

**ONTARIO–RHÔNE-ALPES STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAMME GUIDE**

**SCHOOL OF LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES**

**UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH**

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## CONTENTS

<b>Introduction</b> .....	<b>3</b>
Introductory note.....	3
 <b>France: Immigration and Integration</b> .....	 <b>4</b>
Before You Go .....	4
Applying for a 2B Visa ( <i>Youth Exchange Agreement</i> ), Titre de séjour .....	4
Working in France .....	6
Travelling to France.....	6
 <b>Living in France</b> .....	 <b>7</b>
University Residence.....	7
Private Accommodation.....	8
Caisse des Allocations Familiales .....	8
Electricity .....	9
Banking .....	9
Cell Phones.....	10
Bicycles.....	11
Train Travel.....	11
Staying Safe.....	12
 <b>Studying in France</b> .....	 <b>12</b>
The First Few Days .....	12
Adjusting to France’s University System.....	13
A Few Words of Advice.....	14
Administrative Responsibilities.....	15
University of Guelph Contacts .....	15
 <b>City profiles</b> .....	 <b>16</b>
Chambéry .....	16
Grenoble.....	24
Lyon .....	31
 <b>Returning to Canada</b> .....	 <b>36</b>
Credit Transfer.....	36

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This brochure is the updated version of an original text written by Victoria Reep and several European Studies classmates after their experience in France (1996-97). It is written from a student's point of view and is a truly collaborative work, having been revised and updated numerous times. We hope you find its hints and practical tips useful during your stay overseas. May it help you get past the "survival" stage quickly and contribute to your enjoyment of the French experience next year.

When you come back to Guelph, you will be expected to return a copy of this brochure to me, with appropriate corrections and additions, so that we can continue to have an up-to-date version for the benefit of the next group of outgoing students.

Bon voyage!

Margot Irvine  
Coordinator, European Studies Program  
(Responsible for ESP Students studying in France)

## France: A General Overview

### ***Before you go***

The Centre for International Programming at the University of Guelph will help you arrange your exchange throughout the application process and with any questions or concerns you have either about the ORA application process, or the formal application to your host institution.

Preparing to travel and study in a foreign country requires extensive preparation. It is important to begin this early—once you have received confirmation that you have not only been accepted to the ORA Exchange Programme, but also your host university in France.

Whilst in Canada, your primary focus will be on organising all your documents and acquiring your Student Visa (officially known as the *Canada-France Youth Exchange Agreement*) from the closest French diplomatic Office (e.g. the Consulate in Toronto for South-Western Ontario residents); arranging your travel to France; and your accommodation while there.

### ***Applying for a 2B Visa (Youth Exchange Agreement), Titre de séjour***

Compiling all necessary documents to apply for your Youth Exchange Visa requires a considerable amount of time and effort. Depending on what documents you already have and those you will need to acquire, it can also cost upwards of 200 dollars. If you are a citizen of the any member state of the European Union, you need not concern yourself with the Visa application process, as your citizenship already permits you freedom of movement, residence, and study in the EU.

For your visa, you will have to apply to the nearest diplomatic office using the [2B Visa form](#) (i.e. Toronto, Montréal, etc.) The 2B Visa is offered through the Youth Exchange Agreement between France and Canada and will permit you to enter and stay in France for 3 months. Consequently, you will then have to apply for a *titre de séjour* (residence card) upon your arrival in France, which will be valid until the end of your study period. The required documents for your initial 2B Visa application:

- One completed 2B Visa application form
- 2 recent ID photos, 35mm x 45mm
- A Canadian passport, valid for a **minimum** of three months after your expected return date from France
- Your birth certificate
- A return airline ticket, or proof of sufficient financial means to purchase it (min. \$1000 per month (and photocopy)
- Proof of sufficient financial means to support your stay in France (several declarations are available to prove this)

- A letter from OHIP, proving you are covered by the Ontario Health Insurance Plan for the duration of your stay<sup>1</sup>
- Additional proof of coverage from a private health insurance provider<sup>2</sup>
- An insurance certificate for personal liability insurance in France, or an affidavit stating you will purchase it upon your arrival (this can be bought easily in France)
- The original acceptance letter from Guelph, stating you've been accepted to an exchange programme
- The official acceptance letter from your French institution

Before submitting the application, all documents will need to be photocopied, and originals are returned to you by Canada Post Xpress tracking post (you will provide an already addressed, prepaid envelope in your application so all documents are returned without issue).

All going to plan, you should receive your Visa within a few weeks. This Visa will be valid for three months from the date of your arrival in France. Once in France, you will then need to apply for a *Titre de séjour* at the local Préfecture. For this, you will have to stop by and pick up an application form and checklist from the Préfecture. Overall, it requires:

- Your Canadian passport, with the affixed *Youth Exchange Visa*
- Three ID photos
- Your birth certificate
- A copy of your long form birth certificate, which you will have to order online from [Service Ontario](#) (approx. cost, 65\$ + shipping)
- Proof of French *Sécurité Sociale*
- Proof of *Assurance responsabilité civile vie privée*
- Proof of residency (e.g. a contrat de logement)
- Proof of *Assurance d'Habitation*<sup>3</sup>
- The aforementioned letter from OHIP
- Aforementioned proof of private health insurance
- The aforementioned proof of financial means (original affidavit or bank statement)
- The original acceptance letter from Guelph
- The original acceptance letter from your host institution

The agent at the Préfecture will only look at your original documents to verify they match the photocopies provided; they won't ask to keep them. As usual, keep an eye on all your official documents!

The Consulate will ask you to have your long form birth certificate professionally translated into French; neither past exchange students nor I bothered with this and we

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<sup>1</sup> You must notify OHIP of your absence from the province; OHIP coverage is based on residency, and failing to notify them of your absence could result in being cut off from public health insurance upon your return.

<sup>2</sup> If applicable, verify if you are covered by one of your parent's/guardian's private health insurance plans. Doing so could save you hundreds of dollars in insurance fees.

<sup>3</sup> Proof of *Sécurité Sociale*, *Assurance responsabilité civile vie privée*, *contrat de logement*, and *Assurance d'habitation* will all be readily accessible when setting up your banking, moving into your accommodation, and registering at your host institution.

encountered no problems. At any rate, professional translators are available in France if you are asked for it. My advice: roll the dice. Should you need it professionally translated, you can do this in France. (The same advice goes for registration at your host institution; administrators will accept original documents in French, English, Italian, and Spanish without issue).

Once you have submitted the full application for a *Titre de séjour* to the Préfecture, you will be asked to go to a doctor's appointment at the OFII (*Office française de l'immigration et intégration*). This occurs a few weeks after initially submitting all files. Here you will have your chest X-rayed, blood pressure, glucose levels, weight, heart rate, and eyesight all assessed. *If you have immunization records, bring these with you.* You will also be asked about any prescription medication you regularly take. At the appointment, you'll receive the medical approval to reside in France. You have to submit this to the Préfecture, and (in 2014) within 10-14 days you will be able to pick up your *Titre de séjour*—the final immigration document required! Past exchange students have stated this can in fact take months, but in 2014-2015 the Canadians all received their cards within two weeks window after submitting the final medical clearance. In 2014-2015 the fee for the card was 77€. With this document you can legally work in France and travel freely inside and outside of France and the wider EU. You are a legal European Resident.

### ***Working in France***

Once you have applied for your *Titre de séjour*, you will receive proof of your application—*Récépissé*, a temporary residence visa. With this, you can begin working legally in France. Common jobs include working in cafés and takeaway restaurants. Once you have either of these legal documents, you are permitted to work for a maximum of 10 hours per week in a French business.

However, many French parents will advertise for Anglophone babysitters (approx.. 10 hours per week) and this is a popular way for students to make money while interacting with French families and children. French students will also seek out Anglophone tutors.

### ***Travelling to France***

Studying in the Rhône-Alpes Region means that the two closest airports are Geneva Cointrin (GVA) and Lyon Saint Exupéry (LYS). If you are flying from Montreal, Airtransat operates direct flights to Lyon Saint-Exupéry. Otherwise, you will have to purchase a flight with a connection at another major hub (such as London, Paris, or Amsterdam). In terms of quality and comfort for the best price, Air France/KLM and British Airways offer the most reasonably priced flights. However, there are always deals to be had, and comparing prices on [Expedia](#), [Kayak](#), [Scyscanner](#), and others is a good idea.

When packing, remember that airlines will restrict your carry-on baggage to one rucksack and one personal bag (e.g. purse or briefcase) and one checked bag weighing a maximum of 20 or 25kg. Check with your airline to confirm individual carrier policy. It is possible to purchase extra baggage allowances when booking your flight, and often cheaper to do so online rather than at the airport. Just remember, that once you arrive, you will have to

manage all of it by yourself! That means navigating airport terminals, train stations, and walking.

While you will be asked to provide a return ticket when applying for the Youth Exchange Visa in Canada, it is perfectly acceptable to show sufficient financial means, and leave that until you have firm plans for the Christmas holidays and returning in the Spring/Summer. Some carriers will charge extortionate fees for one-way tickets, but cheap ones can be found. Be patient and do your homework! Do know, however, that it is no longer possible to purchase open-ended tickets, and that the policies surrounding changing flights vary from airline to airline. Some will allow it for a fee, a fee and any difference in ticket price, and others will have you book an entirely new ticket. Air travel can be very expensive, so take precautions when booking/making any changes to your travel plans.

If you are travelling to Grenoble or Chambéry and arriving in Geneva, [Aerocar](#) coaches have routes from Geneva's arrivals terminal to the centre of each city. If you land in Lyon, there is a TGV/SNCF station connected to the airport. Aerocar also operate from LYS.

*When to Arrive:* It is not advisable to arrive on a weekend or a Bank holiday. Student residences will not be open and bus schedules run on reduced schedules. If you do happen to arrive early and cannot move into your place just yet, you can always spend a night or two in a hotel or private accommodation (see [Airbnb](#) for safe, reliable, and reasonably priced accommodation. I also advise you use Airbnb for booking accommodation when travelling on your school holidays.). Find out when classes or the *préstage* will start and plan to arrive a few days early so you can get settled.

Upon your arrival in France you should have a couple hundred Euros to help you get settled for the first few days (café and restaurant payments, buying a SIM card, a local map from a corner shop, etc). Keep a little bit in your pocket for incidentals while you get your feet on the ground.

*Christmas Holidays:* Final exams in France are officially held the first two weeks in January, but some professors will hold their own in-class exams before the Christmas Holidays. If you want to go home over the Holidays, check your university's schedule, which will be made available in September, and plan accordingly.

## **Living in France**

### ***University Residence***

When you apply to your host institution, you will also be able to apply to university residences. Unlike in Canada, residences are not normally found on campus but rather scattered throughout the city. By and large, these residences are managed by organisations set up by the government. In Rhône-Alpes this agency is [CROUS Grenoble](#).

Once offered a spot, the agency will ask you to wire a deposit to if you choose to reside in student halls. In 2014, incorrect information was given to me, and I lost nearly 100€ because of this. When in doubt, and if you should encounter any problems, contact the

International Office of your host university. They will be slow responding to you (if they do), especially as it is summer, but do not let up. **The only way to receive any answers in France is to ask very politely, repeatedly.**

Because the cost of university residence is quite expensive, it is highly recommended you apply to the *Caisse d'Allocations Familiales*, or CAF, for short. You will be reimbursed for some of the charge. In Chambéry in 2014-2015 residence fees ranged from 390€ to 500€ per month.

*Food preparation:* Depending on your residence, your room/flat will either have its own kitchenette, or your floor will have a shared kitchen. The only utilities provided will be a hob and a microwave. Kettles, toasters, etc. will have to be purchases by you if you want to. Meal plans and cafeterias in residence buildings do not exist in France as we know them in Canada.

*WiFi:* University residences will come with WiFi so do not buy any subscription to services that might be offered inside the buildings, but come at a price. In Chambéry, 'SmartCampus' is offered as part of your rent. It is not fast, but it will do. The biggest problem it poses is establishing a reliable Skype connection.

*Utilities:* Water, gas, hydro, etc. are all included in your rent.

### ***Private Accommodation***

Finding your own private accommodation is a relatively popular thing for exchange students to do. Although the costs are normally comparable to student residences, private flats can be much nicer and you will still be available to apply for the CAF (see below).

### ***Caisse des Allocations Familiales***

To counter the high price of renting accommodation in France, the government reimburses students a certain percent of the costs, generally 40%, which is retroactive to your second month's payment (limited to three months before the original application date). The amount you are reimbursed depends on your marital status, number of dependent children, number of residents and square footage of your accommodation, your income over the last year, etc. The application process is relatively simple but requires lots of documentation (virtually the same amount as the application for a *Titre de séjour* plus some banking information—a *RIB*). You can apply online and submit the dossier to the management of any CROUS operated student accommodation, or firectly to the CAF by post if you live in private accommodation. You need a valid *Titre de séjour* to receive any money, but you can nonetheless submit your application before then and simply provide the office with a photocopy of your residence card once you have received it.

It will take months to process, but the retroactive pay will be applied to your future rent payments by the CROUS agency or deposited directly into your account (in the case of private accommodation). You will receive the subsidy every month after that.

There is nothing in France that has made me more frustrated than the CAF. If you have the

3 month 2B student VISA, the CAF will NOT pay you for any months before you get your *Carte de séjour*: Your VISA is good for three months with the expectation that you will get your *Carte de séjour* within those 3 months. However, when you do eventually get your *Carte de séjour*, it will not be dated from the start date on your VISA but will be dated from whatever date they happened to have processed your application. That means you have no proof of being a resident in France before the date on your *Carte de séjour*, ergo, no money from the CAF before that date.

So, if you're lucky and get your application processed relatively quickly you may only lose September. However, if you fall into the rather large pile of people who, thanks to French bureaucracy, have problems with their *Carte de séjour* you could lose 3 or 4 months. I didn't get my *Carte de séjour* till February and it was dated December.

The CAF only retroactively pays 3 months' rent, so don't submit an application in April expecting to get money dating back to October. However, if you leave France at the beginning of summer and don't tell them they'll keep giving you money until August, though you should probably tell them. I was only given 23% of my rent back, not sure why.

### ***Electricity***

France uses 220V power. You will need both a converter and an adapter to use North American appliances. If you are paying utility charges apart from rent, be sure to budget for it (although most rent agreements include utilities and Internet). Have at least 2 or 3 adapters. A VERY good idea is to bring a power bar from Canada with you and use one adapter to have access to several different outlets. (Make sure you also have an adapter for the UK if you plan on travelling, since it is different from continental Europe.)

### ***Banking***

To avoid credit card hassles, make sure your Canadian credit card will be valid for your whole trip and that you've notified the credit card company that you'll be travelling. Ensure you know how to change your travel settings using online banking—and that you use online banking in the first place—so this can be done easily while studying abroad. Additionally, you can have your parents/guardians added to your banking accounts. This allows them to deposit any cheques you receive while away (including the ORA Scholarship!).

It is also advisable to have three or four sets of photocopies of all bank cards (and your passport!) while you are abroad. Leave one at home with your parents, and keep others with you. I normally leave a copy in the inside lining of any checked bag I travel with, just in case. If you happen to lose bankcards, travel documents, or others, it is hugely beneficial to have a copy on file.

Make sure the PINs to any cards you plan to use abroad are not longer than four digits; they should also not begin with the numbers 0 or 1, otherwise you won't necessarily be able to use them internationally. If you still use any bankcards without a chip, you will have to get a new card. European banks, ATMs, rail kiosks, shops, etc. only accept cards with chip and PIN protection.

While you will be required to set up a French bank account, you can continue to use your Canadian cards. I only use my French account to pay the monthly 5€ *Assurance d'Habitation* fee, aside from that, it is of no use to me. I always make purchases with my VISA credit card and withdraw money using my debit card. Because you are charged for debit withdrawals while abroad (about \$5 by the Canadian bank), I only withdraw large amounts of cash, and use it when credit card payment is not possible. With VISA, I only pay the currency exchange rate, which is something you will have to pay either way.

Check to see if there are banks in Canada that have agreements with banks in France. For example, Scotiabank has an agreement with BNP Paribas and you can use your Canadian Debt/Credit cards with BNP Paribas machines for free and avoid withdrawal fees.

While you'll be asked to wire a deposit to university residences to confirm a place in halls, I do not advise wiring money to your French account. It is not only expensive (30 to 40 dollars per international wire transfer), but there are withdrawal and annual spending limits on French student accounts. If you wire too much money, you risk not being able to withdraw it until a much later date. For these reasons I only use my Canadian cards.

While paying by cheque used to be a very common and reliable way to settle the bill in France (even up to a few years ago), this is increasingly uncommon. When dealing with practical matters like paying rent, the CROUS student residence accept cash, card, and online payment. Private landlords will normally accept cash (but protect yourself (!!)) and buy a 2€ receipt book so you can record this transaction and have them sign the receipt. Give a copy and keep one for yourself). For these reasons (and others); I highly recommend using your current Canadian banking set-up as outlined above. There is no need to complicate your life with unnecessary banking matters in France when so much can be done online/by card for no fee.

*Setting up a French Bank Account:* If you are living in residence, chances are there will be a representative from a bank there on move-in day. They will help you set up the account as well as purchase the mandatory *Assurance responsabilité vie civile privée* and *Assurance d'habitation*. In Chambéry, most students use LCL, which will refund your *Assurance d'habitation* premiums at the end of the year (provided you made no claims). Even if you are living in private accommodation, you need only to make an appointment at a bank, and you can set up an account. You should be able to pick up your French debit card within two weeks.

### **Cell phones**

Compared to Canada, we are spoiled for choice with cellular carriers here in France. *Free* and *Bourgès* are the most popular with students while *Orange* is also well known (if slightly more per month). *Virgin* was also very popular with British students, although they were often over charged (and *Virgin* no longer has a shop in Chambéry). In all, *Bourgès* has slightly better coverage than *Free* outside of large cities (i.e. Chambéry or Grenoble) although *Free* never gave me any considerable problems.

For students, your average mobile plan will cost 20€ per month, for which you get: unlimited SMS/MMS messaging in France Métropole, unlimited phone calling in France Métropole and internationally (!), and 20GB data per month. It is simple enough to get a contract on your credit card and pay automatically on the first of every month. (Just be aware the SMS messaging to international numbers will cost about 5 centimes per message. In place of this, I recommend using Telegram, Whatsapp, Viber or other free messaging services that use data rather than a mobile carriers network.

Contracts are not fixed in France. You can cancel at any time and only have to pay up to the end of the current month.

### ***Bicycles***

It is common for students to cycle to university, and in Chambéry, the STACs transport service rents bicycles to students for periods of one week, month, semester, or a full year. A security deposit is required, but the rental costs are quite low and it is very popular amongst students. You'll see the 'baby blue' bikes dotted around the city. The rental depot is located near the train station, right across from *Le Poste*.

Helmets are not common in Europe, so get to know the rules of the road, or follow the example of the locals. In Lyon there is a great bike rental system where the membership for one year is 10€ and you pick up a bike, ride it anywhere and put it down at a station, of which there are over 350 all over the city.

Be aware that bike theft is common. Invest in a good bike lock if you live in Grenoble, people will try to steal your bike especially if you leave it outside overnight, it's a Grenoble thing. It is best to buy the worst looking bike that still functions to avoid thieves. If you are living in an apartment see if you can store it in the basement, it will be safer.

### ***Train Travel***

Train travel in France is highly reliable and convenient and can often be an affordable way of travelling around the country and to neighbouring countries. As a young person, students are eligible to purchase a *Carte jeune* (50€ initial cost), which can give you saving of up to 60pc on rail fares on both regional trains and TGV ones too. If you plan on travelling even to neighbouring cities, this card soon pays for itself and then some.

Before boarding a train, do not forget to validate, "*composter*," your ticket at a yellow machine found throughout the station and on the platforms. Failure to do so means you could be fined upwards of 20€ by the conductor. Please note, that tickets cannot normally be bought while on the train, so be sure to purchase them either at a ticket counter or kiosk before boarding. "Riding the rails" is severely frowned upon and if you're caught travelling without a ticket you can be found several times the value of the original ticket.

### ***Staying Safe***

If you lose documents, contact the police immediately and fill out the necessary forms. Under French law, all residents AND tourists must carry some identification in case they are stopped and questioned by police. Do not forget that you will be hanging around bus

and train stations in a country where police searches are not uncommon. Bring photocopies. Always bring your passport when you travel outside of France—even though your *Titre de séjour* makes you a legal EU resident, when you present it you may be asked for your passport as well.

For all women studying in France, French men are extremely direct, and you will likely be sexually harassed in the street and approached by them. The best policy is to ignore them. If you “call them out” on their behaviour, many men will become agitated or violent, and this is often times made worse if they have been drinking. It sounds childish, but use your sixth sense and do not talk to suspicious strangers. Do not make eye contact and watch out for threats of physical and sexual violence. As at home, keep an eye on your friends when out at a bar and only take drinks from the bartender. Walk home in groups if you are out late, or better still, take a cab or a bike. Under no circumstance should you ever walk home alone. This is equally advisable to men as well, as muggings are common, especially in Chambéry.

I cannot stress enough how unnerving yet completely normal it is to be harassed by French men at all times of day, and once they know you speak English. As for attracting them the criteria seems to be that you have to be female and that’s about it—any woman who gets yelled at has NOT done anything wrong and should not feel at all guilty. It is NOT that you are dressed too provocatively, look like a foreigner, or have done something other than existing to attract their attention. It just happens, and it’s not your fault. As well, be careful posting any ads if you are female and want to offer English lessons. Plenty of students will advertise for tutors, so you need not put yourself in a precarious situation by divulging personal contact details.

**Chambéry:** In 2014-2015, several students were attacked in Chambéry. All of these attacks occurred at night, and each time the individual was walking alone. Students living in Chambéry need to know that Faubourg Montmélian (where the student residence Foyer des Alpes is located) is a dodgy street, and you should always walk with a friend at night. It is as common to be catcalled and harassed during the day as it is at night there. In particular, the park and streets located between Foyer des Alpes and the Arpej Residence are not to be walked at night unless you are travelling in a large group. The route is poorly lit, and several women were sexually assaulted here during my time in Chambéry (the attacker was arrested) and a fellow male student was beaten up while walking home.

## Studying in France

### ***The First Few Days***

***Inscription:*** Registering for the school year is a time-consuming process. The French love bureaucracy and will gleefully take as many papers as you can offer them. Different administrators will request different documents. My best advice is to bring as many documents along with you as possible. The administration will provide you with an inscription time and a checklist of documents. I brought along all these requested documents, plus:

- My high school transcript (which also states I received my OSSD—the French will ask for ‘proof of your right to study at university’)
- The letters of acceptance supplied by Guelph’s CIP, the ORA Programme, and the host university in France
- My original letter of acceptance to Guelph (!)
- A copy of my *RIB* (available upon setting up a bank account; necessary to buy *Securité Sociale*)
- \*Some administrators will ask for copies of your university transcript. If asked, just provide a copy. Otherwise they will tell you to come back another day.

*\*\*My best advice for the inscription is to offer no more information than what you’re asked for*

At the inscription you can purchase the *Securité Sociale* as well as a health insurance ‘top-up’ (something I opted for as I ski, etc.). In 2014-2015 I paid 342€ in registration, *Securité Sociale* and ‘top-up’ fees.

### ***Adjusting To France’s University System***

*Its Structure:* In the last year of high school French students receive their baccalauréat once they have passed their final exams. The older system was the DEUG, which is your baccalauréat plus two years of higher study. This can still be awarded to students who do a two-year program but it is not used very often.

The system used in France now is called the LMD system (Licence, Master, Doctorat). Most bachelors degrees here consist of 3 years of study (L1, L2, L3). Masters programs are either 1 or 2 years and, like the Licence, the years of study are called M1 and M2. You will see these titles when signing up for courses. Years of study are divided into two semesters like in Canada. The length of Doctorat courses is generally 3 years in which you produce a thesis paper at the end.

*Credits:* European universities award *European Credits* (EC) as part of a wider *European Credit Transfer System* (ECTS). One course at Guelph (0.5 credits) is equal to 6 EC.

*Marks:* All exams and assignments are marked out of 20. This scale will help you a little.

0-9	Failing grade. Better luck next time.
10	Passing grade
10-12	Class average
13-14	A GOOD mark
14-15	A GREAT mark
16-19	Wow! Good job! Rare marks
20	Virtually unheard of

Don’t convert your marks into percentages, you’ll just get depressed and it doesn’t give you an accurate idea of how well you did. Remember that everything is supposed to be different.

*Class Etiquette:* Do not eat or drink in lectures (water is acceptable). It is considered very rude (although, having an entire conversation about your ski weekend doesn’t seem to be

frowned upon at all!) if you're lucky, a 2-3 hour class will have a short break (5 minutes max.), when many students go to the coffee machine... 40 centime espressos, etc. are popular and so tasty.

Professors normally photocopy and give readings to you they want to study/analyse in class, so buying textbooks is unheard of (except for the odd history course). Professors do not teach like they do in Canada with PowerPoint presentations, class discussions, etc. French professors will often simply sit at the front of a lecture hall/classroom and read from their notes for the two-hour class; questions are not asked and professors do not want to be interrupted—this is their time. Finding a French student to lend you notes is a great help.

You'll encounter CM (cours magistral), which are equivalent to lectures, and TD/TP (travaux dirigés/travaux pratiques), which are like seminars/labs. Attendance is pretty much always taken for TD/TPs and occasionally for smaller CMs. Since there are no textbooks, learning is done in class; French students skip class a lot less than we tend to. Additionally, "seminaire" does not mean "seminar" as we understand it. It is a 160 page report (thesis).

Libraries: Libraries are generally difficult to navigate and different in each school and city. Books are usually in storage; fill out a request card and wait up to an hour for a librarian to retrieve the title. University libraries are small and poorly funded: they have short hours, limited seating, few computers, and strict no-food/drink rules. It is worthwhile to get a membership at municipal libraries as well, as they have a varied collection of local/national music etc., and guidebooks, so that you don't have to bring them! There is an excellent city library in Chambéry, 5€ for the year, and you can check out various books, CDs, DVDs, guide books, etc.). The Bibliothèque Droit-Lettres and the Bibliothèque Universitaire des Sciences in Grenoble are pretty big but they are not amalgamated and you cannot take out books from the library that is not connected to your school. Beware of library fines: a friend who borrowed a book from l'Université Savoie Mont Blanc and forgot to return it before its due date in December accumulated a fine of 45€ by the start of the New Year.

### ***A Few Words of Advice***

As appears to be characteristic of the French university system, inefficiency and disorganization reign. Do not expect things to work the way they do in Guelph. Try not to stress out over courses and *do not take any of it too seriously*. It is not unusual to find that a course you have been in for 6 weeks one day evaporates never to be seen again; to have room mix-ups; professor mix-ups; class mix-ups... **check bulletin boards as often as possible**. The only notification you will ever get regarding exams, room changes etc. will be postings on the bulletin boards (although some of this information can increasingly be found online, albeit on very outdated portals). Above all, do not expect anyone to tell you anything. If you want questions answered, you must ask repeatedly and insistently (but always be polite, no matter how frustrated you are). Be patient, and seriously, do not take things too seriously. In the end class schedules and credit counts seem to work out no matter how lost you may feel at the start.

Classes often have 100% finals, sometimes as oral examinations. Ask what efforts are made for foreign students (and always write 'Erasmus' on your exams, so the professor doesn't penalize you severely for grammar/spelling mistakes!). Lectures are usually 2 to 3 hours long. Be prepared to stay awake and tuned in. If they're provided, reading the material before the lecture will make your life easier! Be prepared to have notes with many words missing. Many profs dictate notes, although LEA classes tend to have slideshows. Try to speak to your professors and let them know you are an exchange student: generally they are helpful and they will be a bit easier on your grammar/spelling when you hand in papers. Try to get to know someone in each of your classes—French or Erasmus—so when exams/classes/professors do change unexpectedly, you have someone to turn to. Mercifully, you will not be required to buy any expensive textbooks.

### ***Administrative Responsibilities***

***Inscription Pédagogique:*** In reverse fashion, you will not register for courses, but rather exams, so spend the first few weeks of the semester attending as many classes as possible. You can build your timetable with courses that interest you and equal 30 EC in total per semester (keeping in mind selected courses should have near equivalents at Guelph). Near the end of the semester, you'll be asked to register online for the exams you'd like to write, and the full schedule will be released a few weeks out from the official exam period.

### ***University of Guelph Contacts***

While studying abroad, you will need to keep in touch with Professor Irvine to let her know what courses you have selected and your overall credit count throughout the year. She is incredibly helpful and will respond to you very quickly.

Dr. Margot Irvine: (519) 824-4120, ext. 53182. Email: [mirvine@uoguelph.ca](mailto:mirvine@uoguelph.ca)

*"Please send me a list of the courses you would like to take once you've chosen them, and let me know how you are doing! I love hearing from you and am always available for consultation."*

Centre for International Programs: [goabroad@uoguelph.ca](mailto:goabroad@uoguelph.ca)

School of Languages and Literatures: (519) 824-4120, ext. 3883. Fax: (519) 763-9572

## City Profiles

### Chambéry

**Région:** Rhône-Alpes

**Département:** Savoie (73)

**Location:** 55 km N of Grenoble, 100 km SE of Lyon

***What the guidebooks say:***

- Historic capital of the Duchy of Savoy
- Was at one time home to Enlightenment writer Jean-Jacques Rousseau
- Located at crossroads between Italy, France and Switzerland
- Architecture of the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries is abundant
- Major resort and holiday centre, both winter and summer
- 30 km from Albertville, home of 1992 winter Olympics
- 10 km from Lac du Bourget, the largest natural lake in France
- Skiing, hiking, climbing, sailing, and hang-gliding all located nearby

***L'Université Savoie Mont Blanc***

L'Université Savoie Mont Blanc is a well-known university in France. It is especially well regarded for its Tourism Management and Languages programs (The IMUS and LEA faculties, with which Guelph is affiliated (IMUS was formerly called IUP, name change in 2008-09). The IMUS faculty holds an international fair in October so you can showcase your country, you receive emails from IMUS about the business clubs, tourism field trips, summer jobs, student-run events, etc. They also have course selection booklets that are VERY useful. The 2 IMUS buildings are on lower campus with a rather organized team of management/tourism profs. Tourism and management classes have many Erasmus/exchange students, and French students who have gone/plan to go on exchange. The university comprises two campuses, Jacob-Bellecombette (where LEA/IMUS is located) and Le Bourget (which houses the science and engineering schools). The Jacob campus is quite small, as are the library and athletic facilities. The Jacob campus is part way up a mountain. It is tricky to find the first time, but has a great view. There is a small green area on campus that some lovingly called "Mini Johnson" in deference of Guelph—it's a great place for lunch with friends on a warmer day. However, time spent on campus is generally spent in class, and since there is very little reading required for most courses except literature ones (articles and other required readings are generally supplied), the small campus and limited library aren't as much of an impediment as they sound. There is, however, always the library in town located at the Carré Curial. It costs 5 Euros for an annual membership card.

Lunches on campus are at the RU (Resto universitaire). You load money onto a Moneo Card to pay for any meals on campus. To get your card, go to the booth just after you walk into the building and ask for one (student card required), then go put money on it at the machines in the next room. A meal includes a starter, main, dessert, and bread. It usually serves decent food, but can be a crowded lunchroom. A student lunch costs 3,20€.

***LEA (Langues Étrangères Appliquées)/IEA (Institut d'Administration des Entreprises) Savoie Mont Blanc/LLSH (Langues, Lettres et Sciences humaines)***

Both departments are situated in Bâtiments 22 and 23 (22 is a brand new addition to the campus and both have computer labs (you can log on once you get your Savoie email address/password at the inscription in September), study room, cafeteria (sandwiches and other ready to-go food). IEA has a very active student association that puts on frequent *soirées* in the main hall of the building, and organises seminars, ski trips, and outings as well as an orientation day and welcoming party for the international students. Take advantage of special student nights, parties, meet & greets... read the IMUS emails too, that is how I found a 2 month internship in the Olympic town of Albertville in 2008-09!

LEA professors treat exchange students like a real benefit and teaching aid. You will be warmly welcomed into the classes and often asked to participate, provide perspective on your own experiences in Ontario/Canada and will often be called upon in language classes to provide native speaker translations, etc. All in all, you will have a great learning experience within the LEA department.

***Courses***

LEA focuses mainly on applied modern languages (English, German, Italian and Spanish) and includes courses in Culture and Civilization, Translation and Society and Culture. IMUS combines language and business, with an emphasis on tourism. IMUS is perfect for those in the European Business stream of European Studies. Students in Culture and Civilization will have to be a little creative in order to make their course selections work, but the language courses in both the LEA and IMUS are excellent and very worthwhile for those working on a third language.

As an exchange student, you do not have to enrol in specific courses, only in the exams (unless it is an 'optional' course in which case sign-up sheets will be posted on the bulletin board of the respective department). Do not ever expect a course outline or syllabus with synopses and mark breakdowns. The majority of course marks are based on the final exam alone. The University will offer a number of exchange student oriented classes, such as "Grammaire Erasmus," theme translation, perfectionnement de français, and civilisation française.

- Mme THYSS is a very popular and respected professor who will teach civilisation courses. She coordinates the Erasmus/exchange student programming, so chances are any questions you have about course offerings can be answered by her
- Monique BOULET with the IMUS/LEA courses has solid information presented on slideshows
- Pascal GAY teaches societal law, and he is a very witty, interesting prof... loves exchange students
- Véronique FAVRE-BONTÉ taught international strategy in 2010/2011 and her class is very easy to follow, with slides and lots of participation, very helpful with exchange students
- Christine HUCHETTE taught human resources in 2010/2011 and she really makes sure to get exchange students involved and interacting with French students, lots of

hands-on group work

- Beatrice GALEY teaches organization theory, and while she is daunting she is also very fair
- For Masters classes, BERTHIER teaches interesting subjects if you can find their courses listed somewhere!
- Try to avoid TURLOTTE or BAILLY law classes – hard to follow the lectures, and the profs are neglectful of exchange students
- Avoid Cosma OLIVIER if you choose to study literature courses; he will look through you if you're an exchange student and French students themselves would avoid his courses if they could
- Jean CLERC teaches English language and society courses within the LEA faculty and runs a particularly enjoyable Licence 3 translation course in the fall semester. He loves having Anglophones in his classes and you'll learn a lot
- Petra PERRIER is an excellent LEA German professor and extremely helpful to all students, exchange or French. She also uses PowerPoint presentations (not many professors do!) and will treat her smaller classes to homemade goods and treats from Germany. She is a lovely person and a great and knowledgeable professor!

Although you may be officially registered in one faculty, you can take courses offered by others, such as LLSH courses (*Langues, Lettres et Sciences humaines*). However, literature classes tend to be very reading intensive (4-5 *œuvres* per course) and, in my experience, the lectures tend to focus more on the individual professor's pontifications rather than a study of the literature at hand.

IEA and LLSH both issue info booklets on offered courses, and they have some good information on course descriptions. However, LLSH courses are not so well organized. I found IEA accepted exchange students in a friendly way, i.e. emailed exchange students with class cancellations, exam sign-up/schedules, and the secretaries for IEA were very helpful (when they were there!). LLSH professors are often rude to exchange students, give no notice if class is cancelled or changed, and will often expect you to have read all required *œuvres* by the second week of class. Check the online "Planning des cours étudiants" if you think a class might be cancelled. But in general, expect to make many unnecessary trips to and from campus as courses have mysteriously disappeared for the week.

### **Marks**

Marks at the *Université Savoie Mont Blanc* are rated on a scale of 1-20. A 10 is a pass is considered an average and respectable grade. French students do not have to pass all of their courses in order to pass their *module* (the programme is divided into sections), and if they do fail a course that they are required to pass, they have the option of re-writing the exam in the following exam period, something called the *ratrappage*. French professors do not know that we cannot rewrite the exams later with the French students—so study hard and be careful!

### **Living in Chambéry**

Chambéry is a nice city and filled of foreign students (Italians are everywhere due to several *double-diplômes* agreements), and wonderfully located for travelling and skiing in

particular. It is so small and compact that the university, grocery stores, the train station etc. are all very easily accessible on foot. Despite its size, and apparent tranquility, however, Chambéry has its share of crime (mainly muggings and harassment) and care should be taken when walking at night—especially through the Jardins du Verney or up the Montée St Sébastien to the on-campus residences. The area around Faubourg Montmélian is also to be avoided at night (or stick with friends at all times). That said Chambéry becomes like a second home in no time! It is a lovely wee city and the Elephants fountain is like the Cannon at Guelph: everyone arranges to meet there.

- The small town feel is similar to that of Guelph, but on a more compact scale. Chambéry easily becomes your hometown after a week or so of carrying a map around with you! Everywhere in the town proper is accessible on foot and cycling is popular.
- There is everything you want within proximity: grocery stores and cinemas in walking distance from the main residences, a mall, large cinema and Lac Bourget only a bus ride away. Additionally, Grenoble, Geneva and Lyon are only about an hour away for a larger city experience.
- Exchange students really become like family in Chambéry, and they will actively create events and organize trips since they will want to travel and explore the region as much as you do.
- It is a good idea to get to know French students in your classes since they can help you with your notes, your presentations, and give you an authentic French experience. They likely won't initiate conversation but don't be scared! They're fantastic and have a lot to teach you about French culture.

### ***Accommodation***

University Residence: Accommodation in Chambéry is varied in terms of type, quality and price. Foreign students applying to the l'Université Savoie Mont Blanc will automatically receive material from the DRI (Département des Relations Internationales). They will send you an application for student residences with your registration package.

The options offered by the SCRI are University residences (dorms and 'studios' on campus), private student residence in town *la Résidence du Comte Vert, l'Hôtel de l'Arche*, or rooms in family homes. All have their advantages and disadvantages. The RU *résidences universitaires* are well located for classes etc., but don't expect the same kind of campus life and atmosphere that we have at Guelph (there are no campus bars), and laundry and grocery stores are a bit of a hike downhill. Don't stay on campus. Almost all foreign students who live there move out in the first month. It is dirty and old. Convenience over quality, don't go for this option. It's a dark, lonely walk back at night.

The private student residences are better in terms of location (closer to Laundromat, grocery stores, train station, etc.), and work well for international students since they are fully furnished, but may have less of a residence atmosphere.

Comte Vert is located about a 20-30 minute walk from the University and is pretty close to downtown. It is a 5min walk to the train/bus station which is very handy, plus many bank

branches on the same street. It is slightly isolated as it is on the other side of the city from the other student residences. It is a short walk to the grocery store LeClerc. Best place to shop with many “Eco+” discount brand items. Don’t shop at Monoprix for everything. You also have Lidl near LeClerc for cheap items, but limited. You are in a mini apartment where you share the kitchen and toilet/shower with a roommate. There are laundry machines located in the building. Save 3 euros for the washing machine, coins only... no dryer but there is a drying rack in your room. And there is potential for an amazing view of the Alps, if you don’t get a room on the side of the building facing the road.

Comte Vert is now run by CROUS, a Grenoble-based student housing group. The ladies at the reception are lacking a bit of friendliness, but you can get what you need and take care of rent relatively easily—when the reception is open... sadly, they no longer sell/rent kitchenware, microwave ovens, extra mattresses etc.

- Many foreign/French students live in Arpej and Foyer des Alpes. It is very handy location since it is also near Charley’s, a good pub, and Opéra, the one disco in town. It is helpful to know people there and fun to hang out—we had Halloween/Christmas parties in the living room/communal kitchens there.
- Arpej has decent little kitchens with a fridge and two hobs. Try to buy cheap pots & pans, soap, sheets, cutlery, trash bags etc. from LeClerc. Don’t buy them more expensively than you have to.
- You will have keys for your apartment & bedroom which also open to the garbage room & laundry room. There is a badge attached to the key, since there is a swipe-pass for the front entrance. Losing your keys will cost you upwards of 100 Euros, since the badge is hard to replace. Try very hard to never lose your keys
- You don’t really meet your neighbors in Comte Vert like you would in a Guelph residence. The hallway has about 8 apartments per floor, but you don’t really hang out in the hallways.
- There are no communal rooms or kitchens in the Comte Vert residence which is a big shame.
- Foyer des Alpes is arguably the most social residence as rooms do not have kitchenettes; the floor will share a communal kitchen, so students often cook and eat together.

Private Accommodation: There are also many private rooms and apartments available. The majority are well priced and quite easy to find. International students are eligible for *Assistance personnalisée au logement* (APL) from the *Caisse d’allocations familiales* (CAF)—a monthly rent rebate of up to 40% depending on your type of accommodation. You can apply for this directly to the CAF, or through your residence. You should *relever un dossier* on your arrival, and then submit your *carte de séjour* once you have received it. APL is granted retroactively to cover your rent before the *carte de séjour* has been issued.

Boarding with a family can be an amazing opportunity to improve your language skills and become familiar with the Savoyarde culture, but it also has its risks (namely that it cuts down on your freedom and independence significantly). In 2014-2015 several British students did this, and while they enjoyed the language practise, they did wish they lived in

a more student friendly environment.

Université Savoie Mont Blanc, SCRI  
27 rue Marcoz – BP 1104  
73011 Chambéry  
tel: 011 33 4 79 75 84 30  
fax: 011 33 4 79 75 85 70

### ***Transportation***

While most of the city is easily accessible on foot, Chambéry has a very good and quite efficient bus system. The main bus terminals are at Les Éléphants. Tickets can be purchased on the bus, at a *tabac*, or from the STAC counter at Les Éléphants (and have to be machine validated or *compostés* on the bus). Student (reduced) tickets are available in books (*cartes*) of 10 from the STAC, but not on the bus. Unfortunately, be aware of unannounced strikes that will disrupt the bus service. If you are in the habit of checking our school email, you'll receive advance warning of these service disruptions. Strikes generally last a day but are very inconvenient because they could happen any time. However, you probably won't have to take the bus anyway, not unless you are venturing outside of Chambéry proper. The Jacob campus is a 20 minute walk from town. Students don't really use the bus to get to class, but it is useful to get to Lac Bourget or the mall/cinema on the outskirts of town in Chamnord... and also to the base of the mountain to hike up to Croix du Nivolet, a must-do activity in Chambéry.

### ***Shopping***

*Groceries- Carrefour* (at Bassens or Chamnord, two shopping malls: you must take the bus to get to Chamnord but Bassens is easily reached by foot from Foyer or Arpej) or *Leclerc* are best for quality, selection and price. *Monoprix* is a little more conveniently located, but is more expensive. For Comte Vert residents, definitely walk 8-10min to *LeClerc*, and also use *Lidl* which is right near *LeClerc* for simple, cheap items. *Monoprix* is better for occasion/specialty items... and does have great chocolate choices!

*Markets:* The market takes place Thursday and Saturday mornings. I highly recommend you purchase any cheeses, fruits, and vegetables from the market as the quality is excellent (and far superior to supermarkets) and the prices are very low, much lower than you'll find in any of the shops!

### ***Food and Drink***

Try the Savoyard specialties like *la fondue Savoyarde*, *la raclette*, or *la tartiflette*. The cheese Saint-Félicien is very good too! *La Mondeuse* is a fairly cheap red wine from Savoie and absolutely amazing! It is a good wine to send home as a gift.

*Restaurants:* There are many! Recommended are: *Le Sporting*, *La Frite Dorée*, *Le Savoyard*, *Les Halles*, *La Maginette* & *Le Vivaldi*. Street vendors (*crêpes*, *kebabs*, *sandwiches*, *pizza*) are good and cheap.

- Kebab shops are located near Carré Curial and the train station. If you can stomach a kebab, this is the best place to find them in Chambéry.

- Also along Rue Croix d'Or there are several nice places: a smoothie bar, *Vivaldi* (BEST food & service), *Arbre a Bieres* (an Alsatian pizza place with delicious menu items), *Table de Marie Ana* (British/French food, good prices), and a farther away a family-run Moroccan restaurant on the walk to campus!

*Le Palais Indien* serves the best curry available in Chambéry and the owner is such a friendly man! It's found on Faubourg Montmélian, very near Foyer des Alpes.

*La Maginette* and *Les Halles* are fancier restaurants and serve incredible food. They can be pricey, but a great option if family is visiting or for any special evenings.

Alcohol: This is France! Alcohol is cheap. A good bottle of wine will cost you 3-4€. Local wines (*Roussette de Savoie*, *Appremont*, etc.) are more expensive but worth trying. Try to avoid buying a lot of drinks in clubs. A mixed drink will cost you around 7€ minimum. Best bets are bars and cafés if you want to drink out. As for beer, a 50cl costs approximately 4€. At *Opéra*, the main nightclub here, you get a drink with your cover charge (10€). Try a "giraffe" when you go to a pub with a group, it's a 2/3L pitcher of beer in a metre-long tube. Buy wine at the grocery store, and be grateful you don't have to go to the LCBO separately. *LeClerc* and *Monoprix* usually has wine specials.

### ***Entertainment***

Night Life: Chambéry is not known for its nightlife. There are a couple of clubs: *l'Opéra* and *CO2* (also *RDC*, *Melodie*, *VIP*) but *Opéra* and *Melodie* are the go-to spots for students during the week and *CO2* will often host events with well-known French DJs. There is salsa dancing on Wednesdays at *Mojitos* and the drinks are tasty and enjoyable. Drinks can be expensive and it's better to dress up; an older crowd frequents *Mojitos* (think late 20s and early 30s) but it is a fantastic time for those who want to dance and have fun any night of the week. The nearby town of Aix-les-Bains has some good alternative clubs too, as do Grenoble and Geneva.

On the other hand, there are lots of bars in Chambéry. *Charley's* is the hangout for the international student crowd. *O'Pogues* is just down the street and also frequented, but not quite as popular among students. *O'Cardinals* at *Place Métropole* just in front of the *Cathédrale* is very popular and has a good atmosphere. It has a nice patio and is always full of university students—enjoying a drink with fellow students after class is a great way to get to know people early in the year. *Le Chapon Fin* is good for pool. (I've never been to *Chapon Fin*, or heard of anyone that did. *Charley's* and "*O'Cards*" are the best places to hang out.) Keep an eye out for special nights at *Opéra*. If you book in advance for some you get in free AND you get free drinks. One in awhile there are girls' only nights, which are lots of fun!

Cultural Life: Chambéry is well known for its cultural scene. The *Espace Malraux* has an excellent program of musical and theatrical performances, as does the *Theatre Charles Dullin*. The *Cinéma Curial* shows a wide and interesting selection of art and international films. The *Cinéma Astrée* has a good selection of newly released foreign and French films which you won't find in Pathé. Students get a discount at the *Espace Malraux*, *Théâtre*

*Charles Dullin* and the *Curial* with the Carte d'Adhésion available at the *Espace Malraux*. Chambéry is also home to an International Animation Festival, as well as festivals celebrating Celtic culture, jazz, summer music, and Medieval traditions. The local castle is quite cute. (Chateau des Ducs de Savoie – usually open on school holidays, and more often in spring/summer). There are performers there in period costumes if you go on the journée du patrimoine.

- There are works of art scattered everywhere, mural-type works called “Trompe l’oeil” which are quite neat to see (even in the Cathedral), so it is worth a visit!
- At the end of September and April, there is a “braderie” on Sunday which is a big street fair/garage sale/flea market. People sign up to sell things they own, but there are also discount items like make-up, books, food stalls, etc. It is a lot of fun to check it out. Plus shops are open on this Sunday, and usually at a 20% discount. Worth the look.

*Additional remarks:* Chambéry is a gorgeous little town surrounded by mountains. There are so many activities to do: rent a bike and go to Bourget, go hiking, or just strolling around. In February there is a Carnival that consists of a great Parade and all the children dress up in costumes. You have to keep your eyes and ears open to be aware of special events not widely publicized. There are always student nights put on at bars, for example at at *RDC*, *Melodie* and *Opéra*, all inside Carré Curial). Chambéry is also so close to Geneva that it is very easy to take a train to the Geneva International Airport and hop on an EasyJet flight and go almost anywhere in Europe. EasyJet offeres flights to and from Geneva, and Grenoble has RyanAir flights, but the airport is a bit outside the city. Chambéry has an airport near the lake with flights to the UK, (mainly operating during ski season), but it is actually difficult to get there and you would have to take a taxi since the buses don't go there. The University can be the root of many headaches, though. Sometimes you are actually stunned at the lack of organization and hassle you have to go through.

Useful contacts:

Lauren Van Rassel (2006-07): lvanrass@uwo.ca

Pascale Rabideau (2007-08): prabidea@uoguelph.ca

Fiona Simpson (2007-08): fsimpson@uoguelph.ca

Nicola Arnold (2008-09): narnold@uoguelph.ca

Sarah MacKinnon (2008-09): mackinno@uoguelph.ca

Elizabeth Ward (2008-09): ehood@uoguelph.ca

Annie Shepherd (2010-11): ashepher@uoguelph.ca

Connor Maitland (2014-2015): scmaitla@mail.uoguelph.ca/maitlandsc@gmail.com

## Grenoble

**Région:** Rhône-Alpes

**Département:** Isère (38)

**Population:** approximately 300,000

**Location:** 104 km SE of Lyon

### ***What the guidebooks say:***

- The city with 'a mountain at the end of every street'
- Ancient capital of the Dauphinés
- Commercial, intellectual and tourist centre of the Alpine area
- Sports capital in winter and summer
- The city lies near the junction of the Drac and Isère rivers, most of the city is on the south bank of the Isère
- The centre of the historic section is the *Palais de Justice* and Pl. St. André
- Grenoble is a large, cosmopolitan city—its skyscrapers bear witness to Grenoble's fierce desire to move with the times (proof: the nuclear research plant!)
- The birthplace of Stendhal, one of the most famous French novelists of the 19th century
- Host to the 1968 Winter Olympics; many of the venues have been put to good use

The *Maison de Tourisme* offers a student written guide called the "*Le DAHU Guide de Grenoble*" for only \$4. It has reviews of restaurants, bars, and information about sports and events in Grenoble. It's updated every year, and definitely worth the money!

The University of Grenoble is really 5 different schools: Université Joseph Fourier (Grenoble 1), Université Pierre Mendès-France (Grenoble 2), Université Stendhal (Grenoble 3), Institut d'études politiques de Grenoble (IEP) and Institut Polytechnique de Grenoble (INP). Most European Studies students get placed in UPMF.

### ***Université Pierre Mendès-France (UPMF)***

The International relations contact for UPMF is currently Fabienne Chapelle, her office is on the 2nd floor of the UPMF main building. She will tell you who to see for your courses, help you with your student card, collect your grades at the end of the year and send them back to Canada and many other administrative tasks.

### ***Courses***

- You are a foreign student - you can do anything you want, as long as your courses fit into a schedule and you can get credit for them at home.
- The faculties and courses are organized very rigidly for the French students, which sometimes causes problems for foreign students. Learn to read the bulletin boards to find out if classes have been cancelled, changed, or moved.
- There is no comprehensive course calendar for UPMF, each faculty has their own. You need to talk to the appropriate secretariat to get the course descriptions, etc.
- There are not a lot of assignments or essays to write, although it depends which courses you are taking. Lectures are important, textbooks are not, and final exams

are usually worth 100% of your final mark (written and oral). Studying at the library or the médiathèque will be expected.

- Expect a lot of oral exposés, and oral exams for the main 7 credit “thématique” courses.
- Time-tables are not made up ahead of time - this makes scheduling courses difficult. Keep smiling and remember that as long as classes haven’t started yet, everyone else is in the same situation!
- Registering for classes is not something to stress about either. Go to the classes you’re interested in, check it out with the profs to see if there’s room for you and once you’ve made your decisions, let the secretariat know.
- Office hours for profs (if they have any) should be respected, unless you want to ask an angry person for help.
- There tends to be a lot of emphasis placed on oral presentations.
- Classes don’t usually start until mid-September
- Foreign students have the opportunity to take semester-long French courses for credit through FLE (Français Langue Étrangère) - at Stendhal. Try to take courses offered by M. Guichard.
- As exchange students, you can also follow courses in other faculties/colleges. For literature courses you can go to Stendhal, and for Political Science there are courses available at IEP (Institute des Études Politiques).
- In General, you will need a total ECTS credit weight of 30 course weights per semester, weights tend to vary (4, 5, 6, or 7 each). Pay attention to these differences when making your schedule. If you’re missing credits Stendhal offers many light 3 credit courses that have no exam and generally require a large paper or presentation and the end.

### ***European Studies - Business Emphasis***

European Studies does not exist in France - when you tell people what you’re studying they’ll give you funny looks. They will make you choose a faculty at UPMF, try to choose the one you think you’ll be taking the most courses from, though it’s not a particularly important decision. You will be given a list of International Relations Contacts for the various facilities when you arrive and can discuss your courses with them.

### ***Arrival in Grenoble***

*If you land in Paris:* there are frequent TGV trains to Lyon from Charles de Gaulle airport, and once you are in Lyon there are even more frequent trains to Grenoble. You may be able to find a direct train to Grenoble if you’re lucky.

Cost: \$130 (4 hrs of travelling), but don’t forget to get a *Carte jeune* for those aged 18-27 can get you up to 60pc off on rail fares.

*If you land in Lyon:* shuttle busses to Grenoble from Lyon-Saint Exupéry airport run every hour.

Cost: \$20 (1h05 travelling time)

- It is also convenient to fly into Geneva, Switzerland, as it’s only about 1h30 train ride from there to Grenoble, and there are quite a few trains every day. The train from Geneva cost about 12 euros.
- Do not fly into Grenoble airport, because it ends up costing more than going through

## Lyon

***Where to live in Grenoble***

It is possible for you to stay at the Condillac residence for 8 nights at \$10/night until you find permanent accommodation. It's not great, but it's better than the floor and cheaper than a hotel! (I don't think this is still true) It is wise to organize this before arrival (residence is likely to be full at that time)

Or you could stay at the one hostel in south Grenoble <http://www.hihostels.com/dba/hostel020012.en.htm>. The South of Grenoble is not very nice at night however - there were riots there a few weeks ago.

If you are arriving in Residence for Sept 1<sup>st</sup>, either go *very* early, or wait until the next day, or you will wait in line for 5 hours... in the sun... dying...

***Residence***

When you move into residence, you will have to buy some things to make your room livable. There are no 'extras' provided, no blankets, pillow or toilet seats!

You will need:

- Cleaning supplies (for the bathroom)
- Room supplies (mats for the floor - very cold linoleum-on-concrete, hangers, pillow...)
- Cooking supplies (pots, pans, dishes, lock for your fridge locker...)

The BABOU discount store (bus line #8, stop Quinzaine) is a good place to buy all the house-wares you need, but don't want to spend a lot of money on! Closer to residence there is a Casino (chain of super market) a Lidl and an Ikea that's about a 15min walk.

*On Campus: St .Martin D'Hères:* These residences are about a 35-40 minute walk from downtown, but they are right on the B tram line. Trams run from 5:30am - 2am, every day of the week (with Sunday exceptions).

***Résidence Ouest***

- Rooms are 12m<sup>2</sup> with a bed, shelf unit, desk and closet
- Private bathroom in the room, with a shower, toilet and sink
- Communal kitchen for the floor - hot plates only (no ovens!) and refrigerators with shared locker spaces
- No phones in the rooms - there is a phone in the hall for incoming calls, and a pay phone to make outgoing calls
- \$360/month (before CAF)

***Résidence Hector Berlioz***

- You will be able to choose your building number (there are six) and floor number. I'd recommend looking around before registering so that you can choose a hallway that is not gross. Some hallways are 'darker' than others.
- There is a rather unreliable wireless internet connections in the buildings but it's really bad. 64bit computers don't work with the internet very well.
- Rooms are 12m<sup>2</sup> with a bed, shelf unit, desk and closet

- Private bathroom in the room, with a shower, toilet and sink
- Communal kitchen for the floor - hot plates only (no ovens) and little refrigerators in rooms
- Phones in the rooms which only accept incoming calls - but you can call other rooms in Berlioz (it's also possible to get hooked up to France Telecom... for a fee!)
- Pay phones in the lobby to make outgoing calls
- \$400./month (before CAF)

\*DO NOT ACCEPT OLYMPIC VILLAGE. It may sound cool, but it's in one of the worst areas of Grenoble. Muggings, robberies and car torchings are not uncommon there. Inquire about the other residences on campus and in town. Its also sort of in the middle of nowhere - busses don't come very often and stop running around 8pm and the closest Tram (Tram D) stops running at 9pm. I HIGHLY SUGGEST LIVING NEAR THE TRAM A B OR C if you don't want to get a bike, otherwise your transportation will be VERY difficult.

### ***Apartments***

The earlier you arrive, the better your chances for successful apartment hunting. It gets to be very difficult after July, even if you go through an agency (which will charge \$500 to \$800 to find you an apartment). Avoid the *Logement 38* agency (Avenue Alsace-Lorraine), which tried to rip off one of our students in 2004. Another option is to hunt through [www.appartager.fr](http://www.appartager.fr); it costs 15 Euros to connect, but is well worth the visit.

Another French site, where a basic membership is free is Recherche Colocation: <http://www.recherche-colocation.com/> or you can perhaps try Kijiji.fr

- Best way is to check ads posted on bulletin boards. You'll get information about the best places to look before you leave.
- Remember that you'll have to pay the value of 2 months rent upon arrival.
- Most of the time you need a guarantor before you sign your lease. A guarantor is someone who agrees to pay your rent if you do not. Some rental agencies will be really picky and only accept French Guarantors, make sure to be clear about this issue.
- Live near the tram lines - busses stop running at around 8pm. Living in downtown Grenoble is quite nice, there are many student apartments and you're close to everything.
- DO NOT LIVE IN THE SOUTH OF GRENOBLE: It's ok during the day but not a good area at night. I would not live anywhere south of the Tram A stop Albert 1er de Belgique.
- Sharing an apartment (colocation) with French students is a wonderful way to immerse yourself, improve your French and meet other French people. Your roommates may also appreciate living with an Anglophone as many French students take English courses and appreciate the opportunity to practice English as much as you appreciate the opportunity to speak French

### ***Transportation in Grenoble:***

TAG - *Transportation de l'Agglomération grenobloise*

There are three tram lines that cover the majority of the city

**A line (blue)** goes North-South through the downtown

**B line (green)** goes East-West, from the train station to the University and through the

downtown

**C line C line (pink)** goes through the centre of Grenoble to Campus.

**The Tram D line (yellow)** goes from the University into Saint Martin d'Herès and is not very useful

- Trams run every day of the week (every 3 or 4 minutes!) from 5:30am –2am, although the service is reduced after 8 pm and all day Sundays
- There is also a very comprehensive bus system which will get you just about anywhere in the city, but they stop running after 8 or 8:30 pm.
- A monthly unlimited-use student pass for the TAG network (busses and trams) is \$40. The annual pass is 180 Euros. Definitely worth it unless you plan to ride without a ticket, risk getting caught and having to pay the steep fine- 40 euros. NOTE: with the large international population in Grenoble, the "I'm a foreigner, I don't speak French" excuse doesn't fly with the inspectors! You *should* pay for the trams, but there are very few inspectors and you can get away with hopping them very easily. I haven't been checked once all year.
- Taxis in Grenoble are expensive, but there are always a couple waiting at Pl.Grenette for anyone who is having too much fun at the *Couche Tard* to run for the last tram!
- Your feet will serve you well as transportation, so bring comfortable shoes.

### ***Shopping in Grenoble***

Groceries:

- If you live on campus, *Géant-Casino* (Av. Gabriel-Péri) is the closest super-marché
- If you live in town, *Carrefour* (Grand' Place), *Casino*, *Attac*, *Prisunic* (more expensive) are all good options
- There are middle-sized grocery stores all around town which are alright as well, such as *SPAR* and *ED* (a discount store) and *Monoprix*.
- Of course, there are bakeries and patisseries around every corner where you can buy your daily baguette, (*Robert Plat*, place Notre-Dame, is highly recommended) and there are many weekly and daily markets to buy fresh fruits and vegetables.
- There are also *Restau-U's* (*Restaurants Universitaires*) - you can put any amount of money on a free rechargeable moneo card. A full meal costs about 3 Euros, but the food isn't great (dehydrated mashed potato powder anyone?) and the hours aren't always convenient. Generally they're open for an hour at lunch and an hour and a half at dinner time.

### ***Food and Drink***

Restaurants:

- Along the North bank of the Isère river there are many pizzerias. Two of the best are *Dolce Vita* and *Chez Mickey* (excellent pizzas and crêpes for dessert)
- 3 well-recommended "French" cuisine restaurants: *Au Fin Gourmet* (4 cours Jean Jaurès) and *Chez Margo* (near Pl.Victor Hugo), *La Marie Morgane Creperie* (Place Notre-Dame)
- Best kebab joint in town: *Fraternité Kebab* (A little hole in the wall near Hubert Dubedout, the woman who owns it is lovely and they have amazing white sauce)

Cafés:

- *Le Progrès* (Pl. Notre Dame) - large and open on Sundays, although it costs F2 extra, just because it's Sunday!
- *Le Tribunal* (Pl. St.André) - young, student atmosphere
- *Le Glacier* (Pl. Notre-Dame) - try the gâteau au chocolat, it's worth every centime!
- *L'Atmosphère* (Pl. Aux Herbes) - the name says it all!
- *Café du Nord*

### Nightlife:

For English-speaking people and North-American music...

*Le Couche-Tard* (1 rue du Palais)

*London Pub* (rue Brocherie) definitely a great pub, the bartender dress up as cowboys & policemen

*Chorus Café* (rue Brocherie)

*La Bibliothèque* (small, but where the Americans go)

*O'Callaghan's*

For more French people than English

*Saxo Pub*

*Les Trois Canards*

*Les Trois Diables* (Notre-Dame-Musée tram stop)

*Le Bagatel* (Pl.St.André)

*Café No Name* (Les Taillées tram stop)

*Les Frères Berthom* (rue Saint Hugues) a French beer garden chain with cool decoration (looks like outside/inside with trees, cobblestones, windows etc. with happy hour every night)

Any 'class sponsored' event

If you plan on spending a lot of time in the bars, plan on spending a lot of money too! Drinks are expensive - a pint of the cheapest beer is \$4, and a rum and coke can cost up to \$10. Some of the more popular student bars (like the *Couche Tard* and *Frères* ) have Happy Hour a few nights a week when a pint is only \$2.50... Take advantage!

### **Skiing**

Grenoble is the center of the French Alps, so downhill skiing is very accessible. Cross-country skiing is also available at many of the ski areas. Chamrousse is good for cross-country skiing.

GUC (Grenoble Université Club) membership

École de Glisse membership

- Pay \$40 for the card, plus whatever insurance you want
- Once you're a member, there are regular trips (every weekend, some weekdays) to the mountains that are really cheap... discounts on transportation and lift tickets
- GUC card includes lessons at 5 or 6 different levels
- You can rent equipment in Grenoble by the day (\$15 for everything) or for the season (depending on the quality of the equipment, between \$100 and \$200). Borel Sports on rue Alsace-Lorraine is a popular rental place, and it's close to the bus station so you don't have to carry your skis very far. There is also a good rental store

near the Grand Sablon tram stop (tram B).

- If you don't plan on skiing enough to make buying the GUC card a good deal, there are quite reasonably priced transportation and lift ticket deals at the bus station. From \$30 for the smaller 'stations de ski' to \$50 for the larger ones, for the day.

### ***Other sports***

There is a *Forum du sport* around mid-October where all the sports clubs are represented. Watch out for signs around the campus.

- Climbing up la Bastille is always fun and a bit challenging – or taking up les oeufs (bubbles) – on a clear day you can see Mont Blanc from the top
- You can earn credits for taking sports. I'm not exactly sure what the details are but it's possible.

### ***Banking***

If you live downtown, the *Lyonnaise de Banque* (boul. Edouard Rey) is recommended for its excellent service and friendliness towards foreigners.

Useful contacts:

Stephen MacLean-Rogers (2006-07): [macleanr@uoguelph.ca](mailto:macleanr@uoguelph.ca)

Ashley Moggy (2006-07): [admoggy@gmail.com](mailto:admoggy@gmail.com)

Erica McConnell (2009-10): [emcconne@uoguelph.ca](mailto:emcconne@uoguelph.ca)

## Lyon

**Region:** Rhône-Alpes

**Department:** Rhône (69)

**Population:** 500 000, 2<sup>nd</sup> largest city in France

**Location:** 430 km SE of Paris, 310 km N of Marseille

***What the guidebooks say:***

- City at junction of the Rhône and Saône Rivers
- Second largest city in France (but close to Marseille!)
- Easy access to the Alps and Beaujolais region
- Centre of book publishing, banking and silk production
- Gastronomic capital of France
- Founded in 43 BC. became cornerstone of Roman Empire “Lugunendum”
- Home to the oldest veterinary school in the world, founded 1762
- Vieux Lyon is home to one of the finest collections of medieval and Renaissance buildings in Europe, to a Roman theatre built by Augustus Caesar in 15 BC., and to great *traboules*, covered passageways between buildings to protect silk as weavers carried it from place to place. These were used during the French resistance.
- Lyon, more than other cities in France, has embraced the monetarist vision of the European Union.
- Resistance Capital (the IEP is in the building which served as a hospital for Jean Moulin, now Musée de la Résistance).
- There is also la fete des lumieres each year on the 5<sup>th</sup> to the 8<sup>th</sup> of December which in its origins was a religious celebration. Now there are many spectacles all over the city where they decorate the buildings with spectacular light displays!

\*There is an excellent student-written guidebook of Lyon released each fall called *Le Petit Paumé*. It has information on everything: stores, theatres, restaurants, clubs etc. Watch for signs advertising its release (usually at Bellecour). By the way, it's free!

***Institut d'Etudes Politiques, our partner school in Lyon:***

University of Guelph students take classes at the IEP, which falls under the umbrella of University Lyon Lumière II, but is also quite separate. French students need to take an entrance exam in order to be accepted; the IEP schools across France are quite competitive and well respected.

In spite of the fact that this is a political science institute, there are many courses available in other areas such as history, economics, international relations and communication. Although it may technically be possible for you to take courses outside of the IEP, each department works very independently and communication barely exists, if at all. It is very possible to get lost in the administration and switching faculties is generally not worth the trouble.

All changes of schedule, rooms and exam times should be posted on bulletin boards. Usually foreign students attend many different courses for the first few weeks and then

decide on which are appropriate to take. Make sure you check with the ESP program coordinator in Guelph to confirm that your classes are going to transfer to Guelph credits.

The IEP courses are on a trimester system. Some courses run all year and have 100% final exams in May; others are only a trimester and are graded on various assignments. Each *cours fondamentale* has a 100% final exam; *cours optionnels* may require an essay instead, *conference de méthode* are based on assignments. Do not take too many year-long courses or you will find yourself writing too many finals. The final exam for a full-year course usually comprises one required essay question that you write for 2 hours. Most foreign students seem to do better in courses that require individual assignments or a final project. It is much easier to work on a project over a long period of time than to recall a year's worth of information for one essay exam question. Some professors do not schedule office hours (called "permanences"), if they have offices at all, so you have to arrange a time to see them, catch them after class or email them.

Details on academic life and student life in general can be found on IEP's website: <http://iep.univ-lyon2.fr> . Go to "Calendrier", "Programme des cours", "relations internationales" – "Guide de l'étudiant ».

### **CIEF**

An optional two-week long introduction course exclusively for foreign students, focusing on the methodology of French education (how to write an essay, what is expected from a *présentation* etc.) as well as syntax, vocabulary.

Tours of the city and Saturday trips on most weekends complement the academics and give an excellent opportunity to get to know both the city of Lyon and places of interest in the area, for a very reasonable price. Trips to Annecy, Avignon, and Dijon are only \$25 each. Take advantage of the bargains and the knowledgeable people working for CIEF who might lead you on a walking tour.

The greatest advantage of this course is having time to get to know the city, adjust to the language, and figure out things like banking, shopping and bus routes before the real academic year begins. The introduction course is strongly recommended, for language improvement and knowledge of one's surroundings. It is not part of the regular academic year and is therefore not covered by Guelph academic fees, although it will transfer as a 0.5 U of G French credit upon presentation of the appropriate transcript. The course costs around \$300-350. Details can be found at [www.univ-lyon2.fr/cief](http://www.univ-lyon2.fr/cief) Otherwise, follow the programme to get a Certificat des Etudes politiques, and you'll be put in a French language course through the CIEF, that runs over both semesters and counts as 1 full FREN credit. This is a great way to make friends and meet people.

### **Arrival in Lyon**

From: St. Exupéry Airport (20 km SE of the city)

Don't panic. This is a tiny L-shaped airport and you can't get lost. Stay on the arrivals level and follow signs for information or the *Satobus*. It costs about 13 euros, 40 euros round trip regardless of where you get off. The bus stops at *Part-Dieu* (shopping mall and train

station) and *Perrache* (train station: always travel north from here, the south of the presqu'île is the only sketchy part of the town!) and *Grange Blanche*. If you will be staying at *Résidence André Allix*, go all the way to *Perrache* and then take a taxi, or a bus if you packed lightly.

From Paris, you can take the TGV (super-high-speed train) right from *Charles de Gaulle* airport to *Perrache* or *Part-Dieu* (a two-hour ride).

### **Accommodation**

IEP lets students find their own accommodation, which becomes harder and harder as the beginning of the academic year approaches. Students typically rent an apartment (studio or collocation) or find a room in a private residence close to the University. Make sure you apply for the *Aide personnalisée au logement*, which will considerably reduce rental costs. The following websites can be very helpful in your search for accommodation in Lyon: [www.lyoncampus.org](http://www.lyoncampus.org), [www.adele.org](http://www.adele.org), [www.crous-lyon.fr](http://www.crous-lyon.fr), [www.club-etudiant.com](http://www.club-etudiant.com), [www.colocation.fr](http://www.colocation.fr)

### **Residence**

*Résidence André Allix* is in the 5th arrondissement, about a 40 minute walk or 20 minute bus ride from the IEP.

Rooms are at least \$500 per month (paid every three months) and include: bed, desk, end table, closet, sink, sheets, ugly wool blankets, and pillow. Co-ed toilets and showers are shared with your floor and there are also two hotplates where you may be able to do some simple cooking. Your sheets will be washed once every three weeks or so, but you are responsible for cleaning your own room. Building D is the nicest and definitely worth \$200 per month. It has more bathrooms, showers and kitchens for fewer people and the kitchens are also equipped with fridges. There is one telephone per floor that receives incoming calls only. All outgoing calls are made from pay phones right outside the residence. The residence reserves the right to inspect your rooms for vermin and electrical appliances (no, I'm not kidding). If the wattage of your appliances exceeds your allowed electricity limit, you will be asked to pay the difference at the secretariat. Keep money and documents tucked away from prying eyes by locking them in a suitcase.

Studios are available in the *Les Arches d'Agrippa* building and cost \$300 per month, which includes similar furniture plus a table, a fridge and stove, and your own bathroom with shower stall. There is a direct telephone line to your room. (Having a cell-phone is essential for your social life anyway, though!)

There is a cafeteria which serves meals during limited periods only and it is not open on weekends. Meal tickets can be purchased for \$4 (with student card) and provide a salad, main course, dessert, fruit and bread. The food is not great and it's rather greasy (ten times worse than Prairie or Creelman!). Vegetarians will have a difficult time eating a balanced diet if relying solely on the cafeteria meals.

There are a couple of laundry rooms available for student use. There are only 2 washers

and dryers in each room, so go at off-peak hours. Unfortunately, laundry is an expensive part of life in France; \$4 for a wash and \$0.50 for every 5 minutes in the dryer. You might want to invest in a drying rack or get used to hand washing some things.

***Private Lodgings:*** If you wish to live in an apartment or take a room in a house, you'll need to go to the CROUS to get phone numbers and addresses. The best areas to look in would be *Croix Rousse, Vieux Lyon, Presqu'île, Part Dieu or Jean Macé*. These areas will be more expensive than others, but are much more convenient when the buses stop running at midnight. In my experience private lodging was much cheaper than living in residence, but if you are only staying for a semester it is better to stay in residence.

Apartment finding services are available, but are quite expensive. Start with the web suggestions offered above or try to find connections! You'll need to sign a "bail", and hand over a caution cheque worth two months rent. Finding an apartment is very stressful and Lyon has a shortage of housing. I found my apartment at the CRIJ, which has free listings for jobs, and apartments, Remember to look for a furnished apartment (*meublé*) if you do not want to buy furniture.

### ***Transportation***

Lyon's transportation system is excellent (especially compared to Guelph!). There are 4 main metro lines, dozens of buses, trams and two funicular lines to go up the col. A monthly pass is \$50 and is well worth the money if you take the bus to school each day. A single ticket is \$2 but a book of 10 is only \$12 if you have a student card.

To get the initial bus pass you must provide a photo, valid student ID for the entire year and proof of residence. You can get a residence card from *André Allix*. If you are in an apartment bring a bill with your name and address. During the week and on Saturdays buses run about every 10 minutes. Service is a little slower on Sundays and towards the end of the night. Service stops at midnight. Schedules are available at major transfer points.

Vélo V! Bikes are the best deal. They don't close at midnight and are what all the locals use. 1 euro buys you a week's pass or 10 euros for a year. There are stands at every turn, and rides under a half-hour don't cost any more! You'll need your *carte bleue* (debit card) from your bank to purchase at the machines, or go to the train station to get your year's pass. You'll need a 150 euro caution cheque.

### ***Shopping***

*Carrefour:* located at Part-Dieu shopping centre. A European-style grocery store, which means they sell everything from socks to refrigerators, including your food. A little inconvenient, as it is out of the way and you have to take the subway with your bags (bring your backpack). *Carrefour* is more expensive than other grocery stores.

*Prisunic-* located in the centre of town on rue de la République. Less selection and more expensive, but closer to the university.

*Continent* - A little more convenient for those living in André Allix. A bus goes directly there, but buses are infrequent. Comparable prices to *Carrefour*.

*Leaderprice:* the cheapest! Go here for your staples once a month. Rue Felix Faure.

*Markets-* Croix-Rousse has a market every day, but no food on Tuesdays; there are also markets 3 or 4 times a week along the banks of the Saône. Jean Macé, close to school, has one on Wednesday and Saturday mornings. This is the best place to buy your fruit, veggies, plants, herbs, jewellery, handbags, cheese and meats directly from the producers. It's a good chance to talk to some colourful French characters. If you want to attempt to prepare some real French cuisine, tell the vendors you are a foreign student and then settle in for hours of culinary explanations! There is a "Petit Paumé des Marchés" that you can get which tells you all the different markets going on in the city and what they sell.

*Corner stores & Bakeries-* Your local *boulangerie* is definitely the best place to buy your *baguette*. Small corner stores may also help you out in an emergency, but they are much more expensive than larger grocery stores.

None of the grocery stores offer bags for free. Bring your own!

### ***Night Life***

Be sure to go out in a group, as buses stop running at midnight and cabs can be very expensive if you can't share the cost. The cheapest alternative is to walk home (do it in a group and avoid troublesome areas) or wait until the first bus around 5 a.m. Or take a bike!

### ***Pass Culture***

The city of Lyon offers first-year students a special series of tickets for performances. The pass includes six tickets that must be used at six different establishments. Each venue offers tickets to selected performances throughout the year. Take advantage of this fantastic opportunity to see another side of French culture. Try to choose a variety of performances and be sure not to miss the opera (even if you hate it, it is an unforgettable experience to see an opera in Europe). Book early because only a certain number of tickets are allotted to pass holders for each performance. My cost for the opera was \$11 and the seat I had was worth \$120! The "Pass Culture" only cost about \$60 or \$11 per show. These are on sale for a limited time, early October. The Sunday markets are along the Saone River near the Vieux Lyon, and it is a great thing to do on a Sunday when many things are closed. There are different sections for books, food, clothes, and art/jewellery.

### ***Movie Theatres***

They show many typical Hollywood films that you'll be missing at home. Some films will be a few months behind North American release dates. Films are shown dubbed or subtitled so be sure to check (V.O. means *version originale*). Be sure to experience the French film industry or other European films that aren't featured at Cineplex-Odeon or Famous Players. Their style of films is very different from Hollywood - take advantage of it while you're there. The price will vary by day and time of day. For example, a weekday matinée is cheapest and a Saturday night is most expensive. Some cinemas offer student discounts. Prices vary from \$7 to \$12. About three times a year, they have a special called the "Rentrée du cinema" where all the tickets are 3 Euros only.

### ***Bars***

In Vieux Lyon check out:

*Antidote*

*St. James*

### *Smoking Dog*

On the Presqu'ile

*Café Prosper* (lots of French students)

*La République* (same)

*The Albion* (good for British soccer games)

*The Shamrock*

*Voxx*

*Ayers Rock* (Tuesday nights are for students, international especially).

Going out on the boats permanently docked on the Rhone river is a great experience.

Useful contacts:

Kate Fulton (2006-07): Kathleen.fulton@gmail.com

Csilla Volford (2008-09): cvolford@uoguelph.ca

Allison Valentim (2008-09): avalenti@uoguelph.ca

Josée Van Wissen (2009-10): jvanwiss@uoguelph.ca

Stephanie Miller (2009-10): millers@uoguelph.ca

Alannah Sawatsky (2010-11): asawats@uoguelph.ca

Harrison Kane (2010-11): hkane@uoguelph.ca

## **Returning to Canada**

### ***Credit Transfer***

Once you have received your transcripts from France, please email Margot Irvine ([mirvine@uoguelph.ca](mailto:mirvine@uoguelph.ca)) to make an appointment to see her to do the first part of your credit transfer. If possible, it is best to do this before classes begin in September. After you see her, you will need to speak to someone in the B.A. counselling office to complete the process.