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UC Paris Program in French and European Studies Fall 2014 Students

Bonjour Students,

The staff and director of the UC Paris Study Center look forward to welcoming you to Paris and to the fall Program in French and European Studies, now entering its thirteenth year! You have chosen to study in Paris, one of the most historically and culturally rich cities in the world. Many of you have dreamed for years about Paris: whether at the Louvre, along the banks of the Seine, at the Eiffel Tower, during a visit to the opera, or while enjoying the daily pleasures of your neighborhood café, you'll find much to satisfy your dreams and to create memories of your time here. You will find Paris to be a fascinating mix of the ancient and the modern, with many layers where the old and the new intermingle. Each of your courses is designed to illuminate a different aspect of this fascinating city—its language, its art, its history, its literature, its politics. We hope that your academic work and your daily life will combine to make your time here a transformative experience. We will do everything we can to help you take advantage of the incredible opportunities Paris offers.

We have an exciting fall planned, and we hope that your preparations for your trip go well. We will be writing to you on a regular basis between now and your arrival in Paris. For now, your attention is focused on the many aspects of UC application paperwork, but soon your attention will turn to academic registration and pre-departure preparations for your travel, housing, financing, and the many other practical aspects of such an exciting adventure. We will be here, along with EAP and your UC campus, to help you make your way successfully through all the stages of your journey.

Fall is an extra special time to arrive in Paris. There is much to do for free, with a student discount, or on a frugal budget. The city is alive with outdoor activities as the weather continues to be warm to hot and the sun sets late. When you arrive for your orientation program, the city will be filled with more tourists than Parisians. It is great to have a bit of quiet time to get settled in before the city explodes with life as the Parisians return from their *grandes vacances* and the period of *la rentrée* begins. More than 300,000 students arrive in September for studies at Parisian universities that start in October, and you'll get a head start on all of them!

While you will be occupied in settling in, don't neglect the cultural part of your adaptation to your host city. To see what's going on in Paris and for practical information, bookmark [Paris' website](#). There is an English version as well as a French version of the site.

With your student ID, you'll be entitled to free or reduced-fee entrance to many museums. Paris boasts an impressive array of museums, galleries and exhibit spaces devoted to virtually any topic imaginable. The French often entertain themselves by spending part of their weekends visiting various museum exhibits. Do take advantage of your student status and visit some of the iconic as well as the lesser-known museums during your time here.

Just to whet your appetite: [Musée du Louvre](#), [Musée d'Orsay](#), [Musée Rodin](#)

You will also find some excellent information on our website [UC Paris](#). Be sure to visit the Student Life section!

You will want to be sure to show your student ID when booking train or plane tickets within Europe, as well as at the cinema, for reduced prices.

Your stay in Paris will be an enriching time for discoveries, all which can be made while living on a student budget. And all these experiences are heightened as your language skills improve and your cultural sense of Paris and the French grows through participation in the French and European Studies program.

We look forward to having you with us in the fall.

À bientôt!

Meg Wesling, Center Director
Carole Viers-Andronico, Academic Coordinator
Shelby Ocana, Center Administrator