

My Exchange in Paris - Gabriella Örmin - ISC Paris - Fall16

Why I chose to study at ISC Paris

Ever since I started the Global Management program with french at Stockholm University, I always knew that I wanted to do a semester abroad in Paris. Paris has always been very special to me since I used to work and study there so I knew that the city itself wouldn't disappoint me.

Why I chose to study at ISC Paris was mostly because it was a well reputed Business School. What I also thought was appealing about ISC Paris was that it was a very small school compared to Stockholm University. I wanted to experience something different and I knew that to study at a smaller University would provide me a different experience from what I previously had.



The school and education

What I liked about ISC Paris was that it was a smaller University compared to Stockholm University which gives you a different experience from what you have at home. At ISC Paris you are able to run into your friends and see them more often which is something that I really appreciated.

When applying to an erasmus exchange there are evidently a lot of paper to fill in. Just to point out that when registration for your courses at ISC Paris a lot of them will change upon your arrival. In the end, I didn't attend a single course that I applied for (except french) so don't count on studying the courses that you find interesting in the study guide.

But I can assure you that it is not difficult changing the courses once you arrive in Paris.



The first day at ISC Paris their international coordinator Christelle Dombasi had a very nice introduction speech. Christelle was very helpful and well informed and was a great help throughout the whole semester. If there's anything at all you are thinking about while being in Paris or before arriving there don't hesitate to contact her.

The introduction week for the incoming students was planned and organized by their international team called "Cosmo Team". For the first two weeks they had planned different trips and parties for the incomings students which was a good start to meet everyone. Moreover, during your first week at ISC Paris you are studying a an intensive french course which also enables you to get to know people better from your class. However, I must admit that the quality of the Introduction week was quite poor. Even though they had planned nice trips, they were often late and I just thought it was easier organizing things outside of school with the students than going to their activities.

The courses that I attended were:

- Business organization and systems : *I would recommend*
- Creative communication skills : *I wouldn't recommend*
- Intercultural Management : *I would recommend*
- Law Introduction : *I wouldn't recommend*
- Modern Language - Advanced : *I would recommend*
- Organizational Behavior : *I would recommend*
- Project Management : *I would recommend*
- Sales Negotiation. : *I would recommend*



The quality of teaching obviously depended a lot on the teacher but I would say that the general quality and level of the education itself was lower than at Stockholm University. A lot of things I've learnt at ISC Paris was repetition even though some of the courses were meant for master students (and I'm a bachelor student). However, I was quite lucky with my courses because I thought that they were still very interesting.

The classes at ISC Paris were divided with 50% french students and 50% international students which was very fun and interesting since you were then forced to work with people from France as well as international students. In addition, you also take the courses at the same time so it is not like at Stockholm University where you attend one course at the time.

Accommodation

Paris is divided up in different arrondissement, which is different quarters. I lived in the 7th arrondissement very close to Place de la Bastille which is the ultimate place to live according to me even though it is a bit far from school. I had to commute for 40 minutes with the metro to be able to get to school. In Bastille I lived close to a lot of nice restaurants, bars and with only a walking distance to Le Marais. I found my apartment at Airbnb which worked perfectly for me even though it was a bit pricy. I paid 850 euros per month for 21m² but then definitely paid for the location and that I was able to live by myself.

Conclusion

Paris is the most amazing city that I know. I've already fallen in love before with the french culture, ways and the city itself and going there again was the ultimate choice for me. There is always something to do in Paris if it's just walking around looking at the amazing architecture, going to a museum, a concert or meeting up your new friends at a nice bar. I would highly recommend you to go to Paris and I can assure you that you won't be disappointed. When it comes to Studying at ISC Paris, if you want a smaller school with a good reputation then ISC Paris is the school for you. I'm sure that you won't find the level is as high as it is at Stockholm University, but you will definitely learn something, have a great time and meet amazing people.