THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI

FRENCH IN FRANCE SUMMER PROGRAM

May 25 to June 21, 2014

****PREPARATIONS & WHAT TO KNOW BEFORE YOU GO****

ORIENTATION

- **Date and Place**. We will have an orientation session at USM on in April. You will be sent the time and date once your application has been processed and approved.

DOCUMENTS

**Documents needed to travel abroad.**
You will need at least two very important documents:

- **A valid USA passport**. Based on federal regulations, it is required that you obtain and use a valid passport when traveling to France. In most cases, passports must be valid six (6) months past date of return. A passport is the surest and most readily accepted form of ID abroad. Passports are required during your flight and at several check points during arrival and departure. They are also required for certain money exchanges. All travel documents should be kept together, readily available during travel, and safely deposited when not in use. No visa is needed for France (if you stay no longer than 90 days), but travel is not possible without the appropriate documents. Be sure you have the necessary papers in your possession when you arrive at the airport. You cannot depart without them. If you do not have a valid passport, make sure that you get one immediately. You can get an application here. Once you have your passport, make a photocopy of the most important pages, because you'll want to leave the original in your room in your French home or at the school, and just carry the copy around for identification purposes. When you get the passport photos, get an extra couple of pictures to take with you; should you lose your passport, you would already have the right kind of pictures for a new one.

- **A second official ID** which has your picture (such as your driver's license, USM ID, or another). At the airports they often ask for and you must be ready to show a second identification document.

**VERY IMPORTANT:** When traveling, always carry important documents with you, never in the suitcase!

FLIGHT

Everyone is making his/her own flight arrangements. Your flight must arrive on Sunday in the morning before noon. Everyone will need to depart on Saturday May, 24th to arrive on the 25th.
in Paris. You will need to leave your host family on Saturday June 21. Once you have made your own travel arrangements, please contact the Program Director immediately and provide her with a copy of all your flight information (airlines, flights numbers, dates, time and place of departure, date and time of your arrival in Paris), so she can make the necessary arrangements to pick you up at Charles de Gaulle Airport and take you to your family. You will not be able to call the school, since the school is closed on Sundays.

Arriving in Paris, you will meet the other students and your USM professor at the exit (sortie) to Terminal 2A between doors 5 and 6 where France Langue will have a shuttle bus (navette) to take you to your French family. You will rest on your first day. On the first day of classes, your hosts will show you how to get to the school. HOWEVER, if for some reason you have a late arrival and you miss the France Langue bus, below are the directions for taking a shuttle bus from the airport to the Opera subway stop in the heart of Paris. From there you will take a taxi or the subway to your host family’s home. You will be given your host family’s address before you leave for France.
Instructions for taking the Roissy Bus in case you have missed the pick up with USM professor at Terminal 2A.
If for some reason you do not meet the group at the airport to take France Langue’s shuttle bus, you can take the Roissy Bus (Opera Bus) at the Airport

The Roissy Bus pickup stops are well marked within the terminals. From terminal 2A you pick it up right outside door nine (gate nine). Here are all the pickup locations:

- Terminal 1 - Arrival level (5), door 30
- Terminal 2A - outside door 9
- Terminal 2B - use Terminal 2B’s pickup outside door 11
- Terminal 2C - use Terminal 2A’s pick up outside door 9
- Terminal 2D - outside door 11
- Terminal 2E and 2F – use the pickup near door 5 in La Galerie, connecting the two terminals
- Terminal 3 - near Arrival sections, by the taxi stands

Sign in Terminal 2A for the Roissy Bus

**Buying Tickets for the Roissy Bus**

The one way ticket costs 8.50 Euros.

You have four options for purchasing tickets for the bus:
• From the machine in terminal 2A near door 10 (gate A 10).
• At the ticket counter at in terminal 2D at Gate D 11.
• On the bus from the driver.

They request that you purchase tickets ahead of time, but it is possible to purchase the ticket on the bus. It requires that you have euros when you arrive, but there are ATMs in the airport.

About the Roissy Bus

From 6:00am until 7:00pm, the bus runs every 15 minutes. From 7:00pm until 11:00 pm, every 20 minutes. The bus runs seven days a week. The travel time into Paris, once you leave the airport (which can take 30 - 40 minutes because it stops at every terminal), is about 60 minutes.

It is not a "coach bus" in that it has no place to store your luggage underneath, but is like a city bus, with an accordion center connecting two halves. At the front and in the middle of the bus are two small shelves to store luggage.

Close by metro lines: 3, 7 and 8 (at the Opera stop, on Boulevard des Capucines) as well as RER A (on Rue Auber). Close by bus lines: 21, 27, 29, 68, 81, 95, on the same corner that you disembark and plenty of others around the corner on Rue Halévy.

SECURITY

• International Emergencies: Southern Miss provides a wide range of study abroad opportunities in various countries, and the health and safety of our students and faculty are of primary concern. Therefore, we have undertaken a variety of measures to protect the safety, security, and wellbeing of our students. These include close monitoring of U.S. Department of State cautions, advisories, announcements, and warnings; registration of programs with U.S. embassies and consulates; and the development of a plan which provides guidelines for program officials to follow in the event of emergencies. Should an international emergency occur, program personnel will work in consultation with local authorities and U.S. consular personnel to institute all necessary security measures.

• List of Important Contact numbers
Dr. Burnett’s I-phone: 601-818-1465.

USM International Programs numbers: (601) 266-4344; (601) 266-5147; (601) 266-5009

USM 24-hour number: (601) 266-4986

International Student Identity Card Emergency Assistance: 855.327.1408 (collect worldwide)

Overseas Citizens Services: (after hours emergency number; ask for the OCS duty officer)
  From the US: 1-888-407-4747
  From Overseas: (202) 501-4444

U.S. Department of State Hotline for American Travelers: (202) 647-5225

- We advise you not to take your passport with you once you are in Paris. Take a copy of the passport. Leave the passport at your accommodations or at the school. Be aware of your wallet and purse or backpack at all times. Pickpockets can tell immediately if a person is a tourist. Do not keep your host family address and the house keys together in case you lose the key. If you lose the key of your French hosts, the key lock will have to be changed and this will be very expensive for you. France is not an unsafe country, but anywhere you go you have to be careful and follow the advice of your hosts.

MONEY

Expenses and Spending Money. The unit of currency in France and most of Europe is the Euro, with the sign €. The Euro is similar to the US dollar but a bit stronger in value. Most banks are open from Monday to Friday 9:00AM to 2:00PM. Most of them accept MasterCard, Visa and American Express. Most banks have stopped accepting Traveler’s Checks.

Keep in mind that exchange rates can be variable, although it does not change drastically from day to day. The exchange Rate for March 1, 2014 was: 1 Euro = 1.30 USD

Here is a web address you can check anytime: http://www.xe.com/ucc/convert.cgi

Cash: The best and easiest way to get cash in France is through ATMs. Always carry some cash ($50) for an emergency. ATMs are available everywhere. Do not take your personal checks since they are not accepted outside the US. Be sure to confirm with your U.S. bank that you can withdraw cash with your particular bank card at French bank ATMs, as this is not always possible. Remember that when you get money from an ATM, the bank will charge you a certain processing fee. For carrying your cash, you are advised to carry most of it in some hidden inside a purse pocket, or money-belt.

Credit and Debit Cards: It's a good idea to bring at least one credit card (not local cards from specific stores such as Wal-Mart or Sears). If you bring only one, make it a VISA or a MasterCard. You can use credit cards quite widely in stores and restaurants. If you need to have money sent from home, you will be able to receive it from a Western Union office in Paris.
**How Much?** One of the most frequently asked question is: How much money will I need? This is not easy to answer. Your room and board including two meals a day, tuition, books, subway/bus pass and three excursions are included in the program cost. You will need to pay an entrance fee at some museums and other places you visit. You will also need to pay for lunch meals or snacks eaten out, shopping and extra trips. If you plan to travel during the weekend, you should figure this into your expenses. For regular expenses for the four-week stay, you may bring between $1000-$1500. Of course, some participants have brought less and survived well, and others have brought much more and did not have enough at the end. If you travel to other European countries after your stay or on the weekends, you may need more. This is strictly up to you.

If you do run out of money, you can usually get a cash advance on a VISA card at a local bank, or an ATM that accepts VISA or MasterCard (provided you have a pin number for that card and credit).

**Cost of Living**

Plan to spend around 20-30€ a day depending on the activities you engage in.

**SHOPPING**

Businesses and shops are usually open between 10:00AM until 7:00 PM.

**PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION**

Public transportation by subway, taxi, bus, train, are good and very easy in Paris. The easiest way to travel in Paris is by subway (metro). Your Navigo pass is also good for the bus.

**RESTAURANTS**

There are plenty of restaurants around the school. You must ask for your bill in restaurants. If you don’t want to be charged for bottled water with a meal, you should ask for *de l’eau plate du robinet* (tap water) or *une carafe d’eau* (pitcher of water). Tipping is less customary in Paris than in the US. However, certain services such as a hotel porter (1,00 € per suitcase), taxi-drivers, waiters (in some better restaurants), guides, and hairdressers, receive tips between 5% and 10% of their full charge.

**TELEPHONE**

The first thing to remember: During the summer, there is a seven-hour difference between France and the US. When it's 1:00 pm in Mississippi, Alabama, Louisiana, Texas (CST), it's 8:00 pm in France.

Second: It’s about three to four times more expensive to call from France to the U.S. than it is from the U.S. to France. Your French family isn't going to want you to place calls from their house; some families have had the unfortunate experience of getting stuck with a mammoth telephone bill long after the foreign student is gone.

For the first call, the day of your arrival or the following day, the best thing to do is to have previously arranged with your family or friends how you are going to get in contact with them. You may want to place a collect call (*un appel en p.c.v*) at a particular hour of the evening (remember that France is seven hours ahead). As soon as your family is on the phone, give them your full number (unless you
have already given it to them), then hang up, and let them call you back. We will do our best to provide you with your French family telephone number before you leave the States. Give that number to your family and friends.

Other ways to call and receive telephone calls:
Receiving: If you talk with your family and/or friends regularly, you'll probably want to arrange when they can call you so you can be sure to be at your French family house when they call. But there are other ways to call home or to your friends which are more efficient and much less expensive. You can purchase a type of Go-phone while in Paris that can be used for local and long distance calls. You would need to purchase minutes for phone usage. You can also use your laptop or phone to SKYPE using local wifi. The school France Langue has wifi in its main building.

**Calling from France to the US:** 001+city area code + number
**Calling from the US to France:** 011+ 33+ city area code + number
**Calling in France to Paris:** 00 + 33+1 + number
**Calling in Paris (to France Langue) with a phone from the US:** 01 45 00 40 15

**MAIL and E-MAIL**

- **REGULAR MAIL:**
  ⇒ To receive regular mail, you may use the school address or your French family's address. The mail takes about two weeks from USA to France (so, this way might not be the best since it may not reach you on time). Here is the address for regular mail:

  Your name  
  France Langue  
  2 rue de Sfax - 75116 PARIS  France  

  France Langue Telephone. : +33 (0)1 45 00 40 15  
  France Langue Fax : +33 (0)1 45 00 53 41  
  paris@france-langue.fr  
  ⇒ To send regular mail: when you send postcards, letters, etc. the postage will depend on the size and weight of the letter. It is always better and more secure to take the letter to the nearest Tobacco shop (where they will tell you the exact cost and will sell you the stamps needed; or you may want to do it at the Post Office (la Poste).

- **E-MAIL:**
  ⇒ You may receive and send e-mail at no extra charge at France Langue. However, remember that the school is closed on weekends. If you want or need to write emails during the weekend, please use a cybercafé.

- **PACKAGES:**
  ⇒ You can send packages through DHL, UPS, Federal Express, and other carriers. For information, please check the front desk of the school.

**MEDICAL**
Bring any prescription medicine you need with you, as well as an extra set of prescription eyeglasses or contact lenses. If you suffer from allergies, bring whatever medicine you need. If you have a handicap, suffer from any environmental allergy (cats, etc.) or have any special dietary requirements, please advise the directors in advance. They will assist you in making whatever special arrangements may be necessary.

You may want to check with your insurance in the USA and see if it will cover medical expenses while traveling and during your stay in Europe. An International Student Identity Card (ISIC) is obligatory.

HOUSING

No co-ed housing. Each student will live with a French host family and will room with another student. Living with a French host and associating with them will ensure that you are immersed in the French language and culture. Be sure to respect their house rules as well and follow their advice. We also ask them to do the same towards you. Should a problem arise make sure that you contact the director of the program immediately who, in turn, will speak with the school personnel in charge of housing to resolve the issue. We will try to get you some information about “your hosts” in France (address, telephone number, members of the family, etc.) before your departure leave.

CLIMATE AND CLOTHING

Paris will be cool in June--between 60-80 degrees on most days, and it will rain! Summer clothes will still be best to pack as long as you are also prepared to wear layers. You will also want to pack a small umbrella and light raincoat. A good sweater or light jacket is always handy to have for when it gets chilly or in the evening. Make sure that all clothes are wash-and-wear.

PACKING

RULE OF THUMB — PACK AS LITTLE AS POSSIBLE!
Remember: You are the one who's going to have to carry all of your luggage through airports and streets, and stairs. Limit yourself strictly to one or two medium-size suitcases, plus one shoulder bag/backpack or large purse but not both! Keep in mind that you might want to leave some extra space for anything you buy while abroad.

Weight: Most airlines are very strict regarding the weight and size of suitcases. Please remember there is a new rule regarding the weight of suitcases: Each passenger may check in one suitcase (unlocked so they can be open by security). There is a $50 fee for an additional suitcase. The suitcase must not exceed 50 lbs or 22.4 Kilos. Therefore, any suitcase weighing between 50+ and 70 pounds will have to pay $25 or 20 Euros per suitcase.

CARRY-ON BAGGAGE ALLOWANCE and TSA SECURITY

You are allowed one carry-on piece of luggage to travel with you inside the cabin of the plane (plus a small bag or a backpack).
• Medicines and prescriptions (no liquids). There is a ban on fluids and gels in your carry-on without an immediate emergency need. Bring copies of prescriptions for medications in fluid or gel form that must be taken during the flight. Otherwise, pack fluids or gels in your luggage or they will be confiscated by airport security. Please make sure that you put any prescription medication you’re likely to need in the carry on, not in a suitcase. Don't forget over-the-counter drugs that you regularly use, such as Tylenol, etc. Of course, you can buy anything you need in any pharmacy in France. For detailed information about liquids, check:

• Exceptions to the policy from the TSA:
  1. Travelers may carry through security checkpoints travel-size toiletries (3 ounces or less) that fit comfortably in ONE, QUART-SIZE, clear plastic, zip-top bag.
  2. After clearing security, travelers can bring beverages and other items purchased in the secure boarding area on-board aircraft.
  3. Travelers may carry through security checkpoints any quantity of saline solution, eye drops, and prescription and nonprescription medicine.

• Take your passport, airline tickets, money, and any important documents. Don't forget the copy of your passport, your PIN code, your money, or a credit card (especially those you can also use at an ATM). Remove all excess photos, personal stuff, extra credit cards, etc. from your billfold or shoulder bag. The more things you carry the more you can lose. Write your credit cards numbers on a piece of paper and do not put this paper with your cards.
• Do take personal items (such as telephone numbers, addresses, camera, book to read, one change of underwear in case your luggage is lost or delayed). No nail clippers, pocket knives or anything that someone can use as a weapon. No liquids. A notebook, pen, pencils and an English-French dictionary (which you may want to purchase in Paris).

ELECTRICITY

If you bring an electric razor, a hair dryer, a telephone, fan, etc., make sure that it can be plugged into a 220 volt outlet. The electricity in France and most of Europe is 240 volts and 50Mhz (while in the US it is 110 volts and 60Mhz). The power supply or the plug or your electric device will have written the voltage as well as the Mhz. Do not bring voltage transformers. If you bring any electric device, make sure that you have a European plug adaptor since electric outlets in France have round prongs while those in the USA have flat prongs. In case of doubt, ask the Program Director.

REGISTRATION FOR CLASSES

DO NOT register for the French in France Program through SOAR in the spring. Once your application has been accepted, and you have been notified of your acceptance, the Office of International Programs will automatically register you in two courses. Also, if you see any courses on your transcript such as FRE 181, 182, 281, 282, 381, 481, or 581, this indicates credit for your study abroad in the French in France Paris program.

CLASSES AND GRADES
Your teachers at *France Langue* in Paris will be qualified professional and experienced native speakers. Your instructor(s) in France will turn in your weekly report to the French Studies director, who will be visiting your class to ensure that the courses are progressing satisfactorily. Of course, if there is a problem regarding your academic progress, we need to know immediately or contact the school academic director.

The Director of the French in France program is responsible for assigning final grades after careful assessment. Grades for this summer program will be posted at the end of the regular summer session in August. For further information regarding your courses and grades see the syllabi for French (181, 182, 281, 281, 381, 481 or 581) at your level.

**ROLE OF DIRECTOR**

The Program Director will meet you at the airport. She is a professor of French at The University of Southern Mississippi. She will do her best to ensure that things run as smoothly as possible throughout your stay in France.

**FURTHER QUESTIONS**

Finally, if after becoming acquainted with these pages you still have some questions or concerns, please make an appointment to see Joanne Burnett joanne.burnett@usm.edu On campus: Liberal Arts Building LAB 313. Phone: 601-266-4964.
Welcome to Paris! (some tips from your school France Langue)

Your time as a student in Paris has nearly begun! It’s our hope that you’ll fall in love with Paris! That said, we have decided to give you the real scoop, the inside tips we wish we would have known when we were Paris newbies.

1. French Life and Culture

France is the largest country in Western Europe (almost one fifth of the total area of the European Union) but it is still less than twice the size of Colorado. Metropolitan Paris is the home of one-sixth of France’s population and is the largest urban center in Europe (outside the Russian federation). Everything is centralized in Paris: French universities, ministries, company head quarters. Outside of Paris, you’ll find France has much to offer – an amazing variety of landscapes. From coastal plains in the north and west to mountain ranges of the Alps in the south-east, the Massif Central in the south-central and Pyrenees in the south-west. The French are proud of their individual and national heritage – villages, regions and local culinary specialties and wines are a huge part of the French identity. French people enjoy life. You may have heard the term “bon vivant” (a person devoted to refined enjoyment especially of good food and drink) Food is part of the French “Art de vivre” and French people often simply work in order to enjoy life.

2. Food and Dining

Food and wine are an important part of French culture and are taken very seriously by the French. Many food-related practices are completely different from what you are familiar with back home, but still can be very enjoyable when understood. As the French take eating very seriously, lunch could be long and dinner is longer. If you need to eat a quick meal, get it to go because French waiters do not like to be rushed.

In France lunch is generally eaten between noon and 2:00pm, and dinner between 7:30pm-9:30pm. You shouldn’t expect the same level of service as in the US. In France, the waiters don’t come as often to check how your meal is going. The French like to take their time to eat.

3. Quirky Social Culture

Some say the greatest perk about living in another country is enjoying the differences in culture. Although western influence has its hold on Paris, there are still many differences at both work and play. Here are a few differences that we have found hold true with most of our French friends.

The French are gourmets: Food is very important in France. They like eating and they do it quite slowly. French meals are structured as follows: starter, main meal and then there is cheese, and lastly, dessert.

The French are rarely satisfied with what they have and often criticize.

The French like to have intense discussions on political issues and current events in France and the world, even in casual social encounters.

They are proud of themselves and even sometimes arrogant. They know that they have a long history and like
explaining it.

They put their personal enjoyment above their professional duties. French society is implicitly conformist in all domains, from meal hours to the colour of clothes you wear. The French are homebodies; they like to be at home.

The French may seem distant and difficult to meet. The French are generally polite but it is only with their close friends and family that they are free to be themselves. They take their time before they decide with whom they want to socialize. Social relations are much more on a one-to-one level than an American group of friends.

The French may seem rude. The way they get to a conclusion is through a process of argument and counter-argument. So when a French person uses this technique, it can be seen as aggressive. But it’s not; it’s the way they’re trying to get to the truth.

The French do not like it when their hosts put feet on the sofas; they turn off the lights when they leave a room.

4. Housing

Family Stays
The French open their homes to students in order to supplement their incomes. US programs in Paris that offer stays in French homes do so in order to give their students a view into French home life. Students should not expect to be made a “part of the family”, but they will learn about life in a French family. You will all have your own room in a typical Parisian apartment with access to the bathroom and kitchen. You will have a lot of autonomy and the amount of contact with the hosts depends largely on your effort. The students who profit most from the families are the ones who make the effort to interact. There are many different types of housing situations and we try our utmost to match your needs. Smoking and allergies are top on the list. All our households are metro-accessible and located in or close to Paris. The families supply linens and furniture, but you will need to have your own alarm clock, toiletries, and special appliances like hairdryers.

The following is a list of amenities you can expect in the home.

Shower
You have the right to take one shower per day with hot water. Showers that last more than 10 minutes are considered excessive.

Telephone
Normally you will not be allowed to use the home phone. It is highly recommended that you rent a cell phone before leaving the US or that you purchase one in France. The most cost efficient way to contact your family is to use a calling card, to call collect or to call from your cell phone and ask your family to call you back.

Wi-Fi
All families have Wi-Fi.

Laundry
Sheets and towels will be provided by your host family. The sheets will be changed every 15 days and towels every week.

Kitchen Access
You will have access to the kitchen during breakfast and dinner, but not during lunch time. You will be able to cook but for a limited amount of time and without imposing on the family. For your convenience, some space will be made available to you both in the kitchen and in the fridge. You are not permitted to freely use/consume the host family’s food. Above all be considerate and observe any rules that the family has established for the kitchen.
**Keys**
The family will provide you with your own complete set of keys. Once you finish the program you must return the keys. If you lose the keys, you are responsible for replacing them and paying for a change of locks if the family requests it.

**Going out and Coming home**
You are free to come and go as you would on your home campus, but we ask you to be respectful of your family. It is very important to let the family know if you are leaving for the weekend or overnight. If you do not you may set some emergency procedures in motion that may result in a warning about your behaviour that could lead to expulsion from the program.

**Visitors**
This is left up to each individual family, and is a subject that should be discussed when you first move in. Some families will want you to ask in advance when you plan to bring guests, while some families may not want you to have guests at all. You are responsible for the conduct of guests. It is imperative that your guests respect and comply with all rules while staying with you and your ‘family’. Any breach by any such guest shall be deemed a breach by you.

**Room**
Your room will be the one that the household has designated for you. You will be responsible for taking care of your own room and keeping it neat and orderly. In most cases your home stay family will clean your room. Find out how the household cleaning schedule works.

**Property Damage**
You are responsible for the repair or replacement of any household item you damage or destroy. *Séjours France Famille* declines all responsibility. Failure to settle these charges with your host family prior to departure from Paris will result in the appropriate charges being added to your student account.

5. **Useful French Phrases & Words**

*Bon appétit, Bon app! (fam.)*: En-joy your meal  
*A plus tard*: See you later!  
*Quoi de neuf?*: What’s up?  
*Enchanté/ ravi de vous connaître*: nice to meet you  
*Je vous en prie/ de rien*: You’re welcome  
*Ça y est*: that’s it  
*Ça m’est égal*: I don’t care  
*Ça me paraît bien*: Sounds good to me!  
*J’espère que ça va marcher*: I hope this works.  
*Ça parle de quoi*: What is it about?  
*Ça sert à quoi*: What’s that for?  
*Vas-y*: Go for it  
*Sans blague!*: No kidding!  
*C’est cool, c’est chouette, c’est bien*: it is nice!  
*C’est dingue, c’est incroyable*: That’s amazing!  
*Un SMS, texto*: text messaging  
*Un portable*: a cell phone  
*Un coup de fil*: a phone call
Bosser (fam.): to work
Un boulot (fam.): a job
Un truc (fam.), une chose: a thing
Jour férié: public holiday
Un appart, un appartement: a flat
Une piaule (fam.), une chambre: a room
Un colocataire: a housemate
Un mec (fam.), un gars, un garçon: a boy
Un pote (fam.), un copain: a friend
Une nana (fam.), une fille: a girl
Un flic (fam.), un policier: policeman
Rigoler, se marrer: to joke
Marrant: fun
Dingue, fou: crazy
Louche, bizarre: weirder
Être mort (fam.), être naze (fam.),
Être KO, être fatigué: to be exhausted
Bon séjour ! Have a nice stay !