

Experience report

Fist and last name: Tereza Staudova
Study program: Management program 3A
Bachelor or Master: Master
Host institution, country: INSEEC
Period: Winter 2020

Declaration of consent to the publication of the report

- I agree that the present report will be linked on the website of the ERASMUS office, so that future prospective customers can get first-hand information about my experiences at the university location abroad.
- I agree that my e-mail address will be available to prospective students who would like to get first-hand information about my experience at the university abroad, upon request to the Erasmus office.
- I agree that my **full name** can be found in the published report.

Formalities:

My name is Tereza Staudova. I attended the Erasmus program in INSEEC Grande Ecole in Paris, France during winter semester 2020.

Motivation and preparation for mobility:

I already had experience with Erasmus program from my Bachelor and I enjoyed it back then. Therefore, already when I was starting my Master, I knew that I would like to participate in Erasmus program again in a different country. I decided to go to Paris because I travelled to Paris before and I liked it very much. For this reason I also wanted to see what it would be like to live there.

The most difficult part of the preparation for me was finding an accommodation. Dormitories in Paris were full and apartments expensive. In the end, I decided to live in an apartment. Even though it was rather pricy, it was the easiest solution.

Start of mobility:

The start of mobility was very smooth. I arrived in Paris by plane and found my accommodation easily. My receiving institution was very supportive. They explained everything we needed to know to us during the first day, showed us around the campus and answered any questions we had.

During the mobility:

During the whole semester the university in Paris was doing its best for the Erasmus students to feel at ease. We could reach out to them anytime we had questions or issues to solve and they were very obliging.

The biggest obstacle during the mobility was the always changing situation cause by COVID-19. In the beginning, all our classes were in person. Few weeks later only 50%. And from November all of them were online. This was very unfortunate because we could not interact with fellow students and the professors properly. Also, due to many restrictions imposed by French government, we could not enjoy Paris as much. When Paris went into a full lockdown, our lives became a bit lonely as we could not meet anyone or go anywhere. Also, apartments in Paris are usually very small and being in quarantine in such a small space was a bit frustrating for me. However, INSEEC did everything they could to provide online classes for us and answer any questions we had.

What have I learned and what am I taking with me from this time? :

As most of our papers were in form of groupwork, I definitely improved my ability of working in teams and delegate work.

I also improved critical thinking and French language. In Paris much less people than I thought could speak English, so I had to often try hard to use my poor French language skills or work with online translation tools during communication. However, this also motivated me to significantly improve my French language skills.

I became more independent. Every potential issue I was facing, I had to solve myself. I believe that this really helped me to grow as a person.

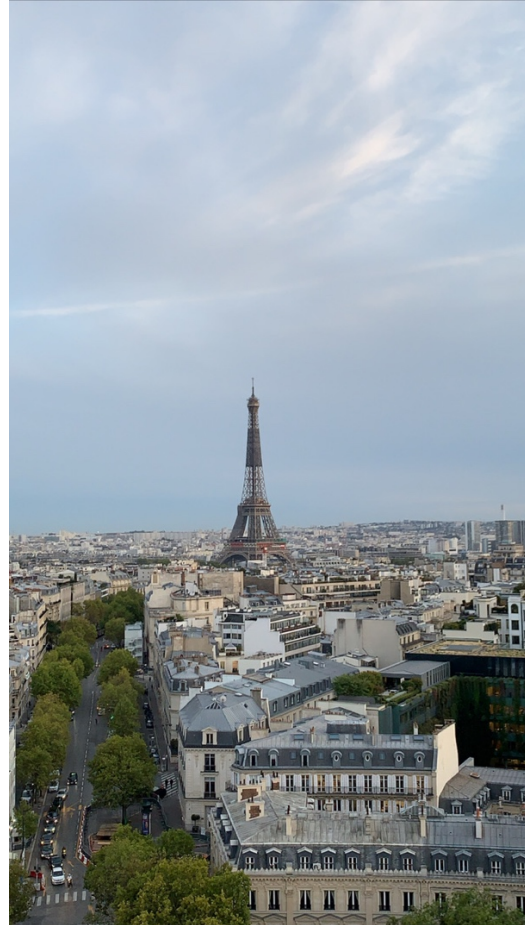
Despite all the hardships mostly caused by the ongoing pandemic, I am happy that I decided to participate in the Erasmus program in Paris. I met many new people from different cultural backgrounds, learned a lot about their culture and also about France. If I could go back in time and decide differently, I would definitely make the same decision again.

Green ERASMUS – How is the topic of the environment treated at the host institution & in the host country?

At the university in Paris, during several courses, the topic of environment was mentioned. However, we never discussed it in depth or dedicated a large part of a lesson to it. It simply was not built into the curriculum for the semester.

Generally, in Paris some people I talked to regarding this topic were recycling. However, the streets were often dirty, and in my opinion, many locals do not care about the environment as much as they should.

Impressions (photos, links etc....) :



What I enjoyed the most about Paris was the architecture. Everywhere I went I could see beautiful buildings or historical sites. It is a very beautiful city.

Also people in general were friendly and I met many interesting Parisians.