

# Exchange Report



## ESSEC Business School, France

XING RAN

2016 Fall

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# Part I Monthly Activity Log

## August 2016

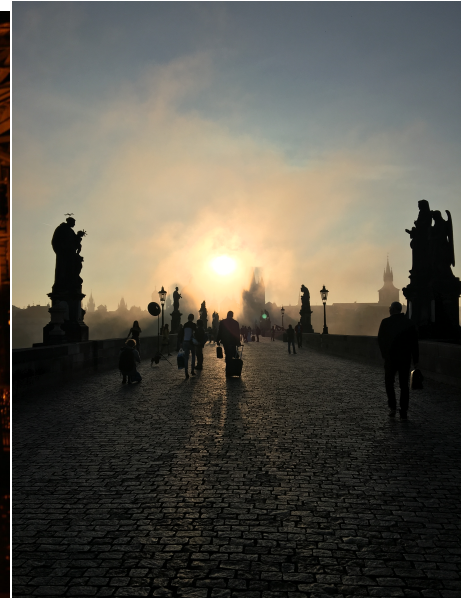
When I first arrived in Paris, I was very excited about this city. I arrived there in the middle of August. I traveled around France and some other countries in Europe with my mom. The orientation of ESSEC Business School started on 23<sup>rd</sup> August. This one-week orientation gave us the chance to get familiar with the school environment and we attended several lectures given by people from different industries.



## September 2016

The fall semester begins on the first day of September. Since there is only one lecture per course which lasts for three hours, I only have courses on Monday and Tuesday. On Mondays, I have three courses which last for 9 hours in total and on Tuesdays, I have two courses which last for 6 hours. I went to different countries

around Europe during the weekdays and weekends.



### **October 2016**

The school work became busy in October. Midterms started and there were a lot of presentations. I worked with different groups of people on different group projects. During this month, I mainly worked on the school work. And there was a fall break which started at the end of the October and lasted for about two weeks. I went to the US to meet my friends.

### **November 2016**

November is actually the last month that had classes. There were some school activities such as Student Union election ceremony. I mainly stayed at school and went to Switzerland to meet a HKUST friend who was also on exchange last semester.

### **December 2016**

December is the examination month. I had four final exams which lasted for about one week. After the final exams, I went to Finland with the new friends I met during the exchange. I flied back on 21<sup>st</sup> December and that was the end of my exchange.

## Part II General Exchange Information

### **Visa Procedures**

ESSEC Business School provided the documentary support for visa procedures. They will send an email of the detailed procedures a few months before your exchange. You have to follow the steps. There is one important thing called birth certificate. The school will usually ask for that before or after your arrival.

### **Orientation Activities**

ESSEC Business School had many exchange student activities which we could participate in for a cost. Activities include imagination week which is an orientation speech combined with several group work. There are also a lot of parties prepared for the exchange students by the school.

### **International Services & Activities**

ESSEC Business School provides international services and many cultural activities for exchange students to participate in. For example, the school provided some cultural tours to lead you around Paris and visit some museums.

### **Accommodations**

ESSEC Business School provided accommodations for exchange students. Since the campus is small, students are given the option of four apartments which are not far from the campus. I chose the single room of "La Port" which is the closest one. It only takes me seven minutes to walk to the classroom. The single room is very nice and prepared with the kitchen and toilet.



## Course Registration

You should choose at least four courses which is the minimum requirement for the exchange students. There are many marketing and finance courses that can be transferred back to HKUST.

## **Teaching & Assessment Methods**

There are English and French version of most courses. Therefore, there is no need to worry about the language barrier. Most of the courses have group project and attendance marks. The final exam usually takes up 60% percent of the final grade. The professors are from different countries, not only France.

## **Sports & Recreation Facilities**

There are many sports and recreation facilities in the dorm. There is a music room and a sports room which opens for 24 hours.

## **Finance and Banking**

The expenses will depend on how much a student travels during exchange. For the whole semester, I spent about 5000 euros because I travelled a lot. I do not recommend the BNP Paribas because it is very inefficient in dealing with customers' request. It's better to choose other banks to open a bank account.

## **Social Clubs and Networking Opportunities**

There are not so many clubs that exchange students can join. But there are a lot of networking opportunities such as parties and exchange student gathering.

## **Health and Safety**

ESSEC Business School does not have clinic on campus. You can find one in Cergy just near ESSEC.

## **Food**

I mostly cook my own food in the dorm and there are two cafés on the first and second floor of the school. There are a lot of restaurants just outside school such as Japanese food and Kebab.

## **Transportation**

You can take RER Line A to reach the school. The station name is Cergy Prefecture. This train will take you to the city center directly.

## **Climate**

The weather in Paris in fall is very nice. It is neither too hot in autumn nor too cold in winter. Jacket and Coat are fine for these months.

## Communication

Using email is the best way to communicate with the school. Each department can be reached by emails.

## Cautionary Measures

Don't forget to bring an umbrella. It sometimes rains but overall, the weather is quite nice.

## Part III Items to Bring

Passport and visa	Necessary medicines
Beddings	Washing stuff
Laptop	Clothes for winter/summer
Charger	Notebooks
Umbrella	Coat and jacket

## Part IV Useful Links and Contacts

ESSEC Business School myPortal:  
[myessec.com](http://myessec.com)

Global BBA ESSEC Information:  
<https://sites.google.com/a/essec.edu/global-bba-cergy/?pli=1>

Europe by train: Eurail:  
<http://cn.eurail.com/>

Transportation in France:  
<https://en.voyages-sncf.com/en/?redirect=yes>