



**Northern Illinois University**

*Study Abroad Office*

## NIU COLLEGE OF LAW SUMMER PROGRAM

AGEN, FRANCE

MAY 28 - JULY 9, 2014



The NIU College of Law Summer Program in Agen, France is approved and accredited by the American Bar Association. This will be the 17th annual summer program offered by Northern Illinois University's College of Law and the Université Montesquieu - Bordeaux IV, in cooperation with NIU's Study Abroad Office.

**PROGRAM DATES:** The program will officially begin in Agen, France on Wednesday, May 28, 2014 and will end in Agen on Wednesday, July 9, 2014. Students will be responsible for making their own air travel arrangements in order to arrive in Agen by late afternoon on **Wednesday, May 28, 2014.**

**PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:** This program is designed to give non-French speaking students an understanding of the French civil law system and the legal system of the European Union. Language of instruction is English. Classes will be conducted at the facilities of the Juridical Studies Center of Agen (a part of the Université Montesquieu - Bordeaux IV).

**PROGRAM DIRECTORS:** **Associate Dean David Gaebler, Professor Daniel Reynolds, and Professor David Taylor** are co-directors of the program. Dean Gaebler serves as associate dean for academic affairs and teaches in the area of commercial law. In Agen, he will have primary responsibility for the course on the Legal System of the European Union. Professor Reynolds teaches Contracts and classes in legal ethics and history. His particular specialty is the study of the legal profession and legal ethics, including the history of the American profession and the structure and functioning of legal professions in other countries. He will have primary responsibility for the course on Civil Law and Civil Lawyers: The French Experience. Professor David Taylor, a Presidential Teaching Professor, serves as Skills Director for the College of Law and teaches Civil Procedure and Evidence.



**David Gaebler**



**Daniel Reynolds**



**David Taylor**

**FRENCH FACULTY:** A major strength of the Agen program is that it makes extensive use of French law faculty and practitioners to offer lectures on selected topics. Regular lecturers come from the University of Bordeaux, the University of Toulouse as well as the University of Paris. Students are exposed to the study of law in the European fashion where the lecture/discussion mode predominates over the American case presentation method. The American faculty are present and participating when their French colleagues are lecturing.

Professor Sébastien Platon is the French academic director in Agen and will lecture in the program this year. He is a professor of French and European public law at the Université Montesquieu - Bordeaux IV and a member of the Center for Research and European and International Documents. He is a specialist in the law of the European Union.



**FIELD TRIPS:** Both academic and leisure field trips are being planned as part of the program. Past academic trips have included court observation in both local and national courts (Agen and Paris), “behind the scenes” presentations at the French Senate and National Assembly in Paris, the French Supreme Court and visits to the national judicial school in Bordeaux. Past leisure trips have included visits to the mountains and the Atlantic beaches. As part of the total experience of immersion into the study of law abroad, bi-lingual French law students may also accompany American law students on many field trips and social outings.

## JURIDICAL STUDIES

**CENTER OF AGEN:** The university buildings in Agen are quite new (entirely rebuilt and renewed in 1994), accessible to persons with disabilities, and provide spacious classrooms. The Center’s administrative offices are within close proximity of the classrooms and students may contact the Center staff for assistance of any type.

**Agen** is located on the Garonne River, in the Aquitaine region. It is a farm-trade and manufacturing center and its products include processed food (notably the dried plums called pruneaux d'Agen), clothing, and pharmaceuticals. Agen was originally the capital of the Nitriobriges, a Gallic tribe. Later it was made the capital of the county of Agenais. Agen became the seat of a bishopric in the 10th century; construction of the cathedral here was begun during the 12th century. Agen is a rich agricultural area, famous for its prunes, Renaissance mansions with art museums, and the Saint-Caprais Cathedral.



**Aquitaine Region:** The region's history began thousands of years ago when Cro-magnon man lived in the caves of the Périgord and left cave paintings in sites such as Lascaux and Les Eyzies. More recent remnants of Aquitaine's history date from the time of Eléonore of Aquitaine, consort of Louis VII, King of France. When she married Henry Plantagenet, who became King of England in 1154, she began several centuries of conflict between the French and English for control of Aquitaine. Today, the fortified villages and castles built during this time offer charm to the winding countryside and provide interesting stops along the road.



**ACADEMIC CREDIT:** For satisfactory participation in the program, participants will receive a Certificate of Completion from NIU College of Law for **six** hours of credit. Course performance will be evaluated by the NIU faculty in the same manner that on campus courses are evaluated. The courses taken while participating in this program *cannot* be audited. For non-NIU students, acceptance of any credit or grade for either course is subject to determination by the student's home school. Participation in a foreign summer program is unlikely to accelerate graduation.

#### **LAW 699A: Civil Law & Civil Lawyers: The French Experience**

**3 semester hours**

**Description:** What England is to the Common Law world, France is to the other great legal tradition: the Civil Law. This course is a focused, in-depth examination of the French legal system in action. Selections from *Code Civile* are examined in depth, particularly as they relate to the unique structure and functioning of the French system of judicial, administrative and constitutional jurisdictions. The distinctively different role of judges in a non-common law system is examined as are the roles, formation and ethics of the various French legal professions. Judges and lawyers are also observed in on-site court sessions. Selected topics in French substantive law are studied from a comparative perspective

#### **LAW 699B: The Legal System of the European Union**

**3 semester hours**

**Description:** The legal system of the European Union overlays the domestic legal systems of France and other European Union member states. This course examines the development of the legal and institutional structure of the European Union from the Treaty of Paris (1951) through the Treaties of Rome (1956), Maastrich (1993), Amsterdam (1999), Nice (2003), and subsequent treaties. In addition, this course considers the relationship of the law of the European Union to the domestic law of the member states and examines selected substantive aspects of European Union Law.

**ELIGIBILITY/ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS:** The program is open to all NIU College of Law students and students from ABA-approved colleges or schools of law. Applicants must meet NIU College of Law GPA requirements for good standing (2.0). Students on academic probation during the semester prior to the program will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Non-NIU law students must be separately admitted to the NIU College of Law as visiting students for the summer. Non-NIU students are required to have their law school send an official transcript to the NIU Study Abroad Office. (Student-issued transcripts and photocopies

are not acceptable.) **Applicants must participate in the *entire* program and satisfy NIU course requirements (completion of all first year courses).**

Students cannot have any encumbrances against their NIU records. Any encumbrances placed on a student's records by NIU (i.e., the Graduate School, Undergraduate Admissions, Bursar's Office, Accounts Receivable, Registration and Records, Health Services, Parking Services, etc.) must be cleared before a student is granted admission to a study abroad program.

**APPLICATION:** Click [NIU College of Law in Agen France](http://niu.collegeoflawinagenfrance.com) or visit the NIU Study Abroad Office website at <https://niu.studioabroad.com> (and search for "France" or the *NIU College of Law in Agen, France* program) to begin the online application process for this program. The online process provides guidance on requesting information, advising, or applying for the program. Please note that at the time of application, applicants will be expected to submit a signature verification form and copy of their ID to the Study Abroad Office. More detailed instructions can be found on the <https://niu.studioabroad.com> website or by contacting the Study Abroad Office at (815) 753-0700 or [niuabroad@niu.edu](mailto:niuabroad@niu.edu).

**\$200 APPLICATION FEE/DEPOSIT:** A \$200 application fee/deposit is required of all applicants. The \$200 is broken down into \$100 for the non-refundable application fee and \$100 for a program deposit. Both the application fee and the deposit will be applied to the total balance of the program cost. The \$100 deposit is refundable only if the participant withdraws prior to the withdrawal deadline indicated on the program materials or for medical reasons verified by a physician if the withdrawal takes place after the withdrawal deadline.

The \$200 application fee/deposit will be charged to NIU students' NIU Bursar's account. (Checks and money orders cannot be accepted from NIU students.) Non-NIU students must submit a check or money order in the amount of \$200. More detailed instructions can be found on the website.

**IMPORTANT** – All applications will be categorized as "Pending – No Deposit" until the \$200 application fee/deposit has been received (or, in the case of non-NIU students, once a check has been received). The Study Abroad Office will not consider or process applications without the \$200 application fee/deposit. In order to reserve your place in the program you must submit the \$200 deposit within 14 days of application. After 14 days applications without a deposit will be inactivated.

**APPLICATION DATES:** Students are urged to apply early as **there are only 25 spaces available.** NIU law students applying by March 15, 2014 will be given priority. All applications should be submitted by no later than April 1, 2014.

Housing will be in comfortable, private rooms in the University Institute for Teacher Formation (IUFM). The IUFM is a charming, turn-of-the-century building, formerly a prestigious Ecole Normale, now used for teacher training and as a conference center for a variety of adult post-graduate educational activities. The student rooms are not accessible by elevator. Thus special arrangements would be necessary for persons with disabilities. Breakfast, week day lunches and



most evening meals are provided as part of the program cost. **(Program housing is not available prior to noon on the first day of the program, May 28, 2014).**

**MARRIED LAW STUDENTS, ACCOMPANYING SPOUSES, CHILDREN OR GUESTS:**

The program, including estimated costs, is based on a single unaccompanied individual law student. THERE ARE PRESENTLY **NO** PROVISIONS MADE IN THE PROGRAM, INCLUDING HOUSING AND MEALS, FOR ACCOMPANYING SPOUSES, CHILDREN OR OTHER GUESTS. In the event a law student wishes to be accompanied by a spouse or children or other guests, all arrangements for housing, transportation, food, insurance, child care, leisure activities and the like for extra people are the responsibility of the student alone. IN ANY EVENT, THE COST OF THE PROGRAM REMAINS THE SAME, WHETHER OR NOT A STUDENT STAYS IN PROGRAM HOUSING. Non-law students are not allowed to enroll in academic courses for credit. Accompanied students may be able to arrange for their guests to join in the field trips and other program social activities, but only with **sufficient advance notice and agreement to pay a surcharge for the guests**. All law students are expected to participate in **all** program academic activities.

**TRANSATLANTIC TRANSPORTATION:** Individuals will be responsible for making their own travel arrangements between the U.S. and Agen and for purchasing their tickets from a travel agent or airline of their choice. **Travel insurance is strongly recommended.** Students may choose to fly from the U.S. to Paris, and take the TGV (fast train) from Paris to Agen. (The cost for a first class one- way train ticket is approximately \$100). Participants should keep in mind that in order to arrive in Agen in time for the official beginning of the program (May 28), they should plan to depart the U.S. no later than May 27, 2014. For information regarding airfares and airlines students may wish to checkout airfare sites on the Internet.

**PASSPORT:** All participants must possess a valid passport in order to participate in this program. *Important Note: U.S. passports must be valid SIX months beyond the intended stay overseas.* Individuals who do not currently possess a valid passport should apply for one immediately. Information on acquiring a passport is available at the U.S. State Department's Website: [http://travel.state.gov/passport/passport\\_1738.html](http://travel.state.gov/passport/passport_1738.html). U.S. passport holders do not need special visas for this program. Foreign passport holders may need special visas for travel in Europe **and are responsible for obtaining all necessary visas.**

**INTERNATIONAL STUDENT I.D. CARD:** The International Student Identity Card is optional and can be purchased through the NIU Study Abroad Office. The International Student Identity Card includes a limited health and accident insurance policy which is only valid outside the U.S. Students will have to pay bills at the time of treatment and will be reimbursed later.



**PASSPORT AND ISIC PHOTOS:** Students may have their passport and/or ISIC photo(s) taken in the NIU Study Abroad Office. Photos are \$3.00 for the first photo and \$2.00 for each photo after that. After the first two photos, photos must be purchased in multiples of two. Photos are usually developed while you wait. Study Abroad Office hours are 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (closed over the lunch hour) and 1:00 – 4:30 p.m.



**ORIENTATION INFORMATION:** An *Orientation Handbook* will be distributed by the Study Abroad Office in May of 2014.

**NIU PROGRAM COST:** The cost of the six-week program in Agen includes the following:

- 1) Housing accommodations and meals (breakfast, most weekday lunches and most dinners) as described.
- 2) Land transportation to all program-related sites.
- 3) Admission fees to all program-related cultural and historical sites.
- 4) Six hours of NIU credit.
- 5) NIU major medical insurance.

**PROGRAM COST: \$6,815**

**All prices quoted are subject to change.** The information contained in the program documents and forms is presented in good faith and is an approximation as of the date presented. Northern Illinois University reserves the right to amend, modify, revise, or delete any information appearing in these documents, including but not limited to the cost of the program.

Non-NIU students should consult with their home institutions regarding additional costs that may apply to study abroad. Non-NIU students are responsible for any study abroad charges imposed by their home institution.

**ADDITIONAL COSTS TO PARTICIPANTS:** Airfare, meals not provided as part of the NIU program package; cost of acquiring an American passport; books and supplies; and purchases of a personal nature. For purposes of financial aid, these costs as estimated for summer 2012 were as follows: airfare \$1,350; meals not provided by the program \$675; cost of acquiring an American passport (including pictures) \$130; books and supplies \$125; and personal expenses \$1,800. You must contact Pamela Rosenberg, the Business Manager for the Division of International Programs, in order for a budget for the 2014 program to be sent to the Student Financial Aid Office on your behalf.

**FINANCIAL AID:** As a participant in a study abroad program through NIU, you may be eligible for: Pell Grant, SEOG, Perkins Loan, PLUS Loan, Subsidized or Unsubsidized Stafford Loan, MAP Award or your privately awarded scholarship with consent of awarding organization. Tuition waivers do not apply. **Please contact Pam Rosenberg, the International Programs business manager, at [prosenberg@niu.edu](mailto:prosenberg@niu.edu) or 753-9530 regarding the process for applying for financial aid for study abroad, not the College of Law Financial Aid Office.**

**WITHDRAWAL FROM THE PROGRAM:** Applicants withdrawing from the program after April 1, 2014 will not be refunded the \$100 program deposit.

Applicants withdrawing from the program after this date will also be held accountable for any funds obligated to overseas vendors and agents on the applicant's behalf. This provision is in effect even if the applicant has not submitted the \$100 deposit or additional payments, and if the applicant is applying for financial aid.

If the applicant must withdraw after April 1, 2014 for medical reasons, funds obligated on their behalf to overseas vendors can only be refunded if:

1. The request is submitted to the Study Abroad Office in writing and accompanied by a signed statement stating that travel is not advised from a physician on the physician's letterhead; **and**
2. NIU is able to obtain refunds from overseas vendors and agents.

**STANDARD PROGRAM CANCELLATION POLICY:** The Study Abroad Office reserves the right to cancel this program if the minimum required enrollment is not attained. If, prior to the commencement of the program, a U.S. State Department Travel Warning is issued for France, all applicants will be notified promptly of the warning and the possibility of cancellation of the program. If, during the course of the program, a U.S. State Department Travel Warning is issued for France, students will be promptly notified of the warning and the advisability of canceling the program.

### **QUOTES FROM PAST PARTICIPANTS:**

"The chance of a lifetime to experience an entirely different atmosphere in land, people, food, etc."

"I would encourage students to participate in this program for the experience of living in the happiest city in France and for learning about French law from French avocats."

"I thought the program was excellent. Deciding to go was one of the best decisions I have ever made."

**NIU Study Abroad Office Website:**  
**<http://www.niu.edu/niuabroad>**

Northern Illinois University and the Université Montesquieu - Bordeaux IV  
reserve the right to alter or cancel this program as may be deemed necessary!

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