

## Personal Report

### INSEEC Paris, winter semester 2017/18, 1 Semester International Finance, Fachbereich 3, Frankfurt

#### Language

**Which language did you use? How did you communicate with your fellow students?**

Language: English

Improvements in French were possible because of French courses offered by INSEEC.

#### Accommodation

**Did the host university arrange for accommodation?**

In some cases.

**How high were your overall monthly costs for accommodation (in Euro)?**

650- 740€

**How would you describe the quality of your accommodation?**

Good.

**How well was the accommodation situated? How long did it take you on average to reach the partner university (in minutes)?**

Between 20 to 40 minutes to INSEEC

**Which web sites, forums, Facebook pages, contacts, etc. can you recommend for looking for accommodation?**

Checking the pages the university sends you in advance.

**Where have you been accommodated (name of dormitory, location, part of town, etc.)? And how would you describe the surroundings of your accommodation (shopping facilities, distance to the city center, nightlife, etc.?)**

Private flats in Paris. It was a standard Paris studio with a bedroom, kitchen and entrance area in one single room. You should know that the average room size is 15 m<sup>2</sup>, plus the bathroom had a size of 2m<sup>2</sup>. The average prize for this kind of studio is between 600 and 800 euros. That's why I suggest a shared flat with other ERASMUS-students.

## Arrival at the Partner University and Orientation

### Which is the best arrival time?

As early as possible. University started around 1st September. If you arrive earlier, you have the opportunity to discover the city. And there is a lot to discover...

### How did you organize your arrival? Was the extent of the orientation program sufficient? What activities can you recommend? Were all important questions answered? What did you have to find out yourself? How fast were you able to get in contact with the domestic students? How were the services for exchange students?

I came to Paris without a flat and stayed in a hostel the first few days. If you are in Paris it is easier to find a flat than searching one out of Germany.

## Living Abroad

### Compared to Frankfurt, how high was the cost of living abroad?

Higher, ca. 200%.

### What additional expenses did you have during your semester abroad? How far were you able to travel with your semester ticket? How was your student life off-campus? How were the mensas/ student cafeterias? What types of meals were served? How much did the meals cost? How were the libraries? Was their use free? Did the university provide computer workplaces/ computer pools? Was Wi-Fi available on-campus? Were you able to use study rooms? Were you able to rent separate rooms for studying? Did the university provide a sports program? Was this free of charge?

Mainly trips, restaurants and drinks were the additional expenses. The cultural offer is great and 95% of it is free for EU citizens under 26 and with the monthly ticket (75€) I was able to go to towns surrounding Paris (like Versailles, Fontainebleau,...). The student life off-campus was very busy as many people were willing to make plans and it was great. There was no Mensa, which wasn't very convenient... I had to eat sandwiches most of the days, which were pretty good, but it is repetitive. There was one study room at university but the high number of people and bad internet connection made it nearly impossible to use it. It was free, as well as most libraries in Paris if you show a study ID and they are much better. The university did not provide a sports program.

## Studying at the Host University

### How would you describe the academic standard of classes compared to Frankfurt?

A lot easier.

**Did you experience any difference in teaching methods/ class structure? Which were the difference regarding your expectations and your experiences at the partner university? What surprised you, what should newly arriving students know? How were the student services? Was the fact, that you were an exchange student taken into account (by professors or other staff)? If so, how? How were difficulties, which you or other exchange students may have met, handled by the partner university?**

There was no structure at all. I have never seen such an unorganized "university". Sometimes the teachers spoke French in the course for more than 10 minutes, which made it impossible to follow them. Most of the time, teachers only spoke about themselves and how great they were without teaching anything. You have to do a lot of group work, which can lower your personal grade because most of the people don't care about the quality of the work and deliver really bad quality which leads to a bad grade for the group.

## **Final Remarks**

**What should future exchange students know/ do/ avoid? How would you overall rate your exchange experience? In what ways have you benefitted academically, personally, linguistically for your future career?**

Paris is great but the university is bad.

You can improve your French and learn to stay calm because no one in the school cares about projects and deadlines in a way I have never seen before.

An Exchange student should definitely avoid staying with the people from his/her country all the time. It sure is fun, but he/she should definitely try to open up to other people from other countries as well, I think it is an essential part of an Exchange. I would rate it as an absolute 10/10, I was so sad that it ended and I miss some of the people I met a lot.