is the case, your host will do your laundry once per week for you. Try to keep your wash loads reasonable, i.e. once a week.

Be aware of the routine of the family members in terms of usage of the *salle de bain*. It's not polite to take baths too late at night, take long showers, keep the bathroom for hours for yourself, or use up all the hot water in the tank. Electricity and hot water are much more expensive in France than they

are in the U.S., so restrict yourself to one shower or bath a day.

There are two options for telephone access:

(1) You can use the family's phone. You'll pay only for the calls you place (local and long distance, including, in some cases, a local call charge if you are using a calling card) but you will need to use the phone sparingly and respect French phone etiquette and the family's wishes. It is usually considered impolite to place or receive calls before 9 a.m. or after 10 p.m. or to tie up the family phone frequently or for long periods of time.

(2) We strongly recommend that you purchase a pre-paid cell phone for 20 - 40€ because it is the most practical and least expensive option. Additional calling time can be purchased via phone cards. If you wish to bring a cell phone with you from the U.S., be sure to check that it will work in France—unless it is a phone specifically designed for use overseas, it will not. Note that cell phones are prime targets of theft throughout Europe so store your phone securely. At orientation, our staff will advise you on where to purchase a cell phone at a reasonable cost.

Remember that homestays are neither hotels nor hostels. Please do not invite friends or relatives to stay with you without first checking with your host family.

If your family invites you to do things with them (e.g., day trips, weekend outings, etc.), accept with enthusiasm if you wish. Don't feel as though you are putting them out or they're just being nice.

Mail from the U.S. should be sent to Reid Hall, c/o Hollins Abroad-Paris.

**Expenses for the repair or replacement of any damage you cause in the home will be charged to your Hollins account.**

**Respect the terms of the contract between Hollins University and the family and do not ask your hosts for special favors** (for example, to arrive before the scheduled date, to join



the family for extra meals, etc.). If you have special needs, request assistance from the Hollins Abroad offices in Virginia or Paris.

## Getting Around Paris

**H**ollins Abroad provides each student with a monthly transportation pass for the duration of the program. The pass entitles you to unlimited travel by bus, métro, and R.E.R., within the city of Paris.

## Finances

### Fees and Billing

**T**he Hollins Abroad comprehensive fee for 2014-2015 is **\$23,400**. This covers your tuition, all course field trips except theatre and concert performances, your accommodations, all meals, your transportation pass, the four-day trip to Normandy in the fall or to southern France in the spring, two optional weekend excursions, comprehensive overseas health insurance while on the program, and an International Student Identity Card. Bills for the fall term are mailed in July, with payment in full due within 30 days. Bills for the spring term are mailed in December, with payment in full due within 30 days.

Students who are not degree-seeking students at Hollins University are not eligible to participate in extended payment plans through Hollins University for Hollins Abroad. If you will be unable to pay your Hollins Abroad comprehensive fee in full on the due date because you will receive financial aid from your home institution that cannot be released until the start of the term, please notify the Hollins Abroad office in Virginia. We will confirm the details of your situation and make arrangements so you can avoid late payment charges until after your funds are released.

Students whose home universities have special financial arrangements with Hollins may be billed by their home institutions rather than Hollins.

Full-time Hollins University students can apply all of their financial aid, except institutional work-study (IWS), toward the Hollins Abroad comprehensive fee. Students from other institutions should check with their financial aid offices to ascertain their schools' policies. In most cases, federally subsidized financial aid can be applied toward the Hollins Abroad comprehensive fee and in many cases other aid can be applied as well.

Virginia residents are eligible to apply for Virginia Tuition Assistance Grants for the Hollins Abroad program. The application deadline for students who received a VTAG award in the previous fiscal year is July 31. Students new to the VTAG program and enrolling in the fall can apply until September 14, but applications received by July 31 are given preference. Students new to the VTAG program and enrolling in the spring must apply by December 1. The Commonwealth of Virginia does not guarantee that all applicants will receive funding; returning VTAG students are given first priority, those attending in the fall second, and those attending spring only, third. VTAG applications can be downloaded at <http://www.schev.edu/schev/formsIndex.asp>. Completed applications should be mailed to the Hollins Abroad office before the deadline.

A Hollins University account will be established in your name and you will have the option of charging certain program-related expenses to your account. The bill for your comprehensive fee and monthly statements of your account will be sent to the permanent home address (or home institution in some cases) you provide us on your application form. We will not send duplicate statements to you in Paris. **If you want your monthly statements sent directly to you while you are in Paris, please notify the Hollins Abroad office in Virginia.**

Several weeks before the beginning of the term, we will begin to make financial commitments for all students enrolled in the program. **If you withdraw after June 1 for the**



**fall term or after December 1 for the spring term, you will be responsible for any expenses already incurred on your behalf.**

### **Money**

Hollins Abroad-Paris opens students a local bank account through our partner bank, which allows the staff to wire lunch money and any relevant payments. This will be discussed in detail during orientation in Paris.

---

See <http://www.oanda.com/>  
for “currency converter” tool

---

Students should keep in mind that having a French debit card allows them to easily purchase transportation passes, train tickets, etc., and avoids incidental charges that may be incurred when using an American card in France. Most students have found this to be the best option.

We recommend using ATM cards that honor Cirrus, Honor, or Plus in ATMs in Paris and elsewhere to access funds from home. You can also use credit cards (Visa, MasterCard) at ATMs. Be sure to investigate transaction fees; depending on your bank, there may be lower fees with one kind of card than the other. Before leaving the U.S., check with your bank to be sure your PIN is an international one. It can be useful to have two credit/ATM cards, in case the magnetic strip on one malfunctions.

Notify your bank in advance that you will be living abroad for several months so their security department won't put a hold on your account when you start to incur charges abroad. Most businesses accept Visa and/or MasterCard. Fewer accept American Express.

Most students find traveler's checks inconvenient to use. However, you may wish to take along a few traveler's checks, just to have a second source of funds in case there is a problem with your credit or ATM card, PIN, or the ATM itself.

### **Employment**

Some students earn pocket money in Paris by babysitting or giving English lessons for French families. Good places to find these opportunities include the Reid Hall bulletin board, the American churches and the FUSAC magazine. You can also earn a stipend of up to about \$300 per month as an “intern,” in certain positions which do not carry academic credit. If you are interested in this option, especially in your second term in Paris, see the Hollins Abroad director. Finally, through a fairly complicated and time-consuming procedure, you can apply for a permit which will entitle you to accept up to 20 hours per week of paid employment. We strongly discourage students from applying for this permit, as the application process is daunting, finding a job is difficult, and working 20 hours per week will detract significantly from your academic experience.

### **Health and Medical Care**

**L**iving and studying abroad may present significant physical and psychological challenges. Even mild problems may be exacerbated by the stress associated with adjusting to a new cultural environment. If you are not in good physical and emotional health, you should carefully consider your plans to study abroad at this time. If you have any questions about your situation, be sure to consult with your parents, your university's health and counseling service, or your private physician and/or counselor.

While you are abroad, as at home, you are more likely to stay healthy if you eat well, get enough sleep and exercise, and refrain from risky behaviors, including excessive drinking, drug use, and having unprotected sex.

The Hollins Abroad-Paris office has a list of recommended physicians, dentists, and counselors in Paris and can help students make appointments. There are many excellent specialists and hospitals in Paris.

If you need a particular type of medication, bring a sufficient supply with you for the

duration of your time abroad. Remember that all prescription medication brought into another country should be accompanied by a copy of the prescription, preferably noting the generic name of the drug. If you cannot take a sufficient supply of a medication, ask the prescribing physician to provide a diagnosis prescription, describing the medication so a French physician can issue a prescription that can be filled in Paris. Occasionally this will require an examination to reconfirm the diagnosis. Having medication shipped over to France is extremely costly, because you have to pay high customs fees.

Bring an extra pair of eyeglasses, contacts and/or sunglasses with you or bring a copy of your prescription with you.

If you have any physical condition that may require emergency care, you should purchase and carry an identification tag, bracelet, or card on you at all times, indicating the specific nature of your problem and what should be done in the event you are unable to communicate.

Be sure to provide the Hollins Abroad office with accurate and complete physical and mental health information on the Health Report and Release form. Having this information can make a great difference in our ability to meet your medical and psychological needs while abroad.

---

**Be sure to provide the Hollins Abroad office with accurate and complete physical and mental health information on the Health Report and Release form.**

---

Additional information is available under Health Issues at Tips for Traveling Abroad on [http://www.travel.state.gov/travel/tips/tips\\_1232.html#health](http://www.travel.state.gov/travel/tips/tips_1232.html#health) and at Travel Health Online at [www.tripprep.com](http://www.tripprep.com)

## **Insurance**

Students on Hollins Abroad are required to enroll for health insurance through Hollins University's study abroad insurance provider,

Cultural Insurance Services International (CISI). This comprehensive insurance covers claims outside the U.S. and the premiums are included in your comprehensive fee. You will receive the CISI plan and schedule of benefits after you complete the online enrollment process.

## **International Student Identity Card**

**T**he International Student Identity Card is issued to all Hollins Abroad students by the Hollins international programs office as a licensee of a third party provider. This internationally recognized card serves as official proof of student status. The card additionally entitles you to discounts for museums, cinemas, theatres, historical sites, flights, and some retailers abroad and in the U.S. Domestic discounts may include ski resorts, Amtrak, Target, The Body Shop and Macy's among others. In Paris, some beauty salons and hairdressers also honor the card for some discounted services.

The ISIC also provides insurance benefits including up to \$300,000 for emergency medical evacuation, \$25,000 for repatriation, some basic medical, accident, travel delay, and lost document insurance, a 24-hour emergency help line, and a phone card and mobile phone options.

For a full listing of benefits and discounts, go to [www.myISIC.com](http://www.myISIC.com).

## **Americans Abroad**

**J**ust as Americans stereotype people from other countries, people from other countries stereotype Americans, based on what they see in movies and other media and on the behavior of American tourists. Among the common negative stereotypes of Americans is that they are loud and demanding, have lots of money to spend, drink too much, are always in a hurry, expect all foreigners to speak English, make no effort to adapt to local customs, and think the U.S. is better than any other country. If you encounter negative stereotypes of Americans

that you think are unfair or inaccurate, prove them wrong with your own positive behavior.

---

**People from other countries stereotype Americans, based on what they see in movies and other media.**

---

There is considerable opposition in many countries to the U.S. foreign policy, particularly in the Middle East. Be prepared to encounter anti-American attitudes and, perhaps, the assumption that because you are American you support the U.S. government's actions (regardless of whether you do or not). You should not feel compelled to defend U.S. foreign policy, but you should be prepared to defend your own personal views intelligently if you enter into political discussions.

Here are a few things to keep in mind:

- In most other countries, people tend to be well-informed about local, national, and world politics; engaging in political discussions is a way of life, as is criticizing their own and other governments.
- In many countries, people tend to be very direct in expressing their political views; it is not considered impolite to openly disagree with others. On the contrary, it is considered as being very sincere.
- Don't enter into heated discussions when you or those you are conversing with have been drinking heavily.
- Don't take criticism of the U.S. government, president, or foreign policy personally—you are not responsible for U.S. foreign policy, whether you support it or not.
- Don't make assumptions. If someone treats you disrespectfully, whether in a discussion or on the street, don't automatically assume it's because you are an American—maybe the person is having a bad day or maybe he's just rude to everyone.

- Be open-minded and remember that people with different life experiences and world views see things differently. An important part of the study abroad experience is seeing and evaluating different perspectives.

## Culture Shock

Culture shock is the term used to describe the psychological disorientation most people experience when they move for an extended period of time into a culture markedly different from their own. For most people the experience of culture shock is brief and hardly noticeable. For some, however, culture shock can bring considerable discomfort. Often it is the students who least expect it or refuse to recognize it that have the most difficulty.

Culture shock does not result from a specific event or series of events. It comes instead from the experience of encountering ways of doing, organizing, perceiving or valuing things which are different from yours and which question your basic, unconscious belief that your own customs, assumptions, values and behaviors are "right." It tends to build up slowly from a series of small events which are difficult to identify. Simple examples include times when people don't understand your sense of humor and you don't understand theirs or when someone's reaction to something you have done or said doesn't make any sense to you.

Culture shock comes from:

- Being cut off from the cultural clues and patterns with which you are familiar.
- Having your own values brought into question.
- Being put into positions in which you are expected to function effectively, but where the rules are unclear to you or different from what you expect.

---

**Culture shock comes from the experience of encountering ways of doing, organizing, perceiving or valuing things which are different from yours.**

---

Culture shock can cause symptoms such as homesickness, frustration, or irritation with your host culture or its people. If you find yourself having difficulty adjusting to your new surroundings, try to remember that some degree of culture shock is natural and inevitable. If you are like most students, within a short time you will be feeling comfortable and at home in your new surroundings. If you experience significant difficulties, the program staff can provide support and advice.

## **Communications**

**C**ell phones and email have made communication between abroad and home convenient and inexpensive. This has great advantages but unfortunately also has the disadvantage that students may spend a considerable amount of time while they are abroad calling or emailing friends and family in the U.S. to “stay connected.” As a result, they may not seek or make connections in Paris. While it is important to keep in touch with those in the U.S. who are important to you, Hollins Abroad encourages you to keep emails and phone calls (especially those in English) to a minimum. Immerse yourself in your new surroundings instead. You will have only a few months to experience all there is to see and learn about Paris and France—take advantage of them!

We also encourage you to be kind to your parents. It is natural to want to call them for support when you are having a problem, experiencing culture shock, or are homesick. But they often feel helpless because they are 4,000 miles away. Also, remember that the people who can best help you resolve problems are the on-site staff, not your parents or the Hollins Abroad office in Virginia. Always take your problems and concerns to the Paris staff—there’s nothing

you can ask them that they haven’t been asked before!

## **Returning Home**

**E**ven though you haven’t even departed yet and are certainly not thinking about what it will be like to return home after your time abroad, it is worth noting even now that coming home requires an adjustment that can be as difficult as or even more difficult than the adjustment you need to make when going abroad. This is known as reverse culture shock or re-entry culture shock. When you leave your study abroad site, you will be leaving places, people, and a way of life which have become very important and familiar to you. You are likely to have changed as a person and may have new interests and values. You may be concerned about how you will adjust to being back at home and on your home campus and how your family and friends will adjust to the “new you.” If you have significant readjustment problems, you may wish to seek assistance from resource people on your home campus.

## Appendix

### Safety

Life in most European cities is as safe as, or much safer than, life in a large city in the U.S. Violent crime is rare, although petty theft is quite common. It is important that you use common sense and observe reasonable safety precautions while you are abroad, as you would at home.

- Register your trip on-line with the U.S. Department of State at <https://travelregistration.state.gov/ibrs/>. This will enable Department of State officials to communicate with and assist you in an emergency. You can register at this on-line site as soon as you have your Paris address.
- Do not leave your bags or belongings unattended at any time. Security staff at airports and train stations are instructed to destroy any unattended luggage. Do not agree to carry or look after letters, packages, or suitcases for anyone.
- Never keep all of your documents and money in one place or one suitcase. Once you arrive, keep your passport in a safe place. Don't carry your passport with you unless you need it. A U.S. passport is an enticing target for thieves; thousands are reported stolen overseas every year and passports can no longer be replaced at U.S. embassies and consulates overseas except in emergencies and only for travel home.
- Don't ever keep all your money and credit cards with you. Just take what you need for each day and leave the rest in a safe place.
- Remember that, at least at first, you will be unfamiliar with your surroundings, local customs, behavior, and body language. You won't know whom to trust. Be more cautious than you would at home, where you are better able to "read" a given situation.
- Avoid walking alone in poorly lit or deserted streets, parks, and other areas.
- Even when accompanied by others, stay away from areas of a city reputed to be dangerous.
- If you find yourself in uncomfortable surroundings, act as though you know what you are doing and where you are going.
- Know how to use public phones and how to contact the police. Have necessary coins or phone cards with you.
- Areas around public telephones and the metro are common places for pickpocket activity. Keep backpacks and purses in hand. Safeguard calling card numbers.
- Do not leave money, credit cards, IDs or valuables in a backpack that you carry behind you.
- If you don't want to or can't afford to lose something, don't take it with you. When traveling, don't show off cash or expensive jewelry or watches in stores or on the street. Keep your money in a money belt or bag that fits across your chest when you are on the street, on public transportation, and in public buildings.
- Be aware of the dangerous effect that alcohol consumption can have on your ability to use common sense and make good judgments, especially in unfamiliar situations. Don't accept drinks from or get drunk with strangers.
- Stay away from illegal drugs entirely. Use of illegal drugs is grounds for immediate dismissal from the program. Most foreign countries have extremely strict laws regarding even small quantities of drugs and there is very little that program staff or U.S. officials can do to help you if you are caught with illegal drugs. For more information, go to [http://travel.state.gov/travel/tips/tips\\_1232.html#drug\\_offenses](http://travel.state.gov/travel/tips/tips_1232.html#drug_offenses).

- Remember that you are subject to the laws of whatever country you are in, which may be much more restrictive than those in the U.S. U.S. standards of due process may not apply in overseas legal proceedings and Hollins cannot provide or pay for legal representation of program participants. Familiarize yourself with local laws and don't jeopardize your studies and your freedom by breaking them.
- Do not hitchhike or accept rides from strangers.
- Let your hosts, friends and/or the program director know of any travel plans and how they can reach you. Have the director's phone number with you at all times in case of emergency.
- When traveling, do not tell strangers where you are staying.
- Always have two sources of funds available to you – an ATM card and traveler's checks, for example. If for any reason you can't get money from one source, you'll still have access to cash.
- Go the opposite direction of any disturbance. Do not get involved. Avoid political demonstrations and protests. In the case of sudden political upheaval involving the U.S. or your host country, rely on instructions from the program director.
- Remember that any behavior that puts you or your fellow students in danger is grounds for dismissal from the program.

In the current world situation, some added precautions are advisable:

- Avoid places frequented by Americans—pubs, fast food restaurants, U.S. business and government offices.
- Avoid speaking loudly in English when in public with other Americans.
- Avoid dressing in ways that readily identify you as an American.
- Be cautious about how much you tell strangers or people you don't know well about your program, its location, your residence, or any travel plans.
- Do not invite strangers or recent acquaintances to your program building.
- Report any suspicious people or packages to the front desk staff.

The website of the U.S. Department of State ([www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov)) provides a wealth of information on safety and security in overseas travel. The "Consular Information Sheets" provide cultural, practical, and safety information on every country in the world. **We suggest you read these information sheets before traveling to any country.** Other worthwhile links can be found under "Tips for Traveling Abroad" and "Living Abroad Tips."

**We strongly recommend that you regularly monitor the Department of State's website for alerts issued for U.S. citizens abroad.** There are two kinds of alerts issued by the State Department. The first is a "public announcement," which notifies Americans of a potential threat and suggests measures they should take when traveling in a particular country or region. The second is a higher level of alert, called a "travel warning," which is generally a recommendation that Americans not travel to a particular country or region. We strongly suggest that you go to the website before departure and read examples of each of these types of warnings so you will be familiar with them and the reasons they are issued. While travel warnings are uncommon in Europe, public announcements are sometimes issued, especially when a controversial international meeting is scheduled and large demonstrations are expected. The Hollins Abroad office receives these bulletins as they are issued and immediately forwards them to the program directors and all students if they cover countries or cities to which you might travel.

In the unlikely event that a travel warning is issued for Paris or France while Hollins Abroad is in session, we will consult with the U.S. Department of State here and our director will consult with the U.S. embassy in Paris to determine the safest course of action. Hollins Abroad has emergency plans ready for implementation should the need arise.

***Hollins University cannot assume responsibility for actions or for events that are not part of the program or for those that are beyond our control or for situations that may arise due to the failure of a participant to disclose pertinent information.***

## **Independent Travel**

**I**t is easy and convenient to travel from Paris to many other parts of France and Europe. While we encourage you to explore other countries and, in particular, other parts of France during breaks and on occasional weekends, spending adequate time on your coursework and taking advantage of what Paris itself has to offer should be your top priorities. Long-distance traveling every weekend often leads to academic stress, physical exhaustion, and, at the end of the term, the realization that you've missed many experiences in Paris. Try not to be overly ambitious in your travel plans.

The National Tourist Office as well as tourist offices for most French provinces are located in Paris. The Hollins Abroad office in Paris can also advise students on transportation and accommodations in many parts of Europe.

Before traveling to any country, check the state department website for any travel warnings issued for your destination. <http://www.travel.state.gov/>

### **French Guidebooks**

*Plan de Paris*: an indispensable, pocket-sized book containing an alphabetical listing of all streets in Paris cross-referenced with maps of each "arrondissement," as well as métro maps and useful addresses.

*Guide Michelin Vert* (in French or English): a concise tourist guide to the sights of Paris and close suburbs. It includes historical, architectural, and sociological information and itineraries for walking tours. These guides are available for French regions and other European countries as well.

*Paris Pas Cher*: lists inexpensive restaurants, discount stores, free or inexpensive entertainment.

*Guide du Routard*: the French equivalent of Let's Go; volumes for various French regions and many countries all over the world. Excellent as a guidebook and as a way to meet French young people when traveling.

*Guide Bleu*: a bit expensive but a good guide, especially if you are interested in history and architecture.

Guidebooks in English that have been recommended by former abroaders are listed in *Reading and Other Suggestions* in this guide.

### **Train Travel**

European trains are fantastic. The National French Railroad Company, called SNCF, sells tickets for all over Europe at any train station or any of their "Tourisme SNCF" offices. The general information phone number is 36 35. Reservations can be made by telephone or on [www.voyages-sncf.com](http://www.voyages-sncf.com) and tickets picked up 30 minutes prior to train departure.

Depending on your travel plans, you may find a rail pass useful. Rates and ordering information for the various passes can be found at [www.statravel.com](http://www.statravel.com) or at any travel agency. Passes can be



purchased before leaving the United States. Even if you have a Eurail or other train pass you will have to pay a reservation fee for each trip.

### **Air Travel**

Inexpensive airfares from Paris to many European cities can be booked online with low-cost airlines such as EasyJet or RyanAir. Depending on your destination, it may be cheaper and faster to fly than to take the train.

### **Car Rentals**

You can rent a car in France if you are 21 or older and have an international driver's license (available at any AAA office). Some countries in Europe require drivers renting cars to be at least 25 years of age and have at least 12 months of driving experience. In most cases, a major credit card is also required.

Traffic laws vary tremendously from country to country and all are very different from those in the U.S. We strongly recommend against renting vehicles and instead suggest that you use the excellent public transportation system to get to your destinations.

### **Hotels**

In most European train stations there is a tourist information office that helps visitors find hotels in the city. In some stations, the employees will call the hotels for you. Free lists of hotels in France are available in the Paris Tourism Office on rue des Pyramides, near the Opera. The National Tourist Office can also provide information on hotels.

### **Travel with French Groups**

Students who wish to participate in organized French student trips can consult the following agencies:

Nouvelles Frontières  
66, bd St Michel  
Paris 6ème

C.R.O.U.S./O.T.U.  
39, ave Georges Bernanos  
Paris 5ème

UCPA  
rue de la Glacière  
Paris 13ème  
(and 17 other locations in Paris)

The Club International des Jeunes, of which all Hollins Abroad students are members, also organizes student trips.

### **Parisian Activities**

**H**ollins Abroaders have always enjoyed Paris nightlife; like them, you will soon discover the “in” places. For movies, concerts and shows, read either *Pariscope* or *l'Officiel des Spectacles*, two weekly guides to events in Paris. They list all the movies showing in Paris (about 250 at any time), exhibits, concerts, operas, and plays.



Tickets for both the old Opéra Garnier and the new Opéra Bastille go on sale at the Opéra one week in advance, by subscription, or in an agency like FNAC or Virgin. At the Opéra Garnier you can get “places sans visibilité” for 6-9€, you’ll see a smidgen of the stage, and all of the Chagall ceiling!

Many concerts are held in churches and often they are free. Rock and pop concerts are usually held at *Le Zénith*, *Porte de la Villette* and at the *Palais Omnisports de Bercy*.

Tickets for all sorts of concerts can be purchased at FNAC: 136, rue de Rennes, 6ème or Forum des Halles, 1er.

### **Lecture Tours**

Interesting lecture tours are listed every week in *Pariscope*: visits to the cemetery “le Père-Lachaise” (see the tombs of famous people from Chopin to Jim Morrison), or to Bohemian Montmartre, or the underground of the Halles with its gothic cellars, etc. Early in the term you may also enjoy the “Paris Walks” offered in English by the same company that created the famous “London Walks.”

### **Promenades**

*Les Catacombes*. 2, place et M° Denfert-Rochereau. 01 43 22 47 63. Du Mar. au Ven. de 14h à 16h. Sam. et Dim. de 9h à 11h et de 14h à 16h. Fermé jours fériés.

*Les Egouts de Paris*. Place de la Résistance. Extrémité rive gauche du Pont de l’Alma, angle du quai d’Orsay (M° Alma). 01 47 05 10 29. Tlj de 11h à 16h. Fermé Jeu. et Ven. Visits in English available.

*La Grande Arche*. 01 49 07 26 26. Parvis de La Défense (RER La Défense). Du Lun. au Sam. de 9h à 18h, Dim. de 9h30 à 22h. Beautiful view of all of Paris (for a fee).

*Marché Aux Puces de la Porte de Saint-Ouen*. (M° Pte de Clignancourt). Sam., Dim. et Lun. de 9h à 20h. Lots of fun but beware of pickpockets.

*Montmartre* and *Sacré-Cœur* on the weekends. Lively, colorful, artistic. Again, beware of pickpockets.

*The Marais* and *Place des Vosges*. Live jazz quartets on Saturday evenings.

### **Art Galleries**

About 50 art galleries near the Pompidou Center; the same number in Saint-Germain-des-Prés (rue Bonaparte, rue de Seine); and dozens in the Bastille area, near the new Opéra and in the BNF area. Major exhibits in museums are widely advertised. Keep your eyes open and ask your art teachers.

### **Concert Halls**

*Accueil Saint-Merri*. 76, rue de la Verrerie (M° Hôtel de ville). 01 42 76 93 93

*Eglise Saint-Julien le Pauvre*. rue Saint-Julien-le-Pauvre (M° Saint-Michel).

*Eglise Saint-Louis en L’Île*. 19 bis, rue Saint-Louis en l’Île (M° Pont-Marie).

*Maison de la Radio*. 116, avenue du Pdt Kennedy (M° Ranelagh). 01 42 30 23 08

*Notre-Dame*. place du parvis Notre-Dame (M° Cité). 01 43 26 07 39

*Opéra de Paris*. (M° Opéra). 01 47 42 53 71

*Opéra Bastille*. (M° Bastille). 01 47 42 53 71

*Salle Gaveau*. 46, rue de La Boétie (M° Miromesnil). 01 49 53 05 07

*Salle Pleyel*. 252, rue du Faubourg Saint-Honoré (M° Ternes). 01 45 63 88 73. Pour l’Orchestre de Paris:

01 45 63 07 96

*Theâtre Champs-Élysées.* (M° Alma-Marceau)

### **Department Stores**

*Monoprix* is the place to buy necessities. Stores are located all over Paris.

### **Book Stores**

*Joseph Gibert*

26, boulevard Saint Michel

75006 Paris

New & used books, also stationery

*FNAC* (also sells CDs, video equipment, film, cameras, etc.) at several locations:

136, rue de Renne

*FNAC* Musique at Bastille

*FNAC* Étoile

*Forum des Halles*

1, rue Pierre Lescot

75001 Paris

### **Book Stores--English**

*Galignani*

224, rue de Rivoli

75001 Paris (M° Tuileries)

Art and literature

*Shakespeare and Company*

37, rue de la Bûcherie, 75005 Paris (M° Saint-Michel)

Art and literature

*W. H. Smith*

248, rue de Rivoli

75001 Paris (M° Concorde)

Paperbacks, books on tape, magazines

*Gibert Jeune International*

10, pl. St. Michel

75006 Paris (M° St Michel)

Mostly academic literature

*Village Voice*

6, rue Princesse

75006 Paris (M° Mabillon)

Good selection of quality paperbacks and new publications; small, friendly atmosphere.

### **Libraries--General**

*Bibliothèque Sainte Geneviève*

10, place du Panthéon

75005 Paris (M° Cluny)

Hours: Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

*Bibliothèque Publique d'Information. Georges Pompidou*

(M° Rambuteau or Hôtel de Ville)

An excellent general library with documentary section on microfilm and audiovisual programs in many fields. Also language laboratory. Easy entry and use of books. Hours: Monday through Friday, Noon to 10 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Closed on Tuesdays.

*Bibliothèque de l'Arsenal*

1, rue Sully

75004 Paris (M° St Paul)

Hours: Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

*Bibliothèque Nationale de France*

Quai François Mauriac (M° Quai de la Gare)

75013 Paris

Hours: Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Sunday, noon to 6 p.m. Closed on Mondays.

Yearly entry fee 20€ or 5€ per individual visit

**Libraries--Art**

*Bibliothèque des Arts Décoratifs*

109, rue de Rivoli (M° Tuileries or Palais Royal)

75001 Paris

Hours: Monday, 1:45 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.; Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

*C.N.A.C.*

11, rue Berryer

75008 Paris

Hours: Monday through Saturday, 2 p.m. to 7 p.m.; closed Tuesdays

**Libraries--History**

*Bibliothèque Historique de la Ville de Paris*

24, rue Pavée

75004 Paris

Hours: Monday through Saturday, 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

**Libraries--English**

*American Library*

10, rue du Général Camou

75007 Paris

Hours: Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Fairly high entry fee for non-members

*Bibliothèque du British Council*

9, rue Constantine

75007 Paris

Hours: Monday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

For members only

**Museums**

*Archives Nationales.* 60, rue des Francs - Bourgeois (M° Rambuteau). Historical documents, manuscripts, texts, and engravings.

*Musée de l'Armée.* Invalides, Galeries de l'Occident et de l'Orient (M° Invalides). The world's largest collection of arms, uniforms, and military equipment with displays devoted to pre-15th century military gear up to WW II.

*Musée des Arts Décoratifs.* Pavillon de Marsan, 107-109 rue de Rivoli, (M° Palais Royal). Collections of furniture, china, tapestries, and all the decorative arts, predominantly French, from the Middle Ages to the present day.

*Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris and Palais de Tokyo.* 11 and 13, avenue du Président Wilson M° Alma. Temporary exhibitions of 20th century artists and movements.

*Institut du Monde Arabe.* 1, rue des fossés St. Bernard (M° Jussieu). Library, art exhibits, restaurant, all devoted to the culture of Arab countries. Beautiful architecture.

*Musée de la Mode et du Costume.* Palais Galliera, 10, ave. Pierre 1er de Serbie (M° Iéna).

*Bibliothèque Nationale.* 58, rue de Richelieu (M° Bourse). Exhibits from their rich collection of manuscripts, paintings, and engravings. The library itself is not open to the general public.

*Musée Carnavalet.* 23, rue de Sévigné (M° Saint Paul). An extremely interesting museum which brings to life the history of the city of Paris. The museum is housed in a 16th-century mansion once the home of Madame de Sévigné and decorated by Goujon's "Four Seasons" panels.

*Centre National d'Art et de Culture Georges Pompidou* (M° Rambuteau or Hôtel de Ville). Musée National d'Art Moderne. Centre de Création Industrielle. Bibliothèque Publique d'Information. In addition to the permanent modern art collection, the Centre has many temporary exhibitions.

*Musée de Cluny.* 6, place Paul Painlevé (M° St. Michel). A superb collection of medieval tapestries, enamels, stained glass windows and sculpture. The Hôtel de Cluny, a fine example of 15th century Flamboyant Gothic style, is built on and around what was once the site of Roman baths.

*Musée de la Conciergerie.* 1, quai de l'Horloge (M° Cité). Visitors see the prison where Marie Antoinette was housed as well as various objects of interest from the time of the French Revolution.

*Musée du Cristal de Baccarat.* 11, place des Etats-Unis (M° Iéna or Kléber). Priceless one of a kind examples of Baccarat hand-blown crystal.

*Palais de la Découverte.* avenue Franklin Roosevelt (M° Champs-Élysées Clemenceau). Attached to the Université de Paris, a science museum with special exhibitions, demonstrations, documentary films, and a planetarium.

*Grand Palais.* avenue Winston Churchill (M° Champs-Élysées-Clemenceau). A distinctive exhibition hall built for the 1900 World's Fair, the Grand Palais is used principally for large temporary exhibitions.

*Petit Palais.* avenue Winston Churchill (M° Champs-Élysées-Clemenceau). A permanent collection devoted mostly to French artists of the 19th century and "objets d'art" from the Renaissance through the 18th century.

*Musée de l'Homme.* Palais de Chaillot (M° Trocadéro). A museum of natural history which assembles anthropological and paleontological exhibitions as well as examples of popular arts (costumes, tools, arms) of different civilizations.

*Musée Jacquemart-André*. 158, boulevard Haussmann (M° Miromesnil, Ste. Philippe du Roule). A small museum that is a well-kept secret and a favorite among our students. Open daily.

*Musée Picasso*. Hotel Salé, 5, rue de Thorigny (M° St. Paul). In a 17th C. «hôtel particulier» in the Marais, a superb collection of Picasso's works as well as works of others from his personal collection.

*Cité des Sciences et de l'Industrie*. Parc de la Villette (M° Porte de la Villette).

*Musée d'Orsay*. 1, rue de Bellechasse (M° Solférino). Art from 1848 to 1914, including some works formerly at Musée du Jeu de Paume. Closed Mondays.

*Musée du Louvre* (M° Palais-Royal or Louvre). The seemingly endless collections are divided into six major groups: painting, sculpture, Greek, Roman, Egyptian, and Oriental antiquities, and "objets d'art." Of as much interest is the building itself, first used as a fort for the protection of the island, then enlarged and renovated under successive kings as a dwelling.

*Musée de la Marine*. Palais de Chaillot, place du Trocadéro (M° Trocadéro). A collection of early ships, galleys, and sailboats, as well as interesting figureheads.

*Musée Marmottan*. 2, rue Louis Boilly (M° Muette). Claude Monet and his friends. A beautifully presented collection of the works of Claude Monet with photographs and memorabilia. Also an unexpected and surprisingly beautiful room filled with medieval miniatures.

*Orangerie des Tuileries*. Jardins des Tuileries, côté Seine (M° Concorde). Used for temporary exhibitions, the newly renovated Orangerie permanently houses Claude Monet's "Waterlilies" as well as many Impressionist and Post-Impressionist works.

*Musée Rodin*. Hôtel Biron, 77, rue de Varenne (M° Invalides). A collection which includes works from Rodin's earliest to his most famous: "The Gates of Hell," "The Thinker," and "The Kiss."

*Victor Hugo's House*. Pl. des Vosges, 4ème (M° Bastille or St. Paul). Amazing collection of his ink drawings, as well as manuscripts.

*Musée du Quai Branly*. 37, quai Branly (M° Iéna, Alma-Marceau). This brand new museum, constructed by renowned architect, Jean Nouvel, has a vast collection of art from various cultures of Africa, Asia, the Pacific Islands and the Americas.