Global Beginnings
Frequently Asked Questions
Fall 2009

General Questions

What locations are offered?
Students will have the option of a semester in Florence, Italy or Paris/Strasbourg, France.

Who is eligible for the Global Beginnings program?
All first year students who have been accepted to Colby-Sawyer College and who graduate from high school in 2009 are eligible to participate in the program.

Who is not a good fit for the program?
Nursing majors are strongly discouraged from participation as it will lead to schedule conflicts within a competitive major. Also, fall season athletes may not be able to participate, unless they choose to miss the first season.

How do students register?
Students must submit a registration packet and a $500 enrollment deposit. Enrollment is limited to 60 students and admission is on a first-come, first-serve basis, so apply early if you want to be considered.

Why freshman year?
Going abroad is easier before fully selecting your major and won't interfere with internships. Also, traveling with a small group of fellow Colby-Sawyer classmates develops close friendships quickly.

What is the timeline of the program?
The program will run from August to December. Use the following links for the anticipated itineraries for the Strasbourg/Paris location and the Florence location. The Program is only available in the fall semester and will not be offered in the spring.

How much does the program cost?
The cost of participation is the same as attendance for Colby-Sawyer College, including travel. Your Colby-Sawyer financial aid award will be applied to the cost of the program. Tuition payments and billing will be done directly through Colby-Sawyer.

Before Leaving

Will I participate in an on-campus, first-year orientation before leaving?
Yes, you will attend a campus orientation with other first year Global Beginnings students prior to leaving for Europe. This allows you to meet the Colby-Sawyer professor who will travel with you, as well as the other participating students. Dates for this program are TBD.

Are there any foreign language requirements?
No previous Italian or French language study is required, as students will have access to Rosetta Stone learning software.

Does Colby-Sawyer organize the flight to Europe?
Yes, we will book your flight and cover the cost of the ticket. Students will travel from Colby-Sawyer to the airport together and depart as a group.

When will I register for my Global-Beginnings courses?
You will be automatically enrolled in your fall courses over the summer. Please use the following link for a sample list of academic courses.
While in Europe

How much spending money will I need?
This will depend on how frequently you decide to travel, shop, eat out, etc. We recommend anywhere from $1,500 - $2,500 for food, books, shopping, laundry, entertainment and other expenses.

Will I be living with other Colby-Sawyer College students?
Global Beginnings students in both France and Italy will have unique living options. Please use the following link for more information about the housing accommodations.

What are the meal plan options?
In Florence, students will have meal vouchers provided for the local restaurants and café’s throughout the city. In addition, each apartment is equipped with a kitchen, allowing students to prepare and eat many of their own meals. There’s a small grocery within easy walking distance of the academic center.

In the Strasbourg/Paris location, students will have breakfast and dinner provided Monday - Thursday in the Chateau. Most meals during excursions and academic field trips will also be provided. Throughout the semester students will have the ability to make the choice to eat off site at their own expense.

Should I bring a computer with me?
We strongly encourage you to bring a laptop with you. You will have access to computer facilities. However, availability may be limited during busy times.

Can I get the same support services abroad that I would at Colby-Sawyer?
Some academic support options will be available abroad. Your professor and advisor can support students who need assistance with assignments and coursework. Students in need of extended support services should contact the Academic Development Center for more information about the options available: (603) 526-3711 or learning@colby-sawyer.edu

What transportation will be available?
Both the Strasbourg and Florence locations are within walking distance of restaurants, a medical center, and grocery store. Public transportation systems are readily available in both France and Italy, allowing easy access to any city or town via bus or train.

Can I travel to other countries while abroad?
Students will have access to other countries and may be able to go on weekend trips throughout Europe.

Can I get a job while abroad?
It is a challenge for students to find work abroad and we recommend focusing on classes and travel.

Will I be able to register for spring classes before leaving Italy/France?
Working with your faculty advisor you will select your spring courses and register for them on-line at the same time as the rest of your first year classmates at Colby-Sawyer College.

After returning

Is there an orientation offered once I return to campus in January?
Yes, there will be a follow-up orientation at the start of the spring semester.

Am I guaranteed housing once I return to Colby-Sawyer?
Yes, on campus housing is guaranteed upon your return to campus in the spring.

Will my GB courses count towards my Colby-Sawyer College degree?
Yes, all courses will receive Colby-Sawyer credits and grades.