INTERNATIONAL SERVICES FOR STUDENTS
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EXCHANGE PARTICIPANT QUESTIONNAIRE

STUDENT INFORMATION

Faculty: Arts and Social Sciences
Major/Minor: World Literature/International Studies
Host university: SciencesPo (Menton campus)
Host Country: France
Dates of your exchange: (month/year) 01/2015 to (month/year) 04/2015

TRAVEL

Approximately how much did air transportation cost? $1500 CDN (not including smaller trips in Europe)
Approximately how much did any required ground transportation cost? ~250 CDN (not including trips)
Do you have a recommended routing or airline? □ No □ Yes
If yes, please describe:

VISAS

What is your citizenship? (voluntary; may impact following information) □ Canadian
Did you need a student visa/permit? □ No □ Yes: What was the cost? $0 (Youth Exchange Agreement)
If yes, what documentation was needed? Application form, ID photos, passport, proof of financial resources, C
Did you need a visitor visa/permit? □ No □ Yes: What was the cost? 
If yes, what documentation was needed?
Where was your immigration documentation processed? □ Consulate General of France in Vancouver
How long did it take to procure your visa/permit? □ A few days, but make an appointment for as early as possible
Were any other documents required (residence permit, etc)? □ No □ Yes
If yes, please comment:

AIRPORT RECEPTION

Were you met at the airport by representatives of the host university? □ No □ Yes
Is there easy transportation between the airport and university? □ No □ Yes
Please comment: It’s a bit of a walk from the airport to Nice St. Augustin train station - there are signs but it’s best to look up the route ahead of time. There’s a shuttle between airport terminals.

What is the closest airport to the host university? □ Aeroport Nice Cote d’Azur

ORIENTATION

Is there an organized orientation session upon arrival at the host university? □ No □ Yes
Was there a cost for the orientation session? □ No □ Yes, how much? 
If yes, do you recommend that future students participate? □ No □ Yes
Please comment: I came halfway through the school year (spring semester) so there was little in the way of orientation. Other exchange students told me there was an orientation at the beginning of the fall semester, but they didn’t think it was necessary (although I think it may have been mandatory).
LANGUAGE PROGRAMS
Is there a language program available either before or during the term?  □ No  □ Yes
If yes, how long is it?  The entire semester
Is there an additional cost for language training?  □ No  □ Yes: How much?
Please comment: Exchange students take language courses at the appropriate level; these are actual courses, taken along with full-time students.

ACCOMMODATION & LIVING
Is on-campus or university dormitory accommodation available?  □ No  □ Yes
If yes, are you living in a university dormitory?  □ No  □ Yes
If yes, can you make a recommendation for a specific dormitory?  □ No  □ Yes
If yes, please describe: You can request a 1, 2 or 3-person room (I chose single)
What is the average monthly cost of accommodation? ~$440 CDN
Is there a meal plan?  □ No  □ Yes: How much is it?
If no, do you have access to adequate cooking facilities?  □ No  □ Yes
How far is your dormitory from the main campus? About 10 minutes walk
Please comment on internet and phone access in your dormitory:
Internet was unreliable (often better in Villa Jasmin than in Forty). I didn't have a problem with cell phone reception.

Did you have to make a deposit for your accommodation prior to arrival?  □ No  □ Yes
If yes, how did you arrange this?  International wire transfer
Is off-campus housing easily available?  □ No  □ Yes
Please comment on off-campus housing:
Off-campus housing is available but competitive, since all second-year students and some first-year and exchange students are competing for apartments in a small town.

Approximately how much money per month is needed for living, including accommodation and meals? ~$550 CDN
Any other comments on accommodation:
If you don't mind living in a dorm I would recommend it. Some people who rented apartments found that they were less involved in activities and spent less time with other students than those staying in dorms.
FINANCIAL DETAILS

Have you opened a bank account in your host country? [□] No [☑] Yes: What are the challenges/benefits to opening a local bank account?

French bureaucracy can be frustrating, although my bank has been pretty good (Societe Generale). One challenge was the expense of wire transfers and withdrawing from my home bank. It was useful to have a Visa card with a French bank as in some cases my debit card and credit card from home were not accepted.

How would you recommend students bring money (Canadian/American cash, travelers' cheques, local currency)?

Open a French account, and also bring an internationally recognized credit card (I used Mastercard). A one-time wire transfer from your Canadian account to your French account may be useful (although there are fees), or you can withdraw from your home account for a small fee each time.

What is/are the preferred method(s) of payment at most establishments? [☑] Cash [□] Debit [□] Credit card

Please comment:
I used my credit card a lot and most places accepted it, but it’s good to have cash in case you go to a market or somewhere where your card is not recognized. My credit card was useful for booking trips and hotels online.

ACADEMIC DETAILS

Was it possible for you to get all of the courses that you wanted? [□] No [☑] Yes

Please describe the course registration procedure:

You have to select your courses and email the university adviser with your choices. The campus is small, so there is no online registration site like there is at SFU.

What discipline(s)/program(s) are you taking at your host university? Political science and language courses

What is the language of instruction in your courses? English (French language course in French)

If not English, are English-taught courses available?

Describe the manner and quality of instruction at your host university.

Mostly lectures, although French language class was seminar-style. Lots of emphasis on student presentations. The instructors were very knowledgeable, but since some classes only ran every two or three weeks (and some were cancelled or postponed), it was sometimes hard to remember information from week to week.

What do you feel is/will be the main academic benefit of your participation in this exchange program?

A deeper understanding of politics in the Middle East and North Africa (the region of focus at the Menton campus), and a stronger grasp of the French language.