

## NEWS – SEPTEMBER 2009

### Welcome back to the APUAF site and a new academic year!

We hope you all enjoyed some well-deserved time off this summer and “recharged your batteries”! As our first 2009-10 student groups arrive, we face some new challenges, including *la grippe A* and the visa reform. At APUAF, we will do our best to communicate regular updates and relevant links under News, and we will do so in English so that your home and sending institutions may also keep up with events in France. We count on the continued support and willingness of all members to share documents or strategies that other members may use or adapt to their specific contexts. APUAF’s role is to act as an information clearinghouse and share models of “best practices”, not to set policy for individual programs.

The H1N1 documents below are made available to you in this spirit, and we thank Robert Dorit, Brune Biebuyck and Renée Pontbriand for sharing them. All contributions are welcome as we seek to expand the web site and develop a data base of useful information for all.

Bonne rentrée!

Monique Fecteau  
President, APUAF

### H1N1 Virus & Strategy

Below are links to documents that you may wish to post or distribute to your students during orientation, including a list of web sites to enable them to stay updated on “la grippe A”. (Professor Dorit from Smith College is a biologist and epidemiologist.) You may want to inquire first with your home universities or sending institution(s) to see if they have a policy or strategy in place and find out what, if any, pre-departure advice they may have given students.

- [http:// insidehighered.com](http://insidehighered.com) August 21 article entitled *H1N1 Scenarios*
- [H1N1 Virus – What You Should Know](#) (R. Dorit, Smith College & B. Biebuyck, Reid Hall)
- [List of web sites in French and English](#) compiled by Dorit & Biebuyck
- [Stratégie Grippe A](#) - Courrier envoyé par R. Pontbriand, Boston University
- [Poster Grippe A](#)

### New Visa - VLS/TS

We have received isolated reports of delays in visa appointments in some French consulates in the U.S., but the majority of fall 2009 students appear to have obtained their visas. That said, some of them may not have the new VLS/TS one (and accompanying OFII form) but rather the “ancien régime” visa. If so, they may have to submit the same documents as in the past in order to obtain a traditional *carte de séjour*. If you have doubts or questions, call your local *préfecture* to verify the documents students must submit prior to the mandatory medical exam and, also, where the *dossier* should be sent or deposited. In Paris, we were told that a special *guichet* would be set up at the *Cité universitaire* for individual submissions.

There are bound to be glitches during a transition period. The best advice U.S. and on-site program administrators can give to students is:

- Be proactive during the entire process and keep track of things. Don't wait a month and wonder why you haven't received confirmation or an appointment. If necessary, contact Campus France or the consulate to inquire about the long delay.
- Start the process AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE. Check the web site of the consulate you will go through for any updates or information about appointments and documents. Make sure you have all necessary documents with you at the time of your appointment. Each consulate has the right to set rules and ask for extra documents.
- You *must* comply with French immigration laws and arrive with a student visa if you are staying over 90 days. Otherwise, you fall into the category of "illegal alien".

On the U.S. side, the NAFSA sub-committee on visa issues has posted similar advice via the SECUSSA-List and warned that the process may take longer than in the past. If students don't receive the necessary documents well in advance or if they start the process too late, they may have trouble getting consular appointments in time. There will be many more visas applications in the spring, and the consulates may be overwhelmed.

- Consult [www.ofii.fr](http://www.ofii.fr)
- [English translation of June 2009 document](#) sent by *Préfecture de Paris*

### Labor Laws in France

We are often asked by colleagues in the U.S. to provide information about French labor laws and practices. A useful document entitled *Doing Business in France* (June 2009 edition) can be downloaded on the site below. Much of the information is relevant to our own operations, and there is a very good French-English glossary and links to other web sites. Bonne lecture!

http: [www.investinfrance.org/international/en/doing-business-in-France.html](http://www.investinfrance.org/international/en/doing-business-in-France.html)

### October 16 Assemblée Générale

A reminder that the next AG will take place at ACCENT's center near Bastille on Friday morning of the 16<sup>th</sup>. An agenda will be posted on this web site one month before the date; we will notify you by e-mail. We will also accept checks for 2009-10 dues on that day.

**Bonne nouvelle!** Programs that joined during our 2008-09 inaugural year will receive a one-time-only 50-euro discount in 2009-10 and pay 250 euros this year.