

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

I am studying at ESSEC during the winter 2024 semester in the Global Bachelor of Business Administration (Global BBA) program. This semester I am taking ten classes to get the 30 required credits (ECTS) and I have managed to structure my schedule in a way where I only have classes Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. Ten classes sounds like a lot but I don't have all 10 classes each week. For example, 4 out of those 10 classes are "intensive courses" meaning that they only take 2-3 full days to complete (about 6 hours each day). My other "regular classes" will vary from 2 ECTS classes (5 courses per semester, 3 hours per class) to 4 ECTS classes (10 courses per semester, 3 hours per class). None of my classes had a formal final during the final week (June 1 - June 15), instead, I was graded based on presentations or case studies. Also, all of my classes were quite small (20-30 students) and all of my classes had mandatory attendance so keep this in mind when planning your schedules. For anyone who is looking to travel a lot, I would recommend taking as many intensive courses as possible as this frees up your weekly schedule. Below is the list of the classes I have taken at ESSEC.

International Negotiations (intensive), 2 ECTS, 18 hours

- In this course students will delve into the intricacies of negotiation dynamics, emphasizing both personal development and the acquisition of proven methods. This course is mandatory for regular BBA students but not for exchange students. I would not recommend taking it as it was quite boring and long. Grade is based on participation and a final group essay.

Controversies, Crisis & Clashes, 2 ECTS, 15 hours

- In this course students will challenge, dissect & analyze structured debates. Topics are interesting and you only have one debate the entire course. The rest of the time you are required to take notes on other groups' debates. Grade is based on participation and your debate.

Sustainable Marketing, 4 ECTS, 30 hours

- In this course students will learn new, innovative, and sustainable ways of marketing. Each class there is a lecture and then a short group case study at the end. Grade is based on participation, mini assignments, 3 minute pitch, and final group presentation.

Marketing of Health & Wellness Products, 4 ECTS, 30 hours

- In this course students will learn about the marketing of beauty products and medicine. The course was not the most interesting and I didn't enjoy the randomly assigned groups. Grade is based on participation, mini assignments, and final group presentation.

Economics of Public Policy and Enterprises, 4 ECTS, 30 hours

- In this course students will learn about the fundamental reasons behind public policy. Course content is quite dry but the prof was really nice and the graded assignments were easy. Grade is based on participation, midterm essay, and final group presentation.

Dreams Hunter: Entrepreneurship Mindset and Sustainable Project Management (intensive), 3 ECTS, 18 hours

- In this course students will learn how to create, run and finance an impactful project. Very easy course to take and the prof is super nice. Grade is based on participation, group final project, and mini final quiz.

Intercultural Marketing (intensive), 3 ECTS, 18 hours

- In this course students will gain a comprehensive understanding of the pivotal role that cultural and intercultural factors play in shaping marketing decisions. This was my favourite course! Grade is based on participation, a final group presentation, and a final group essay.

Entrepreneurship Launch & Life, 4 ECTS, 30 hours

- In this course students will learn about the questions, dilemmas, and issues that entrepreneurs often face once they decide to launch their venture. Grade is based on participation, mini assignments, and final group presentation.

Global Challenge (intensive), 2 ECTS, 12 hours

- In this course students will participate in an educational business market simulation. The prof wasn't very present during the course and didn't explain the simulator very well. Regardless, it was easy to perform well if you had a good group. Grade is based on how well you perform in the simulation and a mini analysis.

Globalization & Trade, 2 ECTS, 15 hours

- In this course students will learn about the consequences of globalization from a legal perspective. Very nice prof and super easy course. Grade is based on participation and a final quiz (10 multiple choice questions – very basic knowledge required).

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.

- January 19: course enrollment
- February 22: last day to arrive
- February 23: mandatory in person orientation
- March 4: first day of classes
- March 4 - March 10: add & drop period for courses
- April 8 - April 13: intensive week / holiday break
- June 4 - June 14: exam period
- Note: 5 Saturdays are reserved to place new course sessions for the ones that had to be canceled during the semester. Your presence is mandatory. (March 16, March 23, April 6, April 27, May 18)

When I booked my ticket in February, I was told that the earliest day I could fly home was June 15. I ended up booking my flight for June 30 because I wanted more time to travel. If you would like to fly home before June 15, I would recommend waiting to book the return flight until you have received all of your course syllabuses since you may not have final exams. If you don't have any final exams you would be able to fly home as early as May 30.

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.

I arrived in Paris February 19 so that I would have time to settle in before the orientation day (February 23). I had ordered a French traveller SIM card on Amazon while I was still in Canada so when I arrived I would have a SIM card right away. Through the exchange student group chat that ESSEC created, I connected with two other students who were arriving at the airport around the same time as I was and the three of us split an uber to campus. Within the first week of your arrival I would suggest opening a French bank account (the school will provide you with information on how to do this). Once you have your bank account you can purchase a phone plan with one of the main providers in France (bank account is required for the best plans). Also, make sure to utilize the group chat that ESSEC creates for the students as this is how I met the majority of my friend group. Class registration takes place online in January. I would recommend planning your classes beforehand and enrolling as soon as the course options open up so as to not miss any of the good classes. There is an add & drop period but the courses left during this time are usually not the best. Make sure to join the ESSEC facebook page as well as this is where the full time students will post barbecues, parties, etc which are super fun and a great way to meet new people.

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

Airplane ticket: \$1,200 round trip

Monthly costs (approximately)

- Rent: €837
- Groceries: €200
- Transportation: €100 (navigo pass, bolt/uber)
- Eating out: €80
- Shopping: €100
- Travelling: €500 (flights, food, accommodation)
- Textbooks: €0

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

Apply for a visa as soon as possible (I believe for a long-stay visa you can only apply 3 months before travelling). Not much information was provided by either uOttawa or ESSEC so do your research beforehand and make sure to keep track of any key deadlines and all the important documents you will need. The first step is to create an account on the french visa website where you will upload all of the requested information. Once that is done, you will receive notification that you can schedule an appointment at the visa center where you will have biometrics and passport taken. This appointment should be booked at least 30 days before travelling but I had issues getting an appointment so I was only able to go 3 weeks before traveling. Nonetheless, I received my visa within a week of visiting the center. If you are struggling to get an appointment at the center I would suggest going in and requesting a walk-in appointment. Although they don't technically provide this, I was able to get a walk-in appointment (there was an additional charge of about \$50). As for course registration, you need to register for courses as soon as the portal opens because the number of spots is limited. Also, make sure to apply for housing as soon as it is offered so that you can get a spot in the residences.

F) Address and description of housing. Cost of housing.

I live in one of the student residences provided by ESSEC called Le Port (36 Boulevard du Port). This is the most expensive residence but it is the closest one to campus (not including Le Parc which is for first-years only) and the newest residence. It is about a 7 minute walk to the school and located in a relatively nice area. The room is €837 monthly and it is a studio with a single bed, two desks, lots of storage and shelving, private bathroom and shower, full size fridge, and stove top (no oven). The residence has a gym (not the best), common rooms, study rooms, underground parking, and laundry room. I am very pleased with my selection and I would 100% recommend applying to live here.

G) Work term (if applicable).

I am not doing a work term here however, I am currently doing interviews for the fall CO-OP term at UOttawa. UOttawa will accommodate interview times for the time difference so don't worry about that but be prepared to take interviews in some strange locations (while on vacation for example).

H) Other comments or recommendations.

If possible, travel as much as you can! There are plenty of budget friendly destinations and flights can be super cheap (as low as €10!) within Europe. Use Omio, Skyscanner, Expedia, etc to find modes of transportation and accommodation. Also, take advantage of your French residency. I was able to explore many museums and landmarks in Paris either for free or at a discounted rate!

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

Overall, I would strongly recommend doing a study abroad exchange! My school semester is done and I have one month left in Europe before heading back home. I can safely say that I have been exposed to so many different cultures, people, and experiences that I never could have experienced if I hadn't come here. I've learned so much about myself and I've definitely grown into a more independent person. I can't wait until my next opportunity to come back to Europe! There is so much to see and do so take advantage of any and every opportunity!



Jardins du Trocadéro, Paris