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### **The City:**

Paris is of course a beautiful city. It is full of great museums with the some of the most famous artworks, really gorgeous architecture everywhere, and food that some people are wild about (I'll get to this later). My favorite activity was to pack some snacks and sit by the Seine or Canal St. Martin for a picnic. By the way, sun doesn't set until 23:00!!

### **The School:**

At the time that I went ESSEC was the second-best business school in France. It is very well respected and highly competitive for French students' acceptance. The professors were excellent. They came from all different backgrounds and gave a truly international and diverse perspective. Of course, some were more engaging than others, but they all were knowledgeable, well-connected, leaders in their fields. The courses were taught from a very European perspective. Being American-Israeli this was very valuable to me. I learned a lot of new information about the European market, the politics that effect business in the area, and the rich history of the luxury industry there. Some of the course topics were similar to courses I had already taken, but the different geography made a huge difference in how the material was taught. These lessons will be helpful to work in any type of global company, or one aspiring to go global.

This is only a three week program so classes run all day from 9:30-4:30 with a one hour lunch break. Some courses are one day intensives, others are two-days.

### **Facilities:**

ESSEC is in Cergy, a small suburb about 45 minutes from the center of Paris on the RER A train line. Although ESSEC's buildings are new, there is no air conditioning, so dress for warm weather. The on-campus food options are not like what we have at Tel Aviv, lunch across the street or at the Asian place in the mall is recommended.

**Accommodation:**

Staying in Paris is highly recommended. There is little to do, see, or eat in Cergy (more like a New Jersey suburb than a chateau in Provence). I stayed at a cheap and very simple hotel (60 euro/night), there are also affordable hostels, and most students rented Air B&Bs ranging from 80-120 euro/night.

Staying close to attractions such as the Louvre, the Pompidou, Notre Dame, and the Marais greatly enriched my experience.

**Visa:**

I am an American citizen, and I didn't need any type of special Visa to go to France. If you only hold Israeli or some other citizenship, look into it, but I don't think it is a problem.

**Transportation**

To get to the school I took the RER A. This was fairly reliable and I recommend finding accommodations near a stop off this line. Paris itself is pretty walkable, the train system is pretty easy, and there is a great bike-share program with some decent bike routes around town.

**Living Expenses:**

Besides accommodations, your main expense will be food and transportation. A metro pass is about 22 euro per week. What you spend on food it up to you.

**Food:**

Many people rave about French food. If you love meat, bread and cheese I'm sure you will have a great time. I am vegetarian, and lactose and gluten intolerant so it was a bit challenging for me to find good food. If you're vegan, gf, strict kosher, particularly health conscious, ask me about the options I found.

**Night life:**

Paris has some excellent cocktail bars and a good clubs. Nights generally end earlier than in Tel Aviv, and food is only available in most places until 23:00 so make sure you eat dinner.

**Tips:**

Download Dojo for concerts and events, and Le Fooding for great restaurant recommendations.

If you're feeling homesick there is a Miznon in Le Marais, and a great restaurant opened by Asaf Granit called Balagan, ask for Tomer.

Stores generally close at 19:00, sharp. If you want to go shopping or need something from the pharmacy make sure to get there early.