ES371 Terroir Field School FAQ

CIRRICULUM

The curricular focus of ES371 is exploring how small/medium-sized "terroir-driven" companies within the food/wine value chain survive and thrive in a globalized commodity landscape. Obviously, this is explored in a French context where history and culture play significant roles. "Sustainability" of environmental and social systems is typically a by-product of terroir-driven value chains. However, *sustainability* is not the core focus of this course. Those seeking an explicit sustainability focus will find other, more appropriate courses in Environmental Studies. Our scope is limited to examining how successful terroir-driven French enterprises (and how these may be replicated in North America) thrive within the current reality, not how an aspirational future system state may be hastened into existence.

ES371 APPLICATION

Does ES371 have any prerequisites?

Yes, you must be heading into 3rd year standing in the September after the course. In other words, so long as you have successfully completed 2nd year, you are eligible, no matter your course of study. Year standing may be an admission criterion in heavily subscribed years. In exceptional cases, students entering 2nd year in Sept. after the course may be considered.

What is the application process?

The application process is two steps. First, you apply to the Terroir Field School (ES371; 3.0 credits) at UVic. If you are accepted into ES371 your name is forwarded to ESA. You will then register with ESA online. Formal acceptance into the course by ESA is typically the last week of March to first week of April. Following formal acceptance by ESA you will complete more documentation to assist in matching with a host family, hostel room assignments etc.

What do I include in my UVic ES371 application?

1) a one-page cover letter outlining your interest in the course, your preparation for it, and how it supports your academic and/or professional aspirations. Include what year you are in (2nd to 4th/5th) and whether you are a declared ES Major, ES Minor or RNS student.
2) current CV or resume
3) unofficial (aka "administrative") UVic transcript.

Combine all three components into a single pdf file. Name this file: <Last Name> ES371 Application (e.g. Smith ES 371 Application.pdf)

How do I get a copy of my Administrative Transcript?

Through your UVic "My Page" portal you should see "Online Tools" > "Grades & records".
Click "Administrative Transcript". This is your academic transcript which has not been manually certified by the UVic Registrar's Office (which would then make it an "Official Transcript" which has to be ordered). The Administrative version will download immediately and is what you should include with your application.

Where do I submit my ES371 application?
You submit your application directly to Dr. John Volpe <jpv@uvic.ca>

When is the application deadline?
Application deadline is **Feb 1** (to align with other ES Field School submissions). Apply directly to Dr. Volpe via email at jpv@uvic.ca. Dr. Volpe will acknowledge receipt of your application within 24h. If you do not have confirmation within that time, please confirm you have used the correct email address and contact Dr. Volpe directly.

How are ES371 applications evaluated?

- Grades and overall academic performance (GPA>7.0)
- Alignment of your program and course history with the field school curriculum
- Personal and/or professional experience alignment with the curriculum
- Stage in program – consideration may be provided to upper-level students unable to re-apply for future iterations of the course

How many students are accepted into ES371?
There is not a predetermined enrollment limit. Because the course is comprised of students from many universities, the number of UVic students admitted will reflect in part the demand from other partner universities that year. In an average year 12 UVic students are accepted, drawn from a typical applicant pool of ~30 UVic students annually.

When will I find out if I am accepted?
Acceptance into ES371 will be confirmed via return email before Feb 15. You should confirm acceptance (or refusal) of the course offer asap after receiving the acceptance letter as there is typically a large waitlist for this course.

ES371 ACCEPTANCE

What happens at ESA after I am accepted into ES371?
You must register at ESA (see below). ESA-Angers staff will handle ESA enrollment process for the course. All course administration will be handled directly by ESA, including matching you with a host family, payment of the course fee etc. In other words, all logistics, payments etc. (besides UVic tuition) are handled by ESA.

What happens at UVic after I am accepted into ES371?
You will be automatically registered for ES371 at UVic by ENVI office staff. You must pay tuition for ES371 (when summer tuition payment period opens) at UVic otherwise you will not receive 3.0 UVic credits for the course. You must also
- Review student international travel web site
- register with International SOS for UVic students
- fill out and return the Emergency Contact Form (provided by JPV)

Does acceptance into ES371 at UVic guarantee acceptance by ESA?
No. Technically, this is not a UVic course, it is an ESA course. UVic grants 3.0 credits in the form of ES371, but the course itself is curated by ESA and therefore your enrollment is not guaranteed until you receive formal acceptance into the course by ESA (typically late March). UVic is a "partner university" of ESA and we work closely together to ensure consistency and confidence in planning. To date, no student accepted into ES371 at UVic has been turned down by ESA and we work hard to maintain that expectation. However, we at UVic have no control over unanticipated challenges that may arise at ESA, in France or even in Europe that may present challenges. For this reason, some may prefer to delay booking airfare etc. until formal acceptance by ESA.

How much is the Lorene Kennedy Field Course Award?
The Award is calculated as 70-75% (depending on year) of the ESA course fee (the fee you pay directly to ESA which covers all the costs of delivering the course). The Award does not cover UVic tuition, airfare or other travel costs.

Do I need to apply for the Lorene Kennedy Field Course Award?
No, you are automatically eligible for the award provided you are a declared ES Major / Minor / RNS student on the first day of the course. Awards will be processed automatically *pending successful completion of the full class with a passing grade* after you return to Victoria. Funds are typically dispersed in August.

Is the Lorene Kennedy Field Course Award available to part-time students?
Yes.

When do I receive the Lorene Kennedy Field Course Award rebate?
Assuming you have passed ES371, you will receive the award, paid directly into your UVic tuition account, during the following fall semester.

ESA REGISTRATION (after being accepted and registered for ES371 at UVic)

Do I need to also register at ESA?
Yes. After you are accepted into ES371 at UVic you will be invited to register at ESA.

First, you register yourself within the ESA student tracking system. Look for the "Register Now" button at the top right of this page*. Then choose "Summer Programme_Terroir Food System_Angers-June" (or similar).

This is a mandatory step and must completed by you asap after being accepted into ES371. You must register yourself to begin the ESA acceptance process. To register you will require a pdf of your passport info page and an additional piece of government-issue photo ID. If you fail to do this by mid-March, you may be dropped from the course.

Following registration with ESA you will be notified of formal acceptance into the course by the first week of April. Once you are formally accepted into the course by ESA the flow of materials to you will begin. You will fill out a comprehensive questionnaire that will assist with host family placement, hostel assignments etc. ESA staff will handle all registration, logistics etc. for the course, including setting up your billet. Finally, you will also pay the course fee directly to ESA at this time.

ESA will provide you deadlines for fee payment and the cancellation policy. Your ESA account must be in good standing prior to the start of the course. Likewise, your UVic registration for ES371 and tuition payment must also be in good standing prior to course commencement.

Do I pay my ESA course fee directly to ESA and what does this cover?
Yes, you will pay the course fee directly to ESA (not to be confused with the UVic 3.0 credit tuition fee which is paid as usual through your UVic portal)

The ESA course fee covers:

- Accommodation with a host family in Angers (including breakfasts, dinners and weekend lunches)
- Lunches at ESA from Monday to Friday
- Accommodation and breakfasts in youth hostels during the cultural excursions (Paris, Loire Valley, Brittany, Normandy)
- Health and liability insurances
- 7 days of cultural excursions: 2 days in Paris, 2 days in the Loire Valley, 3 days in Normandy and Brittany
- Transport to and curation of farm and company visits
- Transportation in France (including the train from Paris to Angers)

The course fee **does not** include:

- **Travel costs to Paris prior to the course and travel costs from Angers at course end**
- Accommodation, food and transportation if you travel by yourself during weekends,
- Lunches and dinners during the cultural excursions (Paris, Loire Valley, Normandy & Brittany)
- Passport fees
- ESA Cancellation Policy: You will receive 50% of the course fee back if you withdraw before the late April deadline, after which you will forfeit the entire fee. See this year's "Costs and Conditions" document or contact Dr. Volpe directly for the date.

ESA Banking information to pay your ESA course fees - you may need to make the payment in person at your bank (it depends on your bank)

Bank name: SOCIETE GENERALE (SG) - ANGERS
Bank address: 15 Rue d'Alsace, Angers
Account holder: GROUPE E.S.A
IBAN: FR76 3000 3000 8000 0501 0966 369

BIC: SOGEFRPP
Currency: Euros (€)
Note: Any bank service charges are covered by you. ESA must receive the full amount due.

Some Canadian credit unions require not just the bank address above, but also ESA's school address:
55 Rue Rabelais, Angers

Depending on your bank, making payment electronically via your bank's app *may* be possible but many past students have found it necessary (and easier in the long run) to go to the local branch of their bank and work with a teller to ensure a smooth process.

How is my host family chosen and will I have contact with them prior to arriving in Angers?
In April ESA will begin the matching process via a detailed survey that you will complete. Host families do the same although most of the host families have had many students over the years (this course has been running for >40 years and most families are long-time participants). You will have ample opportunity to interact with your family prior to arrival.

My friend is also taking the course, can we be assigned to the same host family?
Yes, this can be requested during the matching process, however cannot be guaranteed. ESA staff will do their best to meet the request (and have done so in the past) but depends on the suitability of the match and the pool of host families available.

What kind of accommodation can I expect with my host family?
Every situation is different, so it is hard to generalize. Often families have room for only one student, but hosting more than one is not uncommon. Regardless, you will have your own room. The family may be young with kids of their own in the house, or older with grown kids who have moved on or a multigenerational family. In all cases the families are well vetted by ESA with the vast majority having participated in previous years. Indeed, the "host family community" is large and hosting North American students is a high point on their calendar. Many enjoy the opportunity to "show off" Angers/France and the French culture, learn your customs and culture, practice their English etc.

PRE-TRIP PLANNING

What travel documents will I need?
Confirm ASAP that your passport is valid to at least December following the course. Border officials typically demand your passport be valid for at least six months post planned departure. If you are a Canadian citizen, you do not need a visa or any other document. You will be travelling as a tourist and therefore do not need a student visa.
If you are not a Canadian citizen, please confirm your requirements asap to travel to France as a tourist. If you are not permitted entry to France/EU due to any reason, you will forfeit your ESA course fee and Lorene Kennedy Field Course Award (this has occurred previously, the person travelling on a foreign passport failed to confirm the eligibility of their non-Canadian passport and was denied entry to the EU). **This is your responsibility.**

Do I need travel insurance?
Basic medical insurance is provided by ESA for the duration of the course (upon your arrival and check-in with ESA staff at the hostel in Paris, to the last day of the course in Angers). Coverage beyond the dates of the class (and extended coverage of any type) is not provided and up to you to purchase. It is highly recommended you investigate medical and health coverages available and decide what, if any, are right for you.

Purchasing airfare cancellation insurance / trip interruption insurance is recommended. There have never been any significant disruptions to delivery of ES371. However, it is important to recognize that disruptions can occur and may well be beyond the capacity of UVic staff to control. Again, like extended medical coverage, investigate the options available and choose what is right for you.

Will have to sign a waiver?
Yes, you will have to sign a standard "Liability, waiver of claims, assumption of risks & indemnity" waiver for both UVic and ESA. These be made available after your acceptance into the program. Completed waivers are a prerequisite to participating in the class. If this is a potential problem, waivers can be requested in advance for review.

Should I notify the Canadian Consulate of my travel plans?
Yes, it is good practice for whenever you travel internationally. Should a significant event unfold while you are away, being on record with the Consulate will help ensure you receive the assistance you might require. Registration is fast and simple.
https://travel.gc.ca/travelling/registration

Who else needs to know that I am abroad?
All UVic students travelling internationally must register with International SOS
https://www.uvic.ca/offcampus-safety/emergencies/international-sos/index.php
UVic has partnered with International SOS, the world's leader in international healthcare, medical assistance, and security services. Travellers can conveniently dial a single phone number that will connect them to the International SOS network of medical and professional service teams that operates around the clock, 365 days a year, all over the world.

Should I notify my bank of my travel plans?
Most anti-fraud departments at major Canadian banks no longer request that you alert them to international travel. If you will be using credit or debit cards from smaller banks, credit unions etc., you may wish to contact their anti-fraud office.

Will there be course work prior to leaving for France?
Yes, details will be provided but reading and preparation work will be assigned prior to departure via the class BrightSpace page.

Do I need to register at UVic and pay UVic tuition?

When you accept a place in ES371, you are automatically enrolled in ES371 (3.0 units) when the summer registration period opens. It is your responsibility to confirm registration in ES371 by end of March.
NOTE: You will pay the standard 3.0 credit UVic tuition fee in addition to the ESA course fee.

What do I need to bring with me?
Below there is a partial packing list. Please pack light! One medium size suitcase and a carry-on is all that is required. We travel extensively on trains and busses and so you will want a carry-on or small overnight bag (not your international suitcase).
A more complete list will be forthcoming but these items you may need some time to source

- wired earbuds (we use translation receivers that require wired (not wireless) earbuds
- electrical converter (optional: European power cord for your computer)
- debit card (for cash advances) preferably with 4-digit passcode – a minority of Euro banks don't accept six-digit coded cards
- a small overnight bag for trips, luggage space is restricted on busses and you don't want to lug your international suitcase around. A carry-on bag or string backpack are popular choices
- travel umbrella, for both rain and shade
- sun hat (French sun is not Victoria sun)
- water bottle
- sturdy (closed toe – farms!) but cool walking shoes (no need for boots but you will be on farms, traversing tidal salt marshes, climbing medieval fortresses etc.)
- bathing suit and travel towel
- small toiletries for hostels (soap, towel etc. are typically not provided)

A sentiment arising every year is "*I wish I knew how the French dressed before I arrived*". This means different things to different people but suffice to say the French fashion sense is ubiquitous, transcends age and status and is not the very casual style of Victoria. If you wish to align with the local sartorial zeitgeist, exploration is recommended prior to packing.

TRAVEL TO FRANCE

Where does the class start?
Once formally accepted into the class, you will receive a lot of information from both Dr. Volpe and especially ESA staff in Angers regarding logistics, travel etc. Briefly, it is up to you to travel independently from your home to the hostel in Paris where the class "officially" begins. ESA staff will meet you at the Paris hostel on the first day of class. Once you arrive at the hostel everything is arranged and paid for the entire rest of the month-long course (food, accommodation, travel etc.). We will travel through Paris as a group for the three days. Then, we will board a regional train (booked and paid for) to Angers where your host family will be waiting at the train station. While in Angers you will have a transit pass to explore in your free time. The class ends in Angers so your return passage to Paris (or …?) is not arranged or paid for.

Travel to Paris
You can fly direct to Paris Charles De Gaulle (CDG) on WestJet (YYJ-YYC-CDG) or Air Canada (YYJ-YVR/YYZ/YUL-CDG). Many (most?) students travel before or after the class (or both). If you plan

to travel prior to the course, you can fly to CDG from nearly anywhere and get VERY cheap flights. Further, if you are in Europe or Africa prior to the course, you should fly into Paris Orly (ORY) which is much closer to the city centre and is serviced by many discount airlines. In short, because air travel in most of the rest of the world is not government regulated as in Canada, flight costs once outside Canada are remarkably cheap compared to what we are used to.

Pay attention to dates. It is common to "lose a day" depending on your flight itinerary (remembering that France is +9 hours ahead of BC time for most of the year).
Warning: if you book a multi-leg journey with different airlines, the first airline is under no obligation to you if their flight is delayed and you miss your connecting flight on the second airline. There are often significant savings to be had (flying to a European hub city cheaply (e.g., Heathrow, Frankfurt, Amsterdam etc. and then transferring to a discount airline, Easy Jet, Ryan Air etc.). However, if you choose to do this, it is best practice to spend the night exploring the connection city and continue the journey the next day. This makes the ugly scenario above highly unlikely and provides the opportunity to explore a place you otherwise wouldn't. Also note that discount airlines often have very strict carry-on restrictions and so baggage allowances (both number and sizes) can change dramatically when connecting across airlines.

What if I am delayed during travel?
Delays beyond your control do happen. Keep in touch with JPV and the class via the class WhatsApp group chat and we will be able to arrange alternate plans.

Can I travel independently before or after the course?
Yes, absolutely, so long as you are in Paris by late afternoon of the first day of class. Your departure date after the class ends is up to you and your host family. Most students leave the day following the end of the course or the day after that. Some choose to depart from Nantes Atlantique Airport (NTE) (the closest international airport to Angers) which is served by numerous full service and discount airlines rather than going back to Paris - CDG.

Is there a class communication platform?
Yes, soon after our class list is finalized a WhatsApp channel will be created by JPV for the class. A week or two prior to the start of the class a second WhatsApp channel will established by ESA staff for the entire class (from all universities), faculty and staff. Therefore, you will have a "UVic only" channel so we can coordinate and a broader "Summer Programme" channel for general logistics and communication.

DURING THE COURSE

What will we be doing in Paris?
We will tour central Paris to establish a baseline of French history and culture, exploring the deep history starting with the Romans up to the present day. We will visit the Louvre and the covered arcades of 1800s Paris, Avenue des Champs-Élysées etc. Additionally, we will visit the Eiffel Tower (you can ascend the tower if you wish in your free time) and numerous other pivotal places of French gastro-cultural history.

It is strongly recommended to do some research planning for what little bit of free time you will have. It is hard to overemphasize just how much there is to see and do in Paris. That said, your evenings (~18:00h onwards) are free to explore.

How do I get from Paris to Angers?
We will travel together as a class by train mid-morning Saturday. Your Angers family will meet you at the Anger train station (Gare Angers Saint-Laud). You will have Sunday to explore Angers and get to know your family. We start classes 8:30 Monday with a welcome "breakfast", French style – *Seulement du café et des croissants*.

Are there only UVic students in the course?
No, the class is comprised of students from North American ESA partner schools often including U of Wyoming, Texas A&M, U of Wisconsin among other agricultural-focussed schools. Class size varies year to year but can be as low as 30 and high as 50. The majority of non-UVic students are coming from various agriculture programs at their home universities.
UVic students are often a numerically dominant cohort in the class, and as such it is incumbent on us (UVic students) to set the tone for the class. It is imperative that we make every effort to integrate and create an inviting community atmosphere welcoming to the numerically smaller groups. Dr. Volpe will quickly correct behaviour not aligned with this objective. It has never been an issue in the past, indeed UVic students are held in very high regard at ESA. That said, it is easy for cliques to emerge passively when the weight of numbers is on your side and so we must be diligent in recognizing our responsibility as the numerically dominant group.

Can I arrive late or stay longer?
You must arrive at the Paris hostel on the first day of the course. Your departure day is a matter for you and your host family to determine but you cannot leave prior to the official end of the course (without it affecting your grade and forfeiting your Kennedy Award, if applicable). Generally, students are welcome to stay with their families for up to a few days after the course concludes but again, this is for you and your family to discuss. Some families may have other obligations requiring you to take your leave by a certain date following the course.

Who are the instructors for the course?
Formal lectures are largely taught by ESA faculty (in English) with supplementation from the North American professors. Field excursions and company visits are led by ESA staff, Can-Am profs and the on-site experts we visit.

What is an average day like during the course?
There is no "average day"– different topics, different profs, different adventures each day. The typical French school day (from kindergarten through university) is 8:30am to 5pm. We follow this schedule too and many find it to be a long day, especially in the beginning. Most mornings you will have two lectures followed by lunch (provided) and then more classes or a field trip in the afternoon. You will receive the programme, including all the visits we will make, well before the start of class. We also have three multi-night trips during the course: Paris, Brittany-Normandy, and Loire Valley. Travel, most food, accommodation (hostels) etc. is arranged for and

covered by your course fee. On these trips, breakfasts and lunches are typically provided and you are free to explore the local restaurant scene on your own for dinners. More information will be forthcoming from both Dr. Volpe and ESA as the course approaches.

Can I expect my UVic accommodations to be recognized at ESA?
No. As outlined above this is an ESA course, not a UVic course and the rules and norms of practice are set by ESA. Obviously, you can expect European/French norms, not Canadian (all part of the cross-cultural nature of the course). French universities do not operate CAL/OREM type programs.

Along the same theme, you should be aware of the logistical realities of the course. When we travel, you will be sharing hostel rooms with same-(biological) sex students, typically four to eight per room, with communal toilets etc. Essentially, the typical Euro youth hostel experience. There is no latitude to deviate from this model (e.g., single rooms, mixed sex rooms, etc.). Likewise, if you wish certain accommodations from your host family, your wishes should be made explicit asap to ESA staff well in advance of placement, recognizing that they will do their best to find a solution, but accommodation may not be possible.

Are dietary restrictions accommodated?
France is not particularly accommodating to voluntary (as opposed to medical) dietary restrictions. The course is tailored to North American students, so extra effort is made by ESA to be accommodating. However, beyond campus you will not find the level of accommodation you are used to at home. Host families do their best, but you can expect there to be a learning curve. Vegetarian options are common though the definition of "vegetarian" is not consistent. If you have serious medical or other dietary restrictions, please flag this asap for discussion with Dr. Volpe and make the details clear to ESA staff in the host family questionnaire.

How are grades calculated for ES371
There will be pre-departure readings and quiz and in-program assignments you will complete as part of your grade. Upon arrival at ESA, you will also be assigned a group course-long project which your group will orally present on the final day. There will be a final exam at ESA. Additionally, Dr. Volpe may assign further work. Your final grade will be a combination of all these activities. Details will be provided on the course syllabus.

ANGERS

Will I have free time?
Yes, but not a great deal. The course runs Monday to Friday 8:30-17:00 (get used to the 24-hour clock). You will have one free weekend during the course (the other weekends are multi-day tours). There is a great deal to see and do in Angers. Some students choose to travel further afield on the weekend off (grade penalties for those not in class the following Monday morning).

How is the Angers public transit system?

Very good. You can quickly and easily get anywhere in the greater Angers region via Irigo, the public transit authority. You will be provided a transit pass valid for the duration of the course. You should download the Irigo app to your phone which will give you instant updates on trams and busses, plan trips for you etc.
https://www.irigo.fr/

* https://olage.groupe-esa.com/