

Exchange Questionnaire

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A) Your program of study (courses, assignments, course format). Add the exact number of class hours per course.

I am studying in the Audencia Grande Ecole program in the major “Marketing for Product Managers”.

My courses are:

- Marketing project management and tools (4 ECTS, 50% final exam, 25% group assessment, 25% group assessment in Marketing Strategy, 30 class hours)
- Marketing of innovation (4 ECTS, 100% group assessment, 30 class hours)
- Bringing to market (4 ECTS, 50% final exam, 50% group assessment, 16 class hours)
- Capturing market insights (4 ECTS, 50% final exam, 25% group assessment 1, 25% group assessment 2, 30 class hours)
- Integrated marketing communication in the digital age (4 ECTS, 60% final exam, 40% group assignment, 30 class hours)
- Critical marketing (4 ECTS, 50% final exam, 50% group assessment, 30 class hours)
- Specialized marketing skills (4 ECTS, 50% final exam, 25% group assignment 1, 25% group assignment 2, 30 class hours)
- Elective: Strategic alliances and M&A (2 ECTS, 20% group project, 80% final exam, 16 class hours)

B) The timetable (academic calendar, registration dates, orientation, beginning and end of classes, exams, holidays, number of semesters, etc.) Please submit the precise dates so students will know when to book their flights next year.

I am studying at Audencia for the Fall 2023 semester and dates are as follows:

- Academic calendar: Classes are different every week.
- Course registration: by May 12th (registration is part of the application process)
- Orientation: August 31st
- Holidays: Break week from October 23rd to October 27th
- Beginning of classes: September 9th

- End of classes: December 8th
- Exams: December 11-15

C) Procedures to follow upon arrival. List and description of services offered by the International Exchange Office of the host institution. Registration and course selection. Social activities.

Upon your arrival in France, you should set up a bank account & phone plan. I have been using Revolut for banking which can be set up online before you come to France, and I got a SIM card with Orange.

At orientation, you will receive your student card which will permit you entry to the school. You can also add money to your card online if you wish to use the Audencia cafeteria. Professors and students gave presentations this day regarding the exchange program and introduced some welcome activities offered, which included an orientation day, an orientation weekend at a chalet, and various integration parties.

Course selection and registration is done prior to your official acceptance to Audencia and after you are nominated by uOttawa. For my program, all I could choose was the elective as the classes for major specializations pre-selected.

D) Budget outlining the cost of studying abroad (i.e. airplane tickets, housing, vacation and daily travel costs, textbooks, meals, etc.).

- Airplane tickets: \$1691.95 CAD
- Housing: \$1304.89 CAD/month
- Textbooks: N/A
- Meals: 500 euros/month
- Bus pass: 36 euros/month
- Phone plan: 13.40 euros/month (Deal with Orange for 100GB of roaming and unlimited calling & texting throughout Europe. I never set up WiFi and only use this cellular data which has been more than enough.)
- Vacation: I have been travelling every weekend and would say that I've spent about 70 euros per night as an average, as sometimes I've stayed in hostels and others I've split Airbnbs with friends. Plane tickets are very cheap if you book them in advance, but even last minute trips I have been booking for about \$200 CAD roundtrip a lot of the time (use Skyscanner to find the cheapest flights). I also invested in a Eurail pass which allows you to use trains across Europe, this pass was \$803 USD. A lot of the time you need to book a reservation which will cost an additional fee, to get to Paris my reservation is usually about 18 euros. I would recommend the pass if you'll be travelling a lot and would budget about \$500 CAD per weekend trip.

E) Application procedures before your arrival (visa deadlines, documents required for visa, course registration, housing deposit, etc.).

You'll need to receive your Visa before you leave, and it's recommended you have your appointment a month before you need your visa. It also takes about a month to get an appointment, so start the process at least 2 months before departure but my advice is to do it ASAP. My visa appointment was June 24th and I got my Visa on July 18th. Before you submit your documents online and reserve your appointment, first apply to Etudiants en France. The whole process is about \$400 CAD.

Even though I submitted my documents online, they asked for them in person. Make sure you bring your passport, a letter from your exchange school, your EEF number, proof of funds, and two pictures of yourself. Also make sure you print out both pages of your appointment booking.

Since I booked through Airbnb, I just paid first month's rent back in May and I was good to go. It's a lot more expensive (I have friends paying only about 300 euros to live in residences outside of town), but administratively it's a lot easier.

F) Address and description of housing. Cost of housing

I live at 21 Rue du Chateau, Nantes, Pays de la Loire 44000. It's through Airbnb and is only about 10 square metres with a loft bed, but I'm directly in the City Center. I'm paying \$1304.89 CAD/month, though this is very high relative to many of my friends—you could find something for 500 euros if you're okay living on the outskirts.

G) Other comments or recommendations

Nantes is a good city to study in and it's pretty central if you're looking to travel Europe! I would honestly suggest not doing the Master's program if you have the choice between that and undergrad and you're looking more for the experiential aspect of exchange—the classes are easy but I have mandatory class pretty much every weekday at 8:15am, which hurts the social aspect. My friends doing undergrad seem to have a more relaxed timetable.

I) Add a description of about five to seven sentences summarizing your experience

Exchange has been an incredibly rewarding experience so far! I've made a lot of great friends and I've seen a lot in a short period of time. During orientation, I met some other North Americans who were excited about travelling on weekends. It's only October and I've visited Paris, Tours, Nice, Monaco, Barcelona, Venice, Rome, London, and I'm responding to this questionnaire from Amsterdam. It's also been great experiencing French culture and food, and meeting other students from across the world. I have no regrets and would definitely recommend!

