

Go Global with Fisher

Audencia School of Management- Nantes, France: From a Student's Perspective



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This booklet is designed by past Student Exchange participants in order to share their experience and knowledge with students participating in the Fisher International Student Exchange. Items in this booklet are not endorsed by the Office of Global Business at Fisher College and information contained in this booklet is subject to change.

ACCOMMODATIONS

- Some students decide to make housing arrangements after they arrive. Hostels are a great convenience during this process. During the first couple of days, stay in a hostel and investigate nearby apartment vacancies. You may also find roommates during this process.
- Validating housing arrangements can be quite tricky. Asking university administrators about rental agreements can be beneficial. Sticking to an agency that has been used in the past may be a good bet.
- Facebook Marketplace can be a great way to find a sublease for the semester. Just as Fisher students are travelling abroad during the fall, so too are students from the host university.
- Beware of Craigslist. There are a number of scams out there and it has happened to Fisher students in the past. If you are unsure, ask for help from the Fisher International Programs Office staff.

Host Families

- Host families are available for living in Nantes. Check with the international office at Audencia for more information if this is something you're interested in.
- Most host families live about 10-30 minutes from Audencia by tram or bus.

DOCUMENTS

Passport

- Passports should be secured as soon as possible. They are required not only for travel overseas, but also for application to the university among other things.
- Check expiration date. In the past students have failed to realize that their passports expire during their trip which can cause serious issues with reentry to the United States.
- It is a good idea to keep several copies of all relevant documents on you at all times: licenses, residency cards, passports, visas, enrollment verifications, whatever has been issued to you. This is not required but you may find yourself in a situation in which these things would be extremely helpful to have and save time.
- Bring 4-5 passport sized photos of yourself, you will need these for various IDs, these pictures cost 5 Euro in France.

Student Visa

- If students have any questions about obtaining a visa, Travel Solutions can help. Found here: <http://controller.osu.edu/travel/travel-agencies.shtml>. Or call Travel Solutions by phone at 877-678-8785 or 614-750-4020, ask for a Visa Expert
- American students are only able to apply for the French Visa, 3 months prior to departure, not earlier. However, students should start the process as soon as possible. (2011)
- To start applying for your visa, you will have to visit the embassy webpage, make an appointment, and collect the required documents. (2013)
- The closest location to get a French visa is in Chicago for Ohio residents. If you are not a Ohio resident check the embassy webpage for the appropriate location to get your visa. (2013)
- The French government requires students to get a medical examination and stamp on visitors passports upon arrival. The stamp is only necessary if students plan on staying longer than three months and if you want to travel to the United Kingdom. (2011)
- If students have any questions about obtaining a visa, Travel Solutions can help. Found here: <http://controller.osu.edu/travel/travel-agencies.shtml>. Or call Travel Solutions by phone at 877-678-8785 or 614-750-4020, ask for a Visa Expert.

Health Insurance

- Ohio State requires that outgoing students purchase the HTH Supplemental Insurance. This will cover the student's time while studying. However, if a student decided to travel before or after specific program dates, the HTH supplemental insurance will not cover any illness or injury. It is recommended that students contact their health insurance providers before traveling. In the case that a student requires medical attention out of the HTH time period, it is important to know how to deal with copayments, insurance, etc. Specific questions about health insurance can be directed to the Office of International Affairs (OIA).

MONEY

Using An ATM

- Students have found that some banks charge a percentage of the amount that you withdraw internationally. Talk to your bank about the different options they offer.
- While cash is the only form of payment taken at many places, be smart about the amount that you carry at any given time. Carrying an excessive amount of money makes you more vulnerable in certain situations. The stores that have high price tags will most likely take credit cards.

Establishing a Bank Account

- The host university may be able to help in this process. Some students have found that it may not be worth the time and effort to do; they would rather utilize their American cards despite the fees.

Credit and Bank Cards

- Make sure you check bank fees. If students choose to use their card for minor purchases the fees can accrue quickly. It is a better idea to carry some cash around with you for this reason.
- Students are encouraged to write down the customer service numbers on all credit cards and keep the numbers with them in case cards are stolen and cancellation is necessary.

Travelers Checks

- Though travelers' checks may have once been the safest way to manage money while traveling, they may not be the best option. Traveler's checks are only good once converted. Therefore, if a student plans to use traveler's checks, it is recommended that this be only part of the whole money management scheme.

Other

- Past students have recommended having backup solutions to problems you might face in advance. For example losing your credit card. Come up with a backup plan to what you would do if this were to happen because it takes a while to get a new credit card to be sent overseas. (i.e.: have a second credit card stored in a different place, pay for the entire group dinner when going out and then have everyone pay back in cash, etc.) (2013)
- Past students have recommended making a rough budget for your expenses abroad to avoid missing out in activities at the end of the semester. For example, one student limited her expenses to \$2000 a month while abroad. (2013)

For more information about using credit cards and ATMs while abroad, visit: http://www.flyerguide.com/wiki/index.php/Credit/Debit/ATM_Cards_and_Foreign_Exchange



PHONE AND INTERNET

Using a Phone From Home

- If planning to use a phone from home, do homework with respect to the cost. In the past students have realized that using devices such as smartphones with international capabilities can be much more expensive than planned.
- An international SIM card will be necessary, and can be purchased at a phone outlet upon arriving.
- Often some iPhones can be unlocked for use abroad, in which case an international SIM card may be inserted. Check with your mobile carrier before attempting this.

Buying a Phone

- Students can go to phone providers and purchase a cheap phone along with prepaid minutes. Talk to Audencia university friends about the best place to buy a reliable phone. A cell phone is recommended for coordinating plans, handling business, and safety reasons.

International Communication

- When calling home, Skype video use is free with wifi access! This is a great option for keeping in touch with friends and family from home as well as those met while traveling.
- Help parents and friends set up and learn how to use Skype before traveling.
- Purchasing Skype credit allows students to call a landline or a cell phone back home at lower rates. When internet is available this can reduce the hassle involved with international calling cards. Users can also pay \$6-\$10 for a month of unlimited calls to any landline or cell phone in the U.S. from their computers.
- G-chat is also a favorite channel of communication for students. It has a G-Video option as well. It can be more convenient than Skype because it is more user-friendly. Which mode of communication you choose ultimately

depends on your preferences. It is recommended to explore both programs before departure so you can inform family members which you will be using.

- If you want friends to be able to call you, leave voicemails, or leave text messages like a regular cell phone, you can sign up for Google voice. You will need to use a VPN (virtual private network) but students have said that it is well worth it. With Google voice, you receive a US telephone number that works like a landline. If you have to make business calls while abroad, this can be a great tool! For more information go to: <http://www.google.com/googlevoice/about.html>.

SAFETY TIPS

- Be aware of all surroundings and keep your personal items close at all times. If staying in hostels it is advised to bring a lock to protect your valuables. Avoid bringing anything of extreme sentimental value.
- When navigating yourself in the host country or on a trip, move in groups and communicate your whereabouts as a pre-cautionary measure.
- Keep emergency numbers specific to your country with you at all times.

TRAVEL

Public Transportation

- Trams and buses are available to get around the city.
- Audencia is located on tram line 2 and you get off at the stop "Ecole Centrale Audencia".
- You will need to buy a bus or tram ticket, these are not provided by the university. You cannot use American credit cards at the ticket machines, only French ones work. The machines also do not accept coins, only Euro bills.

International Travel

- When traveling between countries make sure to follow and complete all visa requirements for all countries you plan to visit.
- Students in the past have traveled a great deal more than originally expected. Keep this in mind when budgeting and packing. Many students over pack. Appliances such as straighteners, hair dryers, electric shavers, etc can be bought in country; as well as toiletries, bedding, and many other bulky items. This will save room in your bag as well as solve any wattage conversion problems you will encounter.



- For the flight over to your destination and back, utilize StudentUniverse.com. Students have had great luck with affordable prices.
- With affordability comes the possibility of delays and cancellations with these airlines. They will rebook you, but it may just take time. Take situations in stride.
- If possible print out any boarding passes prior to arriving at the airport or you may have to pay an additional fee. Also, double and triple check your bag measurements. These airlines are very adamant on their luggage regulations and will impose hefty fees for any passengers that bags do not apply.
- Buy plane tickets and make travel arrangements as least a week in advance if you want a cheaper price.
- Many cities offer free walking tours that often meet outside a given hostel. These are both great ways to learn about different cities and meet people from all over the world. Be warned that the guides for the free walking tours are paid by way of donations and a small tip may be encouraged at the end of the tour.
- For a great listing of hostels all over the world visit: www.hostelworld.com
- Recommended airlines for travel around Europe are Ryanair.com, Easyjet.com, BMIBaby.com and transaria.com
- Students traveling in Europe have recommended avoiding AirBerlin if possible, due to their frequent delays and cancelations.

UNIVERSITY TIPS

Courses

- OSU language courses are typically post-evaluated for equivalency. If you are planning to take language courses abroad, keep that in mind. If you are in a language minor, talk with your academic advisor regarding taking language courses abroad.
- Past students have made sure that their professor knows that they are an exchange student prior to grading any assignments. This is especially true when an exchange student is taking classes in the language of the host country. A professor usually will be more lenient on any grammatical issues.

Dress Code

- Like most foreign universities, the dress differs greatly from OSU. Sweatpants are not normal, and you may feel a little out of place if you choose to wear them.
- Something to keep in mind is you can never be overdressed in France, but you can always be underdressed.

MISCELLANEOUS TIPS

Language

- People usually understand if you need them to speak slower, or explain something in different words; they will appreciate you taking the time to learn and understand their language and culture.

Tidbits

- It is advised that you be very open minded and patient when you are on exchange. Not everything is going to go your way while abroad and you will hit major road blocks that you've never encountered before, but its best to just keep an opened mind and don't let things get you down. The times that don't go exactly as planned are going to be the biggest learning experiences. (2013)

If there are further questions or concerns, different resources are available that students can utilize. The Office of Global Business will be a resource throughout the entire trip. Past students have also volunteered to be a contact if additional questions would arise.

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