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**Address:** Study Abroad Office , 700 Terrace Heights #51, Winona, MN 55987-1399

**Phone:**(507)457-1447 **Fax:**(507)457-6990

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\_\_\_\_\_ Learning Abroad Application - U of MN

On the top portion of the form, please indicate the following to help us identify your program:

Program Name: **Study Abroad in Montpellier**

Sponsor: **LAC**

Program Track/Host Institution: Language and Culture or **Integrated Studies**

\_\_\_\_\_ Application Essay

In approximately 250 words, describe why you selected this program and how it suits your academic and personal goals. Include dates and information on any previous international experience living, traveling, or studying abroad.

\_\_\_\_\_ Academic Recommendation Form

The recommendation must be from a French instructor (preferably college-level). If you have not taken a French course, please get a recommendation from an academic adviser or professor.

\_\_\_\_\_ Method of Payment

\_\_\_\_\_ \$50 Application Fee

\_\_\_\_\_ Official Transcripts

\_\_\_\_\_ Assumption of Risk and Release form

\_\_\_\_\_ Program Risks

\_\_\_\_\_ Insurance Verification

\_\_\_\_\_ Student Conduct Agreement



Learning Abroad Center

# Learning Abroad Application

## University of Minnesota—Twin Cities

**NOTE: Read the Application Checklist before completing.**  
**This is an application for a learning abroad program,**  
**not admission to a University of Minnesota degree-seeking program.**

**PERSONAL INFORMATION**

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First \_\_\_\_\_ Middle \_\_\_\_\_  
 SS# (optional) \_\_\_\_\_ U of M ID# \_\_\_\_\_ Official university email address \_\_\_\_\_

**PROGRAM INFORMATION**

Program Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sponsor \_\_\_\_\_  
 Program Track/Host Institution \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/Country \_\_\_\_\_  
 Term(s) and Year \_\_\_\_\_

**PASSPORT**

Do you have a passport?  Yes  No

If yes: Number \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration \_\_\_\_\_

*Apply for your passport now! It commonly takes 3–4 months to receive a passport, and many programs also require a visa which can take additional months.*

**MAILING ADDRESS**

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**HOME ADDRESS**

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**EMERGENCY CONTACT \***

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

\* This person will be contacted only in the event of an emergency while you are abroad. Confidential information may be shared in the event of an emergency.

**GENERAL CONTACT \*\***

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

\*\* This person will receive general learning abroad information including billing dates and a link to the parent website. Confidential information will not be shared.

**HOME INSTITUTION CONTACT \*\*\***

List individual responsible for education abroad (non-University of Minnesota students only).

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_  
 Institution \_\_\_\_\_ Department \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\* Individual will be notified of your acceptance to a Learning Abroad Center program and may be contacted regarding issues related to your learning abroad experience.

**EDUCATION****Class Standing at the Beginning of Learning Abroad Program**

- Freshman     Junior     Grad/professional school  
 Sophomore     Senior     Non-degree

Major \_\_\_\_\_

Second major \_\_\_\_\_

Minor \_\_\_\_\_

Second minor \_\_\_\_\_

**Institution Presently Attending**

- U of M–Twin Cities, college of enrollment \_\_\_\_\_  
 U of M–Crookston     U of M–Duluth     U of M–Morris  
 None     Other \_\_\_\_\_

Cumulative GPA \_\_\_\_\_

**CITIZENSHIP****Country of Birth**

- 
- US
- 
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Country of Citizenship**

- 
- US
- 
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Non-US Citizen Visa Type**

- Specify Visa \_\_\_\_\_  
 Permanent Resident     Immigrant     Refugee  
 F–1/I–20 Admission # \_\_\_\_\_     Other \_\_\_\_\_

**FINANCIAL AID**Do you plan to apply for and/or use financial aid (loans, grants, scholarships) for your study abroad program?     Yes     No**DEMOGRAPHIC** *(optional)*

This information is used for summary reports required by federal and state laws and regulations. It is not used as a basis for admissions or in a discriminatory manner. You will not be subjected to adverse treatment if you do not provide any of the requested information.

Gender     Male     Female    **Date of Birth** (mm/dd/yyyy) \_\_\_\_\_**Ethnic Group**

- Black/African American     Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander     Other Hispanic/Latino Other  
 American Indian/Alaskan Native     Chicano/Mexican American     White  
 Asian     Hispanic/Latino     Non-specified

**PROMOTIONAL INFORMATION**To assist us in tracking promotional efforts, please indicate where you heard about this program *(check all that apply)*.

- Website: U of M Learning Abroad Center     Email Message     Adviser: College  
 Website: Study Abroad (goabroad.com, studyabroad.com)     Office: U of M Learning Abroad Center     Adviser: Major  
 Catalog: U of M Learning Abroad     Office: Your Home Institution's Education Abroad Office     Professor/Instructor  
 Brochure: Learning Abroad Center     Students/Past Program Participants     Other \_\_\_\_\_  
 Curricular Major Advising Sheet     Classroom Visit Presentation

• May the University of Minnesota release your name and email address to fellow participants on your program (for pre-departure planning, housing placements, etc.)?     Yes     No

• May the University of Minnesota release your name and email address as a past participant on your program?     Yes     No

**DISCIPLINARY RELEASE**

Do you have any prior academic or behavioral disciplinary incidents on file at the U of M?

- 
- No
- 
- Yes

Please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

The Learning Abroad Center may review academic records as well as relevant behavioral issues by reviewing student files in university offices including the Office for Student Conduct and Academic Integrity. Applicants are required to complete at least one semester at the U of M after a suspension/probation period ends. Applicants with a disciplinary record may be required to meet with the Learning Abroad Center.

**SIGNATURE**

I certify that all statements on this application and all other learning abroad application materials are complete, true, and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I understand it is my responsibility to keep this information up to date and can do this via writing with the Learning Abroad Center. I understand that misrepresentation or fraudulent information is sufficient grounds for cancelling my admission to a Learning Abroad Center Program. I understand that the Learning Abroad Center may be in communication with my emergency contact, general contact, and home institution contact for the purpose identified. I also understand that the Learning Abroad Center will release my contact information as identified above.

Applicant Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Learning Abroad Center**

230 Heller Hall, 271 19th Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55455  
 612.626.9000 • 888.700.UOFM • 612.626.8009 (fax) • UMabroad@umn.edu • www.UMabroad.umn.edu



# Recommendation Form

**Applicant:** Please complete this section and then give this form to your recommender. Print clearly or type.

\_\_\_\_\_  
First Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Last Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone

\_\_\_\_\_  
City

\_\_\_\_\_  
State

\_\_\_\_\_  
Zip Code

\_\_\_\_\_  
Program to Which You Are Applying

\_\_\_\_\_  
Home Institution

\_\_\_\_\_  
Country

\_\_\_\_\_  
Term

\_\_\_\_\_  
Year

All rights of access conferred by the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (P.X. 93-380) as amended, or otherwise, to all information and materials of any kind received by the University of Minnesota from any source in connection with this application are hereby voluntarily waived.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Applicant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Recommender:** The applicant named above is applying for a program offered by the Learning Abroad Center in the Office of International Programs at the University of Minnesota. Students are selected for this program based on academic ability as well as maturity. It is important to the applicant and to the University that only those students who are likely to succeed in and benefit from this program be selected. Your candid opinion regarding the applicant's qualifications is appreciated.

**The student's application cannot be processed until references are returned.** We appreciate receiving your response as quickly as possible. Please return this form directly to the address on the other side of this sheet.

- How long and in what capacity have you known the applicant?
- If a foreign language is required for program participation and you have knowledge of the applicant's ability, please indicate the applicant's present language ability in each category.

Level	Listening	Reading	Speaking	Writing	Unknown
None					
Very basic skill and ability					
Simple sentences and structures					
Utilizes/understands more complex structures					
Utilizes/understands complex structures with accuracy					
Native ability					

Over

3. Please indicate the applicant's ability in comparison with other individuals you have known at similar stages in their academic careers.

Category	Excellent	High	Average	Low	Unknown
Academic ability compared with others in your course					
Self-discipline and motivation					
Ability to work independently					
Ability to express thoughts in speech and writing					
Emotional stability and maturity					
Ability to work cooperatively with others					
Flexibility, ability to adapt					

4. Please comment specifically on the applicant in terms of the following: a) academic suitability; b) personal suitability; c) weaknesses; d) linguistic preparation, if applicable; e) any other factors relevant to the applicant's ability to participate successfully in a study abroad program. Print clearly or type.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Recommender

\_\_\_\_\_  
Position/Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Department or Unit

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City

\_\_\_\_\_  
State

\_\_\_\_\_  
Zip Code

\_\_\_\_\_  
First Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Last Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Institution

\_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone

\_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address

Please return this form directly to the Learning Abroad Center or to the student in a sealed envelope.  
Thank you.

## Learning Abroad Center

230 Heller Hall 271 19th Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55455  
612.626.9000 • 888.700.UOFM • 612.626.8009 (fax) • UMabroad@umn.edu • www.UMabroad.umn.edu



Learning Abroad Center

# Method of Payment

Please read the following information carefully to better understand the application fee payment process.

## Application Fees

Most programs require an application fee. Application fees, if applicable, are **non-refundable** and can be paid via check or credit card. Please indicate on the Method of Payment (MOP) Form how you would like to pay for your application fee. If your program does not require an application fee, please leave this area blank.

**Note:** The University of Minnesota accepts only Mastercard, Discover, and American Express; **Visa is not accepted.** If paying by check, make checks payable to the University of Minnesota.

Learning Abroad Center

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

### Method of Payment Form: Application Fees

**Instructions:** Type or **print clearly.** Submit to the Learning Abroad Center along with other requested materials.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Fall Semester \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Academic Year \_\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Winter Break \_\_\_\_\_

SS Number \_\_\_\_\_ U of M ID Number \_\_\_\_\_

Calendar Year \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Spring Semester \_\_\_\_\_

Study Abroad Program Name \_\_\_\_\_

May Session \_\_\_\_\_

Country \_\_\_\_\_

Summer Session \_\_\_\_\_

Check enclosed

I would like to pay by credit card (**Visa not accepted**)

Make checks payable to the University of Minnesota

Mastercard \$ \_\_\_\_\_  Discover \$ \_\_\_\_\_  AmEx \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Exp Date: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_ Exp Date: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_

Card # \_\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Cardholder (please print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Authorized Signature

## Learning Abroad Center

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## STUDY ABROAD ASSUMPTION of RISK and RELEASE FORM

*THIS IS A RELEASE OF LEGAL RIGHTS – READ AND UNDERSTAND BEFORE SIGNING.*

Name of Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

(If Student is under 18 years of age, a parent or legal guardian must also read and sign this form.)

Program: \_\_\_\_\_

In consideration of being allowed to participate in the Program specified above, I hereby agree as follows:

**1. Risks of Study Abroad.** I understand that participation in the Saint Mary's University of Minnesota Study Abroad Program specified above (the "Program") is voluntary and involves risk not found in study at Saint Mary's University of Minnesota ("the University"). These include risks involved in traveling to and within, and returning from, one or more foreign countries; foreign political, legal, social, and economic conditions; different standards of design, safety and maintenance of buildings, public places and conveyances; local medical and weather conditions; and other matters described on a separate **Program Risk form** which I have received, reviewed, and **signed**, and which is incorporated by reference in this Release Form. I understand that the University cannot guarantee my absolute safety during the program, cannot monitor my daily personal decisions, choices, and activities, cannot prevent me from engaging in illegal or risky activities if I ignore rules and advice from the University, cannot represent my interests if I am accused of illegal activities, and cannot ensure local adherence to United States norms of individual rights, political correctness and sensitivity, relationships between the sexes, and relations among racial, cultural, and ethnic groups. I have made my own investigation and am willing to accept these risks.

**2. Institutional Arrangements.** I understand that the University does not represent or act as an agent for, and cannot control the acts or omissions of, any host institution, host family, transportation carrier, hotel, tour organizer, apartment building, apartment manager, or other provider of goods or services involved in the Program. I understand that the University is not responsible for matters that are beyond its control. I hereby release the University from any injury, loss, damage, accident, delay or expense arising out of any such matters.

**3. Independent Activity.** I understand that the University is not responsible for any injury or loss I may suffer when I am traveling independently or am otherwise separated or absent from any University-supervised activities.

#### **4. Health and Safety.**

A. I have consulted with a medical doctor about my personal medical needs. No health-related reasons or problems exist which preclude or restrict my participation in this Program.

B. I am aware of all applicable personal medical needs. I am and will be covered, during the Program, by a policy of comprehensive health and accident insurance that provides coverage for injuries and illnesses I sustain or experience while studying abroad. Said insurance will specifically provide coverage for injuries or illnesses sustained or experienced in the countries in which I will be living and/or traveling during the Program.

I recognize that the University is not obligated to attend to any of my medical or medication needs, and I assume all risk and responsibility therefor. If I require medical treatment or hospital care, in a foreign country or in the United States, during the Program, the University is not responsible for the cost or quality of such treatment or care.

C. The University may (but is not obligated to) take any actions it considers to be warranted under the circumstances regarding my health and safety. I agree to pay all expenses relating thereto and release the University from any liability for any actions. I specifically grant the University permission to authorize emergency medical treatment for me, if necessary. I release the University from all responsibility for any injury or damage that might arise out of or in connection with such authorized emergency medical treatment.

## **5. Standards of Conduct.**

A. I understand that each foreign country has its own laws and standards of acceptable conduct, including dress, manners, morals, politics, drug use and behavior. I recognize that behavior which violates those laws or standards could harm the University's relations with those countries and the institutions therein, as well as my own health and safety. I will become informed of, and will abide by, all such laws and standards for each country to or through which I will travel during the Program.

B. I will comply with the University's rules, standards and instructions for student behavior in the Program. I will also comply with the University's general rules, standards, policies and procedures for student behavior. I waive and release all claims against the University that arise at a time when I am not under the direct supervision of the University or that are caused by my failure to remain under such supervision or to comply with such rules, standards, and instructions.

C. I agree that the University has the right to enforce, in its sole judgment, the standards of conduct described above. I agree that the University may impose sanctions, up to and including expulsion from the Program, for violating these standards or for any behavior detrimental to or incompatible with the interest, harmony, and welfare of the University, the Program, or other participants. I recognize that due to the circumstances of foreign study programs, procedures for notice, hearing and appeal applicable to student disciplinary proceedings at the University do not apply. I understand that if I am expelled from the Program, the University may refer me to the appropriate University officials for further disciplinary or other action. If I am expelled, I consent to being sent home at my own expense with no refund of fees.

D. I will attend to any legal problems I encounter with any foreign nationals or government of the host country. The University is not responsible for providing any assistance under such circumstances.

**6. Program Changes.** The University reserves the right to make cancellations, substitutions or changes to the Program at any time for any reason, with or without notice. I understand that the

University's fees and program charges are based on current airfares, lodging rates and travel costs, which are subject to change. If I leave or am expelled from the Program for any reason, there will be no refund of fees already paid. I accept all responsibility for loss or additional expenses due to delays, delayed or changed departure or arrival times, fare changes, dishonors of hotels, airline or vehicle rental reservations, missed carrier connections, sickness, injuries, weather, strikes, acts of God, war, quarantine, civil unrest, public health risks, criminal activity, terrorism, bankruptcies of airlines or other service providers, unforeseen causes, and circumstances beyond the University's control. If weather, flight schedules or other uncontrollable factors require me to incur additional hotel, meal, airline, or other expenses, I will be responsible for said expenses. My baggage and personal property are my sole responsibility.

If I become detached from the Program group, fail to meet a departure bus, airplane, or train, or become sick or injured, I will at my own expense seek out, contact, and reach the Program group at its next available destination.

The University reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to cancel the Program or any aspect thereof prior to departure and, in its sole discretion, to cancel the Program or any aspect thereof after departure, requiring that all participants return to the United States, if the University determines or believes that any participant is or will be in danger if the Program or any aspect thereof is continued.

**7. Assumption of Risk and Release of Claims.** Knowing the risks described above, and in consideration of being permitted to participate in the Program, I agree, on behalf of my family, heirs, and personal representative(s), to assume all the risks and responsibilities surrounding my participation in the Program. To the maximum extent permitted by law, I release and indemnify the Saint Mary's University of Minnesota, its trustees, and its officers, employees and agents, from and against any present or future claim, loss or liability for injury to person or property which I may suffer, or for which I may be liable to any other person, during my participation in the Program (including periods in transit to or from any country where the Program is being conducted).

**I have carefully read this Release Form before signing it. No representations, statements, or inducements, oral or written, apart from the foregoing written statement, have been made.**

This agreement will become effective only upon receipt of my application for the Program by the Saint Mary's University of Minnesota at its offices in Minnesota and will be governed by the laws of the state of Minnesota, which will be the forum for any lawsuits filed under or incident to this agreement or to the Program.

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Signature of Student

Date

I (A) am the parent or legal guardian of the above Student, (B) have read the foregoing Release Form (including such parts as may subject me to personal financial responsibility), © am and will be legally responsible for the obligations and acts of the Student as described in this Release Form, and (D) agree, for myself and for the Student, to be bound by its terms.

---

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Date

(If Student is under 18 years of age, a parent or legal guardian must also read and sign this form.)

Return all completed application materials to:

Saint Mary's University of Minnesota  
Study Abroad Office  
142 Heffron Hall, Campus Box 51  
700 Terrace Heights  
Winona, MN 55987-1399  
Fax: (507) 457-6990

For more information visit [www.smumn.edu/studyabroad](http://www.smumn.edu/studyabroad) or contact

Renee Solberg - Director Study Abroad at  
[rsolberg@smumn.edu](mailto:rsolberg@smumn.edu) or (507) 457-1447



## STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM RISKS FRANCE (Montpellier) and MONACO

**COUNTRY DESCRIPTION:** France is a developed and stable democracy with a modern economy. Monaco is a developed constitutional monarchy. Tourist facilities are widely available.

**ENTRY/EXIT REQUIREMENTS:** A passport is required for entry to France and Monaco. A visa is not required for tourist/business stays up to 90 days in France and Monaco. That period begins when you enter any of the Schengen group of countries: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, and Sweden.

**Note:** Although European Union regulations require that non-EU visitors obtain a stamp in their passport upon initial entry to a Schengen country; many borders are not staffed with officers carrying out this function. If an American citizen wishes to ensure that his or her entry is properly documented, it may be necessary to request a stamp at an official point of entry. Under local law, travelers without a stamp in their passport may be questioned and asked to document the length of their stay in Schengen countries at the time of departure or at any other point during their visit, and could face possible fines or other repercussions if unable to do so.

**SAFETY AND SECURITY:** The Government of France maintains a threat rating system known locally as “Vigipirate”; it is similar to the U.S. Homeland Security Advisory System. Under this plan, in times of heightened security concerns, the government augments police with armed forces and increases visibility at airports, train and metro stations, and other high-profile locations such as schools, major tourist attractions, and government installations. Over the last year, there have been numerous arrests of suspected Islamic militants involved in various terrorist plots. As with other countries in the Schengen area, France maintains open borders with its European neighbors, allowing the possibility of terrorist groups entering/exiting the country with anonymity.

In the past, political assassinations and bombings have occurred in France. The National Front for the Liberation of Corsica (FLNC), as part of its decades long bombing campaign on the island of Corsica, continues to conduct limited operations in the south of France and on Corsica. In the 1990's there was a wave of bombings and attacks in Paris carried out by Algerian terrorists. Today, numerous radical Islamic groups claim sympathizers within France's large immigrant community, as evidenced by arrests over the last few years.

Although Americans have not been specifically targeted in terrorist attacks in France within the past few years, travelers should maintain vigilance. Immediately report unattended packages observed in public places or any other suspicious activities. French law enforcement authorities are pro-active and will respond immediately. If there is a security incident or suspicious package, do not linger in the area to observe.

Although violent civil disorder is rare in France, in the past, student demonstrations, labor protests, and other demonstrations have developed into violent confrontations between demonstrators and police. This was the case in March/April 2006, when a series of large demonstrations took place in central Paris. Several weeks of unrest occurred in the suburbs of Paris, as well as in other French cities and towns, in November 2005. Americans are advised to avoid street demonstrations particularly if riot police are on the scene.

**CRIME:** While both France and Monaco have relatively low rates of violent crime, a limited number of neighborhoods in the larger French cities merit extra caution. Additionally, although the overall crime rate has fallen slightly in recent years, the volume of crimes involving violence has increased in France. Thieves commonly target vehicles with non-local license plates and work in or near tourist attractions such as museums, monuments, restaurants, hotels, beaches, trains, train stations, airports, and subways. Americans in France and Monaco should be particularly alert to pickpockets in train stations and subways. Photocopies of travel documents and credit cards should be kept separate from the originals and key telephone numbers maintained to contact banks if credit cards are stolen or lost.

Although thieves may operate anywhere, the U.S. Embassy in Paris receives frequent reports of theft from several areas in particular:

**Paris:** Thieves operate on the rail link (RER) from Charles de Gaulle Airport to downtown Paris, where they prey on jet-lagged, luggage-burdened tourists. In one common ruse, a thief distracts a tourist with a question about directions, while an accomplice steals a momentarily unguarded backpack, briefcase, or purse. Thieves also time their thefts to coincide with train stops so they may quickly exit the car just before the automatic doors close. Travelers may wish to consider taking an airport shuttle bus or taxi from the airport into the city.

Reports of stolen purses, briefcases, and carry-on bags at Charles de Gaulle Airport have been on the rise. Travelers should monitor their bags at all times and never leave them unattended. As thieves commonly target laptop bags, travelers should avoid carrying passports and other valuables in computer bags. One common method involves timing the theft so that while the traveler is busy at the ticket counter, the traveler's shoulder bag is picked up after being placed on the floor. Also be aware that unattended bags are subject to destruction by airport security.

There have been reports of robberies in which thieves on motorcycles reach into a moving car by opening the car door or reaching through an open window to steal purses and other bags visible inside. The same technique is used against pedestrians walking with purses/bags/cameras slung over their street-side shoulder. Those traveling by car should remember to keep the windows up and the doors locked. Pedestrians are encouraged to walk as far from the street side as possible.

Many thefts occur on the Number One Subway Line, which runs through the center of Paris by many major tourist attractions (including the Grand Arch at La Defense, the Arc de Triomphe, the Champs Elysees, Place de la Concorde, the Louvre, and the Bastille). Pickpockets are especially active on this metro line during the summer months and use a number of techniques. The most common, and unfortunately the most successful, is the simple "bump and snatch," where an individual bumps into the tourist while at the same time reaching into the pockets/purse/bag. Visitors should be particularly careful when metro doors are closing, as this is a favored moment for the less-sophisticated pickpockets to simply grab valuables and jump through the closing doors, leaving the victim helplessly watching as the thief flees. Visitors are encouraged NOT to aggressively confront thieves, who often operate in groups and may become violent if cornered. Simply drawing attention to an attempted theft will most likely stop the operation and cause a tactical withdrawal by the thief.

Gare du Nord train station, where the express trains from the airport arrive in Paris, is also a high-risk area for pickpocketing and theft. Travelers should also beware of thefts that occur on both overnight and day trains, especially on trains originating in Spain, Italy, and Belgium. These involve the theft of valuables while passengers are sleeping or when the bags are left unattended.

In hotels, thieves target lobbies and breakfast rooms, and take advantage of a minute of inattention to snatch jackets, purses, and backpacks. While many hotels do have safety latches that allow guests to secure their rooms from inside, this feature is not as universal as it is in the United States. If no chain or latch is present, a chair placed up against the door and wedged under the handle is usually an effective

obstacle to surreptitious entry during the night. There are, however, reports of thieves breaking into hotel rooms on lower floors through open windows while the occupants are sleeping. To guard against this, hotel room windows should be kept locked at all times. Whenever possible, valuables should be kept in the hotel safe.

Many Americans have reported thefts occurring in restaurants and nightclubs/bars, where purses are stolen from the back of a chair or from under the table. Again, keep valuables on your person and do not leave them unattended or out of sight. Theft also occurs at the major department stores such as Galeries Lafayette and Printemps where tourists often place wallets, passports, and credit cards on cashier counters during transactions.

ATMs (Automatic Teller Machines) are very common in France and provide ready access to cash, allowing travelers to carry as much money as they need for each day. The rates are competitive with local exchange bureaus and an ATM transaction is easier than the cashing of travelers' checks. However, crimes involving ATMs are increasing. Travelers should not use ATMs in isolated, unlit areas or where loiterers are present. Travelers should be especially aware of persons standing close enough to see the PIN (Personal Identification Number) being entered into the machine. Thieves often conduct successful scams by simply observing the PIN as it is entered and then stealing the card from the user in some other location. If the card becomes stuck, travelers should immediately report it to the bank where the machine is located.

Large criminal operations in Paris involving the use of ATM machines that "eat" the user's ATM card have been reported. This most often happens during a weekend or at night when the bank is closed. The frustrated traveler often walks away after unsuccessfully trying to retrieve the card, with plans to return the first day the bank is open. In such cases, a criminal gang has modified the machine using an add-on device equipped with a microchip that records the user's PIN number when it is typed in and also prevents the card from being ejected. The criminal retrieves the card from the device once the visitor departs, downloads the recorded PIN number and then goes to other ATMs and withdraws as much cash as possible. ATM users are strongly encouraged to carry a 24-hour emergency number for their ATM card and bank account that will enable the immediate prevention of withdrawals from the account if difficulties occur.

Pigalle is the "adult entertainment district" of Paris. Many entertainment establishments in this area engage in aggressive marketing and charge well beyond the normal rate for drinks. There have been reports of threats of violence to coerce patrons into paying exorbitant beverage tabs. Visitors are encouraged to avoid this area unless touring with a well-organized and reputable tour company.

**Normandy:** There has been an increase in break-ins and thefts from vehicles in the parking lots at the Normandy beaches and American cemeteries. Valuables should not be left unattended in a car, and locking valuables in the trunk should not be considered a safeguard. Thieves often pry open car trunks to steal bags inside.

**Southern France:** Thefts from cars with unlocked doors or open windows stopped at red lights or caught in slow traffic are very common, particularly along the Riviera of the Nice-Antibes-Cannes area, and in Marseille. Car doors should be kept locked and windows raised at all times to prevent incidents of "snatch-and-grab" thefts. In this type of scenario, the thief is usually a passenger on a motorcycle. Break-ins of parked cars are also fairly common. Valuables should not be left in the car, not even in the trunk, when the vehicle is unattended.

**MEDICAL FACILITIES AND HEALTH INFORMATION:** Medical care comparable to that found in the United States is widely available.

**TRAFFIC SAFETY AND ROAD CONDITIONS:** Roads in France are generally comparable to those in the United States, but traffic engineering and driving habits pose special dangers. Usually, lane

markings and sign placements are not as clear as in the United States. Drivers should be prepared to make last-minute maneuvers, as most French drivers do. The French typically drive more aggressively and faster than Americans and tend to exceed posted speed limits. Right-of-way rules in France may differ from those in the United States. Drivers entering intersections from the right have priority over those on the left (unless specifically indicated otherwise), even when entering relatively large boulevards from small side streets. Many intersections in France are being replaced by traffic circles, where the right-of-way belongs to drivers in the circle.

On major highways, service stations are situated at least every 25 miles. Service stations are not as plentiful on secondary roads in France as they are in the United States. Paris, the capital and largest city in France, has an extensive and efficient public transportation system. The interconnecting system of buses, subways, and commuter rails serves more than 4 million people a day with a safety record comparable to or better than the systems of major American cities. Similar transportation systems are found in all major French cities. Between cities, France is served by an equally extensive rail service, which is reliable. High-speed rail links connect the major cities in France. Many cities are also served by frequent air service.

**AVIATION SAFETY OVERSIGHT:** The U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has assessed the Government of France's Civil Aviation Authority as being in compliance with ICAO international aviation safety standards for oversight of France's air carrier operations.

**SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES:** French and Monegasque customs authorities enforce strict regulations concerning temporary importation into or export from France of items such as firearms, antiquities, medications, business equipment, sales samples, and other items.

The emergency numbers in France for police, fire, and medical assistance are as follows: 17 (police emergency), 18 (fire department) and 15 (emergency medical/paramedic team/ambulance). In Monaco, the numbers are 17 (police emergency), 18 (fire department) and 9375-2525 (medical/paramedic team/ambulance).

**CRIMINAL PENALTIES:** While in a foreign country, a U.S. citizen is subject to that country's laws and regulations, which sometimes differ significantly from those in the United States and may not afford the protections available to the individual under U.S. law. Penalties for breaking the law can be more severe than in the United States for similar offenses. Persons violating French or Monegasque laws, even unknowingly, may be expelled, arrested, or imprisoned. Penalties for possession, use, or trafficking in illegal drugs in France or Monaco are severe, and convicted offenders can expect long jail sentences and heavy fines. Engaging in sexual conduct with children or using or disseminating child pornography in a foreign country is a crime, prosecutable in the United States.

(Adapted from U.S. Department Consular Information Sheet)

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Signature of Student

Date

Revised July 13, 2006



## STUDY ABROAD INSURANCE VERIFICATION

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE:** All students are required to have adequate medical coverage while overseas. When traveling outside of the United States, it is recommended that you take health insurance claim forms with you in the event of an illness or accident. If medical attention is required, the claim form should be completed by the physician and/or hospital staff. A receipt for billing, written in American dollars, should also be obtained. Should you not have a claim form, a complete billing statement indicating the specific illness diagnosed, specific medical services performed, and a detailed cost breakdown is needed. You should check with your health insurance company for particulars.

Name and address of insurance company: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Holder of the policy: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer (if insured through employer): \_\_\_\_\_

Policy number: \_\_\_\_\_

**Student Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

(If the student is under 18 years of age, a parent or legal guardian must also read and sign this form).

Return all completed application materials to:

Saint Mary's University of Minnesota  
Study Abroad Office  
142 Heffron Hall, Campus Box 51  
700 Terrace Heights  
Winona, MN 55987-1399  
Fax: (507) 457-6990

For more information visit [www.smumn.edu/studyabroad](http://www.smumn.edu/studyabroad) or contact  
Renee Solberg - Director Study Abroad at  
[rsolberg@smumn.edu](mailto:rsolberg@smumn.edu) or (507) 457-1447



## STUDY ABROAD STUDENT CONDUCT AGREEMENT

I understand that the following conduct is unacceptable, and that engaging in any of this conduct constitutes grounds for dismissal from the program at the sole discretion of the Program Director. In the event of dismissal, I understand I will be returned to the United States at my own expense.

- ▶ Any use of and/or any involvement with illegal drugs or abuse of any illegal drugs.
- ▶ Behavior that disturbs other students in the program, people near the student's accommodations or people on campus. This behavior may include, but is not limited to, boisterousness, rowdiness, drunkenness, obscene or indecent conduct or appearance, or vulgar, profane, lewd, or unbecoming language.
- ▶ Abuse of alcohol.
- ▶ Sexual harassment or sexual assault.
- ▶ Violations of local laws and/or Saint Mary's University of Minnesota Rules & Policies as stated in the Community Planner & Handbook 2006-07.

In the event I am dismissed from the Study Abroad Program, I will not be entitled to a refund of any monies paid for or in connection with the Program.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name (Please Print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

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For more information visit [www.smumn.edu/studyabroad](http://www.smumn.edu/studyabroad) or contact  
Renee Solberg - Director Study Abroad at  
[rsolberg@smumn.edu](mailto:rsolberg@smumn.edu) or (507) 457-1447