
Global Education Office
Reves Center for International Studies
The College of William & Mary

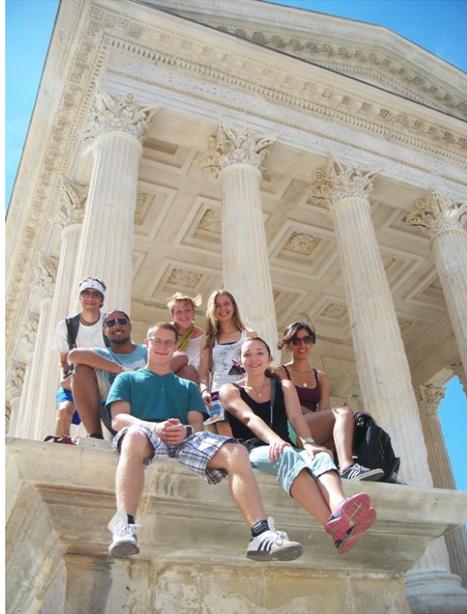


PHOTO COURTESY OF AUSTEN BROWER

MONTPELLIER
SUMMER HANDBOOK

Table of Contents

Montpellier 2019.....	3
Handy Information.....	4
Overview, Dates, and Money.....	5
Visa Information and Budgeting.....	6
Packing.....	9
Traveling to Montpellier.....	11
Coursework.....	13
Excursions & Activities.....	16
Housing and Meals.....	17
Communication.....	18
Health & Safety.....	19
Travel & Country Information.....	20
Montpellier.....	21
Finding Your Way Around Montpellier.....	24
For Fun: Light Reading And Movies.....	26
Frequently Asked Questions.....	27
Know Before You Go.....	28
Contact Information.....	31

William & Mary Montpellier 2019

This handbook offers guidelines that we hope you will find useful in making your preparations and while studying in Montpellier. Please read the handbook carefully before your departure and **bring it with you** to France, either as a paper or email copy. The program policies are included, along with lists of important items to bring with you, tips for handling your money, and precautions for safeguarding your health and belongings. In an effort to serve you best, the material in this handbook is edited each year and contains the latest information available to assist you in preparing for your trip. While we do our best to provide you with the most accurate information, inevitably some changes may take place and we will need to make adjustments. Your program director and the Global Education Office Advisor at the Reves Center will keep you informed of any changes.

Handy Information

SUMMER HOLIDAYS AND EVENTS IN FRANCE

Date	Holiday	Description
Every Friday in July/August	Les Estivales de Montpellier	Local wine and food tasting, night markets with over 150 merchants, products by local artisans, artists, bookshops, etc. Every Friday from 6 pm to midnight.
30 May – 01 July	Printemps des Comédiens Festival	Theater and Live Performance throughout the month of June.
Mid-June	Festival of Live Architecture	
Late June – Early July	Montpellier Dance Festival	Montpellier Danse welcomes the world's top choreographers to Montpellier

AVERAGE MIN/MAX TEMPERATURES IN MONTPELLIER (°F)

January	February	March	April	May	June
36/52	38/55	41/60	46/63	53/70	59/78
July	August	September	October	November	December
64/84	64/83	58/76	51/68	43/58	38/54

TIME ZONE COMPARISON: MONTPELLIER IS 6 HOURS AHEAD OF VIRGINIA

Pacific (US)	Mountain (US)	Central (US)	Eastern (US)	Montpellier, FR
5:00am	6:00am	7:00am	8:00am	2:00 pm (14:00)
1:00pm	2:00pm	3:00pm	4:00pm	10:00 pm (22:00)
9:00pm	10:00pm	11:00pm	Midnight	6:00 am (next day)

Overview, Dates, and Money

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

- **Fees:** \$6,800
- **Program Director:** Professor Magali Compan, Associate Professor of French and Francophone Studies (mxcomp@wm.edu)
- **Accommodation:** Students will be housed with families from Montpellier and will have all breakfast and two dinners per week with their families. Students may also have the option of arranging for additional meals with their host family (for an additional cost). We will ask you to indicate your preferences regarding smoking, pets, children, roommates, etc., and every effort will be made to find housing that suits your individual needs.
- **Transportation:** The price includes a transportation pass for use on the Montpellier public transportation system for the duration of your stay, as well as transportation in Paris while the group is there at the beginning of the program. The program fee does not include round-trip airfare to France.

PROGRAM DATES

- Arrive May 30, 2019 – Depart June 29 2019

SPRING ONE-CREDIT COURSE

Students will be automatically enrolled in a one credit pre-course, French 301 (Life in Montpellier), after the spring semester has begun. This will help you know what to expect, as well as how you should prepare for the program. Dates and times are to be determined by the Program Director and the participants.

MONEY

A note on currency: Regardless of the level of financial resources you may have available for your period of study abroad, all students share the same need to have quick access to their funds and, at the same time, to have their money protected against loss. The currency of France is the Euro (€) and is equivalent to the US dollar at a rate of approximately: \$1 US = .85 Euros (EUR) or 1 EUR = \$1.17 USD (as of November 2017). You can check the current exchange rates on the web at <http://www.xe.com/ucc> or in the financial section of a large city newspaper.

Visa Information and Budgeting

TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

Passport

- You should apply as early as possible before departure to secure your passport through a Passport Agency (found in major cities), a local issuing office, a Federal or State Court House, or a Class I Post Office.

Start the process early so that there will be plenty of time to resolve any problems that may arise. If you will be using your current passport, make sure that it is good for six months after your return to the U.S. If it is not, you will need to renew it.

- Guidelines on renewing your passport or applying for a new one can be found at:
<https://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/passports.html>



Visa

- American citizens do not require a visa for less than a six-month stay in France as tourists, or if they state upon entering the country that they are traveling with an American university group. Citizens of other countries may be required to have a visa regardless of the stated purpose of their stay. If you are not a US citizen, please check with the French Embassy or the nearest French consulate directly. In order to apply for a visa, you must send your passport and the application documents and fee by registered mail to the French consulate for your area, which is listed in the information provided. You may also apply in person.

BUDGET

- Your budget for incidental expenses will depend on your personal taste/extravagance and the amount of independent travel you intend to do before or after the program. The program fee includes your stay in Paris including airport-hotel transfer, lodging (with continental breakfast, but not lunch or dinner), and a métro (subway) pass; your train trip from Paris to Montpellier and back; excursions; lodging with a French family with whom you will have breakfasts and two dinners per week; a cell phone with a French number (but not minutes refills beyond the minimal preloaded amount); lunch five days a week; Montpellier bus and tram pass; tuition and fees for the academic session; and services of a resident Director, including instruction.

Student will be responsible for round-trip airfare from the US to Paris, other meals (including meals on excursions), and lodging after the program concludes.

- **Suggested minimum budget for additional expenses in Paris and Montpellier: \$1000.** This includes a minimum of \$200 for meals and snacks in Montpellier, assuming that you arrange for other meals with your host family. Your meal costs will increase sharply if you eat many of your meals in restaurants and go out frequently to theaters and cafés with friends. For your Paris stay and possible additional expenses along the way, we suggest a minimum of \$200 for meals, transportation, purchases and optional admission charges. Entertainment, laundry, bus travel and incidentals during the month of the program may vary greatly with individual tastes, but it is wisest to bring more than you expect to spend in order to be prepared for emergencies or for special occasions. This is especially important in years where the dollar has become weaker against the euro.
- In addition to your expenses in Montpellier, you must budget funds for lodging, meals and transportation if you plan to arrive before the program begins or remain in Europe after the conclusion of the program. Beyond the minimum, additional expenses for eating out, entertainment, travel or gifts, will be at least as high as similar excursions or tourist travel in a large city in the United States, and will depend on your personal preferences and budget. You will need to discuss this carefully with your parents.

Study Abroad Program Worksheet for Montpelier

Expenses:	Amount:	When due:	Paid to W&M?	Paid out of pocket?
Program Fee	\$6800	Deposit March 1st, Balance April 1st	Yes	
Airfare	\$1600			Yes
Meals (Included in program fee are all breakfasts, 4 dinners/week, and lunches 5 days a week)	\$700			
Study Abroad Program fee	\$75	February 1		Yes
Visa, passport, photos	N/A	Prior to beginning of program		Yes
Books & supplies	\$100			Yes
Misc./Personal	\$600			Yes
Total	\$9750			
Eating	Items		Average Price	Price Range
	Meal, Inexpensive Restaurant		\$17.31	\$14.65 - \$19.98
	Combo Meal at local "boulangerie" or Similar		\$12.12	\$10.92 - \$13.32
	Coke/Pepsi (0.33 liter can) restaurant price		\$3.66	\$3.33 - \$4.00
	Water(1.5 liter bottle)		\$1.66	\$1.33 - \$2.00
	Milk (regular), 1 liter		\$1.53	\$1.33 - \$1.73
	Cappuccino (regular)		\$3.13	\$2.93 - \$3.33
Living	Cinema, International Release, 1 Seat		\$13.00-14.50	
	1 min. of Prepaid Mobile (monthly)		\$0.49	
Traveling	Transportation Methods		Average Price	
	Single-journey ticket (bus or tram)		\$1.73	
	One-day pass		\$4.14	
	10-ticket carnet		\$14.00	
	Town bikes and electric bikes		\$2.00/\$4.00/\$8.00 per hour/half-day/full day	

How will the program be funded:

Sources:	Amount:	When Available:
Scholarship(s)		Varies by deadline, Reves scholarships will reduce your total balance due. You will find out if you've been awarded a Reves scholarship by the end of February.
Financial Aid (Loans, grants, through W&M)		First day of classes on campus or the first day of the summer program, whichever is LATER .
Savings		
Parental/Guardian support		

Other		
Total		

Packing

PACKING TIPS

General

- Many items you need can be purchased once you've arrived in Montpellier. For example, bring travel-sized toiletries to keep your bags light, and purchase full-sized items once you've arrived.
- Do not bring any items of sentimental value that you couldn't bear to lose.

Luggage

- **Pack only what you can carry by yourself up 2-3 flights of stairs, or walk with for relatively long distances.** A wheeled duffel bag or suitcase plus a generous tote or backpack should suffice. Returning students recommend that your carry-on be a backpack rather than a handheld bag if you plan to do any extra traveling.
- Most students find it helpful to bring their own laptop computer (in their carry-on backpack); however, keep a close eye on it while traveling and in Montpellier.
- Do not pack valuables in your checked luggage.
- Put address labels /contact information inside and outside each piece of luggage.
- Pack medications in your carry-on luggage.
- Consider bringing a copy of prescriptions for eyeglasses/contacts and any important medications to facilitate replacement.
- Pack all sharp objects securely in your checked baggage.
- Pack all liquids in plastic bags to avoid leakage during travel.
- Place your camera in your carry-on. If you take film, carry it in a lead-lined travel pouch (available at camera stores).
- Put TSA-approved locks on all of your luggage so that it can be opened without the lock or bag being destroyed.

Clothes

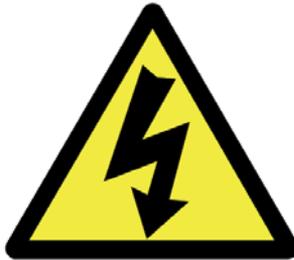
- Bring easy care clothing items that are lightweight, drip dry, and wrinkle-proof, such as knits, permanent press, and cotton clothes. Dark colors are more practical than light, as they do not show dirt as easily.
- Pack clothes you can mix and match so as to give your wardrobe as much variety without having to pack as much.
- Only bring clothes you can imagine wearing often.
- Roll clothes instead of folding them; you will fit more in the bag, and have fewer wrinkles upon arrival.
- Choose clothing that is easy to keep clean and can be washed and hung to dry. Don't forget swim wear. In Montpellier, it will be warm/hot, and you will have mostly lightweight clothing needs, with a jacket or sweater for cooler evenings. If your travel plans include a later trip to Paris or to Northern Europe, you may find weather more unpredictable and sometimes quite cool. In general, you should be cautious about wearing clothes that are overly risqué; in addition, if you are planning to visit churches in France you may be required to wear long pants/skirt and a shirt (or shawl) that covers your shoulders.

Gifts

- Students often ask what small gifts they can take with them to give to their host families. Try to think of things that are unlikely to be available in France: items made in

your home region, calendars or books with photos of America's outstanding features (wildlife, national parks, plantations, cities, and so on), William & Mary paraphernalia, and the like.

For more tips, please consult the Summer Study Abroad Manual, as well as the "Know Before You Go" section of this handbook.



AN IMPORTANT NOTE ON ELECTRICITY IN MONTPELLIER

Electricity in France is 230 volts, 50 cycle alternating current (AC). For comparison, in the United States it is 110 volts, 60 cycle AC current.

If you plan on using your own 110-volt appliances, you will need a voltage converter, unless your appliance is designed to also work with 230 volts electricity (dual voltage). For example, most laptop and camera chargers are designed to work both at 110 and 230 volts. **Plugging in an appliance that is not designed to run on 230 volts electricity without using voltage converter will most likely kill it and may cause fire!**

Regardless of voltage, if your appliance has flat prongs, you will need a plug adapter: French sockets are designed to accept round prongs. Do get one before your leave!

As a matter of fact, French plugs can be of two different types; Type C and Type E. The most common plug is the Type E electrical plug, which is identified by two round pins spaced 19mm apart. Some Type C plugs may be found on some appliances, and will fit the Type E outlet (more common for small appliances). French plugs are similar to most central European



plugs except that it has a hole for the socket's male grounding pin. Regardless of plug type, **the outlets all produce 230 volts!**



Traveling to Montpellier

NOTE: You are responsible for your own travel arrangements to and from France

AIRPORT PICK-UP

You are responsible for your flight arrangements to and from Paris. Students should arrive in Paris early in the morning on May 30th and will be met at the airport by the Program Director and will go to the hotel by bus or metro. Ask the Program Director about arrangements. For those arriving later, directions for getting to the hotel via taxi, bus, metro are provided on the program's Blackboard site; however, depending on arrival time, the Program Director will be with the early arriving students, and you will have to make your own airport-hotel transfer arrangement. Please keep this in mind when making your flight reservations and plan on an early morning arrival if you prefer to go to the hotel with the Program Director and others in the group. Detailed information about Paris arrivals and the first official meeting of program participants in Paris will be provided by the Program Director in the French 301 pre-departure course.

At the end of the Paris stay, the group will go to the Gare de Lyon train station together. Students will travel on the same train as the Program Director to Montpellier. In Montpellier, the Director will introduce students to their host families.

The program officially ends June 29th. You will need to leave by that date or make arrangements for your own housing for beyond that day. If you plan to stay in France after the program ends, you will be responsible for organizing and incurring all additional housing and food costs. You have no commitments to the program on the day the program ends. You are responsible for your own transportation to the Montpellier airport or train station (host families are often willing to drive you, but plan ahead). You are also responsible for the reservation and cost of any train travel or connecting flight from Montpellier to Paris or other airport for your return flight to the U.S. Please plan in advance accordingly.

It is advised that students travel in pairs, if not larger groups. Use the Blackboard site and share flight information, or plan travel arrangements during the one-credit course.

After you arrive, remember to call or email your family to let them know you have arrived safely. This will not only save them from worry, but also will help the Global Education Office and the University of Montpellier from receiving panicked phone calls regarding your whereabouts.



Coursework

You will be enrolled in a 1-credit course to be taken at W&M in the Spring of 2019 as preparation for your time in Montpellier. The course will begin after Spring Break and meeting times will be determined by program participants and the Program Director.

For Montpellier courses, a list of textbook requirements and syllabi will be distributed in advance of the program. For more information, contact the Program Director. At the University, students have computer access (although it is handy to have your own laptop for coursework and staying in touch), internet and library privileges. Most host families have wi-fi connections but this cannot be guaranteed; you will not have data service and internet access with the basic program-provided cell phones you will receive.

During your stay in Montpellier, you will study at:



The IEFÉ building on campus of Paul Valéry University

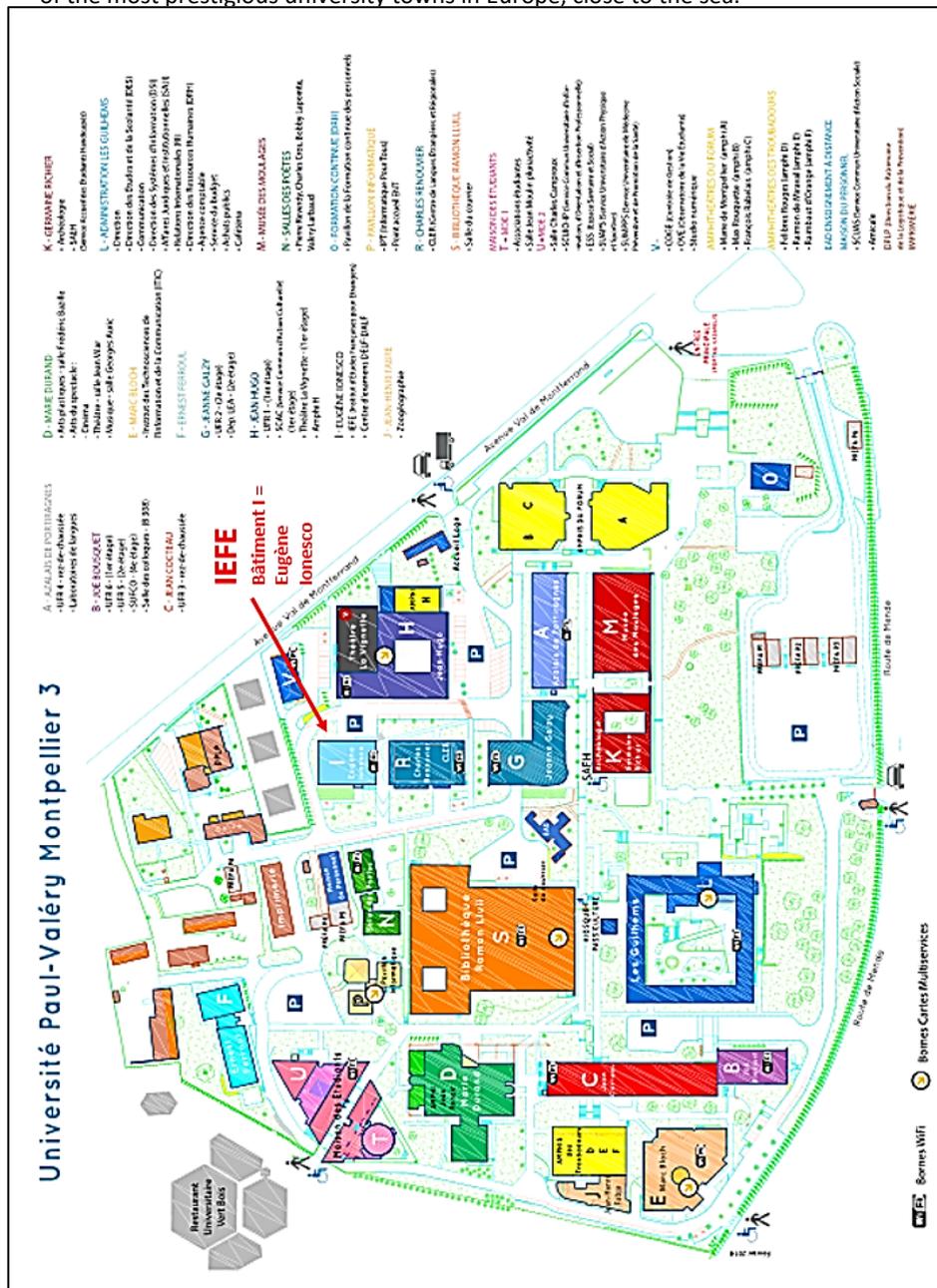
The University in Montpellier (Medical School), one of the oldest in Europe, is over seven hundred years old. It was here that the writer, François Rabelais, received a medical degree.

<http://www.univ-montp3.fr/>

<http://iefe.univ-montp3.fr/>

Situated in the heart of the Languedoc-Roussillon region with a rich cultural and historical heritage, between the Mediterranean sea and the Cévennes mountains, the Camargue (to the East) and the garrigue landscapes, Montpellier is the regional capital with an excellent reputation in France as well as abroad. Coming to

Montpellier will give you the opportunity to discover the cultural dynamism of one of the most prestigious university towns in Europe, close to the sea.



CLASSES ON THE CAMPUS OF PAUL VALÉRY UNIVERSITY OF MONTPELLIER:

Students will all receive a total of 8 credits.

They will all be enrolled in:

FREN 300 (4 credits)	French Studies Abroad at an Advanced Level
--------------------------------	--

Students take one of the courses listed below. Courses offered on this program focus on French language and culture and include:

Courses	
FREN 302 (4 credits)	Independent Studies Project
FREN 299/300 (4 credits)	French Language and Culture

- Based on the student's French language level (ie: highest course taken at W&M.), the student will be placed in **one** of the following courses:
 1. **FREN 299: French Language and Culture:** for students with a low-level of French (FREN 202, 206)
 2. **FREN 300: French Language and Culture:** for students with a mid-level of French (FREN 212, 210)
 3. **FREN 302: independent Studies Project:** for students with a high-level of French (FREN 314 or above)
- The **FREN 302 independent Studies Project is a research course.** The research project is an integral part of the entire program and must treat a relevant aspect of contemporary French society and culture or Montpellier local culture of personal interest to the student and make use of resources on site (e.g., interviews, site visits, bibliographical research, and visual/audiovisual documents).

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT PREREQUISITES AND CREDITS AWARDED FOR MONTPELLIER SUMMER PROGRAM COURSEWORK

- **In order to be eligible for the program, applicants must have completed French 202.**
- Any 300-level credits earned as part of the Montpellier Summer Program count for the major and the minor in French and Francophone Studies.

Excursions & Activities

OFFICIAL AND PERSONAL TRAVEL OPTIONS

Students will arrive in Paris and spend three days exploring the city with a three-night hotel stay before taking a train to Montpellier. Train tickets for this trip are included in the cost of the program and will be made by the Program Director in consultation with the students.

ACTIVITIES

As you become acquainted with the city of Montpellier, you will discover a rich variety of leisure activities. In addition to the beach there are concerts, film and music festivals on three Sundays.

GUIDEBOOKS

Consider purchasing a travel guidebook prior to leaving the United States to help you make personal travel plans. These can be purchased at bookstores like Barnes & Noble, or online. Some guidebook publishers include:

- *Fodor's* (<http://www.fodors.com>)
- *Let's Go* (<http://www.letsgo.com>)
- *Lonely Planet* (<http://www.lonelyplanet.com>)
- *Rick Steves Books*
(http://www.ricksteves.com/books/update/update_menu.htm)
- In France, you can buy *Michelin* green guides, many available either in French or in English, which provide excellent information (including geological and historical notes) on each region of France. *Le Guide du Routard* is the French equivalent of *Let's Go*, available in every bookstore in France.
- For more information about Montpellier, visit these websites maintained by Montpellier's Office de Tourisme:
<http://www.ot-montpellier.fr/>
<https://www.youtube.com/user/MontpellierTourisme>
- To find out what is happening in the news in Montpellier and the surrounding region, visit the web site of LE MIDI LIBRE, the hometown newspaper:
<http://www.midilibre.fr/>
- For more information about the Languedoc-Roussillon region in the South of France, visit these websites:
<http://www.destinationsuddefrance.com>
<http://www.languedoc.visite.org/>

Housing and Meals

HOUSING

Students will be housed with families in Montpellier and will have all breakfasts and two dinners per week with their families. Some students might be housed with one family and share a room with another student. Single options are available as well for students living with a local family and having their own rooms. We will ask you to indicate your preferences regarding smoking, pets, children, roommates, etc., and every effort will be made to find housing that suits your individual needs.

The host families are members of the Montpellier community who are sincerely interested in welcoming American students into their homes, and in providing them with a taste of French culture for the duration of the summer program. Most Europeans, including students, do not spend long hours in their rooms, even to study. They are extremely economical when it comes to using electricity, which costs much more in France than in the United States. This also applies to the use of water, especially hot water. Most students study during the day at the library or in a café, and return to their homes in the evening. After dinner, people spend time with other family members, while students may meet friends in a café. As a consequence, the bedrooms in a French home may not be as spacious or as brightly lit as American bedrooms. Linens will be provided for you by your host family. Please check with them concerning the arrangements they prefer for laundering your linens and towels. It is also recommended that you clarify what expectations the family has regarding visitors and late evenings. Further dos and don'ts from past students regarding homestays are located in the "Know Before You Go" section at the end of the handbook.

MEALS

The program includes breakfast every day and two regularly scheduled dinners each week with your host family. For the remaining evenings, students may choose to arrange for additional dinners with their host families (**the cost of each extra meal is 5.00 euros and will be paid at the end of each week and is not included in the program fee**) or to make their own arrangements for dinner. In addition, the Program Director will give each participant a lunch meal allowance for five days a week.

When eating on their own, students may want to check the menus of the numerous small restaurants in the center of town and plan on eating some meals there. Although the fine restaurants of Montpellier can be extremely expensive, you can find a delicious and filling *menu touristique* or *menu prix fixe* dinner and enjoy a real French meal beginning at around \$18. Keep in mind, too, that the price on the menus includes tips and tax, so what is listed is what you pay. You may leave a bit of change as a small tip by rounding off the tab.

Note: In keeping with the policy of the W&M Office of Residence Life, the Reves Center does not offer housing for the family of any students participating in W&M-sponsored study abroad programs. Also, family members or friends may not participate in any program activities or excursions. If you have family or friends who want to visit you while abroad it is recommended they do so after the completion of the program.

Communication

ONLINE

Not all host families will have wifi service, and they will probably not appreciate you monopolizing the home computer and connection. Students should plan to use the internet mainly on campus. There are several internet cafés in town, including a large one (France Telecom) on the Place du Marché aux Fleurs. Students can also have access to computers on campus, though it is sometimes necessary to wait. There are 5 or 6 computers in the IEFE building where you will be taking classes every day.

LANDLINE PHONES

If you want to make any phone calls from a pay phone, you'll need to buy a phone card. You can find one at any *tabac*, or at a post office. For information on how to reverse charges or use your long distance calling card, contact your company before leaving the United States.

CELL PHONES

The Reves Center provides cell phones for all participants for the duration of the program. Your cellphone will have a French local number. While the program will be providing the phone, you will be responsible for paying for service via prepaid refill tickets, which may be purchased in many different locations including newsstands and tobacco shops, or *tabacs*. In France, you pay for outgoing calls but not incoming ones. This means that your families will be able to call you without "eating up" your minutes. Please be responsible with your French cell phones.

PLACING INTERNATIONAL PHONE CALLS

See the "Handy Information" section for a time zone conversion chart before you call!

Calling Montpellier from the United States:

Dial 011 + 33 + Area Code (without initial zero) + Local Number

Calling the United States from Montpellier:

Dial 00-1+area code + phone number.

Emergency Numbers

All Emergencies: 112

Police: 17

Medical 15

Fire: 18

Health & Safety

IMMUNIZATION

It is no longer necessary to have smallpox immunization to re-enter the USA from Europe. Even so, you are encouraged to consider updating your immunizations, particularly those against tetanus and meningitis. Consult your personal physician for further advice. You can get worldwide health information and advisories on the web at <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/france.htm>. If you would prefer to talk to someone in person about the currently recommended immunizations, you can call Travel Health of Williamsburg at 757- 220-9008 (located at 287 McLaws Circle), or consult with a physician in your area who has some expertise concerning immunizations for international travel.

STAYING WELL/GETTING SICK

For the duration of the program, the IEFE support staff is always available to assist students in obtaining medical care. Useful information on preparing for medical emergencies before you go abroad is provided at <https://step.state.gov/step/>



Travel & Country Information

We encourage all students to research their study abroad destination. The State Department has important information available online. Be sure to read up on French history, culture, and current events before your arrival, as well. Knowing as much as possible about where you are going will not only make you more comfortable during your time in the country, but will also allow you to talk more knowledgeably with your host family and new friends.

We strongly recommend that you register your travel plans with the U.S. State Department at this website:

<https://step.state.gov/step/>

This will help the State Department contact you if there is a family emergency in the U.S., or if there is a crisis where you are traveling. On this website you can find information ranging from geographic and political descriptions of the country, to special health and safety announcements.

Montpellier



Montpellier, Place de la Comédie

MONTPELLIER is the capital of the Languedoc-Roussillon region, as well as the Hérault department. Montpellier is the 8th largest city in the country, and has been the fastest growing city in France over the past 25 years.

The city is situated on hilly ground 10 kilometers (6 mi) inland from the Mediterranean coast on the River Lez. The name of the city, which was originally *Monspessulanus*, is said to have stood for *mont pelé* (the naked hill, because the vegetation was poor), or *le mont de la colline* (the mount of the hill).

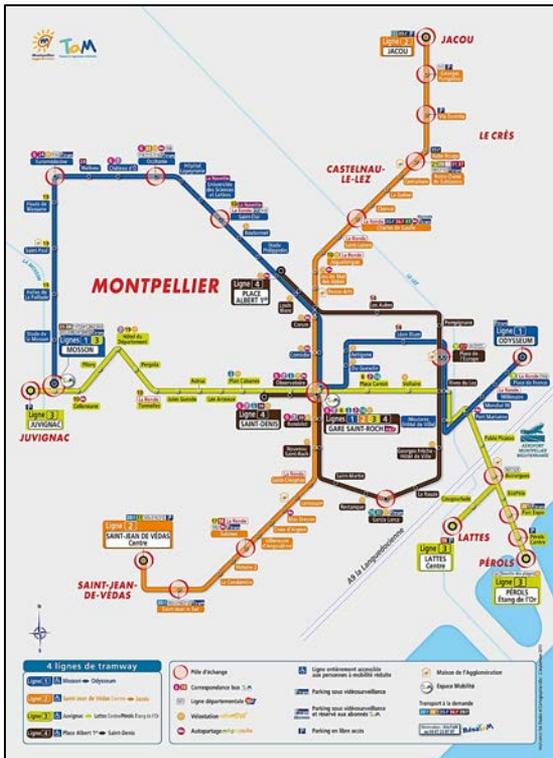
Montpellier is located 52 kilometers (32 mi) from Nîmes, 168 kilometers (104 mi) from Marseille, 248 kilometers (154 mi) from Toulouse. It is at a distance of 750 kilometers (466 mi) from the capital of France, Paris. Montpellier's highest point is the Place du Peyrou, at an altitude of 57 meters (187 ft). The city is built on two hills, Montpellier and Montpelliéret, thus some of its streets have great differences of altitude. Some of its streets are also very narrow and old, which gives it a more intimate feel.

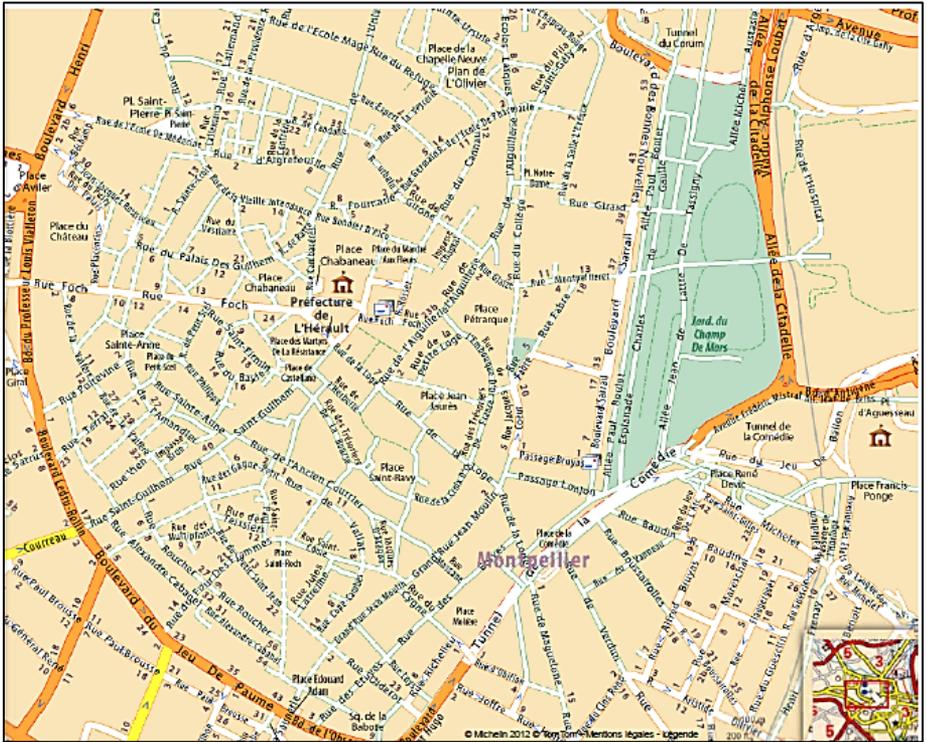
The current population of the commune of Montpellier is roughly 260,000. The metropolitan area has a population of roughly 430,000; and the greater Montpellier region over 600,000.

During the 19th century the city developed into an industrial center. In the 1960s, its population grew dramatically after French settlers in Algeria were resettled in the city following Algeria's independence from France. In the 1980s and 1990s, the city drew attention with a number of major redevelopment projects, such as the Corum and especially the Antigone District.



The tram line in the city center (above). Tram system map (below).





The Historic Center of Montpellier, known locally as L'Écusson

For more details, see:

http://www.viamichelin.fr/web/Cartes-plans/Carte_plan-Montpellier-34000-Herault-France

Finding Your Way Around Montpellier

Groceries

You can easily purchase lunch items in numerous convenient stores and supermarkets. Try some local specialties for variety. To stretch your funds and vary your diet, bring an insulated lunch bag. You can purchase items such as cheese, juice and yogurt and keep them fresh in this way. At the supermarket you can purchase boxed juices, milk and other items which do not require refrigeration. By saving money on lunches, you may have funds for a dinner at one of the small restaurants downtown.

There is a good grocery store in the Polygone (which is by the Esplanade) called INNO. They have all brands, even Old El Paso if you can't live without Mexican and care to pay for it. There's also the Monoprix, which is easy to find on the Place de la Comédie. Nearer the university, you will find what you need at Shop, on the corner of Route de Mende and Rue de la Justice de Castelnaud.

For the freshest fruits, vegetables, and fish, go to one of the *marchés* in town. The one in the center (on the Place Jean-Jaurès) is open Monday through Saturday (though many stands are shut on Mondays). There is also a good *marché* on Tuesdays and Saturdays under Les Arceaux, beyond the booksellers, where you can buy organic fruits, vegetables, herbs, vegetable oil soaps, homemade jams and honeys, muesli, nuts and other dried fruit.

Books and Supplies

The least expensive bookstore is the FNAC, in the Polygone. They also have CD's at modest discounts. Their selection is narrow, limited to popular or classical works. Some prefer Sauramps, also in the Polygone, which has a large *papeterie*, as well as the largest selection of books in Montpellier. The English bookshop is located on the rue de l'Université. Another large *librairie-papeterie*, Joseph Gibert, is located next to the main post office and the prefecture. You can find practically everything there.

Travel Agencies

For those wishing to travel after the program there are several travel agencies that cater to students: Atoll, Council, and Wasteel's, on the rue de l'Université (Council is usually the cheapest, but check with them all) and the Nouvelles Frontières on the rue Jeanne d'Arc. You might want to try them all, since each have its own charters and rates.

Trains

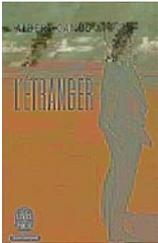
Many students purchase Interrail and Eurorail passes before leaving the United States. Before leaving the United States, contact Council Travel and AIFS for information about low-cost travel options and the EURO-bus.



For Fun: Light Reading And Movies

Following are a few French books and movies. Check them out, or consider looking for other books to put you in a France mood prior to – or during – your time abroad. Don't worry; you won't be tested on them!

BOOKS



THE STRANGER
By Albert Camus



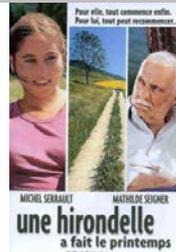
LE PETIT PRINCE
By Antoine de Saint-Exupéry

Other titles (in French) you might be interested in include [LA PREMIERE GORGE DE BIERE ET AUTRES PLAISIRS MINUSCULES](#) by Philippe Delerm and [LE VOYAGE EN FRANCE](#) by Benoît Duteurtre

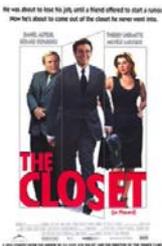
MOVIES AND TV



CACHÉ



**UNE
HIRONDELLE A
FAIT LE
PRINTEMPS**



THE CLOSET



**[BFMTV
NEWS](#)**

Frequently Asked Questions

Will I need a visa?

A visa for study for less than 90 days in France is **not** required for American citizens. Citizens of other countries should check with their home government's foreign ministry.

What airport will I fly into? Do all W&M students travel together on the same flights?

Please refer to the section in this handbook on "Traveling to Montpellier" for specific information. W&M students do not necessarily take the same flight. However if you wish to travel with other students or the program director you can arrange communicate through Blackboard or Facebook. The most common airport of arrival is Paris-Charles de Gaulle.

Can I arrive earlier or stay longer than the program dates?

Yes, you may but you will be responsible for making your own accommodation arrangements. You will **NOT** be able to stay in the housing provided during the program.

If my family or friends visit, may they stay with me?

No, they will need to make their own arrangements for accommodations. Please advise your program director if you expect family or friends to visit you during the program.

Am I required to participate in all excursions provided by the program?

Yes, unless your program director says otherwise. The excursions supplement the coursework and expand cultural learning.

Will I need to seek post approval for the courses I take?

No, all of the courses offered in the W&M faculty-led summer programs have already been approved.

Will my grades be posted on my transcript?

Yes, the grades you receive will be posted on your W&M transcript and will be calculated into your GPA.

Can I take class pass/fail?

No, this is not an option.

Do I need to take my own sheets and towels?

You will be staying in a homestay in Montpellier so you do not need to bring sheets and towels. However, if you plan to travel on your own and stay in hostels, you should bring your own towel.

Will my study-abroad facility have a fitness center/gym for student use?

Based on current information at the Reves Center, no known fitness center is available to students at IEFÉ.

How much spending money will I need?

That varies on your normal spending habits, especially with regard to eating meals out and how much shopping you like to do. Students reported spending between \$500-1,500 during the program. Most students reported spending \$1,000 or more, but again, this depends on your personal spending habits. Former students DO NOT recommend traveler's checks. They recommend carrying some cash and your credit or debit card.

Know Before You Go

ADDITIONAL TIPS FROM PAST STUDENTS

PLACES TO SEE IN AND NEAR MONTPELLIER

- **The Historical Center (Ecusson)**
- **Fabre Museum**
- **Odysseum**
- **Amazonian greenhouse**

LIVING

- **Former students have responded positively to their host families & living situations in Montpellier, commenting that their French greatly improved by living with a host family.**
- **Living with a French family helped former students feel more connected to the community and culture.**
- **Host family dos and don'ts:**
 - **DO make a conscious effort to talk to your host family and get to know them...** it's not necessarily their job to pull you out of your shell.
 - **DO be understanding of potential cultural differences.**
 - **DO be open to discussing any problems with the host family (e.g. ensuring that you will be able to use their refrigerator).**
 - **DO ask your host family about their preferences for entering/leaving the home and perhaps obtaining a house key.**
 - **DO bring a small thank-you gift for your family.**
 - **DO remember to be gracious and polite--a little effort to be a better guest makes your stay more pleasant for everyone.**
 - **DO expect to get breakfasts and at least two dinners a week. Work out an understanding for meals with your family: On which days? (remember that it can vary from one week to the next) If you want to have more dinners, discuss how much you would have to pay for each meal.**
 - **DO be a helpful guest--offer to set and clear the table; they may refuse you, but they'll remember that you offered.**
 - **DON'T stay in your room or on the computer all the time-- socialize!** You'll improve your language skills and form meaningful relationships abroad.
 - **DON'T be inconsiderate of your host family by being irresponsible with alcohol or partying too much on the weekends.**
 - **DON'T take advantage of your host family's hospitality.** Remember that you are a guest in their home and always try to be respectful.

- **DON'T be a passive guest. From helping out at meals to joining in the conversation, taking an active role will greatly improve your experience!**
- **DON'T revert to English, even if your family speaks it.** They're there to help you improve your French!
- **DON'T always talk about how you do things in America...** that gets really old *really fast*.
- **DON'T expect your family to entertain you and to be there for you at all times.** Both parents might be working.
- **DON'T expect your host family to pay for more lunches and dinners** (as if they were your parents).

COMMUNICATION

- **Not all host families will have Internet** – but plenty of cafes do!

MONEY

- **Be sure to call your bank and put a travel notice on your debit AND credit cards.** Otherwise, purchases and withdrawals may be declined due to suspected fraud.
- **Discuss with your bank the fees associated with international transactions and withdrawals.** The bank may be able to inform you of a partner bank in India that you can use to withdraw cash and avoid fees.
- **The suggested budget for this program is \$1,000 for expenses in Paris and Montpellier,** though the actual amount will vary based on your own spending habits and preferences.
- **“You will use more cash than you think. Many places do not accept debit or credit cards, and constant cash withdrawals can be expensive, so come prepared.”**

PACKING SMART

- **A good way to keep a copy of your passport** “with you” at all times is to scan your passport and email it to yourself. Access to your passport, therefore, will be possible at any computer with internet access.
- **Returning students recommend that you carry-on be a backpack rather than a handheld bag** if you plan to do any extra traveling and for field trips.
- **Don't forget a swimsuit!**

COURSEWORK

- **Former students have stated that the research project allowed them to connect to the community,** but recommend getting an early start on the work.

FRENCH CULTURE

- **More than 80% of French consider themselves to be Catholic;** however, only 14% of them regularly attend church. Many think that religion belongs in private life and prefer to practice it outside of religious institutions.
- **France has a number of social advances, such as an excellent social security system, minimum wages, guaranteed retirement, five weeks' vacation annually, and a 35-hour work week.**

- **Be careful when discussing French social issues, i.e. changes in the social safety net.** Most of these advantages are due to negotiations between unions and the government, and in the majority of cases, unions get their way by means of strikes that often paralyze the country. French people are, therefore, divided on whether unions are useful and what the day-to-day repercussions of their actions are.
- **There is a long and often contentious history between the French and English.** You may encounter some strongly worded comments regarding the English, particularly during soccer season.
- **It is important to take care in your attire** – the French care about how they dress!
- **Time is treated quite casually in France.**

MEETING PEOPLE

- **A good ice-breaker might be to ask questions about your conversation partner's country, family, and way of life.**
- **Avoid discussing politics.**
- **It is normal for people of the opposite sex to kiss one another on the cheek.** Women greet each by kissing one another on the cheek three times (ie: left-right-left; this number varies all over France, but in the south, it is consistently three times). Men greet each other with a handshake; longstanding friends or colleagues can be greeted with a kiss on the cheek, but if your superior is a woman, it is best to shake hands. Emotions and public displays of affection are very liberal; it is not uncommon to see couples kissing on the street.

Contact Information

REVES CENTER CONTACTS

You may call the Reves Center and its advisors at the numbers below between 8am and 5pm (Virginia time), Monday through Friday. In case of an emergency that falls outside of these times, please call William & Mary Campus Police at +001 (757) 221-4596. Campus police will then forward your call to the correct person or office.

Reves Center Advisor: Laura McDonald (lmcDonald@wm.edu) +001 (757) 221-2003

Reves Center for International Studies

College of William and Mary

P. O. Box 8795

Williamsburg, VA 23187-8795

Fax – (757) 221-3597

*To call the U.S. from abroad: 001+ (Area Code) + phone number

IN FRANCE:

Program Director

Magali Compan, (mxcomp@wm.edu)

Home Stay Coordinator

Madame Martine FIZE

I.E.F.E. – Université Paul-Valéry, Montpellier 3

Route de Mende - 34199 Montpellier Cedex 5 - France

Tél. +33 (0)4 67 14 21 01

Fax +33 (0)4 67 14 23 94

iefe@univ-montp3.fr

Embassy of the United States – Paris

Consular Section

American Citizen Services

4, avenue Gabriel

75008 Paris

Emergency: 01-43-12-22-22