One of the hardest things to imagine as you are getting ready to travel overseas is making your way to Colby come January. However, if you’ve thought about it already that is perfectly reasonable, too. Worrying about making the transition during JanPlan is a rational but easily negated fear. Making the transition to Colby, just like making the transition to France, is all about effort. You will meet plenty of people if you avoid hibernation from the cold weather and introduce yourself! Get to know your classmates and the people in your dorm, and join clubs and teams. During the month of January, you will have both a mid-year orientation and Iced COOT™. Both of these opportunities will give you the chance to meet new people—including many students who did not go abroad who volunteer to go simply because they are interested in meeting you! It is also during January that you will get to know your LINK leaders: the former First Semester Abroad Students who have been working together to make this booklet. We will do our best to take you around town, carpool up to Sugarloaf and make our own crude versions of French crêpes for a welcome dinner or two. If you are having a hard time meeting people during JanPlan, keep in mind that once the semester starts up (and the weather gets warmer) you will have no shortage of things to do and people to do them with!

Choosing Classes: How to fill your JanPlan

JanPlan at Colby has a dual reputation. The month-long semi-semester is a perfect way to get rid of distribution requirements but also a perfect time slot if you’re looking to enjoy the snow and take a non-credit class—for example photography—that you may not have the time to take otherwise. Most First Semester Abroad Students are advised to take English 115 if they haven’t tested out of it already. There are various sections to choose from, some with more work than others, so read the course book carefully. If you are not a science person, you might want to consider taking a lab course during JanPlan. These classes are generally geared towards non-science majors and are an excellent way to satisfy the requirement. You many want to consider the kinds of students that are going to be in your class. Do you want to be in a class with more non-First Semester Abroad Students or would you rather get a requirement like EN115 out of the way? Although course selection may sound daunting at the moment, do not stress about it. Jon is a more than capable advisor if you ever have any questions about the process.

Housing: FYI’s about choosing your roommates

In the end of November you will be asked to fill out a housing form. The form is the same one that all Colby freshmen receive before they head to campus in the fall. You will have the opportunity to room with someone who has either been on campus since the first semester or someone who, like you, went abroad the first semester of their freshman year. Colby’s Campus Life office cannot guarantee that roommate requests will be honored—there is simply not enough housing on campus to do so. However, rooming with someone who was not on your trip has a lot of benefits; it’s a great way to introduce your Dijon friends to either Salamanca students or existing Colby students. Your roommate and all the people living in your dorm become a great support system—and an instant new group of friends!—for your transition onto campus.

“I suggest choosing a roommate who is already on campus. You will be pushed to meet more people at school as opposed to spending all your time with friends from abroad.” –Stefan Merriam ’13
The LINK program was created by Susannah Hatch ’11 and Alea Starr ’11 to facilitate your transition into life at Colby. We hope that this guidebook will help prepare you for your exciting semester abroad. All of the information is based on feedback from First Semester Abroad students who have spent time in Dijon. The guidebook was created with assistance from the Off-Campus Studies, Admissions, and Student Life Offices. Contact any of us with questions you may have. You are about to have the time of your life, embrace every moment! We are thrilled that you have chosen Dijon as your next adventure, and we can’t wait to meet you in January when you return to Colby!

Bonne chance,
Lake Seymour

What to expect from LINK…

The LINK program was designed to help you and other First Semester Abroad students feel connected to Colby before and while you’re abroad and also once you arrive at Colby. The purpose of this guidebook is only part of the first half, and we hope that you’ll find it helpful. You will also soon be in contact with former First Semester Abroad students. They will continue to be in touch with you while you’re in Dijon and also at Colby. We’re here for you and are more than willing to answer questions about Dijon or Colby.

In January, when you come to campus, you will meet everyone running the LINK program. We have already begun planning your Iced COOT, along with LINK broomball, dinners, and other LINK sponsored activities. We’re so excited for you and can’t wait to hear about your amazing adventure. Contact us with any questions. Have a wonderful time and enjoy every moment. Before you know it, you’ll be packing for Maine! Good luck!

Lake Seymour
lseymour@colby.edu
Dijon LINK Leader 2014

http://www.colby.edu/academics_cs/ocs/dijon/dijon-program-information-for-freshmen.cfm