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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
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- **Preparation:**

About the documents, one should follow the list of documents provided by Viadrina. As a non-EU nationality, I had to apply for French Mobility Permit with the help from Neoma HUB. The German health insurance is sufficient, and it is not required to apply for French health insurance.

From Viadrina side, the entire process is very well organized and supported. Exchange session held by Viadrina with previous double degree students provided very insightful information.

From Neoma side, the support was also very quick. However, the higher level of planning is not in order. One often finds unclear information or changing rules/schedules with the system.

Neoma organized a welcome session. The city Rouen also organized a similar event. Both are very pleasant and contained delightful surprise. We felt welcome and excited for the start of the semester. We highly recommend the city event because there was a small competition for international students which we won 2nd place and received very pleasant reward.



- **Accommodation:**

- **Accommodation** can be applied with Crous, which is the housing association of student in France. The process involves different steps/documents, and we have to pay attention to the deadlines. The fee is paid for the whole semester (4 months at a time, plus deposit at the beginning).

After the 1st semester, Crous did not send email to remind us to pay for the next semester. We have to send it to Crous by ourselves. At the end of the study, one should register for checkout date with the lady in charge of the building. There is no need to email for cancellation in advance, but one can feel free to email Crous or Neoma Hub.

- **The internet** at Ango building where some students stayed was not stable or lost during the first month. It was slow for Crous to fix. This is a common issue at this building. It is recommendable to apply for French SIM card with attractive data rate and cancel at the end of the stay.

- **Other accommodation:** they can locate in city center or other areas, either belongs to Crous or private market. It also means commute by bus everyday to Neoma is needed, unlike living in Crous residence next to Neoma. The cheapest option with Crous is around 250 euro per month near campus. Outside Crous, the rent should go above that.

The cheapest option with Crous is a 9m² room with own kitchenette (1 cooking plate), hygiene sink and shared toilet & shower. Other option at Crous can be 17m² or above, which can be found in other buildings in the network.

- **Studying at the university abroad:**

I am in the double degree programme between Viadrina and Neoma. It is IOM track at Viadrina and the corresponding Supply Chain Management track at Neoma.

The study style is quite different from German universities:

- **The programme:** It lasts only 1 academic year, which covers 60 credits in just around 8 months of presence on campus. In Germany, 60 credits are normally for 2 semesters, which last 1 year.

- **Courses:** are provided by Neoma brochures. One should check syllabus of each subject to get the general idea of the course such as grade components, course content...

- **Attendance** is mandatory. Absence must be reported and justified in online portal.

- **Schedules of classes:** One can download mobile application or check on Neoma website for specific information of location and time of each class. Classes schedule is not fixed and can change upon agreement with students and unexpected events. For example, storm disrupted transport network so the professors can not come on time or changing of classroom due to technical issues. Consult with the directors of SCM programme for class schedule before booking trips for holiday.

- **Group work & presentation** has a considerable weight in grade makeup. The problem with free riders / unequal contribution was present.

- **Professors:** The professors are large in numbers and have impressive experience and diverse backgrounds. The teaching is practice-oriented and has strong connection to companies. The majority was very engaging, inspiring. They even helped with career advice in the related course, which I benefited greatly.

- **Difficulty:** The course contents are not as difficult / technical as in Viadrina. However, they are compressed in 8 months. This brings much time pressure compared to German universities which students can pick or drop courses, extend study further than the normal 2 years. This is another type of challenge and feels very intensive.

- **Grade:** Even though the contents are not as challenging, getting full grade of a course is uncommon. There are various reasons: short time for studying, group work, the design of exam / grading method of the French education.

- **Connection to industries:** very strong. There are many opportunities to discuss with senior managers, directors of big corporations in SCM field. They come to provide lectures on how things are done in various industries.

- **Career service:** Neoma as a business school has strong focus in this respect. There are two short courses (mandatory) on leadership and shaping career which I found to be very interesting and helpful. The provided resources are very valuable.

- **Language course:** I did not take the language course.

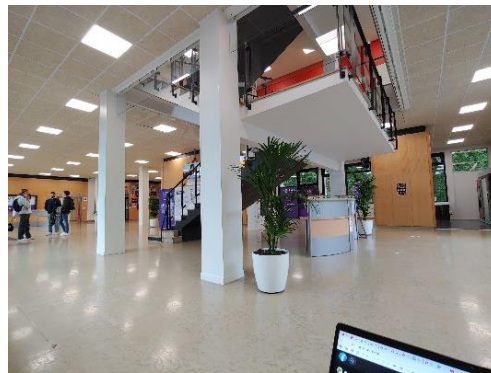
- **Treatment of exchange students:** Neoma is proud to have exchange student coming in and they support them fully.

- **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?

- **The costs:** accommodation can range from 250 EUR and above. The groceries in general are at similar level with Germany in my case. The public transport is free for all on Saturday. It costs around 28 EUR monthly for under 26 years old and 55 EUR for above 26. The overall budget can range from 500 EUR or above.

- **The activities:** Rouen is a beautiful city. Neoma campus and nearby Crous accommodation is located on Mont Saint Aignan, which is on a hill. Running while discovering beautiful buildings through different paths is a joy for me. The weather was very rainy, foggy, cloudy in winter times even though it is milder than German winter. The overall climate was pleasant, especially in autumn, spring. Other students join different sport associations and gym facilities inside Neoma building.

On the weekend, a walk in the historic city center is a good routine thanks to the beautiful architecture and availability of cultural activities.



- **Conclusion:** worst and best experience

All in all, the experience with the SCM programme at Neoma in Rouen was unique and worthy. I gain many insights into French education system, the old city's culture and my future professional aspiration.

There was minor frustration at times with the general organization of classes (change of schedules, intensive schedule for certain classes). However, as hectic as it was, it is also a part of life. Definitely I would do the same if I had the opportunity.

