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Degree Program at TAU: Global MBA program

Host University: ESCP Europe

Exchange term: Fall 2019 Term 1, 3 months

Paris, France

Paris is divided in 20 districts. Paris is known to be the city with the best Business Schools and ESCP Europe is one of them.

The Host University

ESCP Europe sits at the heart of Paris, and is one of the tops ten Business School in France. The campus of Paris is the largest of the 6 campuses ESCP has, and hosts the greatest number of faculty and students. The campus covers approximately 4,000 students and 100 teachers.

At ESCP Europe “a strong sense of school spirit and community is a defining characteristic”. ESCP Europe believes that associations and extra-curricular activities are important for their student's personal well-being and professional development. They encourage students to get involved in school's activities in addition to their studies. For this reason, ESCP proposes several different events, in addition to more than fifty clubs and associations. Moreover, network facilitation, humanitarian activities, and cultural events such as excursions are offered in order to enhance student life at ESCP Europe.

Courses and Professors

In order to find a job during the studies or for my future, I personally took two courses so that I could have time to do some research.

I took VBA Excel in order to maximize my competences in Excel, which is essential for the future jobs I want to enter. The teacher was really nice, was speaking French and English, depending which language we wanted to speak and explained very clearly the course. We had a multiple choice exam.

The second course that I had in my portfolio was Europe Does Matter, a mandatory course that every foreign students need to take. The majority of the foreign students were not coming from Europe but from all around the world. It was important for them to understand the European Union and its specificities. Europe is not a region but an entity.

In overall, professors were very nice to us and were helpful for any recommendation.

Accommodation

There is no dorm at ESCP Europe. It can be explained because it is at the center of Paris and even for French people; it is difficult to find an apartment. But the school helps foreign students to find apartments. I personally rented an apartment with my French friend.

Visa

I did not need a Visa as I have a dual citizenship Israeli-French.

Transportation

Trains, buses and metro are all excellent in Paris. You can stop wherever you want, you will not walk more than 10 minutes until finding another entrance. You can buy a card called "Navigo Pass" that you can refill day-by-day or week-by-week or monthly. It costs 75€ per month and if you are less than 26 years old and a student, the university refunds you half of the price. It is the same when you work in a company; they pay you half of the amount.

Insurance and Health Services

I personally have my own French insurance and this is what I used but for foreign students, the university is proposing one that you need to pay for the length of the stay.

Living expenses

Paris is very expensive. A bit more expensive than Tel Aviv. But as everywhere, you can find all kind of prices; if you go to a far supermarket, prices will be lower. The same for restaurants. To rent a nice apartment in the center of Paris, you need to pay minimum 1000-1200€/month if you want to live alone. If you want to have roommates, you will pay approximately 700€/month for a room.

Food

Food in France... refined, greedy, amazing. From breakfast to dinner, you will eat amazingly well. You have tons of choices of restaurants and supermarkets. Every product exists in minimum more than 5 brands so you have lots of choices: Japanese, Chinese, Italian, Kosher, non-Kosher, meat, you can eat different food every day.

Nightlife

Whether you just want to have dinner, go to a bar, or go to a club, you will have the choice and it would be a nice experience. You always meet new people; there are always foreign people coming to Paris. The only thing comparing to Tel Aviv is that in almost every club, you need to wear night clothing (and heels for the girls). Not in every club, but in Paris it is "cultural".

Tips

- Be patient because French people do not speak English very well so communication is a bit disturbed.
- Buy a monthly "Pass Navigo" for Metro as you will use it several times a day. You will then be able to visit this amazing city of lights.
- Be polite as French people are always waiting for a "please", a "bonjour" or "thanks" compared to Israeli people.

General experience

Going abroad during university is something important to do and going to Paris was the best experience for me, as I wanted to work there. Moreover, Paris is at the heart of Europe so it is easy to travel all around Europe during the weekends. I really recommend ESCP Europe as your exchange destination.