



**NEOMA** BUSINESS SCHOOL  
REIMS • ROUEN • PARIS

# NEOMA Business School Exchange Report

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# Monthly Activity Log

## January



I arrived in Paris on a cold winter night of January 3rd, with two large luggages and a heavy bag pack. Despite the soaring excitement I had for the adventurous journey ahead of me, life had already begun to give me tough challenges to overcome. I was told that the school dormitory does not accept check-in during the weekend, which meant that I had to spend three nights somewhere else before I could finally move in. Paris was also going through a major strike, affecting the majority of public transportation including the train I had to ride. The Airport Limousine (Roissy Bus) was often suspended unexpectedly, if not operated with an adjusted schedule. Luckily, I caught one of the last buses, finally arrived in the most romantic city in the world.

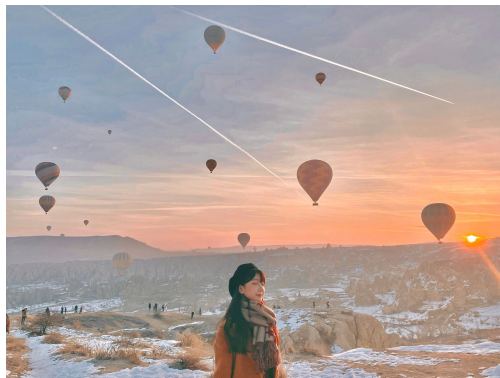
I spent the next day travelling around Paris. I went to my favourite restaurant near the Eiffel Tower for a decent dinner, visited Musée d'Orsay to appreciate amazing artworks of Van Gogh and Claude Monet, got lost in a Christmas Market near the Tuileries Garden and also had the best Japanese Udon in Paris.

January was a mixture of excitement and a tiny bit of fear originated from the unexpectable adventure. I travelled whenever I could. I visited Etretat, Honfleur and Mont-saint-michel in the Normandie area of France. (I joined a paid one-day trip organized by an external agency, but there are also much cheaper options hosted by the student association of NEOMA.) I also visited London for a weekend, watched late night musical, had chinese food (which I was craving for) in Chinatown, had English breakfast and afternoon tea and climbed up the Primrose Hill to watch the sunset. Overall, I was very satisfied with the first month of exchange life.



## February

February was a little tougher because I had more assignments and exams. Though, compared to UST, workload in NEOMA was literally non-existent, so I could cope with the schedule. I had a long break in the middle of the month, so I decided to visit somewhere far away from France. I signed up for a 6-day cross-country tour in Turkey, which allowed me to visit every little amazing city and suburb in the country. For those of you who want to visit Turkish cities other than Istanbul, especially Cappadocia and Pamukkale, I recommend



leveraging local agencies because driving from one to another would be really inefficient.

Visiting Turkey is one of the best things I have done in my life and it was also a great opportunity to break the stereotypical mindset I had for Turkey. I found Turkish people extremely friendly and nice, I LOVED the food there (I had Kebab literally every single day and I still crave for it), the scenery was amazing, Cappadocia was more than dreamy and finally everything was so cheap! I highly recommend visiting Turkey - you would definitely have a brand new experience.

## March



March was full of unexpected variables. The epidemic had gotten worse and worse - France started off with 2 or more confirmed cases but soon grew exponentially to thousands cases. Exams and presentations were coming up, but the situation was so unstable that no one could guarantee if everything would be conducted in the usual way. Safety became an issue as well, because more and more cases in which Asian-looking people experience racial discrimination and abuse were reported. I also experienced multiple racial discrimination, which was

definitely unpleasant and in fact was terrifying, which made me consider going back to Korea. As the situation exacerbated, the school was closed, French government issued a travel ban, closed the border, and I had to evacuate from France while I could (while there are still flights operating). I had to make decisions within a few days by taking so many variables into account, and pack everything while nothing was really prepared. Evacuation was definitely not easy, especially when you had to also protect yourself from getting the virus.

Before the virus situation worsened, I visited Brussel and Gent in Belgium. I had little expectation but I soon found that I was wrong. The food was amazing, especially waffles, and the architecture was beautiful as well. If you ever visit Belgium, I highly recommend you to prepare lots of cash to stack up Belgian chocolates, waffles and chips.

# General Information

## Visa procedures

- took around a month, but may take longer
- highly recommend to apply as early as possible

## Orientation Activities

- didn't attend because of schedule issue
- but would be really useful if you attend the orientation event because you can get information on banks, housing, living, transportation, etc.

## Accommodations

- I stayed in Hall Ango, particularly in the large single room which is extremely rare. The room had private kitchen, bathroom, bed and table.
- The hall was quite closed to the school, so it took around 5-10 minutes for me to get to lecture

## Climate

- Pretty cold and rainy in spring. Better prepare thick clothes because it is way colder than Hong Kong.

## International Services & Activities

- NEOMA is quite friendly to international students, with lots of events and activities hosted by student organizations.
- There is quite a lot of information available on facebook, so it won't be difficult to join them.

## Courses Registration

- You would do the course registration before school starts, so it is important to pay attention to the emails that they send you.
- Unlike UST, you don't really get to choose the timeslot, so in a way it is easier.

## Teaching & Assessment Methods

- teaching is much more relaxing when compared to ust, though you might feel that there's not much you can learn
- assessment is lenient, though participation may be high so it might a hurdle to those who travel on frequent basis.

## Sports & Recreation Facilities

- I did not attend any sports / recreation activities, but I think there is a gym and few sports facilities available on campus.

## Finance & Banking (including currency / expenses)

- I used BNP Paribas in Place Cobert, but if you think you can keep cash safely, then I don't recommend opening an account because it is super inefficient.

## Social Clubs & Networking Opportunities

- I think local clubs and events are only open to full-time students, but there are quite a lot of socializing events for exchange students too.

## Health & Safety

- There is a clinic in case you are sick. I brought my own medicine kit just in case some of the medications are not available in France.

## Food

- The school canteen offers european styled buffet, which is acceptable. There are few supermarkets available in town so you can easily cook your own food as well.

### Transportation

- I subscribed to a monthly bus ticket, which includes bus rides without limit for a month. Bus is almost the only public transportation available in Rouen, so monthly tickets were very useful.

### Communication

- I couldn't speak french but I still managed to communicate well with the local people. Though, most french people don't speak fluent english, so a google translator would help.

### Cautionary measures

- Be careful of pickpockets especially in Paris!