ANNECY STUDY ABROAD
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STUDENT MONITORING AND EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING PLAN

I will be your on-site contact with the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa while you undertake your French language study at the Institut Français des Alpes in Annecy. My role as Resident Director includes monitoring your academic progress as well as your attendance and level of participation, facilitating and mediating in any academic issue that arises in your study, and insuring your final grade is properly transmitted and recorded as UHM credit. As an experienced Resident Director, I will be able to provide counseling and assistance in your adjustment to life in France, and I will be available for individual meetings. We will also arrange regular group get-togethers once the program schedule is set. My research focuses on nature-based tourism management and our location in the French Alps provides an outstanding opportunity to explore the outdoors in the eastern RhÔne-Alpes region. I also hope to introduce you to the European Slow Food movement which strives to preserve traditional crops, sustainable farming techniques and local cuisine. We will be undertaking experiential learning beyond your formal classes to insure we all meet the following student learning outcomes (SLO) developed by the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa Study Abroad Center:

1. demonstrate awareness of your own cultural values and biases and how these impact your ability to work with others;
2. demonstrate knowledge of diversity with a focus on the population or topic of interest in your Study Abroad program;
3. communicate appropriately and effectively with diverse individuals and groups; and
4. demonstrate an increased capacity to analyze issues with appreciation for disparate viewpoints.

We will address these outcomes by keeping a journal of your intercultural experiences while in France. This journal will focus on local foods and local landscapes and can include text, photos, drawings, or clippings from local newspapers or magazines. It’s your journal, so you can express yourself any way you feel. You can share it with other study abroad participants, or you may keep it personal and share it only with me.
Food is a central component of French culture and we will learn more about this by exploring traditional food and cuisine in Annecy. We will organize a schedule after we arrive in France to shop, cook and dine in the style of Les Savoyards. You will also have many opportunities to explore local restaurants, farms and vineyards during your stay in Annecy, so take full advantage of this. You can include photos, recipes, menus, short essays, or anything else you find interesting in your journal. I hope you will develop an appreciation for French food during your time in France, and take this knowledge home to share with family and friends in Hawaii.

Annecy’s location in the French Alps also offers numerous opportunities to explore local landscapes, and your journal entries in this component will focus on your explorations of the region. A number of excursions will also be organized by the Institut Français des Alpes to local historical sites and areas of geographical interest. Your journal entries can include: photos of natural, historical or cultural landscapes; along with written comments that describe these sites. You can also describe participation in outdoor activities such as hiking, sailing, fishing, or windsurfing. I’m sure there will be no shortage of adventures to discuss and share.