

Exchange Summary

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Degree Program at TAU: Sofaer Global MBA

Host University: HEC Paris, France

Exchange term (including the duration): August 28, 2025- December 19, 2025

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France, home to world-class innovation and culture, hosted my exchange in Paris the City of Light. Its iconic landmarks like the Eiffel Tower, Seine River, and vibrant neighborhoods blend history with modern energy, creating an inspiring backdrop for global business studies.

HEC Paris, Europe's premier business school, features a stunning campus in Jouy-en-Josas, 30 minutes from central Paris. Lush greenery, serene lakes, and modern architecture create a peaceful yet dynamic atmosphere. Diverse students from 90+ nationalities collaborate in top facilities, staff offered personalized advising and warm support, making me feel truly welcomed.

Courses and Professors

I took Financial Accounting, AI in Business, Digital Assets & Blockchain, AI Unleashed, International Marketing, and French. Professors, guest speakers from top companies like Procter and Gamble , KPMG dynamic, case-based sessions that sparked deep discussions and real-world applications. Group projects with peers from 0+ countries honed my analytical and cross-cultural skills.

Extracurriculars

Orientation week kicked off with icebreakers and campus tours and Paris Tour. However I, missed it because it was scheduled before my arrival in Paris. Social mixers, student union events, and international nights were organized frequently building lasting connections . These activities fostered teamwork and cultural exchange beyond the classroom.

Career Center

HEC's career center offered tailored workshops on European job markets, resume reviews, and networking events with top firms like Bank of America, Delloite, KPMG and BNP Paribas. However, these were not effective in My case due to the current job market situation .

Business and Network Development

Guest lectures from executives and alumni mixers expanded my network across finance, AI, and consulting.

Accommodation

Dorms weren't available for fall exchange students, so I stayed at an Airbnb in a safe, central neighborhood. It offered flexibility and a home-like feel, though coordinating with locals added a unique cultural layer near metros for easy commutes.

Visa

The French student visa process was straightforward via Campus France documents like acceptance letter and proof of funds took 4-6 weeks. TAU's guidance simplified it; early application is key.

Transportation

Paris's metro, RER, and buses are efficient and affordable (Navigo pass ~€80/month covers all). Campus shuttles ran frequently, making daily travel seamless even from the city center. Also student discounts are available for students below 26 .

Insurance and Health Services

TAU's insurance covered essentials; HEC recommended supplementary French coverage. On-campus clinics and nearby hospitals provided quick, multilingual care no major issues, but pharmacies are everywhere for minor needs.

Living Expenses

Monthly costs totaled €1,200-1,500: Airbnb €1,000-1,300, food €300, transport €80, misc €100. Supermarket near HEC Paris is quite affordable .

Food

Parisian cuisine shone fresh croissants, markets for cheese and wine, affordable student canteens (€4- meals). Indian spots in La Chapelle satisfied cravings, fusion eateries added variety.

Night Life

From Montmartre bars to Seine cruises, Paris nightlife thrums. Student pub crawls and club nights at Le Duplex were lively yet safe moderate pacing fit my academic focus.

Tips

Book Airbnb early; learn basic French via Duolingo; use Citymapper app; join HEC WhatsApp groups; pack layers for variable weather; network boldly everyone's international, hop European trains for max adventure.

Value to Collier School of Management

This exchange enriched my Global MBA at TAU's Collier School by blending European perspectives on AI, blockchain, and marketing with my finance expertise. Courses aligned

perfectly with innovation electives, accelerating consulting projects on AI and international marketing prepared me for multicultural leadership.

