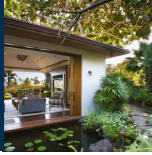


ESSEC Business School, Paris

Fall 2015 SBM Exchange Report

Chow Yan Tung (MARK& FINA)

Part I- Monthly Activity Log



A summary of the life of an exchange student in France. Including recommended courses, remarkable places in France and outside France, and suggested

1

ESSEC

BUSINESS SCHOOL

Part II General Exchange Info.



A summary for my preparation work before departure, including visa, accommodation and course application procedures.

2



Part III Items to Bring and Contacts



A summary of essential items to be brought before departure to avoid inconvenience.

3

ESSEC

- Recognized as one of the leading business schools in the world
- Ranked 1st bachelor's program in international business among French

Part I- Activity Log

August 2015- January 2016

August 2015



I arrived Paris half month before the school starts to get used to the living here and most importantly, the transportation. Accommodations are available up to a month before the school starts. Otherwise, I would recommend using Airbnb.com to book reliable accommodation in Paris, they offer relatively cheap and clean places. It took EUR 7 to go to the campus from central Paris; the whole journey took about 45 minutes. It might sound expensive, but once I have got a metro card with unlimited access for EUR 70 a month, everything would be easier.

September 2015



During the registration period, the first and most important thing that I did is to open a French local bank account. This is extremely important in order to keep my currencies and do a lot of online payments including tickets booking and phone card payment. I also used a phone plan provided by the company “free”, it’s EUR 20 a week but unlimited amount of 4G data, which is widely used by the local. On campus, the student council also organized a lot of welcoming activities for us to socialize, like boat trips along *Le Seine*, or a tour to *Châteaux La Loire*.

October 2015



After a month of time knowing some cool friends and classmates, I organized several trips- small trips every weekend and one big trip every month. October is the perfect month for *Oktoberfest* in Germany. Even though I don’t drink a lot, but it is a very remarkable experience to truly understand the drinking culture of Europeans! Everyone was wearing the traditional clothes- *Dirndl* and *Lederhosen*, singing and dancing at the camps. It is a MUST-GO event! If you love music, you should definitely not miss the electro-music parade in Central Paris, it’s awesome!



Part I- Activity Log

August 2015- January 2016

November 2015



This is the mid term exam month, we have several exams in *Portfolio Management*, *International Cash Management*, *International Marketing* and *Web Marketing*. Professors from ESSEC are very welcoming; they always open up extra slots for students with enquiries to approach them before exam. Also, it was when the Paris attack happened. It was such a blessing that none of my friends were hurt. Moreover the city was not really affected by the attack. People resumed back to their work and more police were patrolling within the city. It was actually very safe.

December 2015



Everyone was crazily preparing for their final exams. After exam, we all went to the ice skating rink near our campus to celebrate the end of exam. I know there's one in *Champs Elysees*, while this one is way cheaper than the touristic place and with less people. During Christmas, I was invited to one of my French friend's home to have dinner with her whole family. The dinner and celebration was amazing, with lots of fresh seafood and traditional homemade French dishes. Then it's time to start off my one-month solo backpack tour Europe.

January 2016



This concluded my one-month of amazing and unforgettable voyage.



Part II- General Exchange Info.



Visa Application:

If you are holding a HKSAR passport, you have to apply for a French visa (Long Stay- MORE THAN 90 days) –

<http://www.consulfrance-hongkong.org/Study-long-stay-more-than-90-days>

You are required to have a brief interview and document submission session. It takes about two weeks.

If you wish to apply for housing subsidy in France, without any mean tastings, you should fill in

Course Registration

You don't have to worry about course registration until you have received the welcoming package one you arrived ESSEC. The course registration system is very easy to use as long as you are following the steps giving in the pamphlet.

You can register for 2 semesters during your exchange, the Fall and the Winter (during mid term break). The Winter semester is very intensive in which you will complete a course in 5 days.

French Civilization and Beginner French is highly recommended. The former course allows students to explore the culture and history of France. By the end of the course, you will learn more about the paintings of distinguished artists and famous wines produced by specific provinces. The later course is optional

Accommodation:

Cergy Le Haut is the furthest from the campus, but also one of the most convenient residence. Since other than Le Port, other residence takes minimum of 20 minutes walk back residence, and it's especially dangerous at night when you're alone. There is a train to campus every 3 minutes and it takes 15 minutes to arrive campus. CLH has a really nice neighborhood, it has its own cinema and supermarket. You can even rent bicycles and cycle along the fields and into the wood. If you have to time, it takes around 30 minutes to cycle to the campus. The residence is composed of 80% of exchange students, so you're expected to meet lots of interesting people there and get invited for dinner!

Part III- Check List



Cost and Expense (EUR)

Total Cost and Expense	8000
ESSEC Exchange Expense	5000
Accommodation, transportation, food, expense	
Travelling Expense	3000
More than 20 countries with budget airline and over-night buses	



Check List

Important Documents:

- HKID, passport with copies
- Birth certificate copies
- Passport photos

Clothing:

- Thick jackets (waterproof)
- Backpack for traveling
- A bag for school
 - 1 to 2 pairs of shoes
 - Scarf/ gloves

Others:

- Laptop
- Broadband cable
- Phone and portable charger
- Medicine
- Stationeries
- Snacks
- * If you're staying in CLH, you need to buy a Ethernet cable to get access to internet in the residence