



NEOMA Business School

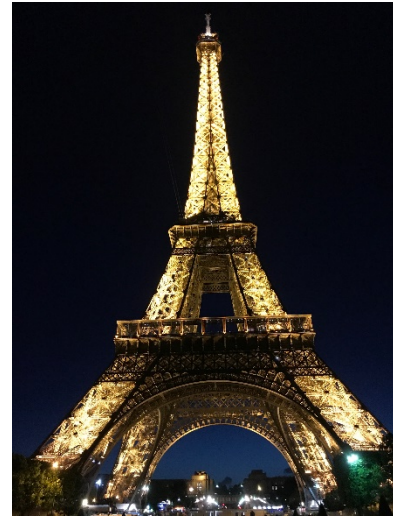
SPRING 2017 EXCHANGE REPORT

Chan Tsz Cheung | Year 3 | ACCT & FINA

Monthly Activity Log

January

I arrived Paris on 3rd January with my UST exchange mates and took a taxi arranged by ourselves to the campus. There were staffs and student helpers to help us finish the registration and check in the dormitory after arrival. Before the semester started, there was a French intensive course that attendance was compulsory for all the exchange students. Also, there is an orientation event, but I suffered from jet lag that time so I didn't attend it. After settling down, we took my first trip to the downtown Rouen and Paris. The semester started on mid-Jan. But we were able to had two short trips to Belgium and Le Havre in the weekend since some of the classes were commenced on Feb. We also attended the running dinner and welcoming dinner held in Caen to meet others NEOMA students, they were welcoming and we had lots of fun on both day



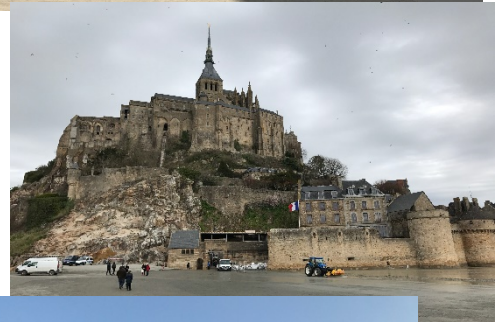
February

All classes began in Feb but I was still able to travel around. Thankfully, the school had 12 days holiday in mid-Feb, so I went to the UK (York, Manchester, Edinburgh), Iceland and Germany (Frankfurt). Feb was a dreamlike month for me. I watched my first Premier League game in Old Trafford and saw the northern lights, bright stars, witnessed the magnificent landscape in Iceland in the same week. We took our flight back to Frankfurt and had a one day trip in the city center, which is quite a commercial and boring place for me. After this exhausted trip, I spent the remaining days in NEOMA to plan for my coming trip.



March

There were quiz and presentations in March but it was a piece of cake and we didn't spend much to prepare for it. We travelled to Mont Saint Michel, a fairy tale small Island in France by ourselves. But I would recommend to go there with the Culture Connection. Their trip was well-organized, which were less timely and costly than going with the public transport. After finished my quiz and presentation, we skipped one week classes and had a 11-days trip to Paris, Sweden (Malmo), Denmark (Copenhagen), Germany (Berlin) and Poland (Krakow, Warsaw).



April

April was a month of Easter holiday, with few mini presentations, quizzes and projects to prepare. During the Easter holiday, I spent 6 days in London, 5 days in Netherlands and 1 day in Paris. Before the final exam started, I went to Spain (Barcelona, Madrid, Sevilla) and Portugal (Lisbon, Porto) for 10 days at the end of April.



May

I went back to NEOMA on early-May to prepare for my final exams. After I finished all exams, presentations and projects in mid-May, it meant the end of semester in NEOMA. I spent 11 days in Italy (Milan, Venice, Florence, Naples, Rome). It was a great time to try various kinds of spaghetti, pizza and gelato, in the hot summer in Italy. After that, I went back to NEOMA to pack my luggage and clean my room for checkout. My backpacker journey started in the late-May and I went to Hungary (Budapest), Slovakia (Bratislava), Czech (Prague), Germany (Munich) and Switzerland (Zurich) for my last trip. It was a wonderful trip and I will always miss the incredible views of Konigssee and Swan Castle. I will also miss the German Pork Knuckle for sure.



June

I took the flight back to Hong Kong on 9th June. Before my departure, I stayed one night in Paris to bought some souvenirs and explored this lovely city again. Lastly, I went back to NEOMA to close off my bank accounts and mobile network before I took a direct bus from Rouen to CDG airport.



General Information

Visa Application

My advice is to start your Visa application as soon as possible. The timeslot is always full so it is difficult to get the time you want. You first need to make an appointment online and then send an email to study@consulfrance-hongkong.org to apply for an academic interview. You need to submit all the documents required to the Campus France Office.

Orientation Activities

Upon arrival, you will open the bank account and receive your student card on the orientation day. The bank will do it on-campus for you. Also, there is a one day Rouen city tour after the orientation day, but I guess that's not a compulsory event. Before the semester start, you have to attend a one-day intensive French class. It is not that useful but you have nothing else to do anyway so just attend it. Culture Co. holds several activities such as trips and the Running Dinner throughout the semester, you can meet new friends in their events.

Accommodation

NEOMA will send email to you about the residence in November. All of us lived in Ango. It offers single room with a shared bathroom and toilet with the roommate next to you. It takes 10 minutes walking to the campus and 5 minutes to the bus stop. I think it is an acceptable dormitory considering the cheap rent.

Course Registration

Exchange coordinator from NEOMA sent an email to you two months before our departure. It is a bit different from the previous year. We can only enroll in the undergraduate courses this year since the UG and PG course schedules have some conflicts and cannot be enrolled at the same time. Then, we needed to choose the courses based on the timetable provided. You will know how many dayoffs you will get in the course registration. Normally, you will be able to get the course you want. You could not amend any courses until the add-drop period started.

Teaching & Assessment Methods

All courses are conducted in English. Each class takes 3 hours and have a 15 minutes break at the middle. Different professors may have different style of teaching, but the assessment methods are only limited to exams, quizzes, presentation and projects. All courses have absolute grading and require 80% attendance. I think most of the courses content are easier than UST, so it wouldn't be a problem to pass the exam.



Finance & Banking

It is recommended to open a French bank account at the orientation day. You will find the debit card convenient. You don't have to bring too much cash for travelling (depends on countries) and payment is easier when you have a debit card. It takes around two weeks for the account to be opened, so it is important to bring enough cash over for the first month and also to bring your Hong Kong credit card. Here is my rough estimation of expenses.

	In HKD
Flights Ticket	7300
Accommodation (5 months, net of deposit)	12000
Insurance	4000
Visa	430
Travel	45000
Living Expenses	15000
Total	83730

Social Clubs & Networking Opportunities

Culture Co. organizes many events and activities for international students each semester. Examples include trip to Mont Saint Michel, Disneyland Paris, parties, etc. I only joined one of their activities, the Running Dinner. If you have time, it is good to join these functions to know other students and experienced the French and other culture from a new perspective.

Health & Safety

Mont Saint Aignan and Rouen are rather safe place in both days and night. But be aware of pickpockets during your travel and avoid going out alone at night.

Bring some medicine from Hong Kong in case you got a cold, headache or stomachache.



Food

There are 2 canteens on the campus, 1 canteen next to Ango and few canteens near University area. Most of them only operate during lunch time and each meal cost around 3-5 EUR. So, we will buy the ingredients at Carrefour, SuperU or Lidl for our dinner.

Transportation

In Rouen, there are only three buses that I take often. The F2 takes you from campus to the supermarket Carrefour, while both the F2, T1 and 8 buses take you downtown. During the day time, these buses run quite often. But beware that past a certain hour at night, these buses run every half an hour to an hour. Even the night bus N1 stops service after 1am! The bus company in Rouen, Reseau Astute, has an app that details the schedule of their buses. Always check when the last bus is! It is recommended to buy 10-Jeune tickets which cost 8.60 EUR.

There are three airports I usually go: BVA, CDG, and ORLY. There are direct buses from Rouen to CDG and BVA airport (Ouibus) but only 2 per day. For my travel planning, I always search on Skyscanner (for flights) and GoEuro (for buses and trains). It is the most time-saving ways when planning your travel coz there are too many airlines and buses operators in Europe. From my experience, Flixbus, Ouibus and Eurolines cover lots of destination with a reasonable price. For flights, I always travel with Ryanair since it is the cheapest choice for long destination, but be aware of the luggage allowance. My only advice for travel planning is to book everything as soon as you can, the price can increase a lot in just few days!

Climate

It is quite cold during the winter time, from January to March, with the temperature dropping to around 0 degrees celsius. The weather starts to warm up around April, and in June, the weather is hot in around 20-30 degrees.

Communication

The telecommunication service I chose was FreeMobile. It costs 20 EUR per month. The plan includes 50GB 4G data inside France, 5GB data inside European countries, and unlimited phone call to Hong Kong fixed line phone numbers each month. To end the contract, you just need to send a letter to FreeMobile by post.

Most people in Rouen and campus didn't speak English, but there is not a problem if you don't know French. You will be familiar with this place soon and no need to worry about the language barrier.

Items to Bring

Passport and HKID

Credit Card

Adaptors

Cash (EURO)

Medicine

Notebook

Mini rice cooker

Some snacks from Hong Kong

Useful Links and Contacts

Details of Visa procedures: <https://hongkong.consulfrance.org/Study-long-stay-more-than-90-days>

ENJOY AND HAVE FUN IN NEOMA~