Brown in France – Paris Program
2018/19

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PROGRAM CONTACTS

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OIP Office Hours
8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m., M-F September – May
8 a.m. – 4 p.m., M-F June – August

If you have an emergency outside of normal business hours at Brown, please call Brown University Public Safety at (401) 863-4111.

The Office of International Programs in consultation with the on-site personnel and the program faculty directors at Brown reserves the right to dismiss a student and require the student leave immediately if in our judgment the student behaves in a manner which endangers themselves or others on the program or the program’s continued operations.

Brown University does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, religion, age, disability, status as a veteran, national or ethnic origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression or any other category protected by applicable law, in the administration of its educational policies, admission policies, scholarship and loan programs, or other school-administered programs. The University is committed to honest, open and equitable engagement with racial, religious, gender, ethnic, sexual orientation and other differences. The University seeks to promote an environment that in its diversity is integral to the academic, educational and community purposes of the institution.
PRE-DEPARTURE CHECKLIST

[ ] Prepare myself. Read this handbook and other appropriate OIP publications, like the OIP website and the Take It With You Guide, OIP’s general study abroad handbook. Be mentally prepared for the challenge. Read the required material on Canvas.

[ ] Meet with my concentration/major advisor to discuss any credit that I want to count for my concentration and get pre-approval. Arrange a way to contact concentration/major advisors, if changes are necessary once in Paris. (General credit for graduation transfers automatically for Brown students, as long as you earn a grade of C or higher. For the purposes of the Brown in France program, a grade of C = 9 - 11/20 in the French system.)

[ ] Take with me to France all documents I had to provide to the consulate for my visa.

[ ] Have health insurance information: policy number, reimbursement procedures and forms, and list of medical procedures covered. Must have proof of insurance with dates of policy clearly stating I am covered for the period of study. Must bring this letter with me to France (a card is NOT sufficient).

[ ] Have had my medical, dental and eyesight check-ups as recommended.

[ ] Get supply of prescription medication if I am taking any. If I know that the medication is available in France, I will bring the original prescription.

[ ] Give my travel schedule for my arrival to the OIP and the Brown in Paris office.

[ ] Be sure not to bring too much! One suitcase only, and preferably not too big.

[ ] Contact my cell phone service provider to unlock my phone if I plan to use it with a French SIM card.

[ ] Check that all electric/electronic equipment that I bring to France is set for 220 voltage. (Most computers, smartphones and rechargeable cameras are fine.) Pack an adapter for the electronics that I can bring.
Academics

Carte d'étudiant/Registration
You will choose one or two universities before arriving in Paris (in May for the fall and October for the spring). This will be your definitive choice for the semester. Your student ID card will be available when classes start.

Transferring Credits
French universities use the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) and every course is assigned a value in ECTS (5 on average, with a 3-9 range). For all European and French students a full semester load is defined as 30 ECTS. The full course load in the Brown in Paris program has been established at 27–30 ECTS, giving us some flexibility to address differences between the various universities. In all cases, the semester starts with a credit-bearing pro-seminar, which includes an initial one- to-two week orientation period taught by a team of instructors and continues throughout the semester with a number of required sessions, including an independent research project.

The pro-seminar carries a value of 6 ECTS. Full-year students do not repeat the pro-seminar in the spring semester but instead take university courses totaling 27–30 ECTS.

In order to receive full credit for the semester (4 Brown credits) students need to pass the required pro-seminar for 6 ECTS and receive 21–24 ECTS in university courses/direct enrollment (4–6 courses.) Students taking fewer courses will receive partial credit as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pro-seminar ECTS</th>
<th>University courses ECTS</th>
<th>Total ECTS</th>
<th>Total Brown credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>21-24</td>
<td>27-30</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>15-20</td>
<td>21-26</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>9-14</td>
<td>15-20</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note that you will receive no more than four course units unless you are registered for a Global Independent Study Project (GLISP), in which case it will be possible to receive five (5) course units total at Brown for your semester abroad.

No letter grades will appear on your Brown transcript for courses taken abroad. Your French grades will all be transferred as “S”. Course titles will be translated and listed on your transcript. However, the original grade reports from the French institutions will be available to you, which graduate schools and certain employers may ask to see. The OIP will contact you once your transcript has been received from the French institution. French university grading scales are out of 20. For the purposes of the Brown in France program, a grade of 9 is established as the minimum passing grade. The program director can provide a description of the French system or an equivalency of French grades should you need such information, e.g., to send to graduate schools.

Concentration (Major) Credit
At Brown, the Department of French Studies will give you concentration credit for all the courses you take that are related to French civilization: history, political science, economics, art. A maximum of four courses from study in France may count toward the concentration, from either a single semester or an entire year. As a general rule, other departments typically will not accept more than two courses for concentration credit. Since each department has its own rules, it is imperative that you check with your concentration advisor before you leave about the number of courses—as well as specific courses—that may be counted toward your concentration requirements.

Courses
All coursework must be taken in French.
If you have taken equivalent prerequisite courses, we recommend that you enroll in L3 courses. Classes at that level tend to be smaller, somewhat less impersonal and expect more student participation than introductory courses. In some departments, you might be able to take courses at the L2 level, but it is not the general rule. M1 classes might also be open to you if you have taken the adequate prerequisite courses. L1 courses should be avoided.

You will be able to choose among third-year Licence courses; these are referred to L3 (Licence 3ème année) in some departments, or as S5 (for Licence, Semester 5 in the fall) or S6 (for Licence, Semester 6 in the spring) in others. French students take their courses in one department or UFR (Unité de Formation et de Recherche) and have very few electives. For example, all third-year students preparing a Licence in history have to take a certain number of specific courses chosen from the L3 History lists. Each UFR determines its own schedule for only those courses offered within the UFR. In effect, UFR’s are independent from one
Choosing Courses

Before leaving Brown:
• Pre-select at least 10 courses and complete the Course Pre-Approval Form.
• The Paris program page on the OIP website has a link to all the French institutions’ sites, most of which now have detailed and complete information.
• Meet with your concentration/major advisor to determine which courses will count toward concentration credit and to obtain their signature on the Course Pre-Approval form.
• Discuss selected courses with Sylvie Toux, Brown in France Director, either on campus or via Skype. During this meeting, you will choose one or two universities and hone your course list.
• After this meeting, you should complete the Universities and course pre-selection Google doc shared with Sylvie Toux before the deadline.

Once in France:
• Review your list of pre-selected courses with Sylvie Toux. Confirm what constitutes a full semester load. Some courses may not be acceptable as they are part of a set of courses that need to be taken as a whole.
• Check the schedule for the courses you have selected. If timetables are not available at the office or on the web, you will need to go to all the relevant UFR’s to check bulletin boards. For each course, you should note the total hours for both the cours magistral (CM) and the travaux dirigés (TD), or discussion section, if there is one. When there are TD’s, they are usually scheduled at a number of different times, thereby minimizing the risk of scheduling conflicts.
• Check that the total number of ECTS corresponds to the equivalent of a full course load at Brown and that the number of contact hours is adequate.
• Be sure to reconfirm courses for which you are seeking concentration credit with your advisor.
• Confirm your finalized list of courses with Sylvie Toux, finalize the form Universities and course selection (google doc).
• For each course provide the exact description of the assessment method: list exams, papers, exposés, etc., with dates and topics when available. This is done usually the first or second week of the semester.

Note: All institutions require an inscription pédagogique in order to be officially enrolled. This process, which is your responsibility, will be explained to you step by step when you start classes.

Professors / Assignments / Grades
It is your responsibility to make sure that the TD instructors (usually the ones who correct papers and give grades) know you and understand your status as an exchange student. As much as possible, you should ask them to specify assignments and request or agree on a topic early in the semester so that you won’t have a major paper due in every class during your last month in France. Professors in France rarely distribute a detailed syllabus; rather, they expect students to organize their own reading and work schedule. You should think about this early on and know what the expectations and assignments are in each course by mid-semester. In most courses, you can expect to be asked to write papers or to do oral or written reports. (The format of these assignments will be explained during the pro-seminar.) All students must take exams when required.

Grades
Grades in France are based on a scale of 0 to 20, with 10 (la moyenne) considered a passing grade – and an acceptable one. It is extremely rare for French students to get over 16, and a grade over 12 is considered a good grade. The final grade will be the average of all grades received in the TD. For courses without a TD, and when required by the instructor, students must take the final exam.
For the purposes of the Brown in Paris program, you will receive study abroad transfer credit if your final course grade is a 9 or higher. We strongly advise you to keep notes, drafts, and final copies of all of your papers in all courses until you have received your final grades. In addition, you should bring back to your home school all syllabi, bibliographies, notes, etc., from your courses in Paris so that, if asked, you can show what you did in specific courses, to obtain concentration/major credit.

**Teaching and French Universities**
Teacher and student roles are different in the French and American systems. You will observe many differences in teacher and student behavior in the classroom compared to the US: teachers lecture more in France while students listen and take notes; French students rarely ask questions, much less express their views. In most traditional French classrooms, it is assumed that the teacher is the one with knowledge to transmit, and students get that knowledge directly from the instructor, not from anyone else. Moreover, many French professors consider one of their main roles to be critical of students’ work so that they will learn from their mistakes. They sometimes do so publicly, e.g., after a student oral presentation, if they think that the whole class could benefit from the comments. Similarly, in their written remarks on your papers, professors will most likely stress ways in which you could improve your work, and you may feel that they are overly negative. Try not to take such criticism personally and remember that in France, such feedback is the norm, which is why French students don’t get upset about it. Some professors simply do not give grades above 14, in which case a grade of 11 or 12 is really good. Learn to take a comment like “pas mal, mais...” as a real compliment! As a former student put it, “You must remember that there is no comparison between the French system and ours at home; grades vary from professor to professor because not all grades are created equal.”

**Make sure that you make copies of all your papers before you give them to your professors.** Always try to hand in your papers directly to your professors. Do not leave them with a secretary at the UFR office; some professors never go to the UFR because they do not have private offices at the university—and therefore no office hours. The best way to contact a professor is to talk to him or her after class or to send an email.

**Advisors/coordinators**
Each department has a coordinator who is a professor responsible for exchange students. Do not hesitate to contact them with any questions related to a course. The list of coordinators is posted on Guidebook.

**University Tutors**
Some departments organize drop-in tutoring (either with graduate students or professors). We strongly encourage you to take advantage of this system.

**Program Tutors**
There are tutors who are available throughout the year (by appointment) to give feedback and help you correct language errors or help you prepare for an oral exposé, for example. The tutorial system will be explained in greater detail during orientation. You are expected to use the spell checker and grammar editor before showing a first draft to a tutor. We recommend you equip your laptop with “Antidote HD”, software, which can be shared by two separate computers to reduce cost. It contains a relatively intelligent spellchecker, a dictionary, a thesaurus, a grammar and a conjugation guide. This software is available on the computers at the Paris office. If a tutor in a specific discipline is needed, for example in science or economics, this will be arranged on demand.

**Accommodations/Disability Information**
Students who may need accommodations or services due to a disability or medical condition should contact the Brown University Office of Student and Employee Accessibility Services (SEAS) and the Office of International Programs to discuss their needs and begin the registration process (www.brown.edu/campus-life/support/accessibility-services/)

Students should notify these offices at Brown as early as possible in order to allow time to review the specific requests. Disability-related requests for accommodations and services are evaluated individually, based on documentation and completion of the registration process. Please be aware that the level of accessibility, services, and accommodation to which you have access at your home campus may not be available at the program site and host universities.

Students who need accommodations or services will work with the SEAS Office, the OIP, and the Brown office in Paris prior to their arrival in France and should plan to bring with them documentation from an appropriate source (like SEAS). Once in Paris, students will need to make an appointment with the
appropriate service at their host university at the beginning of the semester.

**Academic terms**
- **UFR or Unité de Formation et de Recherche:** Equivalent of a department in the U.S. French students usually take all their courses in one UFR. Brown students may take courses in a maximum of two UFRs (departments).
- **Travaux Dirigés (TD):** A discussion section or lab. Meetings in smaller groups (about 30 students) to expand on a lecture topic. TD professors are full-time professors, not graduate students or teaching assistants. The TD is where you will do nearly all the written work and oral exposés, and get your grades.
- **Travaux Pratiques (TP):** In science courses: a lab section.
- **Unité d’enseignement (UE):** A course or set of courses.
- **European Credit Transfer System (ECTS):** A European credit. 27 – 30 ECTS constitute a full load for the semester.
- **Cours Magistral (CM):** A lecture course. Usually taught in large lecture halls or amphitheaters; has several TD's attached to it.
- **Module:** The combination of a cours magistral + a TD or sometimes an option. All courses do not automatically have both, a course can combine the two.
- **Option or cours optionnel:** Optional class within a module. Usually several are offered on various themes: Contrôle Continu (CC); Devoir sur table (DST); Modalités d'évaluation.
HEALTH INFORMATION

Before you go...
Consult your own physician and dentist or other health care provider for a checkup to make sure there are no current health issues. If you have specific concerns about your own personal health situation, please discuss them with your own health care provider in terms of your plans to study abroad.

The Center for Disease Control (http://www.cdc.gov/) publishes a list of all the vaccines and health precautions it recommends for those planning a stay abroad. Please check what might be required for health preparations, especially if you plan to travel outside Europe, to the Middle East or North Africa.

Insurance

US Health Insurance: Be certain to consult your insurance provider for coverage overseas. Please remember that healthcare providers in France will ask for payment up front with the expectation that you will get reimbursed after you submit forms and receipts to your insurance provider. You and your family must be prepared to meet medical expenses up front, should you incur them. Students should have access to a minimum of $400 (either by credit card or cash held in reserve for emergencies) in the event that medical treatment is required abroad.

Make sure you bring your private insurance policy number and other relevant documents, including information on all medical procedures covered by your policy and the process for reimbursement.

Note: Do not suspend any American or other coverage, since if you become ill, then this may be considered a pre-existing condition when you need to re-enroll in coverage at home.

Proof of Coverage: Please contact your insurance provider for a letter of proof of insurance with the dates of coverage clearly stated for the period of study (the wallet-size card is not sufficient). Bring this letter with you to France and send a copy to the OIP for your student file.

Reimbursement Forms: Contact your health insurance provider for reimbursement forms and take these forms with you when you go abroad, which will save you time if you need medical assistance. If you are carrying Brown student health insurance, reimbursement forms are available from the Office of Insurance and Purchasing Services. If you have any questions regarding Brown student health insurance, you should contact:

Cheryl Moan
Brown University, Office of Insurance and Purchasing Services
Box 1848
Providence, RI 02912
Phone: 401-863-9481
Email: Cheryl_Moan@brown.edu

Brown Accident & Sickness Insurance Plan
In addition to the coverage provided by their own health insurance, all students are automatically covered by an accident/sickness insurance plan available for students studying abroad. The plan covers students during their program dates only (leisure travel before or after program is not covered), and it is NOT designed to replace the regular health insurance (students will not be able to waive the regular student health insurance plan with this accident/sickness policy). If a student experiences an illness or accident abroad and wishes to utilize the plan, they should contact International SOS directly (referencing Brown’s group membership ID #11BSGC000031). Please refer to the Office of Insurance and Purchasing Services web page (www.brown.edu/about/administration/insurance/) for further information, including a brief description of the plan’s coverage and benefits. Interested students may also purchase a supplemental leisure coverage plan if they anticipate travelling before/after their study abroad program dates.

Emergency Travel Assistance and Evacuation Services
All students are covered by International SOS Worldwide Assistance & Emergency Evacuation Services. The services provided by International SOS range from telephone advice and referrals to full-scale evacuation by private air ambulance. The SOS network of multilingual specialists operates 24 hours a day, 365 days a year from SOS Alarm Centers around the world.

It is important to understand that although International SOS will offer you travel, medical and security advice and services, as well as on-line access to information which many insurance companies do not offer, International SOS is not health insurance. Requests for reimbursement for medical
care received while abroad should be submitted to your health insurance provider. International SOS also offers **emotional support for students abroad**, including a limited number of counseling sessions (available either in person or through internet/phone connection) at no cost. Contact ISOS directly if you wish to use this service.

If you have questions about coverage, please call the Brown University Office of Insurance and Purchasing Services at 401.863.9481 or visit the International SOS website at www.internationalsos.com.

You can access up-to-date reports on more than 170 countries worldwide on health issues, medical care, and vaccination requirements via the International SOS website.

**In the event of a medical emergency, contact local emergency services, then the Brown in Paris staff.** If you are not able to reach the Paris staff in a timely manner, you may also utilize International SOS for assistance.

**In an emergency situation outside of France, please call your nearest International SOS Alarm Center.**

When you contact International SOS, you must reference your Group Membership #: 11BSGC000031

Please be aware that some International SOS services carry additional charges. Should you request a service which has an additional charge, International SOS will inform you in advance and will require a credit card number in order to activate the service. If, in the event of an emergency, Brown University provides the financial guarantee to International SOS on your behalf, the University will bill you for this charge upon receipt of the actual amount by ISOS. Please know that such charges may not be billed until after you return from your program abroad.

**Health Care**

Lists of doctors, counseling services, etc. are in the Paris office. Please contact the Paris office staff if you need any assistance making appointments or dealing with health issues. For minor problems and medical advice (e.g., cold or flu symptoms, headaches), it is common to first consult a pharmacist in France, who can tell you if you need to see a doctor and also recommend appropriate over-the-counter medication.

**Taking Medication Abroad**

If you are accustomed to taking a specific brand of medication, such as Tylenol or Sudafed, it is best to bring some with you, as certain U.S. brands are not available in France.

**Prescription Medication**

Medication cannot be mailed to you in France. If you are taking any prescription medication, you should therefore bring enough with you for the semester unless you plan to return to the U.S. during your stay. Prescription drugs have the additional problem of brand name changes from country to country. If you need prescription medication regularly and do not intend to bring a semester’s supply, bring a copy of your prescription along. Make sure it is clearly written and indicates the generic name of the drug. In most cases, a physician in France will not fill the prescription provided by your U.S. doctor without first doing an examination and confirming the diagnosis of your condition.

Be aware that some drugs commonly prescribed in the United States are considered “narcotics” and highly regulated in France (e.g. Ritalin). For more information, please refer the section on “Taking Medication Abroad” on the OIP website (www.brown.edu/oip).

When you travel in Europe, make sure to label all medication clearly and to keep it in the original containers, which show the prescription number. This will facilitate customs clearance in and out of the country. You should also carry with you a copy of the prescription from your doctor as custom officials have the right to confiscate medications as illegal drugs if you cannot prove proof that the medication is a legal prescription.

If you need a doctor or a prescription on weekends or in the middle of the night, you can call SOS-Médecins: 01.47.07.77.77. They make house calls 24 hours a day 7 days a week.
MONEY MATTERS

Program Costs
In order to help you budget appropriately for your academic experience in France we have created a cost information sheet that is available on our website and included in your pre-departure packet. Airfare and living costs are based on our best information but these costs can change quickly with exchange rate fluctuations and price changes.

Cost Of Living
Your biggest expense will be housing, then followed by food. Certain things like electric heat and gym memberships are considerably more expensive than in the US. For a range of housing prices, see the “Housing” section.

Banking

French Bank Accounts
You may open a bank account in France if you choose, but please be aware that it is increasingly difficult for American citizens to open foreign bank accounts.

US Bank Accounts
ATMs allow you to withdraw money with your US debit card (and take out a cash advance on your credit card, but be careful of the high fees!) You can usually use these cards in stores and restaurants, but be aware that American Express is less widely accepted than Visa and Mastercard. You should contact your bank before departure to learn about the fees associated with using your card overseas. In general, there is a daily and weekly limit to the amount of cash you can withdraw from an ATM. Some American banks have partner banks in France e.g. Bank of America and BNP Paribas. This can reduce ATM fees and generally make financial matters easier during your stay. Consult your bank before leaving for France.

Money Exchange
You should come to France with sufficient funds to pay at least one month of rent. Another option is to withdraw money from ATMs upon arrival. If you decide to do this, be aware of the daily and/or weekly cap on how much you can withdraw. You will need to plan accordingly in order to have the necessary amount when you move into your housing. US bank checks are nearly impossible to cash in France, so avoid bringing them.

Typical First Month Budget
[ ] 3 meals a day: as little as €6 for a take-out sandwich+pastry+soft drink from a boulangerie or as much as €20 or more for a full meal. Tip: cook at home for much cheaper meals or eat at the university cafeterias!

[ ] First month rent: €650 minimum and €700 - €900 average.
[ ] Navigo: €75,20 for a monthly subway/bus pass (as of January 1, 2018).
[ ] Cell phone service: €15 - €30.
[ ] Other (groceries, laundry, museums, movies, restaurants).
[ ] Security deposit: up to one month’s rent (if renting your own apartment)
HOUSING

General
The housing situation in Paris is much like that in all major cities: demand and prices are on the high side, and it can be a difficult and lengthy process. Brown in Paris can provide housing to participants. Students are also free to find their own housing.

Brown in Paris offers two main categories of housing: rooms in French homes and rooms or small studios in student residencies.

Arranging for Housing
Prior to departure, every student will have met with Erin Reeser, Associate Director of Brown in Paris, on campus or via Skype. To prepare for this meeting, students answer a detailed series of questions about their housing needs, but also about their hobbies, studies and any possible allergies or other details potentially important to the housing process. This information will be used to pre-select a housing placement for each student. During the meeting, students will have a chance to ask any question they might have about housing options.

Housing assignments will be announced well in advance (end of June for first semester, end of November for second semester). It is the student’s responsibility to make an appointment with his/her landlord for move-in day.

Upon arrival in Paris, students will spend the first night at the hotel, Les Citadines Paris République, and will move into their permanent housing the following day.

Students renting their own apartment (not program housing) should be prepared to pay the first month’s rent, plus one additional month as the security deposit (returned at the end of the stay if the apartment is clean and undamaged).

Range of prices
Room in French apartment: 650 - 700€
Room or small studio in student residence: 650 - 800€

Things to keep in mind
• If you are renting a room in an apartment, you will have access to the common spaces (kitchen, bathroom, living room). It is your responsibility to discuss the use of these spaces with your host.

• Hosts are NOT obligated to welcome your guests (overnight guests in particular).

• Like all “dorms”, the student residences have rules. It is your responsibility to consult the rules and regulations for your housing.
ARRIVAL IN PARIS

The first night of the program, you will be housed in a hotel near the office, Les Citadines. You should plan to arrive in Paris on the program Arrival Day in the early afternoon at the latest. A brief group meeting will be held at the hotel at 5 p.m. on the program Arrival Day. More information will be given to you at that point. Rooms have been reserved at Les Citadines, where you will share an apartment with one or two program participants. All apartments are equipped with a telephone to receive and make outside calls and have internet access. Breakfast is provided.

Les Citadines is conveniently located within walking distance of the Brown in Paris office. The address is:

Citadines République Paris
75bis, av Parmentier
75011 Paris
tel: 0.11. 33. 0 1 55 28 08 20
Fax: 0.11. 33. 0 1 43 14 90 30

Note: If you are planning to arrive prior to the program arrival date and wish to stay at Les Citadines, you should get in touch with them directly as soon as possible. Les Citadines will bill you directly for the extra days.

Directions to Les Citadines From Charles-de-Gaulle airport (Roissy):
1. by bus: Easier and safer than the RER, less expensive than a taxi. Roissy Bus to Opéra for 12€50, then metro line 3 to Parmentier (or a taxi). You can also take the Bus-Direct bus to Gare de Lyon. A ticket costs 17€. From Gare de Lyon, take a taxi to the hotel.
2. by taxi: Cost is a flat rate of 55€ (including fee for luggage). Don’t forget to tip the driver (10% suggested)
3. by RER (suburban train) and metro: Take the RER line B (blue line) - direction Paris (you might have to take the shuttle to change terminals, depending on the airline you use). Cost: around 10€. At the Gare du Nord stop, change to subway line 5, direction Place d’Italie, and get off at République. It is a short walk down av de la République to the hotel. Beware of pickpockets on the RER.

From Orly airport:
1. by bus: Take Orlybus to Denfert-Rochereau, then the RER to Gare du Nord change to subway line 5, direction Place d’Italie, and get off at République. It is a short walk down av de la République to the hotel. Cost is approximately 9€.
2. by taxi: Cost is a flat rate of 35€ maximum.
3. by RER/metro: Take the RER to Gare du Nord and follow directions above.
DAILY LIFE

Transportation Metro-Bus-RER-Train
Transportation in and around Paris is easy and safe. You should buy a monthly pass (Pass Navigo mensuel) that can be used on the metro, bus and RER and covers the entire region of Ile de France. The pass costs $75,20 per month. (See http://www.ratp.com/ for more information on lines and schedules).

Trains
Brown in Paris purchases a pass allowing you to use the national trains at a reduced rate: the Carte Jeune SNCF. Note that you can reserve tickets easily on the web through their web agency or go to any train station.

Traveling outside Paris
Important: When you leave Paris to travel, the OIP requires that you inform the Brown in Paris program staff of your detailed travel plans (a form is available on Guidebook). In case of emergency, we need to be able to reach you.

Communication
Mail
We advise you to use the Brown in Paris office as your mailing address. Many students cannot receive mail at their apartments, so it is the only option for some.
Beware that if friends or family send you packages by mail, you will have to pay customs on them if the declared value is above $50. For personal belongings, in order to minimize these fees, ship items clearly marked “Used Personal Goods”; include the original bill of sale whenever possible and place a low value on the customs declaration. Please also remember that often, you may be able to purchase the item for the cost of shipping: a sweater in a box costs $30 to ship.

Telephone
To call abroad from France: 00 + country code (USA code is 1) + area code.
To call France from the US: 011 + 33 (France code is 33) + local number (omit the 0 at the beginning of the 10-digit local number)

We strongly recommend that you obtain a French phone number while studying in Paris. This is an excellent way to communicate with other students, to be accessible to professors and to be reachable in case of emergency. All incoming calls to a French cell phone are free.

Providers now offer cell phone service on a month-to-month basis. You can use your American phone with a French SIM card, provided you have had your phone unlocked before leaving the country. Check with your provider before your departure for instructions.

Computers and Internet
There are currently two iMacs equipped with Antidote available for student use at the office, as well as Wi-Fi access, a printer and a scanner.
However we recommend buying your own version of Antidote HD (two students can share one license to reduce costs). Unlike on your home campus in the US, there are no free computer services or experts available at the Brown in Paris office, so make sure you know what you need to bring to use your computer overseas.
Useful Online Resources

The American Embassy of Paris
http://france.usembassy.gov/
Please note that you will have to register on-line once in France in order to have access to all the services of the embassy, including passports.

Smart Traveler Enrollment Program
https://step.state.gov/step/
Brown encourages you to register with STEP in order to receive all of the latest information from the State Department, including travel advisories.

Universities
Paris Sorbonne Université - Faculté des Lettres: http://www.paris-sorbonne.fr/
Paris VIII: http://www.univ-paris8.fr/

Paris
Ville de Paris: http://www.paris.fr/
Paris transportation: www.ratp.fr

Travel
SNCF: https://www.oui.sncf/
Eurostar: http://www.eurostar.com/
Thalys: http://www.thalys.com

Daily Life
Exchange Rates: http://www.xe.com/ucc/
Weights, Measures, Money conversion tables: http://www.onlineconversion.com/
Cooking Converters: http://www.hintsandthings.co.uk/kitchen/oventemp.htm
CHECK LIST: GOING HOME

[ ] Let the Brown in Paris staff know your date of departure as soon as possible.

[ ] 1 month before departure: confirm your departure date with your housing.

[ ] 1 month before departure: make sure you cancel all your direct debit services (phone, internet, insurance…etc.) if you have any.

[ ] 1 week before departure: send a copy of any pending paper / homework to Sylvie Toux in case your professor has not received it.