

Country: France

University abroad: Institut des Hautes Etudes Economiques et Commerciales (INSEEC) F PARIS 244

Beginning of lectures and end of exams abroad: 07/09/2020 until 18/12/2020



EUROPA-UNIVERSITÄT  
VIADRINA  
FRANKFURT (ODER)



Study path at Viadrina: \_\_\_\_\_ [X] BA [ ] MA



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## Studying Abroad Experience Report

- 1) Are we allowed to publish your report anonymously on our webpage (without your name and e-Mail)?  
 Yes [ ] No
- 2) Are we allowed to forward your report and contact information to a Viadrina student on request?  
 Yes [ ] No
- 3) Please confirm hereby that you did not mention names of a third party (lecturer, landlord etc.)  
 Yes [ ] No – in this case your report won't be published
- 4) Please be aware that all the published photos in this report have to be taken by you and are not the property of a third party. By sending this report you are giving us the legal right of use for your pictures (if we publish the report). The copyrights still belong to you after all.  
 Yes, I confirm that all photos are mine.

We would appreciate it if you could include the following topics (the report should be at least two pages long, there is no maximum):

- **Preparation:** Recommendations about preparing to leave, for example (if applicable) Visa, insurance, travel? How was the application process at the university abroad? Were there any introduction events? Were they obligatory and when did they take place? Was there a Buddy program or tutors?
- **Accommodation:** How did you find your accommodation? Any tips about mistakes that should be avoided? Were there any special student accommodations? The cost of rent? Which area of living would you recommend?
- **Studying at the university abroad:** How was the day to day life on campus? Was the attendance mandatory? Which courses did you take? Were you allowed to take courses from different faculties? Please attach links to the course list if possible. How did the exams take place? Were there any language courses? What is your overall opinion of the university in general? How well did the university take care of international/exchange students?
- **Day to day life and free time:** How high are the costs of living in total? How much money should be accessible monthly? How much does the public transportation cost? What can an exchange student do in their free time? What did you do?
- **Conclusion:** worst and best experience
- **Suggestions/Feedback:** In your opinion, how can we improve our exchange program especially considering consulting, information, application process at the Viadrina? – This section is just for the department of international affairs of the Viadrina and will not be published.

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## Preparation

Because of Covid-19, preparation to go to Paris was so uncertain for me. I applied from the third application round and was nominated about April to the University, however, because of the ineffective communication from the host university, until September, I didn't know will I go there or not. However, France is in European Union and as a result of that, I didn't do anything about the visa process, insurance, etc. So, it is not taken too much time for me to prepare. The hard part would be finding accommodation, however, I stayed with my sister, for that reason, going late not affected me so badly. For the application, I sent some necessary documents to the University such as a CV, motivation letter, insurance, etc. I bought my flight ticket 1 week ago for 75€, if you buy it earlier you can find it for around 50€. Because in normal times, there are a lot of flights from Berlin to Paris. In return, I bought a train ticket for 70€. There are many options for arriving there.

At INSEEC, there was an Erasmus introduction meeting one week ago from the lectures starts. It was at the beginning of September. As I said above, because of late acceptance, I couldn't attend this information meeting. There is an Erasmus student association at INSEEC, because of COVID-19 they were not so active, however, when I get in touch with them, the students helped me about the university.

## Accommodation

I stayed with my sister who lives in il de France the region of Paris or in other words the banlieue of Paris. For that reason, I didn't spend my time for finding a suitable place. However, I can say that Paris is a really expensive city if you want to spend less on the rents, I suggest you to finding places from the banlieue side of Paris because with the RER( like RE1 trains) it is not far away you can find places within 20-30 minutes far away from the Paris and on the mornings they have express RER and you can reach much faster to the INSEEC. I didn't apply because I didn't know at that time, however, I suggest that in France when you stay in a place as a student, you have the right for applying for help from the government for your rent.

In addition to that, as far as I know, INSEEC also helps students for finding a suitable place. I also suggest checking Facebook groups are so helpful for finding accommodation in Paris, with this groups you can reach a lot of information about accommodation and also life in Paris. For an average accommodation place in Paris, you should think about 600-800€. But as I said, in il de France region it is a bit less than this amounts.

## Studying at the university abroad

Unfortunately, the university just consists of a big building because it is a Business School and doesn't have any other faculties. However, it was a modern and well-equipped building and located in a very good place in Paris. The university is much like an Applied School in Germany, all of the classes were held with not so many students, this was an advantage of it because you can communicate effectively with the Professors, there are no huge amphies with hundreds of students. In my first 6-7 weeks, I went to the University for face-to-face education, however, after the huge increase in the Covid-19 cases, the university turns to the online system. All classes have mandatory attendance and as a result that all the professors took attendance before the class. I am a bachelor student, however, at INSEEC they offer us Master 1 or Master 2 courses and the courses are a package, you can't select them each, you can just select a module. As a rule, you have to take 30ECTS which is the total amount of the package. However, from the Viadrina perspective, you don't need to pass all the courses which are in your program. I selected Management Program 2A with Marketing Track. As I said this is a 30ECTS package program, however, I just took the 20ECTS from the package and additionally 2ECTS French Culture and 2ECTS French Language, which I highly suggest to take. Because I learned a lot from the culture and language courses. The culture course also includes a short trip into Paris for museums or historical places, however, again because of Corona, it was canceled. INSEEC offers a variety of courses especially for the Marketing, Management and Finance Modules. In the course catalog, when we look at just the name of the courses, it seems so fewer courses, however, every course have 2 or 3 more courses, such as for Management course, the catalog says 6ECTS and I thought this is just a course, however, it includes 2 courses, one is Business and Corporate Strategy with 4ECTS plus a Corporate Law course with 2ECTS or Marketing Track means 4 different courses with 2-2-3-3 ECTS.

INSEEC School of Business and Economics is famous for the Luxury Management Courses, for that reason, I really learned a lot about luxury brands from lots of my courses. Also, there was directly a Luxury Management Marketing course within my Marketing Track with 3ECTS and the professor was so experienced. Most of my lecturer was experienced professional and this gives you a different perspective than the theoretical education and I liked that applied education.

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For all courses, you need to make group works additionally presentations, papers, etc. In addition to that, you also have a final exam, however, due to corona for some of my courses we just evaluated with our group works and presentations. The important point in the group works is your group members, for that reason, from the first weeks trying to make friends would be a good idea, otherwise if your group members are not hard worker then you have to do the task by yourself. Shortly, I can say that courses at INSEEC are easier than Viadrina, however, in the final, probably you have to do give more effort to the courses at INSEEC than Viadrina because nearly all of the courses are just 2 or 3 ECTS and all of them have presentations, papers, exams and so on. For Viadrina it is usually just one exam with 6 ECTS. The final exams take place at the end of the semester and the results publish 2 months later, as a result, that retakes are taken place in the middle of February, however, as far as I understand you cannot take the scholarship for the retake period because the lectures finish on the December.

At INSEEC, there is a French Language Course, which is free of charge, and 2 ECTS. I highly suggest you take this course because the lecturers are nice and funny, also learning French in Paris is much easy because even in university people prefer to speak French, so it is an opportunity for improving your French. For that reason, I highly suggest taking until A2 at Viadrina and then take at least B1 at INSEEC.

The only thing that I can say not good about the INSEEC is that their administration is totally bad, just for small tasks you have to wait a lot of times, for example, I didn't get my student ID at all, I enrolled for the courses for the online system takes about 3 weeks something like that. For that reason, always be a person who always asks and follows things about it. They are nice to an international student, however, you have to follow all the steps on your own, even as I said about my enrollment. But some of these delays also occurred because of Covid19.

### Day to day life and free time

Being a student in Paris is a totally great experience, I highly suggest that experience. Paris is one of the centers of art, culture, and fashion. As a result of that, there are hundreds of museums, art galleries, different type of shops, historical places, and so on. And INSEEC Paris is located in a good location in Paris. So, I always discovered the city by walking on the streets of Paris after my classes, and this was great, especially I thought that without Covid19, there are thousands of things that you can do for fun in Paris. Especially for the museums, historic places and also great libraries that you can enter for study, Paris always a good idea to go in.

When we look at the economic way, I can say that by yourself without any help, because I lived with my sister and my costs decreased a lot. Usually, an average person in Paris would spend with the rent and other expenses about 1000€. You can decrease it maybe to 800€ but I don't think it is possible less than it. For higher amounts, it is so easy to reach 1500-2000€ per month because there are lots of different type of events that take places there. For example, nearly all of the museums are free if you are under the age of 26, however, there are some museums for example, Atelier des Lumières, you have to pay and this is worth it, I think if you are there then you should go to this type of places, for that reason there is no limit about consuming in Paris. For the transportation, unfortunately, there is no option for the students per month, the student option is just for yearly based and it is as far as I remember 350€. If you are going for 2 semesters then you should take this student option but for one semester it works just when you directly buy at the beginning of the semester and when you are planning to come within 1 year again to Paris. Otherwise, without it, the prices are usually the same for one semester as a student or not, the price for the monthly limitless ticket within il de France region which includes also Paris was around 75€ per month. An average meal menu is about 10€. The cafes and patisseries of Paris so successful about desserts you can spend your time with your friends there. Also, there is a Lidl and lots of restaurants which are so close to the University by walking. Shortly, as an exchange student in Paris, there are thousands of things that you can do, great places to visit, different type of museums such as perfume museum, close areas that you can visit within Europe and so on, there are great areas that you can go, such as South of France, Strasbourg, Rennes the North of the France and Amsterdam, Belgium and Switzerland is not far away, however, due to corona, I couldn't travel any of them.

### Conclusion

In conclusion, I highly suggest Paris for an exchange semester, it was a great experience for me and in my opinion, all of the exchange semesters are great. From the view of Paris, the main advantage is their great museums, history, desires and so on. Because as I learned from my French Culture course, French's are working for their desires and as a result of that they have so many strong brands within fashion, art, and culture, for a business student especially for a student who wants to specialize within Marketing and Luxury Brand Management, INSEEC is a very good choice which is located in the center of luxury, Paris. However, on the other hand, it is an expensive city. These are my experiences

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and please don't forget my Erasmus program was affected hugely from Covid-19 and as a result of that, some things have not happened as usual. However, you can be sure, if I find the opportunity for going Paris again, I would go there.