

# Mobility Scholarship Questionnaire

## 1. Your program of Study:

BBA Program

I am taking 8 classes to take the required 30 credits. Even though it seems like much more work than the 5 classes that I am used to taking, the classes are much easier here in my opinion. I am taking one intensive course, one half semester course, and six regular classes. The intensive classes are during the fall break but only for half of the break. It is a good way to take another course without having a heavy workload throughout the entire semester. When choosing classes, reading the syllabus is extremely important. Specifically, for those who are looking to spend time traveling rather than with a heavy workload. They offer many classes that have class marks based on participation and the final. Something to note is that all classes are mandatory attendance. With these classes, I found no trouble managing the workload, attending classes and traveling every weekend.

Advanced Excel 30, 4 ECTS

- This class builds off the IT class we take in first year. There are no assignments, just optional homework and a final. It has a little bit to do with coding as well as the actual applications of excel. This class I highly recommend taking because nearly all of my interviewers for jobs were really impressed that I was taking an advanced excel class even though it's not that difficult.

Is Economics Serving Mankind? 30, 4 ECTS

- This class has two summary papers and a final exam. It has a lot to do with the videos we watch in class as well as the class discussions.

Business Ethics 25, 4 ECTS

- This class has one group paper and a final exam. Strongly based off class discussions. The professor is new so the format of the course is being adjusted as we go.

Influence and Marketing 25, 4 ECTS

- This class has one group presentation and a final exam. Participation is very important in this class and sharing videos that relate to the class content with your classmates helps you improve your participation marks.

Beginner Spanish 25, 4 ECTS

- This class has one oral exam, one test and a final. This class is a very small class but is taught in full immersion. If you know French already, this will benefit you but if you don't, like I do not, you pick it up faster than you'd think.

E-Business: 30, 4 ECTS

- This class has one final and a group project. It focuses on analyzing key features of online platforms and what makes one effective. This class, in my opinion, is extremely boring so I would not recommend taking it.

Intercultural Marketing (intensive): 27 hours, 4 ECTS

- I can't comment on this class because it has not started yet.

Globalization and the City: 15 hours, 2 ECTS

- I can't comment on this class because it has not started yet.

## **2. Timetable**

Apply for Classes, round 1: July 5<sup>th</sup>

(You have the option to drop and enrol for classes until the 8<sup>th</sup> of September)

Mandatory enrollment: August 15<sup>th</sup>

All Students Arrival at the Welcome Center in ESSEC: August 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>

Orientation session (mandatory) and French Language Tests (only if you are taking a French class):

August 31<sup>st</sup> – September 1<sup>st</sup>

Start of Classes: September 4<sup>th</sup>

Last day to drop classes: September 8<sup>th</sup>

Fall Break: October 30<sup>th</sup> – November 4<sup>th</sup>

Last Day of Class: December 5<sup>th</sup>

Final Exams: December 7<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> (inclusive dates)

Earliest Date to Fly Home: December 21<sup>st</sup>

Note: Six out of my eight classes have their finals on the last day of their class. Meaning, so far I have no class or exams during the month of December. This is good to know for travel plans, accommodations or flights back home.

## **3. Procedure Upon Arrival:**

Services offered: shuttle, bank account opening, phone service, school buddy.

You can get a shuttle from the airport that takes you to the welcome center if you arrive within 9am – 4pm, if not the RER and the Metro are simple to take from either airport. When you arrive they give you your student card and keys for the residence that you picked during enrollment. Course registration should have been done within the summer but you can drop or change classes until the 8<sup>th</sup> of September. Within the Welcome Center there are stands so you can sign up for a French bank account. The school is affiliated with the phone company called "FREE" and they offer phone plans with unlimited call and text as well as 100G of data for 20 euros a month. From the Welcome Center there are cars/vans that take you and your luggage to your residence.

ESSEC has a buddy program where the exchange students are assigned a regular student and their job is to help you in any way you may need and they invite you to all the things that you may not be aware are going on. These buddies contact you within the first week of your arrival. Not all people get buddies because of the large number of exchange students that come to ESSEC and the limited number of students that have time to take on the role of 'buddy.'

The social events that the school puts on are great. There is an association called MELT that is a group of students dedicated to making our time at ESSEC as good and simple as possible. During the first week, there were several barbeques, parties and well as a bar within the school that was a great place to meet people. As time progressed there were still barbeques, parties every week and school organized trips such as one to Marseille that I went on with 25 other exchange students. The social environment is huge at ESSEC and with all the events and gatherings, making friends will be one of the easiest parts of going on exchange here. Be sure to buy tickets to these events quickly as sometimes they sell out and missing these introductory events would not be great.

**4. Budget and cost of studying abroad:**

Plane ticket: I bought my ticket from Ottawa to Paris but then from Paris to Vancouver and then Ottawa so I'm not sure how much a round trip to and from Ottawa would be but mine cost roughly \$1200.00

Residence: The residence that I live, Linandes, is roughly 500 euros a month.

Daily travel Costs: You can get a bus/RER/metro pass for 75 euros monthly. If not, you can walk to school in 20 mins. Traveling to Paris is very easy from Cergy, you can take the RER line A directly for 40 mins for roughly 7 euros. The transit system in Paris/Cergy is easy to navigate and extremely useful for day to day travels.

Textbook: They don't use textbooks here which is amazing. If readings or textbooks are required, they are either printed and handed out to you or just given through the ESSEC online platform.

Vacation: Traveling around Europe is obviously much cheaper than it is to travel around Canada. Flight ranging from 20 euros to 300 euros depending when and where. The Overnight buses such as Flixbus or Ouibus are good for really cheap travel. As well, if you stay in hostels rather than hotels, traveling every weekend can easily fit into your budget. Within one month I managed to go to 7 different cities for less than 600 euros.

Food: Costs about the same as it does at home. Also, with the kitchen that is in the residence, food is one of the lower costs if you eat in more than out. As well, the cost of going out is much cheaper here than in Ottawa.

Note: The first month you should budget to spend more money because you are moving in and getting everything needed in the beginning but after that the months should be pretty even.

**5. Application procedures before your arrival: (visa deadlines, documents required for visa, course registration, housing deposit)**

For Ontario residence you need to go to the Toronto embassy for your Visa and make an appointment WAY in advance for example in May. Try to book the visa appointment a month before your departure just so there is extra time but if not two weeks is all that is required.

Things needed for visa:

Passport style photo (x2)

Form filled out

Copy of passport and first 6 pages

Actual passport

Copy of travel insurance  
Copy of acceptance letter  
Proof of accommodation  
Proof of means within France (\$4000.00)  
Copy of flight purchase

Course Registration: July 5<sup>th</sup> is when you can start enrolling for courses.

Housing deposit: July is when you can apply for housing. If you apply before the deadline, then you are guaranteed a spot. The deposit was 1000\$ but was re deposited back into my account after a week.

Enrolling: in order to enroll in school, **WHICH YOU HAVE TO DO BY AUGUST 15<sup>th</sup>**, you need to have a scanned copy of your French visa as well as a scanned copy of your passport.

**Once you have gotten to France you need to send out the OFII forms. The school coordinates with them and so the school is the one that sets your appointment. Once you pick up your papers, you can go to the OFII office in Cergy before your appointment and see if they can take you earlier. This worked for my friend and he didn't have to go to the scheduled appointment on Friday afternoon so he could travel.**

**6. Address and description of housing. Cost of Housing.**

15 Linandes Orange 95021 Cergy Pontoise, France

I live in a double room. The rooms are large with a desk, bed and sink, book shelf and bed side table in our individual rooms. In the common space there is a washroom, bathroom and a kitchen. There is a welcome kit that you can buy for 100 euros that gives you bedding and kitchen items. If not, you have to buy these things here but its not that expensive and the store is within walking distance. There's a tiny hallway like thing but not large enough to hang out in. In the residence, there is a common space downstairs with a TV, pool, and other games as well as couches to hang out on. There is a gym, kind of small compared to Ottawa's but there is usually no one in there so its like a personal gym. The laundry room is located on the main floor as well as the trash room.

The Linandes residence is meant to be a quieter residence but I think it really depends on who is staying in the residence at your time. This year, it is not that quiet. If you need anything there is almost always someone at the front desk and he is extremely friendly and helpful.

Switching housing or moving is also relatively simple. As long as you give 15 days notice, the residence will let you move out anytime during your semester.

**7. Work term**

I'm not doing a work term in France but I have a work term through Coop when I get back. The scheduling of the interviews can be a little rough because of the time change and the mandatory attendance of the classes but the professors are usually lenient when you explain why you need to miss their class or leave it early. Also, the interviewers are quite understanding of the odd locations you may have to take their calls in.

**8. Other Comments or Recommendations**

Getting a Navigo pass as soon as you arrive will be worth it. Attend as many as the events in the beginning because that's where you make your friends. Bring notebooks because I had the hardest time finding regular lined paper. Apparently, that is not so common here.

**9. Add a description of about 5 – 7 sentences summarizing your experience.**

I am having the best time imaginable. Everyone always says that your exchange will be the best time of your life and I can confirm this. It's been a little over a month and I've made some of the best friends. I don't want to think about the fact that I won't be going to school with them for much longer. The city, although not quite Paris, has everything you need and the people easily make up for what Cergy lacks. Plus being able to say, "I'm just going to Paris for the morning but I'll be back for class" has a certain ring to it. The classes are easy enough and traveling could not be better. If I had the opportunity to choose a different school, there is no way I would choose anywhere other than ESSEC.

Here are some photos of my time in France so far.



