



Tel Aviv University
TAU Recanati
The Leon Recanati Graduate School of Business Administration

Student Exchange at EM Strasbourg

Fall semester 2011-2012

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First and Foremost – Visa Information

It will save you a lot of trouble if you get a student visa prior leaving Israel, even if you don't want to work in France. Israelis are allowed to stay inside the Schengen Area for no more than a period of 90 days (3 months). An important thing to know is that these 90 days are counted over a 6 month period. Meaning, if you stay in France for a while, go to London for a few days (which is not a part of the Schengen Area) and then go back to France, your days in 'Europe' continue to accumulate.

Unlike other countries (like Germany), you cannot get a student visa while you are in France, you have to issue it in advance. You can issue it at the French consulate in the area where you live and it has to be done at least 15 days prior to your departure.

If you find yourself in France without a student visa and you decide to stay for more than 90 days, go to the 'Prefecture' (with documentations from the university and your landlord) and ask to prolong your stay as a tourist. If you don't speak French, ask someone who does to accompany you.

The City

Strasbourg is by far one of the most beautiful cities in the world. It is quite small, pastoral, with water flowing everywhere. If you are looking for a timeout, it is just the place for you!



Strasbourg is highly touristic. Its immense beauty, the Cathedral, the European Parliament, the extremely developed culture life, its many markets including one of the biggest Christmas Markets in Europe, these are all great tourist attractions.



Strasbourg is located close to France's borders with Germany and Switzerland, making it possible to travel all over in sensible prices.



Student Life

Having so many students as residents, the student life in Strasbourg is all about fun!

The student exchange program is huge and you will have the opportunity to meet people from all over the world. The friends you'll make there are friends for life!

EM Strasbourg has many different student organizations that make sure you'll have fun all the time. They arrange parties, movie nights and trips both inside as well as outside of France. During my time there, they had arranged trips to the Oktoberfest in Munich, to Alsace region, to Christmas markets all around Strasbourg and to Florence, Italy.



You should know that you will probably be one of the oldest students there since they get to their Masters much younger than us.

Housing

If you decide to take a room in one of the dormitories it's better to rent a room with private toilets and shower. That will cost around 500 Euros. The one with common toilets will cost between 300 to 400 Euros. If you decide to rent an apartment it's better to do it in advance, don't wait for the last minute. It will make it easier for you if you speak French, otherwise ask for someone's help. Remember to check if the apartment is furnished. I recommend renting a furnished apartment since the exchange is only for one semester and it can get quite expensive. In any case, it will be helpful to know that there is IKEA not too far and special IKEA buses go back and forth from the center of Strasbourg. The price for renting an apartment or at least a decent room ranges between 300 to 600 Euros. If you have any difficulties, the Jewish community in Strasbourg is huge. They will be happy to help.

Another important thing to know is that the French government helps students, foreign students included, with housing subsidy (both in the dormitories and otherwise). Make sure to ask the landlord if you can get it, it's called – CAF.

Living Expenses

Strasbourg is quite expensive. If you are a student under 26 years old you can get many discounts, from the public transportation to movies. Food costs quite similar to Tel Aviv (which is certainly not cheap). Be aware, Germany is just around the corner. Kehl is about 10 minutes' drive and everything there is much cheaper.

Lunch at the school's cafeteria costs around 3 Euros. However, with all the restaurants and cafes around, you'll hardly ever eat there.

All and all, this semester will cost you around 40,000 NIS. But it's worth it!

Cuisine

The Alsatian cuisine is wonderful, with great wine and Cheese. Unlike other places in Europe, the vegetables are amazing (well, except for the cucumber). There are markets all over the city that sell local crop. One of which is located right outside the Business School.

For ice-cream and Cakes there are great places next to the Cathedral.

Two special dishes are Choucroute and Tarte flambée. Trust me, don't miss out on the Tarte flambée (There is a great restaurant all the students go to next to Gallia tram station).

Public Transportation

The Public transportation in Strasbourg is one of the best in Europe. There are trams and buses starting from an early hour in the morning until around midnight. A monthly card gives a free access to all public transportation. It costs 44 Euros, or 22 Euros if you are under 26. The EM Strasbourg is located next to bus number 2 and bus number 15 and about 5 minutes' walk from the tram station.

You cannot stop taxis in the street. You can either take them directly from Gare Central (the main station) or order one on the telephone. To tell you the truth, except maybe for the first day you arrive and the day you leave, you will not need taxis.

Most students either buy or rent bicycles. There are more bicycles than cars!

A nice way to travel outside Strasbourg is via train. You can go almost anywhere in Europe. With the TGV you can be in Paris in about 2.5 hours. Germany and Switzerland are extremely close. Trains leave from Gare central. It's a great way to travel!

If you prefer buses, sometimes it can be cheaper. The buses going out of Strasbourg leave from the station next to "Rivetoile" (a big shopping mall).

The flight from Israel to Strasbourg – There is no direct flight. You can take a flight to Frankfurt or other places in Germany and take a bus or a train to Strasbourg. Sometimes there are good deals via Paris. Usually the cheapest way is with Easyjet, flying to Basel and taking a train to Strasbourg.

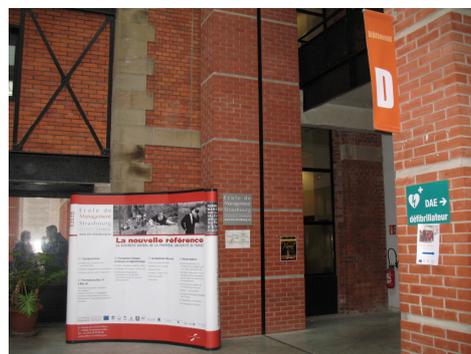
The Jewish Community

As mentioned above, the Jewish Community in Strasbourg is huge. They are warm people and will be happy to help with anything you need. If you are looking for a place to spend the holidays, if you need help in finding an apartment, they can help you. If you eat kosher, you will find many supermarkets and restaurants.

Courses

There are many courses in English to choose from and if you speak French you can join classes taught in French as well. If you want to study the French language the university offers classes in all levels.

In my opinion, one of the things that had made my experience in Strasbourg so great is that I got this amazing opportunity to study in a completely different manner than I'm used to. Most of the classes I took focused on implementation rather than theory. EM offers plenty of theoretical classes as well but I recommend sticking to the practical ones. In most of my classes I was asked to do, to create, to argue, to present. I hardly ever found myself sitting and summarizing my professors.



Take into consideration that most classes require mandatory attendance.

Bureaucracy

The French Bureaucracy is notorious for its procrastinations. Be patient.

To be on the safe side, make sure to take extra courses at the beginning of the semester so if (and when) the schedule will change or a course will be cancelled, you will still have enough credits.