

Mobility Scholarship Questionnaire

University of Geneva

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

International Management: Tuesday: 8am-12pm - S160 - 6CR

Finance de l'immobilier: Wednesday: 2pm-4pm - S130 - 3CR

Web Based Data Collection: Monday: 12pm-2pm - 1150 - 3CR

Responsible Marketing: Tuesday: 4pm-6pm - R040 - 3CR

Business Game: Friday: 2pm-6pm every 2 weeks - R030 - 3CR

Private Banking: Monday 8am-10am & Friday 12pm-2pm - R280 - 6CR

Total 24CR & 16Hrs

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.

Orientation: Feb 16th

Start of Class: Feb 20th

End of Classes: May 25th

Exams: ?

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.

- The only activity the students should attend is the ECN orientation. Within this orientation, students meet others on mobility and are informed of weekly meet up events. Personally, I have benefited greatly from ECN activities. As a very engaged member, my weeks are filled with 2-3 events hosted by the on-campus group. Firstly, my Wednesdays are booked for the weekly Pub night. Each week, ECN creates these "Pub nights" by renting out bars or open spaces in which they can place pool tables, ping pong, and other fun games, in a welcoming environment where ECN participants have access to food and drinks. These pub nights have been the backbone to my meeting of many close friends and important networking. A second weekly activity is weekend trips. This trips usually consist of: Skiing, rock climbing, snow shoeing, among many sporty activities. Not only do I have a nice kick from sporting with my new friends, it also gave me the opportunity to travel Switzerland. Having travelled to Bern, Zurich and Lausanne, I have relished this opportunity.

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

Geneva is a generally expensive city to live in. The plane ticket from Montreal (round-trip) was ~\$1,100CAD. My budget for food and activities weekly is 100 Francs (this should be enough for healthy meals, along with outings with friends once a week). ECN pub nights usually run me 20 francs, and the rest (80 francs) is for food and groceries. There are only expensive grocers in the Champel area, therefore, in order to save a few bucks, I always head down to Plainpalais to shop at Lidl. This grocer will run students 25% less than any other – at a minimum. Also, the bang for buck in terms of quality is great. Some students, who are willing to take a 20-minute ride to France have access to grocers that are a little cheaper than Lidl but have more inventory. Personally, I find Lidl to have all I need, students who are meat eaters should head to France. My rent in the Cite Universitaire is \$800CAD. Although this may seem like a lot, relative to other rents in the city, this is a good deal. Many of my friends stay in Airbnb or rent a room in a house, this runs them a little cheaper – but they don't have access to all the amenities in the Cite. Moreover, in terms of social benefit, being in the Cite is invaluable. Every day I meet new people – weather it's at the gym or while doing laundry, I am constantly in a social environment. My total budget for travelling is 2000\$ - this should cover 3x 1-week trips. As I usually, stay in a hostel, my costs are lower than the average. Staying in hotels is extremely pricey at out of my budget. Moreover, I have found that it is very important to organize trips in advance – there are nice economic benefits by purchasing plane tickets ~1 month in advance. Lastly, textbooks are usually 50 francs per class. Personally, I find that the use of textbooks in the school is limited, therefore, I would suggest teaming up with a friend and sharing a textbook.

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

The visa process is straightforward; all information is found on the website. Personally, due to the long wait time and uncertainties regarding the completion of all information, I would suggest applicants to submit their applications 6 months ahead of time. My whole process took 2 months to complete. Be advised to that Switzerland only issues 3-month visas, meaning that ones stay in Geneva is limited after the completion of the semester. It is important to note that the housing deposit in the Cite is 600 francs. The only way to deposit the money is through a Swiss bank account, meaning that students must apply for a checking account as soon as possible. My recommendation would be Credit Suisse, their service was impeccable, and they have locations all around the city of Geneva. Course registration is upon arrival and should be done quickly. The university of Geneva allows exchange students to take their time regarding course selection, however, I would suggest finding the ideal classes as soon as possible since classes move very fast and it is easy to lose track of class progress.

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

I live in the Cite Universitaire which is 800Cad a month/ 1 bed room, well located with all amenities. Like I mentioned previously, being in the center of the social hub is invaluable. I highly suggest taking a single bed room in either building A or building B, as that is where most international students choose to stay.

Moreover, for avid athletes, the Cite has many daily sporting activities that are included in rent costs; Basketball, Tennis, Squash, Volleyball, a nice additional touch.

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

I arrived in Geneva 5 weeks ago and have already made memorable moments with new friends and peers that I will forever cherish. As a finance student, there is no greater city for me to explore than Geneva – there is a unique sentiment that is aroused as I walk past the financial district on a daily basis. My first travel destination – Barcelona, is coming up this weekend and I find it very hard to put into words the utter feeling I get when I think of the opportunity I have to travel Europe whilst studying. As a current exchange student, I highly suggest every future candidate to maximize their social time to travel with new people and create new bonds. I am excited to see what these next couple of months have in store for me!

Lastly, it would be my pleasure to help answer any questions from all students interested to attend the University of Geneva. Moreover, I would love to update everyone as I continue my travels.

Many thanks for the opportunity to complete this important chapter in my life.