

PARIS

PREPARATIONS

You can get to Paris either by plane or by train (*Thalys*, from the Netherlands). It is definitely worth booking in advance as this can be a lot cheaper, especially in the case of taking the *Thalys*,

Make sure to bring your laptop and ethernet-cable (at least five metres). In France, the same power system is used as in the Netherlands (if you have already got your converters, you should be fine).

Of course, you will bring your passport and student card, but a credit card is also handy for paying the rent for your room. Also, you need a lot of photos to go with your official documents. It is worthwhile to bring a tour guide or map of Paris. Free subway maps can be found at every subway stop.

ARRIVAL

Since you will probably be arriving by plane or *Thalys*, you will need to take the blue RER line B to the subway-station *Cité Universitaire*. Once you get there, exit the station, cross the road, enter the complex through the main gate and present yourself at the building immediately to your right (*Résidence André Honnorat*, CICS office, picture below).



Remember that the office is closed between 12 and 2 pm, as are all public buildings and offices in France. If

you arrive by car, it is possible to park on the premises for a two hour period. Also be sure to ask for Internet access when checking in. It is available for all, but login information is only supplied when specifically asked for.



The Cité Internationale Universitaire de Paris

ACCOMMODATION

The *Cité Universitaire Internationale de Paris* (CIUP), where you will be staying during the Paris term, is a very beautiful international student campus, in the south of the city next to the *Route périphérique* ("le périph" Parisian term for "ring road", a motorway encircling a large city). The subway and bus stops are located right next to the campus.

You will have your own room, but will share the kitchen, bathrooms and salons with other residents. Room with shower and sink for extra costs might be available by placing a personal request in advance with the CIUP's administration / CICS office. Accommodation fees are now done on a monthly basis under new regulations. So be aware, so that you get the best timings for your stay.

The CIUP also houses a restaurant and a café/terrace on main building's ground floor (breakfast is available daily at the café), but you can also cook for yourself. Kitchens might have kitchen utilities left by previous students (you can also buy them cheaply at *Franprix*, the closest supermarket). Bed sheets are provided by CIUP and changed every week. Rooms are cleaned

CICS Résidence André HONNORAT

21, boulevard JOURDAN

75014 Paris

T : +33(0)1 44 16 65 64 / F : +33(0)1 44 16 64 08

every week.

On campus, there are 40 different student houses located on 34 hectare site in the 14th arrondissement of Paris. There is an active social life at the CIUP, with parties every Friday and/or Saturday night. There is also a very big park in the middle of the campus that is excellent for picnics and jogging.



The Cité Internationale Universitaire de Paris, International Building

There are sporting facilities, a gym and a swimming pool. To gain access, you need several documents such as a declaration of health from your GP. If you plan on using these facilities, contact the CICS in advance.

PRACTICAL MATTERS

You will be using *metro* a lot for which you will need a monthly *Carte Orange*, which covers all public transport in Paris. It costs around € 55 and you can buy it at any metro station (you will need to place your photo on it).

The first thing you should do after your arrival is start the process of getting your student's card, as it may take several days. You first need to go to the Erasmus International Office (Metro: Denfert-Rocherau, 58 Boulevard Arago) and speak to Mme Ferrani. Be sure to bring your passport, photos, and Leiden student card. Be sure to ask if you are to pay a university fee. If so, make sure to get a check at a post office (Mme Ferrani will be able to explain how to do this). She will also give you a document which you will need to bring to the *Centre Pierre Mendès* (a University building, 90 rue de Tolbiac, you can take the bus from the Erasmus

Office). Take the yellow lift to the Eleventh Floor and follow the directions there (be patient).

Finally, a word of advice: remember that all offices are closed between 12 and 2pm and on Fridays after 12 pm. If you are unable to get your student card before the start of term, Prof. Genet, the Paris Chairman and Dr Vincent Denis, the maître de conférences in modern history, will give you a letter of admission, as student cards are checked by an officer at the entrance and you cannot enter the Sorbonne building without a student card.

If you want to use a cell phone in Paris, a pre-paid phone is the way to go. All pre-paid sim cards in France cost € 30, on top of which you have to buy credit.

THE PARIS TERM

All Europaeum History courses will be taught at *Paris I- Panthéon-Sorbonne*, at the Place de la Sorbonne (Métro Luxembourg). Prof. Genet will give a tour of the Sorbonne at the start of the term. Pay attention, as the Sorbonne main facility is a veritable maze.

If you want access to the Sorbonne Library, you will need a free library pass. You can get it at an office located next to the library. Don't be afraid to ask for directions. Bring your student card, passport and photo.



La place de la Sorbonne, main entrance

There is no unified library system in Paris. Browse for books using the **www.sudoc.abes.fr** website, and click localisation to find out in which library the books are stored. Remember that you cannot take out books in most libraries.

Next to the **Paris libraries**, you might also find books at the Nanterre library and the Cité library. But a great alternative is the BNF, *Bibliothèque Nationale de France* (Métro 14: Bibliothèque). For just € 18 you can get a library pass for the reading rooms. Another card can be obtained for the research area (you will need an attestation from Prof. Genet for this, but it is invaluable for your research).

At the beginning of the term, Dr Vincent Denis will provide you with information on the courses. The courses will be taught in either English or French. Leiden University offers excellent **language courses** which may be worthwhile if you want to improve your French. There are also language courses available at CIUP – check with CIUP's administration office.

Finally, if you wish to do research in Paris either in specific **libraries** or in **archives**, you should go there right away because it takes quite a lot of time to get admitted. Always be mindful of the famous Parisian bureaucracy.

Extra-curricular

The *Franprix* **supermarket** is closest to CIUP. It is located on the Rue Mouchez (exit the Cité, turn right, pass the park on your left and take the third street on your left). A supermarket, *Monoprix*, is located at St Germain and a vegetable market can be found at Rue Mouffetard in the mornings. Also, just a few bus/metro stops away from CIUP, located in southeast of 13th *arrondissement* (district) there is the largest **Chinatown** (*quartiers chinois or la petite Asie*) of Paris (<http://www.chinatownparis.com/>). Don't miss

Tang Frères supermarket (48 Avenue d'Ivry, Tues-Sun, 9am-7:30pm. Métro: Porte d'Ivry). Chinatown is great place to find a restaurant for Chinese New Year in mid-February (don't forget to book in advance).

Bookshops are to be found in Quartier Latin and St Germain. The Main bookshops specializing in English-language books: WH Smith (248, Rue de Rivoli, Métro: Concorde), Librairie Galignani (224, rue de Rivoli), Shakespeare & Co (37 Rue de la Bûcherie, Métro: Maubert-Mutualité (line 10), St-Michel Notre-Dame (RER B) open until midnight). List of other English-language bookshops can be found here: http://www.discoverfrance.net/France/Paris/Shopping/Paris_bookstores.shtml.

Each **quartier** has its own charm, be sure to explore them all. Each Friday night, admission to the Louvre is free for everyone under the age of 26 and every first Sunday of the month lots of museums are free (Centre Pompidou, Arc de Triomphe, Sainte Chapelle).

The municipal museums are always free. Paris is famous for its Jazz clubs, but they are generally rather expensive. The best place to go is the Centre Czech in St Germain on Friday nights. Admission: 3 euros.

Finally, **going out** is a little bit expensive in Paris. The best affordable student party area would be Oberkampf in 11th *arrondissement*. The well-known and relatively cheap drink called Kir (a mix of white wine and *crème de cassis* - blackcurrant flavored liqueur) or Kir Royale (champagne + *crème de cassis*). You can get it everywhere and it is a classic. Eating out is not necessarily expensive. There are some cheap restaurants in St Michel, Quartier Latin and Rue Mouffetard. Also, try a delicious hot *crêpe* (pancake). For really good bread and sandwiches, go to one of the *Paul* bakeries. *Paul* chain is also a good lunch place.

What's on in Paris?

If you pick up a copy of *Pariscope*, you'll be ahead of the game. *Pariscope* is a popular weekly magazine available at newsstands. It covers the current and forthcoming entertainment events in Paris over the next week, including theatre, music, films and lectures.



Useful Links

<http://www.europaeum.org/europaeum/>

<http://www.univ-paris1.fr/> (Université Paris I Panthéon-Sorbonne)

<http://www.ciup.fr> (CIUP)

<http://www.bnf.fr> (Bibliothèque Nationale de France)

<http://www.sudoc.abes.fr> (SUDOC: university libraries catalogue)

<http://www.biu.fr> (Sorbonne Library)

<http://www.bdic.fr> (Nanterre library)

<http://www.archivesnationales.culture.gouv.fr> (Archives Nationales)

<http://www.caf.fr> (CAF: subsidy from French government)

<http://www.tgv.com> (trains; *Thalys*)

<http://www.ratp.fr> (Parisian public transport)

<http://www.pagesjaunes.fr/> (The pagesjaunes.fr (yellow pages) site gives addresses, phone numbers, email addresses, a picture of ALL the buildings in Paris and how to get there !)

<http://www.paris.org/Kiosque/> (monthly Letter from Paris)

<http://www.parisapied.com/> (Paris à Pied offers several walking tours (Old Paris, Latin Quarter, Marais, Montmartre), the best way to enjoy the full flavor of the city)

<http://www.parisinsites.com/> (Long time Paris resident Linda Thalman's letter to readers, with hundreds of useful tips and links : travel in France, museums, weather, teaching, etc.)

<http://www.parisvoice.com/> (The website of Paris's favorite free English-language weekly newspaper)

<http://www.parlerparlor.com/> (French-English Conversation group)

<http://www.frenchlinks.com/> (Little Known Museums in Paris. A must for those who think they've done it all)

<http://us.franceguide.com/>

<http://www.wfi.fr/>

<http://www.paris-live.com/> (Paris live TV, radio)

<http://www.centretcheque.org> (Czech Centre jazz club)