

## Post Study Abroad Evaluation

THE BASICS			
Your Name	[REDACTED]		
Your Program of Study/Year	Marketing Management		
Host Country	France		
Host School/Agency	INSEEC		
Participation Dates	January 3 – May 31, 2012		
Type of Study Abroad	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Exchange	<input type="checkbox"/> Practicum	<input type="checkbox"/> Independent <input type="checkbox"/> Other
<b>Section 1</b>			
GENERAL EVALUATION			
Please rate your overall exchange experience on a scale of 1 to 10 (one being poor and 10 being exceptional)			6
In a couple of sentences, explain why you rated your experience the way you did.	The school was kind of a joke. Classes were infrequent and the study material was very limited. Also, there were no class syllabi which didn't help how unorganized the school is. Sometimes there would be two classes at the same time at two different campuses and missing one meant missing a lot of information; and having to depend on someone else's (usually poor) class notes to study from. Furthermore, the exchange coordinator at INSEEC was never in the office and rarely helpful.		
<b>Section 2</b>			
ARRIVAL			
How difficult was it for you to obtain your travel documents (visa, etc.)? *Always verify immigration regulations with the consulate or embassy of your host country*	Easy, I have a Finnish passport so no need for a visa!		
Describe your transportation arrangements to your host country. Would you change any part of those arrangements?	Took a flight to Charles du Gaulle in Paris via Toronto. I wouldn't change the flights, they weren't too bad. Just wish they didn't cost \$1400! Finding the house on the otherhand was a nightmare. Would have been better if someone could have met me at the airport to help me navigate the metro and which bus to take and where to get off.		
How was your experience clearing customs and immigration upon arrival in your host country? Any surprises?	Easy, barely any security.		
Describe how you traveled to your host facility. How long did it take and how much did it cost?	Finding the school was easy. One of my roommates had already found it so she guided us through the metro. The school wasn't too far from the stop either so that was nice.		

### Section 3

#### ORIENTATION AND ASSISTANCE

How satisfied were you with the orientation and assistance available to at your host school/agency.	Orientation was pretty good, it was a good chance to meet the other exchange students and learn about the school, I was satisfied with it.
What help did you receive from the international staff or office? What was your impression of the international staff or office?	The international staff were really useless most of the time. Lorena, the main coordinator was rarely in the office; it often took her weeks or months to process documents and student cards. Sometimes however, they were helpful, but mainly for general questions.
What was the orientation like at your partner university, if there was one? How well did it suit your needs?	The World Exchange provided information about INSEEC and about the events they were planning. They also provided us with lunch and desert while we could mingle with the other students. They did a decent job.
What was it like to adjust to the culture of your exchange site? Were there people you could talk to about what you were experiencing?	It took me a while to adjust to the school since they are SO unorganized and the scheduling and registration for courses were really inefficient, frustrating, and unorganized as well. Yes, the other exchange students who were equally frustrated.
How receptive were the local people in providing assistance?	Not at all. They were quite unhelpful most of the time.

### Section 4

#### HOUSING

Describe your accommodation arrangements.	I rented a loft with three other girls in the suburb "Champigny-Sur-Marne"
How early could you move into housing before term and how long after the end of term were you allowed to stay?	We signed a contract for 5 months starting January 2 <sup>nd</sup> to June 2 <sup>nd</sup> . However, the landlord wanted us to move out on the last day of May because she had a new tenant moving in June 1 <sup>st</sup> , so that was unfortunate for me, as I had to stay at a hostel for the last few days.
How comfortable were you with your accommodation?	Never sharing accommodation with 3 random people again if I can help it. It was not a fun time.
Describe what you did about meals and what other options were available. How satisfied were you with the food?	The food in Paris was mediocre to say the least. It was hard to find a good tasting meal for a decent price at restaurants. I cooked at home or with friends most of the time. It is way cheaper, and better tasting.
How close was your accommodation to where you had to study?	45 minutes by bus and metro.

### Section 5

#### COURSE REGISTRATION

Please describe the registration process at your host institution. What assistance was available to you? Were you satisfied?	They scheduled an appointment for us split into groups by our host country after orientation and told us what classes we would be good for. They didn't give us any course description, nor information about the class. They also tried to persuade us to take courses in French even if we didn't speak a word of it. I was not satisfied. Even Kwantlen's registration is a better system.
How successful were you in registering for classes? What advice would you offer to another exchange student about how to register at your host institution?	I had to change my courses several times as they weren't what I expected after going to the first class. Changing courses was easy though. Advice for future students would be to not go to INSEEC on exchange to do courses for your program. Maybe just to do electives.
How many courses did you take per semester? What course load would you recommend for future students? What particular courses would you recommend to other students?	7 courses. Since the courses are so spread out (1-3 hours/ week) and at least 4 weeks of vacation, take as many as you want. Take Stephen Muse's "French Culture & Society" Class!!! It is the best way to see the city and learn about French culture! Also Gilles Nakle was a good prof, any class with him, you will learn a lot in comparison to the other profs. + he keeps it interesting and tells good stories.

### Section 6

#### ACADEMICS

How satisfied were you with the amount of knowledge/skills you obtained from your host?	Not very.
How did the style of teaching compare with that in Canada? How did the workload compare to what you would expect in Canada?	Work load was nothing compared to Canada. There were no text books, or reference material, only the class notes that we took in class. The profs mainly used PowerPoint presentations so that was the same, and classes were small.
How many courses did you take during your time abroad?	7
What impact did the language barrier have on your learning?	None at all. All my classes were in English (except French at Alip)
What was your impression of the computer facilities, library, internet access, specialized equipment and supplies available at your host facility?	My impression was that for a "Grande Ecole" and a private school the resources available to the students were quite minimal. There wasn't really a library at the school, and to go to the public one, it was only open for a few hours twice a week and you would have to pay to use their resources. There were also few computers at the school available to students, and they weren't always readily available.

### Section 7

#### COSTS

Books and Supplies – per term	\$20 for notebooks and pens, there were no books.
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Flight	\$1400
Accommodation – per month	500eu each for our loft
Meals – per month	350eu
Local transportation – per month	82eu for 3 zone metro pass
Health insurance – per term	\$646 for 7months of travel insurance
Communications (internet, phone, etc.) – per term	Internet included in rent, phone was about 30eu/month
Travel documents (passport, entry visa, etc.)	0
Vaccinations	0
Personal Spending (eg. entertainment and extra travel) – per term	\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$
What unexpected costs did you encounter? What items were less or more expensive than you expected?	I had to spend 200eu to get a virus removed from my laptop. Food actually wasn't that expensive in the grocery stores. Also, tickets to tourist attractions and movies were cheaper than I thought they would be. What was unfortunately more expensive than I expected was a good meal at a restaurant. If you want good food, be prepared to pay a lot.

### Section 8

#### EXTRA-CURRICULAR/SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

How satisfied were you with the out-of-class opportunities at your host site?	Paris has endless things to do. The World Exchange association hosted some pretty fun events and trips. It was never boring.
What organized activities (clubs, sports, etc.) were available to you while in your host country? What extra-curricular activities would you recommend to future students?	The world exchange association hosted a lot of fun events and organized a couple trips for the exchange students. Also Muse Events (Muse's class) is recommended for anyone going to the MBA Institute or INSEEC!
What opportunities were there to work or volunteer. Did you require special permits to do this?	There were some opportunities to work as an English speaking babysitter and some exchange students got a part time job at an Irish/Australian bar/restaurant
What do you recommend other visiting students see or do on their weekends or holidays?	Le Parc des Buttes-Chaumont is the best park in Paris – great for picnics. Chupitos Espit is a shots bar that is pretty well priced. Also, there is a balloon (ballon de Paris) That is probably the best view of the city. And Rue de Rivoli and surrounding streets near Hotel de Ville has the best shopping.

### Section 9

SAFETY AND HEALTH	
Describe any safety concerns you had during your experience.	Don't pass out on the metro after a night out. Your wallet WILL get stolen. Also, don't walk around at night by yourself (man or woman) because several people on exchange were mugged this way.
Section 10	
PERSONAL AND CULTURAL CONNECTIONS	
What was it like making friends? How successful were you at making friends with local (i.e., not international) people?	It was easy making friends. Everyone is there all by themselves and wanting to meet people and make new friends. Making local friends is a bit more difficult. The exchange volunteers that are local were really friendly and would introduce us to a French buddy if we were interested, also they are great for knowing where to go out for a fun night.
What was it like to adjust to the culture of your host site?	Since making friends wasn't very hard, it wasn't that difficult to adjust to living in Paris since everyone is going through the same culture shock and differences. However accepting the differences was a bit of a challenge for me.
What, if any, cultural differences did you find particularly challenging?	How unorganized and unprofessional the French are.
What parts of the culture did you most appreciate?	The social part of the Parisian lifestyle. Cheap & good wine and endless restaurants, bistros, and events to go to and meet friends.
How were you treated by local people? By university staff and faculty? By students?	University staff were helpful most of the time (except when you needed them to do something for you like getting a new student card) Students were the most helpful. Other French people in the city were not; most bankers, bakers pretended they didn't speak English when they really did.
As far as you could tell, how easy would it be for students with disabilities to study at your partner university?	I don't know.
For students who are visible minorities in your host country?	Easy.
For students who are gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgendered?	Easy.
Section 11	
TAKING STOCK	
What are the 5 most important things one should take with them when going to your host country or region?	
1 Credit Card with a lot of money on it.	
2 Language guide book	

3 An open mind	
4 Comfortable walking shoes	
5 Hand Sanitizer	
What are the 10 most important things you would tell another student who is going to your host facility/agency:	
1 Make an effort to make friends with the locals.	
2 Learn French before you go there!	
3 Be prepared for how different their school system is.	
4 Don't have high expectations.	
5 Get involved in the event that the Exchange organization put on, you'll meet a lot of great people	
6 Take courses that interest you, not ones for your program at home	
7 Participate in Stephen Muse's class!	
8 Keep an open mind	
9 Take advantage in the free French courses at Alip (even though they are horribly executed, they actually help)	
10 Don't have high expectations for learning	
What was the most rewarding part of your study abroad experience?	Realizing that I actually learned some French!
What was the greatest challenge you faced during your experience abroad?	Speaking French
As a result of your study abroad experience, how has your perspective changed?	I am more open minded to different cultures and ways of doing things. The Canadian way, isn't the only way!
What else do you want to say about your study abroad experience?	Although I thought the school part to be a waste of time due to their unorganization, and inefficiency, in retrospect I really enjoyed my time in Paris. Now I would recommend going there on exchange just for the experience and the culture as long as the school part isn't the main reason for going there and it's not taken too seriously.