



Exchange summary – ESCP-PARIS (Fall 2014)

Living in Paris – a dream come true! The exchange program was definitely a once in lifetime opportunity, and if you're reading this summary you're probably considering going to France – and you should!

In regard to which school in France to choose, I would definitely recommend one that is close to Paris, since for me that was an essential part of the experience. ESCP-Paris is the only school offered that is located at the heart of Paris, which made it an easy choice for me..

Visa Information

After the French school has approved my enrollment, they've sent a very detailed mail which contained visa permit information. I specifically didn't have to get a visa (since I have a French passport), but I'm sure that the process is straightforward.

Also, the whole exchange period is just a bit over 3 months - If you plan to leave France in the middle (for a trip somewhere) you might just qualify for two separate visits as tourists (in which way you don't even need a visa).

Housing

ESCP has an agreement with a dorm residence, called Vivaldi, in the 11th quartier (close to the university) to which I was referred by the school. Another option is trying to register for the 'Cité Universitaire', located at the south of Paris. It's rather far from the school, but has a real nice college atmosphere. I chose to invest a bit more money and to rent my own apartment right at the heart of the 11th quartier. I rented it through AirBNB, which made the process much easier. However, you could find flats through agencies, craig's list, different facebook groups and even the school's website.



Living expenses

Living in such an amazing city could get expensive, depending on the level of expenses you choose. You should prepare for:

- **Housing**- if you choose a dorm option it should cost 500-700 euro per month. If you choose to rent your own apartment in a good location you should expect to spend around 1000-1200 euros per month.
- **Transportation**- The metro in Paris is really efficient and so it's highly recommended. They offer a monthly-pass (חופשי-חודשי) which is not defiantly the best choice – consider as well buying the 10-tickets promotion. The last recommendation is even more relevant if you like to bike – Rent VELIB (the citi bike) and use the Metro for the far rides!
Overall estimation of transportation costs: ~30-60 euros per month
- **Food & Restaurants** – Restaurants in Paris are rather expensive, and so you should find the right balance between restaurants and making your own food.

All together I estimate the monthly expenses to be around 1700-2200 euros per month.

Courses

The school offers a big selection of English courses divided to 15 hours / 30 hours courses. The difference is whether the course will last 5 or 10 weeks.

Also, the school requires for a minimum of 90 hours per semester (not including language courses – a highly recommended option of learning French on Fridays).

Other tips

- French is not mandatory for getting around, but it's definitely an advantage. If don't know any French, try to pick up as much as you can (to a basic level) before you go – you will not regret it. If you already know some French, the exchange period is a great opportunity to improve it.



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- Living area – The school's quartier (11th) is a great one to live in (so I did), and being close to school is an advantage. However quartiers 1-5 are also very popular since they are at the heart of the city. Basically most quartiers will be good – try to avoid 18-20.
- Mobile phone – take the 20 euro per month “FREE” company contract (it's consider to be the best choice).
- Trips – plan In-France, as well as Out-of-France trips along you semester. It's a great opportunity as long as you're already at the heart of Europe.

Have Fun!

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For any further questions, you're
welcome to contact me at:
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