Study Abroad in France
University of Auvergne, Clermont-Ferrand
Student Guide

SUMMER 2011
May 27—July 7

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Information in this booklet is subject to change.
Auvergne, Puy-de-Dôme, Clermont-Ferrand and the University of Auvergne

The University of Auvergne is located in the capital city of Clermont-Ferrand in the department of Puy-de-Dôme in the French Region of Auvergne in Central France. Auvergne, among many things, is famous for its volcanic landscape, natural spring water from thermal springs, the heroic figure, Vercingetorix (Gallic chieftain who led an unsuccessful war in 52 B.C. against Roman Rule under Julius Caesar) and the Marquis de La Fayette, friend and supporter of the American Revolutionary War.  

The mathematician and philosopher, Blaise Pascal, is also from the city of Clermont-Ferrand.

The region of Auvergne covers an area of about 26,000 square km (16,156 sq.mi.) with a population of approximately 1,315,000 and is located midway between Paris and the Mediterranean. Auvergne is made up of four departments, similar to the way the states are divided into counties. The four departments of Auvergne are Allier in the north, Cantal in the southwest, Haute-Loire in the southeast, and Puy-de-Dôme in Auvergne’s center. The capital city of Auvergne, Clermont-Ferrand, is located in Puy-de-Dôme. Puy is the French word for a volcanic summit and the Puy-de-Dôme, from which the department takes its name, is a major natural monument, an extinct volcano rising 1,465 meters (.91 miles: almost a mile). Tourism is important in the department of Puy-de-Dôme with attractions including mountain spas and winter resorts, Romanesque churches, medieval castles, and the historic monument the basalt Gergovia Plateau located south of Clermont-Ferrand, where Vercingetorix fought Julius Caesar in 52 B.C.

Clermont-Ferrand is a major industrial center with a population of approximately 140,000 and home to the Michelin tire company, the largest producer of tires in France. The town itself offers sightseeing walks highlighting interesting sites, buildings, and life in olden times, as well as museums, shopping, restaurants and cultural events.

The University of Auvergne is a French public university, one of two public universities in the Academy of Clermont-Ferrand, the other being the University of Blaise-Pascal. The French educational system is divided into 35 academies. The division into academies governs admissions, although the heads of the academies have no administrative authority over the universities. Attending classes through the Florida Coastal Summer Abroad Program at the University of Auvergne will give students the experience of living the student life in a typical French city with all the history and culture that Europe has to offer. The University of Auvergne complies with French disability laws.
Program Overview

Four professors (2 from University of Auvergne and 2 from Florida Coastal) will teach the offered courses. Courses will have a comparative or international focus.

- Comparative Torts—Professor Sonya Hoener—2 credits
- Post Conflict Justice—Professor David Pimentel—2 credits
- European Union Law—Professor Françoise Dupont-Marillia—1 credit
- French Business Law—Professor Jean François Riffard—1 credit

Requirements

- Students must have completed at least 30 credit hours. (1Ls who are completing their 2nd semester are encouraged to apply)
- Minimum GPA of 2.20—1st year GPA based upon 1st semester
- Passport (valid and current)
- Students must be Florida Coastal students or be from an ABA accredited law school. Non-Florida Coastal students must submit a letter of good standing from the Dean of the law school.

Costs

Tuition will be $925 per credit hour (does not include housing costs)

- Minimum of 4 credits ($3,700)
- Maximum of 6 credits ($5,550)

Application deposit: $300 (will be applied to tuition and includes various costs including cost of local field trips)

Deadline for Payment: May 27, 2011.
Do I need to know how to speak French?

All of the courses will be taught in English, and you do not need to be fluent in French to attend; however, as when travelling to any foreign country, it is a good idea to try to learn enough of the language to "get around." You are not likely to find as many English-speakers in Clermont-Ferrand as you would in Paris.

What about the weather?

According to Weather2Travel.com, Clermont-Ferrand’s average high temperature in June is 70 degrees and the low can get down to 49 degrees. The city averages 13 days of rainfall in June and there is no heat, humidity or frost.

After much anticipation and planning, I finally arrived in France after nearly a full day of traveling. A French student named Flora met me at the airport and we conversed in English (and what little French I know) as we drove towards the dorms. When we arrived at my future home for the next 5 weeks, the Maison International Universitaire dorms, I was shocked by the quality of the facilities. I have studied abroad two times previously and none of my accommodations came close to these dorms. Amenities such as high-speed internet, a maid service, and a daily breakfast are offered.

In the evening, I went out for appertif (a pre-dinner snack with drinks) with 5 French students. Next I met up with the other French and Coastal Law students including 2L’s, Seth Collins, Bryan Cantrell, and Amy Benson at the Crepe Grille. This restaurant is located in close proximity to the massive Cathedral in Clermont. The cathedral is constructed with black volcanic rock which is distinctive of Clermont. There we ate dinner and dessert crepes. All the French students and people of Clermont have welcomed us graciously and they have been very kind in showing us their town. I look forward to a great trip as we build our friendship with the French and broaden Coastal Law’s educational reach on an international scale.

STUDENT LIFE

Learn more from students who participated in past programs. Student summer study abroad blogs can be found on the Florida Coastal home page. Simply enter the terms “Study Abroad Blogs” in the search box. Here is one blog entry:

5/23/08 “The Arrival”

“My name is George Singeltary and I am the Sports Editor for The Rainmaker as well as an incoming 3L at Coastal Law. I look forward to this opportunity to keep the Coastal Law community updated about our maiden study abroad program in France.

Rue Montlosier with Puy-de-Dome mountain in the background

Puy-de-Dome
University of Auvergne and Dormitory Housing

Studying Abroad in Clermont-Ferrand:

Clermont-Ferrand is a recognized centre for further education and research, with nearly 35,000 students, two universities, five schools of engineering, and several major further education schools with an excellent ranking.

It is also a popular university site internationally, with nearly 4,900 foreign students attending every year. This is indeed a priority for the city of Clermont-Ferrand which encourages this choice, in the form of active cooperation with the Clermont-Ferrand Mission for International Relations (MRI) and all the university authorities, working in favor of quick and successful integration.\(^{13}\)

Housing is not provided by Coastal Law. It is not guaranteed. It is provided on a first come, first served basis.

A limited amount of housing will be available through the University of Auvergne in a new dormitory. The MIU dormitory is a 5-10 minute walk to the school. For 43 nights (arrival May 26, 2011) cost is approximately 1032 Euros for a studio with kitchenette (approximately $1404.14) and 967.50 Euros for a bedroom ($1316.38). More information is available at [http://www.uclermont1.fr/maison-internationale-universitaire.html](http://www.uclermont1.fr/maison-internationale-universitaire.html)

Students are also free to find their own housing in Clermont-Ferrand.

**MIU resident policies include:**

- No Alcohol Permitted on the Premises
- No Overnight Guests
- Courtesy and Cooperation
- First Come, First Served

Standard room for one person includes one double bed, small refrigerator and cooktop. Laundry facilities are available on the premises and also nearby. Rooms are air-conditioned. The facility contains a cafeteria that students may use and charge to their rooms. MIU maintains 24 hour security.

**MIU respectfully requests that Florida Coastal students speak slowly as not all MIU personnel are fully bilingual.**

Maison Internationale Universitaire is a university owned “hotel” that accommodates visiting professors. Madame Lesage, director of the facility, will take student emails and phone calls with questions about the facility. The Dolet dormitory is slightly less convenient, older and not air-conditioned, but also has a laundry on site and maid service once a week.
Currency Exchange
One of the easiest ways to exchange money in France is through ATM machines with credit or check cards. Before you leave for France, please check with your bank or credit card company regarding any fees that will be applied for ATM use. If you are not able to use an ATM, it is difficult to exchange money in Clermont-Ferrand. We recommend exchanging money at the Paris airport.

Check out these sites for more information:
- France.com at http://web.fance.com/story/how_get_best_exchange_rate_when

Helpful Information For Your Stay Abroad

Transportation
Getting from Clermont-Ferrand to other destinations by train may prove challenging, particularly on the weekends. We do not necessarily recommend purchasing a Eurail pass. Many students have found that simply using their French student ID cards helps with discounts on trains. In addition, many trains require a reservation, which can be an additional expense that is not covered by the Eurail pass. Please do not rule out air travel. There is an airport located in Clermont-Ferrand. Where possible, it is a good idea to make your travel plans before you leave the U.S.

Within the city, the Clermont-Ferrand tramway’s route circles the place de Jaude, Av des Etat Unis, the place Gaillard, Rue a. Moinier, Rue Montlosier, and the place Dellile et Chaussée Claudius. Watch a video at http://www.dailymotion.com/video/xdm8g_tramway-de-clermont-ferrand_creation

Helpful travel resources:
ALLO TAXI (24h every day) - 04.73.19.53.53
Aéroport de Clermont-Ferrand/Aulnat (Airport) - 0 4.73.62.71.00
Directions from MIU to Airport

Clermont-Ferrand train station SNCF (Tickets)(Main) - 0 4.73.28.56.56 Directions from MIU to train station, 32, Avenue de l'Union Soviétique

Le Bus “Eurolines” Gare Routière—0 4.73.93.13.61 Directions from MIU to bus station, 63, Boulevard F.Mitterrand

Telephones: Cellular and Landline
Your cell phone may or may not work in France, but you have a couple of options. Please check with your cell phone provider before you leave so that you are not hit with surprise charges. Some students have had difficulty getting a connection in France. Also, keep in mind that roaming charges may apply. Try these sites for more info:
- About.com: Using your cell phone in France at http://gofrance.about.com/cs/cellphonrentals/a/cellphone.htm
Food and Recreation in Clermont-Ferrand

Restaurants (student suggestions)

Fiesta Grande (Tex/Mex)—28, rue des Chaussetiers
Le 1513 (Crepes)—3, rue des Chaussetiers
Au Bureau—16, place de Jaude
Garden Ice Café—48, place de Jaude
Bistroquet le Bouchon—4, rue Saint-Eutrope
Kebab restaurants, in particular one close to the dorms

Cinema

Cinema Le Rio (art and experimental theatre) - 178, rue Sous les Vignes
Cine Capitole (art and experimental theatre) - 32 place de Jaude
Cine Jaude—18 rue Allagnat

Walking Tours

Clermont-Ferrand Walking Tours
Four urban walking tours available to enjoy an in-depth look at the history and beauty of the city of Clermont-Ferrand.

Museums

Roman Art Space Gallery:
Gallery located in the Tourism Office exhibiting medieval art with images from Roman sites. Directions from MIU.

Roger-Quillot Art Museum: Designed by the French architect Adrien Fainsilber is located in the old Convent of the Ursulines. Its collection ranges from early medieval to contemporary. Place Louis-Deteix, Quartier Historique de Montferrand. Directions from MIU.

Henri Lecoq Municipal Natural History Museum
The Lecoq museum in Clermont-Ferrand is the only general natural history museum in the Massif Central region. It has been designated a MUSÉE DE FRANCE (French national museum) and is exceptionally rich in the number and variety of its collections. Directions from MIU.

Amusement and Nature Parks

Vulcania Theme Park: A day of exploration for the entire family. Over 30 live events and projections to experience the Earth’s Adventure. Visitors should plan on spending 5 to 7 hours exploring Vulcania: over 5000 sq mi in attractions and shows are offered on 3 levels, with more than 30 attractions, 2 movie theatres and outside walkways spread across 57 hectares. Directions from MIU.

Nature Parks of the Auvergne: Extending across the Massif Central, the Volcanoes of the Auvergne and the Livradois-Forez parks have a grandiose beauty mixed with old-fashioned rural charm.
**Tourist Office**
Place de la Victoire
63000 CLERMONT-FERRAND
Tel: +33 (0)4.73.98.65.00
Fax: +33 (0)4.73.90.04.11

**Churches**

*Notre Dame du Port:* Romanesque Basilica dating from the 12th century. Selected as one of UNESCO World Heritage sites. [Directions from MIU](#).

*Cathédrale Notre-Dame-de-l'Assomption de Clermont-Ferrand:* French national monument. Seat of the Archbishops of Clermont. Made entirely from black lava stone, much of the construction dates back to the 12th century. [Directions from MIU](#).

**Castles**

*Châteaux Dauphin at Pontgibaud:* The chateau was a fortress during the 12th through 14th centuries and is a beautiful example of medieval architecture. The chateau is currently the residence of the Le Comte et La Comtesse Gabriel de Germiny. The chateau is open in July and August every day except Mondays and during the off season the Chateau is open on Sundays and Holidays.

*Château de Saint Saturnin:* This castle is an example of military medieval architecture including moats, patrol roads and battlements. Architectural additions were made through the Renaissance and past owners include, Catherine de Medici, Marguerite de Valois, and Louis XIII. The Château has been classified as a historical monument since 1889. The beautiful gardens and parks lead up to the hills of the Natural Park of the Volcanoes. Open weekends in May and June and daily July through September. [Directions from MIU](#).

*La Batisse Castle:* Located at the foot of the famous Gergovie Plateau, La Batisse Castle built between the 15th and 18th centuries is surrounded by French-style gardens, ornamental lakes, and a famous path leading to four waterfalls. Inside the castle visitors can view a beautiful suite of apartments decorated with frescoes and tapestries, and interesting pieces of XVI, XVII and XVIII century furniture. The studio of the Auvergnat painter, Jean de Chasteauneuf, uncle of the present owners, is open to the public where a collection of his paintings can be seen. In July and August the castle is open Monday through Friday. The gardens are open on Sundays. [Directions from MIU](#).

**Fieldtrips . . .**
In addition to classes, the group will take local field trips around Clermont-Ferrand, including but not limited to a trip to the Michelin corporate headquarters. These trips are generally scheduled in the afternoon after classes.

**How far from Clermont-Ferrand to . . .**
- **Paris, France**
  - Driving: 3h39min 263.41 mi
  - Train: 3h11min by TEOZ
  - Plane: 1h5min
- **Nice, France**
  - Driving: 5h30min 394.84mi
  - Train: 7h
  - Plane: 1h
- **Strasbourg, France**
  - Driving: 6h26min 431.85 mi
  - Train: connects through Paris, approx. 5h40min
  - Plane: 45min
- **Geneva, Switzerland**
  - Driving: 3h39min 221.22 mi
  - Train: connects through Lyon, 4h44min
  - Plane: 45min
- **Milan, Italy**
  - Driving: 6h31min 329.09 mi
  - Train: must go through Paris, 12h30
  - Plane: 1h5min
- **Brussels, Belgium**
  - Driving: 6h43min 450.49 mi
  - Train: connects through Paris, approx. 4h40min
  - Plane: 1h25min
- **London, England**
  - Driving: 9h22min 263.41
  - Train: 7h
  - Plane: London to Paris is 1hr then Paris to Clermont-Ferrand is 1h5min
Every Day Needs in Clermont-Ferrand

Note: Most shops and restaurants are closed on Sundays, so please plan ahead. Also, over-the-counter medicines are not available at grocery stores, you must go to a pharmacy to purchase aspirin, cough drops, etc.

Pharmacy and Groceries

Grocery store in French is “Epicerie” or “Marche.” Google map link to local grocery stores close to MIU. There are many types of general and specialty epicerie in Clermont-Ferrand. Intermarche, is a large retail chain in France. Pharmacy in French is “Pharmacie”. Google map link to pharmacies close to MIU. Pharmacy’s (marked with green crosses) closed on Sundays and Holidays but there is usually one in each area that provides “service de garde” after hours service.

Laundry and Dry Cleaning

Laundry in French is “blanchisserie” or “laverie automatique” and dry cleaning is “nettoyage a sec.” Google map link to local dry cleaning and laundry close to MIU.

Malls and Shopping

“Grand-Magasin” is French for department store and “Galerie” can be used for shopping mall. The shopping mall in the Centre Jaude has over 80 boutiques. The famous department store, Galeries Lafayette, is also located near the Place de Jaude. Antiques shops can be found in the area close to the Cathedral. Google map link to stores close to MIU. Google map link to “boutiques” close to MIU.

The student guide to Clermont-Ferrand is an excellent resource for helpful information while studying in Clermont-Ferrand and is available at http://fr.calameo.com/read/0000002096eafa828e5ad
References


21. All train information was found on http://www.raileurope.co.uk/sncf.aspx. All flight information was found on http://www.clermont-aeroport.com/fr/accueil/ACC_accueil.asp (last visited Jan. 28, 2011).