

Study Abroad Program Information Package Fall or Spring Semester

Important Dates (all program dates are approximate/subject to change):

- February 5
BU Law application deadline
- Mid-March
Selections made
- June 30
Fall application deadline for Paris II
- July – August
Selected students must obtain a student visa to study in Paris
- End of September
Fall Orientation
- October – December
Fall semester dates
- January
Exam Period*
- November 30
Paris II application deadline for Spring
- Fall
Selected students for Spring must obtain a student visa to study in Paris
- Late January
Orientation for incoming students (*exact dates to be determined)
- February – May
Spring semester dates (*exact dates to be determined)
- Mid-May – June
Exam Period

To receive 12 BU Law academic credits, participating students must take at least four courses, one of which has a travaux dirigé seminar attached to it, plus an “Introduction au Droit Français” course or an appropriate substitute as determined by Paris II’s academic advisor in consultation with BU Law. This course load would be comparable to the average Paris II student’s course load, which is the ABA’s governing standard. To receive 12 BU Law academic credits, participating students must take at least 24 ECTS credits, all of which must be approved by BU Law’s Assistant Dean for Graduate & International Programs.

Students are graded on the French grading scale of 1-20. The minimum passing grade is a 10/20.

None of the grades for the Paris II semester will count toward your BU Law GPA or towards academic honors and awards (such as the scholarly awards, graduation prizes or degree rankings, such as *cum*

We are pleased you are interested in Boston University School of Law's overseas exchange program with the Faculty of Law, Université Panthéon-Assas (Paris II), in Paris, France. This package gives a general description of the program as well as details about some of its more important aspects. Carefully review this information before deciding whether to apply.

I. Some Preliminary – and Important – Points

At the outset, we would like to stress several aspects of the program which may be relevant to your decision to apply.

- A. Timing: This is a one-semester program that will be offered in the Fall and Spring semesters.
- B. Credits: The program is designed to grant participating students 12 semester credits toward their J.D. degree.
- C. Academic Focus: The program focuses on international and comparative law. Therefore, the list of courses from which students choose is generally limited to international and comparative law subjects.
- D. Eligible Students: The program is open to second- and third-year students who have completed at least one full year at BU Law. First-year students cannot participate.
- E. Language: All courses at Paris II are taught in French. Therefore, French fluency is required.
- F. Number of Participants: Up to two BU Law students can participate. We may select fewer than two, but under no circumstances can we select more.

II. Why Study Law at Paris II?

- A. The Faculty of Law at Paris II

Paris II is one of Europe's most highly acclaimed law schools, boasting one of the most extensive course offerings in international law. Its origins stem from the Sorbonne Law School, long one of Europe's most prestigious law schools, which was split in 1968 between Paris I and Paris II. Paris II's law faculty is one of Europe's most distinguished. All of the instructors at Paris II have the rank of *Professeur* (Professor) and all of them hold the country's most prestigious legal academic rank of "*Professeur Agrégé*," which means that they have successfully competed in a national contest organized every year (the "*Aggregation*"). Each year, only about twenty law professors in the entire country attain this rank.



B. The City of Paris

What can one say that hasn't already been said about the "City of Light?" Proud, cosmopolitan and, well, forever chic, it is renowned as one of the world's most beautiful and intriguing cities. Its 10,000+ restaurants and cafes, 220 art galleries, 90 theatres and nearly 50 concert halls, make it a dreamed-of destination for travelers and scholars worldwide.



A little background: "Paris was founded on the Île de la Cité towards the end of the 3rd century B.C. The city prospered in typical Roman style despite being menaced and pillaged, and by the Middle Ages had colonized both banks of the Seine. Paris acquired much of its present look in the 19th century when Napoleon commissioned Neoclassical edifices such as the Arc de Triomphe and domestic architecture reflected the substantial wealth created by rapid industrial progress. As the 19th century gave way to the 20th, Parisian endeavor granted the city its Métro... and the city just kept growing and growing."¹ Today, as Gault Millau describes, "What New York, Chicago, Los Angeles and Washington are to the United States, Paris alone is to France. This single city dominates the nation's government and politics, its industry, business, and finance, its media and communications, its artistic and intellectual life." As the grand dame of world capitals, it holds a unique position at the crossroads between Northern and Southern Europe – and displays its intriguing mix of ancient and modern culture and its seductive aura of romance with as much confidence as ever.

Geographically, Paris is divided into 20 arrondissements, or districts, which spiral outward clockwise from its center in the Seine River – the Île de la Cité, the island birthplace of Paris. Along the Right Bank ("rive droite") lie grand boulevards (such as the Champs Elysées), stately

¹ Background information obtained from the web page Travelcity.com.

façades, the Arc de Triomphe, the Opéra Garnier and the Louvre. Tucked away in the midst of all this grandeur is the trendy, labyrinthine Marais, Paris' own Greenwich Village. Montmartre, the northernmost area of the Right Bank, resembles a little village, with steep cobblestone streets, tiny, ivy-covered houses and quiet squares. The area around the Bastille has become one of the trendiest pockets of Paris, with numerous cafés and clubs (and now the Opéra Bastille, new home of the Paris Opera Company).

The Left Bank ("rive gauche") is slightly funkier than the Right. Many of the streets are reserved for – or taken over by – pedestrians. The cafés of St. Germain, where Simone de Beauvoir and Sartre once sat debating existentialism, are still a favorite gathering place for "philosophers" and seekers. Montparnasse, formerly the home of Picasso, Giacometti and other artists, is a bustling neighborhood adjacent to St. Germain. It is crowded with cinemas and famous brasseries.

La Défense refers to the cluster of skyscrapers northwest of Paris that make up the modern business district. The landmark of this quarter is La Grande Arche – a massive, futuristic arch of glass, granite and marble that serves as a modern echo of Napoleon's Arc de Triomphe.²

III. The Paris II Exchange Program

A. What the Program is – and isn't

The exchange program with Paris II is designed to offer a serious study of French, international and comparative law in an international setting, one deeply involved in one of the most important international developments of our time, the formation of the European Union. This is definitely not the same thing as a college semester abroad. If you are looking for a semester abroad with a light course load and plenty of time to sightsee, sip pastis and become part of the Left Bank's café society, this is not the program for you. This is not to say that you will have no time to sightsee and familiarize yourself with Parisian culture. You will. But we do want to emphasize that this program is much more academically rigorous than many overseas programs at the undergraduate level.

B. Number of Students

As noted above, we will be selecting up to two BU Law students to attend Paris II in either the Fall or Spring semester.

C. Program Dates

Please note that the following dates are approximate. We will provide final dates when we receive this information later in the spring.

Fall Semester

Orientation:	End of September
First day of classes:	End of September
Last day of classes:	Mid-December
Exam period:	December

*Paris II has informed us that BU Law students will be able to complete their exams before the holiday break. Confirmation of this—and exact exam dates—will be forthcoming to participating students.

Spring Semester

² Material obtained from the web page. www.thetrip.com.

Orientation:	End of January
First day of classes:	Early February
Last day of classes:	Mid-May
Exam period:	Mid-May – end of June

For both the fall and spring semesters, you will be expected to arrive in Paris to participate in orientation activities and meet with Dr. Georgia Schneider, the Paris II Program Director before the first day of classes. You will likely want to arrive considerably before orientation to secure your housing arrangements.

Important Note: Paris II's "spring" semester runs late, considerably past BU Law's spring semester. For 3Ls, this means that there is no guarantee that you will be able to complete your Paris II studies prior to BU Law graduation, or receive final transcripts from Paris II in time to meet bar certification requirements for the summer bar (which can be as early as mid-June). Therefore, 3L students are therefore encouraged to participate during the fall semester.

Likewise, 2Ls who are interested in spring term studies at Paris II may need to make special arrangements with their summer employers to begin work in early July. (Students have occasionally arranged to complete a portion of their "summer" clerkships in January/February, prior to going overseas.)

D. Course Offerings and Selections

We expect participating students to take at least four courses, one of which has a travaux dirigé seminar attached to it, plus the "Introduction au Droit Français" course, which is offered to all international students during the introductory week. This course load would be comparable to the average Paris II student's course load, which is the ABA's governing standard.

We do not yet have final offerings for the - academic year; however, we will make available this information as soon as we receive it. For current course descriptions (in French) please visit: http://www.u-paris2.fr/88770546/0/fiche_pagelibre/&RH=PROG_ECHANGE.

E. Exams

Your exams in Paris II will most likely be predominantly oral examinations. Your French language proficiency is even more important because of this arrangement.

IV. How to Apply

If you decide to apply, you must do three things:

1. Complete an application available online at www.bu.edu/law/jd/studyabroad, and submit all additional materials.
2. Complete an interview with Assistant Dean John Riccardi and Assistant Director Maureen Tracy Leo, scheduled through the Graduate and International Programs Office.
3. Complete an interview in French with a member of Boston University's faculty or an LL.M. student from France to test for oral language skills.

In screening applicants, we will look for such things as a strong academic record, a favorable faculty recommendation, serious interest in international and comparative law, and experience with different cultures and overseas travel.

The application deadline is February 5.

* For first-year students applying to participate in their second year, we will be unable to make a final decision until after we have received your second semester grades in mid-summer.

V. French Language Requirement

As mentioned above, each participating student must have sufficient fluency in French, both oral and written. French language skills will be an important part of the final selection. We want to be sure you will be able to handle the demands of the Paris II courses and oral exams before you leave for France. We will evaluate fluency two ways as part of the application process:

1. Each finalist will be interviewed in English here at the law school by John Riccardi and Maureen Tracy Leo. Each finalist will also be interviewed in French by a member of Boston University's faculty or an LL.M. student from France to test for oral language skills.
2. The application asks for a one-page essay in French and also for information about your French language background, which will be considered in the final evaluation.

VI. Paris Exchange Student Application

Students nominated to participate in this exchange program will be contacted directly by the administrator of record at Paris II with instructions on how to fill out the online application.

VII. Student Evaluation and Grades

Your exams will be graded in the first instance by Paris II faculty in accordance with the Paris II grading system. In France, students are graded on a scale of 1-20. Usually, the grades range from 10-15 and grades above 15 are rarely given.³ A perfect exam, paper or presentation may not receive a grade of 20. Because the different grading standards between BU Law and Paris II makes a direct translation to BU Law's letter grading system extremely difficult, participating BU Law students will, upon successfully completing a course, receive a designation of "credit" for the course on their transcripts. This designation will include an asterisk or footnote indicating that the actual grade is available upon request, and that it will be accompanied by an explanation of the host institution's different grading system.

ACCEPTANCE OF ANY CREDIT OR GRADE FOR ANY COURSE TAKEN IN THE PROGRAM IS SUBJECT TO DETERMINATION BY BOSTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW. We expect, however, that all credits earned at Paris II will count towards Boston University School of Law credits.

One final point about grading. None of the grades for the Paris II semester will count toward your BU Law GPA or towards School of Law honors and awards (such as the scholarly awards, graduation prizes or degree rankings, such as cum laude, magna cum laude and summa cum laude).

³ The passing grade is a 10/12, which indicates satisfactory performance. Honors are awarded as follows: average of 10-13 is "*Passable*;" average of 13-14 is "*Assez Bien*;" 14-16 is "*Bien*;" 16-20 is "*Très Bien*;" Very few students -- no more than 10% -- get honors *Assez Bien*, *Bien* or *Très Bien*.

VIII. Paris II's Program Director and Staff

The Director of the Paris II Exchange Program is Dr. Georgia Schneider. Her address is:

Dr. Georgia Schneider
Service de l'Action Internationale
Bureau des Programmes d'Echange, salle 5
12 Place du Panthéon
75005 Paris
Email: georgia.schneider@u-paris2.fr

The main administrative contact at Paris is Marion Chenu, Incoming and Outgoing Students Coordinator. Her contact information is:

Ms. Marion Chenu
Service de l'Action Internationale
Bureau des Programmes d'Echange, salle 5
12 Place du Panthéon
75005 Paris
E-mail: marion.chenu@u-paris2.fr
tel: +33 (0) 1 44 41 56 17
fax: +33 (0) 1 44 41 56 86

IX. Library Facilities

BU Law students will have access to Paris II's libraries, information about which is accessible http://www.u-paris2.fr/44145396/1/fiche_pagelibre/&RH=ACCUEIL_EN&RF=BIBLIOTHEQUE_EN.

X. Student Housing and Living Arrangements

Paris II does not provide housing for its students. Thus, you will need to secure your own housing arrangements. The University does have a few rooms at the Cite Universitaire and the CROUS. They can provide information on these rooms, but are not able to make the arrangements for students. Paris II's *Bureau des Programmes D'Échanges* will assist you in this endeavor by giving you a list of useful contacts for finding an apartment. Please visit www.u-paris2.fr/1205749844244/0/fiche_article/&RH=PRATIQUE for housing resources. For housing assistance, please contact the Incoming and Outgoing Students Coordinator at Paris II as soon as possible.

XI. Anticipated Tuition, Fees and Living Costs

BU Law students pay BU Law tuition. Students are responsible for transportation, all living expenses and incidentals. Estimated expenses per month are as follows:

	<u>Euros</u>
Accommodation:	450-775
Local Transport:	70
Food:	225-325
Books and Supplies:	60-115
Miscellaneous:	315
Total:	1120-1600

Please be advised that if you plan to travel during your semester in Paris, your total expenses will exceed these estimates.

XII. Program Cancellation Information

We expect the program to go forward as planned and anticipate no obstacles to implementation. However, the ABA requires that we inform you about our contemplated course of action in case of cancellation or change and in case a State Department Advisory is issued for the program area.

A. General Policy

In the highly unlikely event that the entire program has to be canceled, students selected for the program will be informed immediately by telephone and by mail, email, or in person, and notices of cancellation will be posted on the BU Law website. In addition, individual meetings will be arranged with any student who wishes one. If in the even more unlikely event that the Program is canceled after students have arrived in Hamburg, Assistant Dean John Riccardi will contact all participating students by telephone, if possible, or by email.

Should particular courses be canceled or rescheduled, students selected for the program will be informed by email, telephone, or in person.

B. State Department Advisories

The most current Consular Information Sheet on is available on the internet at <http://travel.state.gov/>. If an Advisory is issued before you are selected for the program, notice will be posted on the BU Law website and all applicants interviewed for the program will be personally informed via email and phone. If, based upon the information conveyed to you, you wish to cancel your enrollment in the program, you will have an opportunity to do so. If such an advisory is issued after students are selected or during the program term, all participating students will be notified immediately by phone and email and given an opportunity to withdraw.

C. Specific Program Cancellation Information

- This study abroad program may be subject to cancellation by the host school in the event that conditions in and around its location may endanger the health, safety or security of its participants or others.
- In addition, addition, Boston University reserves the right to issue an instruction that all University faculty, staff, or students evacuate or not travel to a given location when, in its sole judgment, conditions have changed to the extent that continued participation in an

activity at that location endangers the health, safety or security of participants. Were this to occur, this program will be cancelled.

- BU Law will notify participants by email immediately of the program's cancellation and will post an appropriate announcement on the program's current student web page.
- If the program is cancelled prior to commencement of the term, all students will be refunded in full any fees paid to Boston University related to the program (excluding any advance room, board and travel costs associated with getting to the host country that have been paid). In addition, all students will be integrated into the regular semester at Boston University School of Law.
- If cancellation takes place while the program term is underway, students will be permitted to choose either a refund of fees billed by Boston University, in accordance with the University's refund schedule (this would exclude room, board, and any travel costs associated with getting to the host country prior to the date of cancellation), or completion of the semester's study at BU Law if such is feasible. WE CANNOT GUARANTEE THE OPTION OF COMPLETING THE SEMESTER AT BOSTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW (AND THUS NOT LOSING A SEMESTER'S PROGRESS TOWARD THE J.D. DEGREE). This option is dependent on resources and the availability of course and independent study opportunities at BU Law. In the event that arrangements at the School of Law are not feasible, or the student elects a refund, the student will be refunded fees as above, in accordance with the University's refund schedule.
- If a faculty, staff member or student does not heed a University instruction to evacuate, that individual does so at his or her own risk, may forfeit insurance coverage, academic credit, tuition payments or expense reimbursement, and may be held responsible for additional expenses incurred by the University due to the individual's refusal to follow this policy.

XIII. Visa Information

In order to pursue your studies France, you will need to obtain a student visa. Please visit the French Embassy's website for complete information:

<http://www.consulfrance-washington.org/spip.php?article385#II-Studies-in-France-for-more-than>.

Please be advised that while the Graduate and International Programs Office will assist students in liaising with the International Relations Office at Paris II to receive the paperwork needed to obtain a visa, it is ultimately the responsibility of selected students to obtain their student visas. The process can take 1-2 months; thus, students should not wait until the last minute to apply for a visa.

XIV. Program Reports

Please note that all BU Law students selected to participate in a study abroad program will be required to submit to the Graduate and International Programs Office, before their departure, a one-page statement defining their academic goals for the semester. In addition, to receive credit for foreign study, all students will be asked to submit:

1. Completion of a one-page mid-semester written report or survey, assessing their experiences in light of their academic goals and objectives

2. Completion of an end of program survey assessing a student's academic progress and attainment of educational goals.
3. A two-page report at the end of their program, evaluating their experiences.

Students will not receive academic credit until they submit these reports.