# Exchange Participant Questionnaire

## Student Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Faculty:</th>
<th>Arts and Social Sciences</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Major/Minor:</td>
<td>Political Science &amp; French major</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Host university:</td>
<td>Institut des Études Politiques d'Aix</td>
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<tr>
<td>Host Country:</td>
<td>France</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dates of your exchange:</td>
<td>(month/year) 09/2015 to (month/year) 05/2016</td>
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## Travel

- Approximately how much did air transportation cost? $900
- Approximately how much did any required ground transportation cost? $100
- Do you have a recommended routing or airline? Yes
  - Air Transat flies Vancouver to Paris, it is a charter flight so often it is less expensive.

## Visas

- What is your citizenship? Canadian and German
- Did you need a student visa/permit? Yes
  - What was the cost? $900
- Did you need a visitor visa/permit? Yes
  - What was the cost? $100
- Where was your immigration documentation processed? Marseille Provence Airport
- How long did it take to procure your visa/permit? 
- Were any other documents required (residence permit, etc)? Yes

## Airport Reception

- Were you met at the airport by representatives of the host university? Yes
- Is there easy transportation between the airport and university? Yes
  - I was met at the train station by someone from the university residence I was living in (Les Gazelles) and transported public bus and then by car. There is a bus that travels from the airport and train station that takes you straight to the centre of town.
- What is the closest airport to the host university? Marseille Provence Airport

## Orientation

- Is there an organized orientation session upon arrival at the host university? Yes
- Was there a cost for the orientation session? No
  - In the first week there was a "Bienvenue en France" information session with classes in the morning. These helped with my French grammar skills and also skills needed in daily French Society. This was provided by the institution. There was also a group called "L'Association Internationale" which was run by students. They organized various events and excursions in the first week of classes as well as throughout the semester.
- If yes, do you recommend that future students participate? Yes
**LANGUAGE PROGRAMS**

Is there a language program available either before or during the term?  
☐ No  ☐ Yes

If yes, how long is it?  
During the term there is a French as a Foreign Language class available.

Is there an additional cost for language training?  
☐ No  ☐ Yes: How much?

Please comment:

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**ACCOMMODATION & LIVING**

Is on-campus or university dormitory accommodation available?  
☐ No  ☐ Yes

If yes, are you living in a university dormitory?  
☐ No  ☐ Yes

If yes, can you make a recommendation for a specific dormitory?  
☐ No  ☐ Yes

If yes, please describe:  
Cite Universitaire Les Gazelles.

What is the average monthly cost of accommodation?  
roughly 225 euros

Is there a meal plan?  
☐ No  ☐ Yes: How much is it?

If no, do you have access to adequate cooking facilities?  
☐ No  ☐ Yes

How far is your dormitory from the main campus?  
25 minute walk.

Please comment on internet and phone access in your dormitory:

Wireless internet is available and included in housing costs. The kitchen facilities are very limited - one floor (roughly 30 rooms) share a “kitchen” which consists of a sink and 4 hot plates. I was not aware of phone access as I have a cellphone plan.

Did you have to make a deposit for your accommodation prior to arrival?  
☐ No  ☐ Yes

If yes, how did you arrange this?  
Credit Card

Is off-campus housing easily available?  
☐ No  ☐ Yes

Please comment on off-campus housing:

Approximately how much money per month is needed for living, including accommodation and meals?  
400 euros

Any other comments on accommodation:
FINANCIAL DETAILS
Have you opened a bank account in your host country? □ No □ Yes
What are the challenges/benefits to opening a local bank account?
I found a bank that was affiliated with my bank in Canada. Challenges included having all the documents and being able to book an appointment to open one around business hours of the bank and classes.

How would you recommend students bring money (Canadian/American cash, travelers’ cheques, local currency?)
Small sums of euros and a large sum cheque to deposit into your new French bank account. This prevents carrying around large sums of cash while travelling and also possible fees when wiring money from Canadian to European bank accounts.

What is/are the preferred method(s) of payment at most establishments? □ Cash □ Debit □ Credit card
Please comment: Most stores/coffeshops/restaurants had a very high minimum if you wanted to use a credit card, compared to what I was used to in North America.

ACADEMIC DETAILS
Was it possible for you to get all of the courses that you wanted? □ No □ Yes
Please describe the course registration procedure:
We had the first 3 weeks to try out classes. From there we signed up online through guidance from the International Office.

What discipline(s)/program(s) are you taking at your host university?
Political Science, French and History

What is the language of instruction in your courses?
French and English

If not English, are English-taught courses available?

Describe the manner and quality of instruction at your host university.
Lecture style - the professor speaks and notes are taken. No mandatory readings, no assignments and final grade is solely based upon a final oral exam administered by the professor.

What do you feel is/will be the main academic benefit of your participation in this exchange program?
Being able to synthesize large amounts of material in order to study for a final exam that determines the entire final grade. Although this was a scary experience, it forced me to pay attention in class and greatly improved my note taking abilities in French and English. Also, when studying for the final exam I needed to search for large themes and create my own study questions as anything covered in the course was testable material and very little advice/direction was given on what exact elements would be on the final.