Personal Information

Full name: Changjiao Wu

Email: wuyuval@gmail.com

Degree Program at TAU: MBA

Host University: ESCP Business School (Paris campus)

Exchange term (including the duration): Fall (September 2025 – December 2025)

Phone number (optional):

Exchange Experience

Please use the outline below to write your report:

- **About the country and city**
- **About the host university – campus and school atmosphere, location, staff attention and care.**
- **Courses and professors**
- **Extra curricula – orientation, social activities, student union, etc.**
- **Career center (if applicable)**
- **Business and Network Development**
- **Accommodation – dorms and other solutions**
- **Visa**
- **Transportation**
- **Insurance and health services**
- **Living expenses**
- **Food**
- **Night life**
- **Tips**
- **How did this exchange experience add value to your studies at Coller?**
- **Photos**

Please note that the Coller School of Management may publish your report on its website.
For any further information, please contact the Global Engagement Lead – Outgoing,
coordinator@tauex.tau.ac.il

About the Country and City

Paris was not as “romantic” as I had imagined. However, I truly appreciated how mature and efficient the public transportation system is, which makes daily life feel more modern and convenient compared with Tel Aviv.

Paris is also extremely rich in cultural and tourism resources. Even during the semester, it is easy to explore the city after class and visit historical landmarks—Paris offers both historical character and a modern urban feel. That said, overall city cleanliness is not ideal in some areas.

Before arriving, I heard many warnings about pickpockets. I stayed cautious and did not experience any related issues.

About the Host University – Campus and School Atmosphere

ESCP is positioned as an international business school, partly because it operates multiple campuses across different countries. At the Paris campus, around half of the students are international, creating a diverse learning environment. This makes it possible to experience both a local French context and a strongly international atmosphere at the same time.

Courses and Professors

The course content I took at ESCP was solid and well-structured. However, the teaching style was not the best fit for me personally. Many classes felt more “by the book,” and the classroom atmosphere was less interactive than what I experienced in Tel Aviv.

Although each class included group assignments and in-class discussions, I still felt the discussion culture was not as dynamic or as deeply engaging as I was used to. Overall, the material was strong, but I did not enjoy the teaching style as much.

Extra Curricula – Orientation, Social Activities, Student Union, etc.

ESCP provides many sports courses (such as yoga, rock climbing, and horseback riding). They looked interesting and well organized; however, most of the sessions conflicted with my class schedule, so I was not able to participate.

Business and Network Development

ESCP has an internal job platform with postings and resources that are highly informative. Even if exchange students do not apply directly through the system, the information available there is useful for understanding the market, roles, and recruitment expectations.

Accommodation – Dorms and Other Solutions

Accommodation was one of the most stressful parts of the exchange. ESCP recommended several “student residence” options, and I contacted them 3–4 months in advance through the school-provided channels. However, I was repeatedly told they were already full.

Interestingly, when I approached one of the same residences through a Chinese housing agency, I received a positive response quickly. This made the housing process emotionally exhausting even before arriving in Paris.

Visa

As a Chinese passport holder, I applied for a French visa through the French Embassy in Tel Aviv. The process was relatively complex due to documentation requirements, but the staff were friendly and professional, and the overall efficiency was good.

Transportation

Paris has a highly developed public transportation system. It is easy to commute and travel around the city, and the overall convenience is a major advantage compared with Tel Aviv.

Insurance and Health Services

I applied for the French national social security (Carte Vitale). It took around three months to receive the physical card. This is something students should be aware of in advance, as the timeline may be longer than expected.

Living Expenses

In my experience, the overall cost of living in Paris was about 30–40% lower than in Tel Aviv. Especially if you cook and buy groceries, monthly food expenses can be very manageable (for example, around 2000 NIS per month for groceries was sufficient for me).

Food

Food options in Paris are extremely international. It is easy to find cuisines from many different countries, which makes daily life convenient and enjoyable, especially for international students.

Tips

- Prepare your birth certificate early, and make sure it is notarized/officially certified. In France, this document is often required for many types of administrative processes and government-related support.
- Do not rely only on the accommodation options officially provided by the school. Keep alternative plans and be flexible when searching for housing.
- It would be very helpful if Coller could connect outgoing students with previous exchange students who have studied at the same host university, so future students can get practical tips and reduce uncertainty.

How Did This Exchange Experience Add Value to Your Studies at Coller?

This exchange experience significantly enriched my MBA studies at the Coller School of Management by providing international academic exposure and practical business perspectives. Studying at ESCP enhanced my understanding of European business practices and strengthened my cross-cultural communication skills. The experience contributed to both my academic development and personal growth, complementing the knowledge gained at Coller.