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Degree Program at TAU: Sofaer Global MBA

Host University: HEC Paris

Exchange term: Fall (3 months)

About the Host University

HEC Paris is one of the leading Business schools in France and in Europe in general. Their Global MBA program was ranked 19th in the world by the Financial Times in 2019. The MBA program covers two years: the first year includes basic courses, such as Marketing, Corporate Finance, etc., and from the third semester students can choose one of the following 7 specializations: Digital Innovation, Advance Management, Marketing, Finance, Strategy, Sustainability and disruptive innovation and Entrepreneurship.

Fall Exchange semester is the third semester of the MBA program, and accordingly exchange students choose a specialization which includes basic courses, and elective courses.

Courses and professors

I took the Strategy track which included the following courses: Advanced Strategy, Financial dimensions of Strategic decisions, Merger and acquisitions, Thinking Strategically, Behavioral Strategy, Competitive advantage from operations, Strategy beyond markets. All these courses were interesting, professors were very professional and knowledgeable.

At HEC there is a great opportunity to sign up in different clubs such as Consulting, Tech, Healthcare, Luxury etc. It is a good way to network and stay updated with the news and opportunities of specific subjects that you are interested in. Clubs organize meetings, hand tickets to conferences for its members and give information about different job opportunities.

HEC has a huge building that is dedicated to career center, which is very helpful. Students have the opportunity to make counseling appointments and receive advice regarding their CV, career opportunities, etc. The career center has its own web-site called MBA focus, where new job opportunities are posted for HEC students.

Accommodation and transportation

HEC Paris campus is located near Paris, in a small town called Jouys-en-Josas, approximately 30 km from Paris city center. It's a small town, very calm with beautiful nature. Most students live on campus, which is full of beautiful forests and lakes. Other than the dorms you can find a restaurant, bar and a gym on campus and each Thursday there are parties organized by student union.

However, for exchange students HEC campus is not available, so students can rent an apartment in the city or stay and commute from Paris. Commuting from Paris is not the perfect solution, as it takes almost 1.5 hours to get to HEC campus by train and bus, but living in Paris has its advantages, such as of course - living in one of the most beautiful cities in the world, having the opportunity to explore galleries and museums and in general it is much more fun.

Living expenses

The cost of living in Paris is quite high, approximate cost of renting a small studio ranges from 1000 to 1500 EUR. Also living expenses in Paris is high compared to other cities in Europe, approximately 1500 EUR per month.

Night life in Paris is an amazing experience, with variety of choices – Jazz clubs, bars, night clubs etc. During the daytime there are a lot of exhibitions and concerts that is worth exploring.

Student visa

The process of getting a student visa is quite smooth, and it gives students permission to work 20 hours a week during their stay.

Insurance

Insurance was not covered by the university and can be purchased before or after arrival in Paris. The cost of insurance varies from 20 to 50 EUR per month.

Summary

Exchange semester in HEC is a great opportunity for meeting new people from all around the world, make new connections and enjoy multicultural environment.