INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMS – MOBILITY SCHOLARSHIP QUESTIONNAIRE

A - My Program of Study

In Grenoble, I decided to follow the Fashion and Design Program. Each program consists of a total of 30 ECTS. The classes are very interesting! However, there is A LOT of group projects, group assignments and group presentations. Here are the classes I had to follow:

Course	Continuous assessment	Exam	Duration of the course
Fashion Management 5ECTS	40%	60%	3 weeks
	case studies	lectures	
	group work		
Brand Management 5ECTS	40%	60%	3 weeks
	class discussion	lectures	
	case study		
	group work		
	group presentation		
Sustainable Development 2.5ECTS	100%		2 weeks
	case studies		
	class discussions		
	group projects		
Design Management 2.5ECTS	100%		2 weeks
	cases		
	presentations		
Legal context of Fashion and Design industry 2.5ECTS	50%	50%	2 weeks
	case studies	1 hour quiz	
	problem solving	1 hour essay	
	contract analysis		
Retail Management 2.5ECTS	100%		1 week
	exercises		
	role plays		
	case studies		
	projects		
	store practice analyses		
Capstone 5 ECTS	100%		2 weeks
	Individual proposal		
	Presentation		
	Final report		
Language Module (French, Spanish or German) 5 ECTS	60%	40%	3h/week for 3 months
	Quiz	Written exam	
	Presentations		
	In class exercises		

At Grenoble École de Management (GEM), you choose a specialized program and the school chooses the classes for you. Therefore, **you cannot pick your classes nor the time slots**. They also have the right to add or remove classes at their discretion. One of the many things that are different than uOttawa is that you have to be available from Monday to Friday in case any courses change. Because of this style of scheduling, I found it difficult to book trips in advance. Each class is very interactive. Make sure to participate and to be prepared when coming to class. The teachers try to engage the students and apply the theory you've learned – similar to DGD. Most of the classes have case studies, case analysis, presentations and essays. Unlike uOttawa, every week you have a different schedule. **It is important to regularly check the Student Portal for your schedule or in case there are any changes**. In terms of difficulty, it is much easier than uOttawa. However, the workload is about the same. This is due to the fact that you have to meet with your different groups often. I've been told that this program is not usually this busy but since it is getting more popular every year, it is becoming more

and more demanding. All I have to say about Fashion and Design is that it is <u>remarkably interesting</u>. Most people avoid it because of the word "Fashion" or their lack of drawing, but this program does not only focus on clothes or huge designers. It goes beyond that. They focus more on the actual products/services and other well-known brands. Coming into this program, I had no experience in fashion or design whatsoever. If you want to start your own business one day, I recommend you this program because you learn about the legal context, sustainability and the steps to creating a desirable brand.

B - The timetable - winter 2018 semester

On the right is a screenshot of the "important dates" to know for winter semester. Dates will probably change but at least this you an idea of the number of holidays during the winter semester. Do yourself a favour and go to the "Welcome Desk" during the first 12 days of your arrival. They helped me with all documentation (OFII, Health Insurance, CAF, Registration, etc.). There is a lot of documentation to fill out once you're in France is good to get the help while you can. The final exam schedule is revealed throughout the semester but they are around the same as uOttawa. **CHECK YOUR EMAILS** for updates and information. sends out a lot of useful emails so make sure to read them and to France prepared with the appropriate documents to speed up process.



International Programs

2017-2018 ACADEMIC CALENDAR

G



C – Procedures to follow upon arrival

GEM was very helpful with informing us on what documents to bring upon our arrival. I recommend you make photocopies of your passport, visa, insurance, acceptance letters and your contract of accommodation (if you have one). The Welcome Desk is there if you have any questions. However, they close their door 11 days after the first day of orientation so make sure to go see them ASAP.

Social activities:

- Join the Facebook groups. All the events and information regarding social activities will be posted on the Facebook groups.
- The Welcome Desk also hosts events for international students. I recommend you to attend these events as it is a good way to meet the other exchange students and some French students. Everyone is really friendly. It was very easy to make plenty of new friends. Here are some pictures of events that the Welcome Desk organized.



D – Budget

In terms of cost, studying abroad in France is about 20% higher than Ottawa. The advantage of being in Europe is that travelling within the EU is relatively cheap. However, you may have to travel to Lyon often to catch a plane since the Grenoble airport is very small and only flies out to certain countries (the UK, Ireland and Italy). It only takes roughly 1h to get to Lyon from Grenoble. The cost for food, clothes, accommodation, transportation and leisure activities can vary so much. This will depend on your personal budget but here are some of my "daily" costs to help you out:

- Accommodation: 400-649 euros/month
- Tram pass = 15 euros/month
- Phone plan = 19.99 euros/month (unlimited calling/SMS worldwide, 100G of data)
- Bus or Train ticket to Lyon \approx 6–20euros
- Sandwich \approx 2-4 euros
- Bread \approx 3 baguettes or 3 croissants for 2 euros
- Drinks \approx 1,5 euros for a bottle of wine
- School Books \approx 0 euros. I took my books out from the library and extended the return date
- Amenities (toilet paper, towels, kitchen appliances, lamp, toiletries) \approx 30-50 euros paid once
- 1 day ski pass + transportation \approx 20-50 euros
 - \circ rental skis, boots, helmet \approx 15-20 euros

E – Application procedures before your arrival

Get your visa before you get to France or they will send you back to Canada!! Go to France Visa Consulate website. Here is the link: <u>https://ca.ambafrance.org/ExperienceFrance</u>. I got the 3B visa – *Inter-University Exchange*. The application is pretty straight forward. If you download the pdf, there is a checklist of the documents you need. Make sure to book an appointment ahead of time. Sometimes you need to book 1 or 2 months in advance. I recommend you to book a date when you know you'll receive the GEM acceptance letter in time for your consulate meeting. The GEM acceptance letter is one of the requirements to obtain your visa. I had to change my appointment date as GEM did not send me my acceptance letter in time for my first Consulate meeting – very easy to change appointment dates. Also, I had to go to Toronto for my meeting, as Ottawa does not have a France Consulate for visas. You can extend your visa length for free - Instead of a 4-month student visa, I got a visa for 6 months in case I wanted to travel afterwards.

Keep checking your emails as the coordinator will contact you in order to apply for your program at GEM. The application is very easy and straightforward. They will email you with all the steps to follow on how to register to GEM. Then you just have to wait until you get your acceptance letter.

F – Address and description of housing. Cost of Housing

I live at La residence des Estudines Europoles. I absolutely love it. Google may say otherwise but I found the service excellent and very fast. The staff is super friendly and the room is great. A big bonus about this residence is that it is right beside to school – literally a 30 second walk. However, every room is different so it will depend on which type of room you get as some of them are nicer than others. I found my flat through this website: https://grenobleem.studapart.com/en/. The GEM studapart is a website that has all of the residences/apartments/other accommodations in one place where you can compare each one of them. It was user-friendly and the staff was great to help me with any questions I had.

I have a **T1 31m²** which means a single room (1 person) flat. This includes:

- A fitted kitchen with a fridge, 2 hot plates, a microwave, low and high pieces of furniture
- There is a "BZ" (sofa bed as a bed), a table, a desk and a wardrobe for my clothes.
- The bathroom is equipped with a shower, a sink and a toilet. (In my flat it is a bath instead of a small shower.)
- A blanket and some appliances are provided

Water is included in the rent.

You have <u>FREE access</u> to the Internet by <u>WIFI</u>.

You will have to pay extra for housing insurance and electricity.

Washing machines and dryers are free to access 24/7. However, it is 4-6 euros for one wash.

Please note that their maintenance engineer is available Monday to Friday to fix any issue you may have in the room – very good service. My friend had a problem with her fridge and under 12h they gave her a brand-new fridge.

You also receive discounts at local shops and restaurants nearby for being part of les Estudines.

Stuff I had to buy/bring:

- Pillow + pillow case
- Linen
- Bed sheets
- Towel (bath mat, towel for shower, towel for dishes)
- Wall plug adapters

Accommodation: 649 euros/month + electricity \approx 675 euros/month



The price per month for the <u>18m²</u> is 543€, <u>21m²</u> is 579 €, for <u>25m²</u> is 594 €, for <u>32m²</u> is 649 € and it can go up to 764€ for the 1 bedroom flat (T2).

(Source: Les Estudines Grenoble Europole)

Here are other options that my friends did that you can consider:

- Renting an Air Bnb for 4 months: Beautiful!!
- Estudine Botticelli: Nice. Looks like a modern version of Europole
- Estudine Marie Currie: Also nice. Looks like a modern version of Europole
- Renting an apartment: very French style. Great but further away from school.

G – Other comments and recommendations

Grenoble is a very student oriented city. I've heard that it is the best city in France to study in because of its amazing student life. It was so easy to make friends because most of the students are on exchange so they are going through the same things as you. Even the French students are super friendly. They are used to having exchange students in their classes, thus, making them more accepting/welcoming than other schools perhaps. Grenoble is the perfect size to have your own space yet be close to everyone. It is located in between beautiful mountains. If you like the outdoor and the mountains, Grenoble is the place for you. I always find myself hiking, running and skiing during my time off.

I – Description of my experience

This experience has been nothing but amazing so far. I love the people, the food, the school, the scenery and everything that comes with it. The quality of life in France much better than other places I have visited. I am so grateful and happy to be where I am. I believe an experience like this is incredibly valuable. This can teach you so much about yourself and other cultures. You create friendships all over the world. Why stay in one place when you have a whole world to discover? Here are some photos from Grenoble





