



IT University Travel Report

Host university: ESSEC Business School in Cergy

Study Programme at IT University: Global Business Informatics

Exchange agreement or Free mover:

Courses studied abroad: Digital Transformation, New Technology and innovation strategies, Business as war, People and organisations, Economics of public policy, Sociology of consumption, Retail Foundation, Working across cultures

Period studying abroad: 5th semester, Autumn 2024

If you wish to give advice to other students regarding your travels, please state your contact info here: hanal@itu.dk

Your stay abroad

What was it like to study at the university (including choice of courses, academic level, social life at campus)?

Academic level and choice of courses

- The academic level was not as hard as at ITU. The courses are only between 2-4 ECTS, so it doesn't require as much as the courses you might have at ITU. There is a lot of group work, and many exams are group presentations. So, if you do not like group presentations, this might not suit you. The grades are not only based on your final presentation/exam but also participation during the semester and some courses had a midterm that also counts in for the final results. There was mandatory attendance which meant that if you missed more than two classes, they would take 4 points from your overall score. This is something I found quit annoying. Due to the mandatory attendance and the final results also being based of different factors it reminded me a lot of high school, which at all was not what I expected.

- In terms of courses, they do have a great variety of courses which I did like. You will be able to mix and match as you want. I ended up choosing courses only Monday-Wednesday, so I had the rest of the week off to enjoy Paris.
- Many teachers were quite uptight in terms of wanting you to participate in class, not be on your computer or phone during class. Again, it gave me the feeling of being back in high school.

Social life at campus

- There was a big student organization that hosted different parties and events. I did not attend any of them because it is important to mention that many of the students were quite young and the school is located 45-60 min outside of Paris with public transportation. It is located in what I would classify as a dead city and would not recommend living in Cergy if you want the Paris experience. With that said I do know that the people living by campus had a great social life as the school hosted lot of events. I mostly had my social life with the other students that lived in Paris.
- The school has what looked like sorority house competitions and if you like that kind of things, you should definitely live on campus. Most of the students that participated in those activities would be between the ages 18-21.

What was your initial motivation for going abroad and did your stay meet your expectations?

- I really wanted to go to a bigger city with more opportunities and diversity, which is why I really wanted to go to Paris. The life in Paris truly met my expectations and even more. It has been an amazing experience where I have met many different and interesting people. The school was quit surprising and did not meet my expectations as I was shocked with the “high school” vibe.

Please describe what you got out of your stay, both personally and academically, and how do you expect it to contribute to your further studies?

- The stay personally helped me to come more to terms with my own values and aspirations in life. The different courses that I could choose from also helped guide me in what direction I will take further in my career. For example, I will like to work more with digital transformation after my semester abroad, where I had no clue what I wanted to do before I went abroad.

Arranging your stay

Please give a short description of the process of arranging your stay:

- The process was easy as it was just another country in Europe. I just had to buy insurance which I did through IDA.
- One thing I will say if you are not a European citizen you will need a visa before leaving, so you can stay in Paris more than 96 days.

What resources did you find helpful in planning your stay and which people did you use (if any)?

- Facebook groups

How did you arrange practicalities such as accommodation?

- I found my apartment in Paris through the Facebook page Padam Padam or Danskere I Paris. Two pages for the Danish network in Paris. I was lucky with finding a good landlord with a good apartment, so it was quite easy from there. From there I did not need more to arrange my stay.
- The school does provide accommodations near campus, but again I would not recommend living in Cergy and rather spend the one hour on commute.

Expenses and Financing

Please comment on expenses connected to your stay abroad

- Accommodation was 720€/month (I had an amazing deal. Most people give between 800-1300€)
- Wifi was 20€/month
- Public transportation was 90€/month
- Living in Paris is quite expensive. It is basically the same prices as in Copenhagen.

Did you apply for scholarships and would you recommend any ones in particular?

- I applied for many but did not end up getting any.