

STUDENT TIPS: DIJON, FRANCE

Preparing for a semester (or summer) abroad is both exciting and anxiety provoking. There is so much to do and you likely have a million questions. The following information is based on the students' personal experiences and insights.

VISA APPLICATION

France requires U.S. students to travel to the French consulate in Chicago to complete the visa application process. (This is one of the last things you will do before you leave.) Before you go to Chicago:

- Register at www.usa.campusfrance.org (Click "Guide to Campus France Registration"). You will receive an email confirmation in approx. 2 weeks
- Once you receive your confirmation, start the visa process & plan your trip to Chicago: www.consulfrance-chicago.org.
 - Click English
 - Click Visas for France
 - Click General Information: Long stay visas for students (gives you steps and required documents for Temporary Long Stay Visa)
 - Pay Close attention and make a copy of EVERY document
 - Take all documentation with you to Chicago
 - Process in Chicago is short and easy (turn in papers, wait an hour, get visa)

CLASSES AND HOW THEY TRANSFER BACK TO UK

- Dijon grades are not included on your UK transcript or calculated as part of your overall grade point average.
- UK will award half of the ECTS credits. So, a course that is worth 4 ECTS credits is worth 2 UK credit hours. This will complete the course requirement for Gatton but could possibly leave you a bit short on total hours.
- Work closely with your EA advisor, Suzanne Waldrop, regarding your class credits.
- Course offerings are subject to change but the following credits have been approved for previous students:

Dijon Course:

European Business Systems (4 ECTS)
International Money & Finance: A European Focus (4 ECTS)
International Marketing: A European Focus (4 ECTS)
EU Institutions, Laws & Policies/ EU Business Law (4 ECTS) and
Business Ethics (2 ECTS)
International and European Taxation (4 ECTS)
French (2 ECTS)

UK Credit:

ECO 471
FIN 423
MKT 435
MGT 340
ECO 410
elective

HOUSING

It is recommended that you apply for housing through the school; however you may not get an acceptable assignment. If you do not like the housing offered to you, you can make other arrangements. The advisors in Dijon will try to help you but keep in mind that apartments can be expensive. An extended stay type hotel called "City Lofts" is worth a look. It's in walking distance to campus and they provide linens, basic kitchen ware, and weekly cleaning service. Homestays are also an option.

ORIENTATION WEEK

Orientation for the fall semester will start in early September, about two weeks before classes begin. Spring orientation begins mid-January. During this time, you will confirm course registration, document health insurance or purchase health insurance, complete residence permit paperwork and organize visits of Dijon and the area.

LAST EXAM DATE

Your final exam will be scheduled in mid-December, allowing time to return home for the holiday.

TRANSPORTATION TO SCHOOL

You may need to use the bus to travel to and from school and your residence. You can purchase a bus pass for around 31 euros/month. When you know your Dijon address, you can use figure out your bus route online at <http://www.divia.fr/>.

WALL PLUGS

You can purchase a converter that will convert the voltage or an adapter that simply makes the plug fit into wall (no conversion). France uses 240 VAC, 50Hz; USA uses 120VAC, 60Hz

HEALTH INSURANCE

The health insurance offered by UK's Education Abroad office is recommended. It is cheaper than what Dijon offers. Dijon will automatically enroll you in their health plan so be prepared to provide them your card and a copy of your plan (print from the website).

TRAVELING

Travel light. You definitely do not want to take bug luggage on trains and subways. Backpacks are best. A money pouch is a safe way to carry your money, credit cards and passport. The following websites are recommended:
www.hostelworld.com (make reservations!)
www.eurail.com (get BEFORE you leave)