Overview

Semesters Available: Fall (June-December)
GPA Requirement: Strong academic performance
Language of Instruction: English, but willingness to learn French is important

Watch one of our students talk about her experience!

In collaboration with ISARA-Lyon (a member of the FESIA consortium) in Lyon, France, CALS offers a “semester-plus” program to expose students to ecological principles to study, design and manage agroecosystems that are both productive and natural resource preserving, socially just, and economically viable.

- Pre-departure program and visa advising while still in Ithaca
- Mid-June to Mid-July: Agroecology and Sustainable Agriculture Seminar, including: lectures, case studies, fieldwork, excursions (Mediterranean drylands, fish pond landscape, mixed crop livestock systems in southeastern France), use of geographical information system, personal research study and oral presentation. French language and culture
- Comprehensive program of French language lessons and scientific courses on Agroecology in English, excursions, visits and hands-on learning opportunities.
- Mid-July to end of August: Academically-supervised internship on a farm. Location will vary depending on internship placement. Student lives on site with family. Supervisor on farm signs an academic contract with ISARA-Lyon to ensure student is given ample opportunity to learn while in placement.
- September to December: Coursework, conducted in English, during third semester of Master of Agroecology at ISARA-Lyon, including:
  - Agriculture and landscape management in a particular agricultural region
  - Agroeconomic cropping practices
  - World ecosystems and agricultural use
  - Management of agroecosystems: implications from policies and nature conservation, and multi-criteria evaluation
  - Group project management

Program Structure
Part I: Introduction to Agroecology and Sustainable Agriculture in France
Dates: ~June 10-July 12
Based in: Lyon, France
Credits: 4.5

Discover French agriculture and sustainable farming systems. Develop basic knowledge on agroecology concepts and practical introduction to agroecology and sustainability applied in agriculture. Scientific courses, case studies, personal work.

Includes:

- Coursework consisting of lectures, case studies, field work, excursions (Mediterranean drylands, fish pond landscape, Mixed crop livestock systems in southeastern France), use of GIS, personal research study and oral presentation.
- Linguistic & Cultural Program with visits to Lyon, Beaujolais and Burgundy vineyards, cheese makers in the Alps and in Provence, regional
Part II: Internship or Research placement
Dates: “July 16- August 31
Based in: Location will vary depending on internship placement. Student will live on site with family.
Credits: 1.5
Students are placed on farms, in research positions, or in companies according to their wishes. Assignment will depend on internship availability and student language ability.

On a farm, students generally stay full-board with the family during their placement, sharing in all the farm activities as well as family life. Our partner institution organizes and monitors these placements.

Students are required to write a report to describe the farm or the company and the activities they took part in.

Part III: Modules/Classwork in Agroecology
Dates: “September 12-December 20
Based in: Lyon, France
Credits: 17
Semester goal: Learn project management and expand on application of agroecological science in real-world situations. The students will learn to put together theoretical knowledge and past experiences to work in farming and food systems.

Module 1. Agriculture and landscape management in a particular agricultural region
Number of credits: 4 ECTS (2 Cornell credits)
Name of module coordinator: M. Casagrande, A. Wezel
Students will start this semester with a one week excursion and group studies in a selected region in France characterised by different environmental and agricultural production issues. Before this, they will have introductory lectures to the area and will be prepared with methodological tools (landscape analysis, agricultural production systems analysis, interviewing techniques) to carry out group work. At the beginning of the excursion, they will meet different stakeholders to understand the agricultural, economic and environmental characteristics of this area. After this, they will break into different groups to visit and other stakeholders and ask them specific questions such as the constraints and potential of the prevailing cropping and livestock production systems or landscape management systems in the area. Other topics will include the role of rural tourism, potential conflict issues in areas such as nature conservation, biodiversity management and rural development policy. General feedback on findings and analyses will be presented by the groups of students, followed by a discussion with the teaching staff.

Module 2. Agroecological cropping practices
Number of credits: 7 ECTS (3.5 Cornell credits)
Name of module coordinator: J.F. Vian, F. Celette
This course will deal with different agroecological practices in cropping systems. As most of these practices are based on valorising and optimizing ecosystem services, it will begin with an introduction to these services. Then, various lectures will deal more specifically on how ecosystem services regulate and support soil biota as well as on non-soil functional species groups including insects or plants. To deepen the knowledge gained in these lectures, a field visit and fieldwork will be carried out through soil quality assessments and the identification of beneficial soil, insect or plant biota. The filed experience will be linked to different lectures about agroecological cropping practices such as intercropping, cover cropping, conservation agriculture (no tillage and permanent cover), sustainable crop rotations and biological pest control. Students will understand the role of agroecological cropping practices and learn about state of the art materials and agroecological innovations. This module is based on lectures, fieldwork and a seminar. For the seminar, students will conduct a literature study on topics related to the module and present their findings to colleagues and professors.

Module 3. World agroecosystems and agricultural use
Number of credits: 5 ECTS (2.5 US credits)
Name of module coordinator: A. Wezel
In this module students will learn the basic characteristics of world agroecosystems (climate, soils, vegetation) and their prevailing agricultural systems through lectures and seminars. This includes not only the presentation of different cropping and livestock husbandry systems and their interactions in the tropics and subtropics, but also in Europe (e.g. agropastoral land use in the Sahel, shifting cultivation and tropical forest use, livestock systems in the French Alps, etc.). In addition, a critical analysis of influencing factors such as economy, politics, land tenure or social issue will also be provided in certain lectures. Students will not only learn about which resource conservation techniques are feasible within the different agroecosystems, but also the role indigenous knowledge of farmers plays in traditional agriculture. An in-depth study on agroforestry systems in the tropics and Europe will be additionally presented and discussed with
students. Finally, students will conduct research on and present different world agroecosystems in a seminar.

Module 4. Management of agroecosystems: implications from policies and nature conservation, and multi-criteria evaluation

Number of credits: 6 ECTS (3 US credits)
Name of module coordinator: A. Wezel, M. Casagrande

Management of agroecosystems is the central question for sustainable agriculture. In this module, implications from policies, global change and nature conservation will be presented and analysed. It will be started an overview about the main present agricultural policies in Europe directly connected to agriculture, and how they impact on the management of agroecosystems. A special focus will be on agro-environmental measures. Next, biodiversity and agrobiodiversity will be dealt with in lectures, focusing on how they are managed in agroecosystems. In a third section, different options for global agroecosystems/environmental management such as international conventions (e.g. Convention on Biological Diversity, Ramsar-Convention, Convention to Combat Desertification) and international and national attempts to conserve nature and resources (e.g. the Sevilla Strategy for Biosphere Reserves). After this, multi-criteria evaluation of agroecosystems will be dealt with in lectures and a group work. Finally, students will have to use the acquired knowledge to develop a topic related to agroecosystems management, and present their findings in a poster session with other students and professors.

Module 5. Group project management

Number of credits: 8 ECTS (4 Cornell credits)
Name of module coordinator: A. Wezel

In this module, students will deal with different real-life projects. In groups they will analyse a demand from an external client (technical institutes, regional agricultural departments, research centres, associations, private companies) during the whole third semester. The objectives are to use different methodological and project management tools (defining leadership, time schedule, deliverables), and to apply disciplinary knowledge acquired in previous courses (semester 1 and 2). In addition a self-reflection process of the students is implemented (contribution to the team work, assessment of the function in the group). The self-reflection can be carried out either during an interview with a professor or with a written document. The principle group work will be a literature review, field work or surveys in order to qualitatively and quantitatively analyse collected data and discussion their findings in group presentations with the external clients.

Part IV: French
Dates: September 12-December 20
Based in: Lyon, France
Credits: 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Approximate Budget (June-December)</th>
<th>Estimated Costs</th>
<th>Pay whom?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuition Fees</td>
<td>Current CALS tuition</td>
<td>Cornell (through Bursar)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>French Civil Liability Insurance</td>
<td>$21</td>
<td>Paid directly in France (Financial Aid for eligible students)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part 1: Introduction program including housing, food, cultural visits, transportation</td>
<td>$2,520</td>
<td>Cornell (through Bursar) (Financial Aid for eligible students)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part 2: Internship Placement</td>
<td>Varies, based on location. Room &amp; most meals provided</td>
<td>Paid by student (Financial Aid for eligible students)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Part 3: Site visits/excursions</td>
<td>$420</td>
<td>Paid directly to ISARA-Lyon (Financial Aid for eligible students)</td>
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<tr>
<td>French Visa &amp;OFII Registration</td>
<td>$300</td>
<td>Paid by student (Financial Aid for eligible students)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mandatory French Health Insurance</td>
<td>$364</td>
<td>Paid by student (Financial Aid for eligible students)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Round trip travel to France (based on East Coast departure)</td>
<td>$1,300</td>
<td>Paid by student (Financial Aid for eligible students)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accommodation (at ISARA Lyon/Part 3 for 5 months during modules)</td>
<td>$2,402 ($300/month plus $216 in fees)</td>
<td>Paid by student (Financial Aid for eligible students)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Category</td>
<td>Amount</td>
<td>Paid by</td>
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<tr>
<td>Food</td>
<td>$1,750</td>
<td>Paid by student (Financial Aid for eligible students)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal Expenses</td>
<td>Ranges greatly, depending on personal spending habits of student</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Transportation</td>
<td>$840</td>
<td>Paid by Student (Financial Aid for eligible students)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Program Costs**

Students are billed their regular CALS tuition, with no added administrative fees. Students purchase plane tickets and pay remaining costs such as housing, meals, student visa application fees, local travel, and personal expenses. Some partner institutions charge student activity fees and/or health insurance plans which students are also responsible for.

Financial aid travels with students going abroad. Students must complete with grades equivalent to a Cornell “C” or better. Financial aid for study abroad is need-based, consistent with university and government policies and covers all costs relevant to study abroad, including tuition, all mandatory program fees, housing, meals, books, personal expenses, and round-trip airfare. If you are currently receiving financial aid, your aid package will be adjusted based on your determined level of need and the projected costs for your study abroad program. University grant aid and loan awards may be either increased or decreased to meet study abroad need. The normal work-study component of aid packages will be converted to student loans.

**How to Apply**

You will apply to the exchange after meeting with the CALS study abroad and exchange advisor in 140 Roberts Hall. All application materials will be returned to CALS—not the university directly.