

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

I am taking 30 credits in the BBA program.

Entreprises et medias (12.5 hours & 2 ECTS) : this class is a paper that is worth 100% of your grade.

European economics (25 hours & 4 ECTS) : the grading scheme is split between a midterm and a final both worth 50% of your grade. There will be assignments throughout the class that will allow you to get bonus points.

Innovation de produit (25 hours & 4 ECTS) : this class is graded on a presentation and report for the presentation, both worth 50% of your grade.

Management des marques de luxe (25 hours & 4 ECTS) : this class is graded on a presentation and report for the presentation, both worth 50% of your grade.

Sustainable finance (25 hours & 4 ECTS): this class is graded with a few assignments spreadout through the semester and a final exam.

Introduction a python (25 hours & 4 ECTS): this class is graded with a final project that is worth 100% of your grade, where you are supposed to present a program coded with python that solves a problem.

Real estate investment (25 hours & 4 ECTS): this class is graded with a presentation, that is a real estate investment pitch, along with a final exam.

International Business Law (25 hours & 4 ECTS): this class is graded with a presentation worth 30% and a final exam worth 70% of your grade.

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.

The classes run from the first week of September (Sept 4) to the end of November.

Exam session begins at the beginning of December and end before the holidays. Your exam schedule will largely depend on the classes you pick. It is worth noting that some classes will not have final exams during the exam period, but rather during the last class of the semester, which coincides with the end of November usually. There is a one week break from the 28th of October to November 5th. However, if you are taking an intensive course, this will take up a few days of your break.

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.

Once I arrived, you will have to arrange for transportation to campus from the airport. I took an Uber, but there is also a bus available that goes from CDG airport to Cergy Préfecture, which is the station closest to campus (5 minutes walk). Once on campus, you will have to go to the welcome booth where you can pick up your student card and your residence card if you chose to live in school accommodations. There are shuttles available to take you to ESSEC's housing. During the first week, the school and the international student association will organize activities to help you meet fellow exchange students, such as a boat cruise in Paris.

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

Airplane ticket: ~800\$

Housing: 585 euros/month

Navigo pass (transit pass): 80-90 euro/month

Meals: This depends on whether you will be cooking and meal prepping or eating out. The grocery costs and restaurant/take-out costs are similar here to Canada. Eating out in Cergy usually ranges from 10-20 euros, although you can get meals for around 5-6 euros (I recommend trying the kebabs). Eating out in Paris will be more expensive.

I did not have to purchase any textbooks for my classes.

The travel costs will be highly dependent. You can travel on a budget relatively easily given the number of low-cost airlines as well as buses and trains. Accommodations when travelling will also vary a lot. Hostels are usually the cheapest option, but sometimes Airbnbs and hotels can be cheaper if travelling in groups because the cost will be spread out.

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

I would recommend applying for the visa as early as possible. I was going through the process this summer. Once you get an appointment and have the documents sent off for processing, the approval should be relatively quick. They require quite a few documents, all of which will be outlined during the process, among which are proof of funds, acceptance letter, passport, passport style photos and the application form. The school will send out an email concerning their residences and I recommend you fill it out as soon as possible as the residences go quick (assuming you plan on living in school accommodations).

F) Address and description of housing. Cost of housing

I am living at Les Linandes residences (15 les Linandes Orange, Cergy) and it costs me 585 euros a month for a double. It is shared with another ESSEC student. We both have our own rooms and the shared facilities are the kitchen, bathroom and showers.

G) Other comments or recommendations

I would recommend living close to campus. The train station to go to Paris and the shopping mall is also very close to campus, so by living near campus you would have access to all you need. ESSEC has many student organisations and social activities and I would recommend participating in them to meet different students! MELT is the international student association and they hosts different activities throughout the semester. It's also important to know that Cergy is not Paris, it is it's own city. That being said, Paris is accessible by train which takes about 40 minutes to arrive in downtown Paris. If one is really keen on living in Paris, I would recommend looking into options of renting in Paris – although this will probably more complicated.

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

Exchange has been a great and memorable experience. It is a great place to meet new friends and explore the continent. This is my first time in Europe so it was quite the adventure for me to discover all these new places. Please take this opportunity to travel and see as many different places as possible. There are countless trains, flights and buses that will take you across Europe and I would highly recommend taking advantage of this.

