EXCHANGE PARTICIPANT QUESTIONNAIRE

STUDENT INFORMATION

Faculty: FASS
Major/Minor: International Studies
Host university: Sciences Po Bordeaux
Host Country: France
Dates of your exchange: (month/year) January 2017 to (month/year) May 2017

TRAVEL

Approximately how much did air transportation cost? 1800 CAD
Approximately how much did any required ground transportation cost? 40 EUR (taxi from airport)
Do you have a recommended routing or airline? ☐ No ☐ Yes
If yes, please describe: __________________________________________

VISAS

What is your citizenship? (voluntary; may impact following information) Canadian
Did you need a student visa/permit? ☐ No ☐ Yes: What was the cost? __________________
If yes, what documentation was needed? Student Visa
Did you need a visitor visa/permit? ☐ No ☐ Yes: What was the cost? __________________
If yes, what documentation was needed? French embassy in Vancouver
Where was your immigration documentation processed? ______________________________________
How long did it take to procure your visa/permit? 2 weeks
Were any other documents required (residence permit, etc)? ☐ No ☐ Yes
If yes, please comment: __________________________________________

AIRPORT RECEPTION

Were you met at the airport by representatives of the host university? ☐ No ☐ Yes
Is there easy transportation between the airport and university? ☐ No ☐ Yes
Please comment: I took a taxi because it was late at night, but transportation from the airport into town is very easy. You can take the #1 bus into the centre and from there depending on where you’re going you can easily access other busses or trams.

What is the closest airport to the host university? Bordeaux-Merignac Aéroport

ORIENTATION

Is there an organized orientation session upon arrival at the host university? ☐ No ☐ Yes
Was there a cost for the orientation session? ☐ No ☐ Yes, how much? __________________
If yes, do you recommend that future students participate? ☐ No ☐ Yes
Please comment: One day we took a day trip to Saint-Émilion, a famous wine region, and had a tour around the town and a wine tasting. It was amazing!
LANGUAGE PROGRAMS
Is there a language program available either before or during the term?  ☐ No  ☐ Yes
If yes, during the term you can take French language courses.
Is there an additional cost for language training?  ☐ No  ☐ Yes: How much?
Please comment:

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:

What is the average monthly cost of accommodation?  470 EUR

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?

Please comment on internet and phone access in your dormitory:

Did you have to make a deposit for your accommodation prior to arrival?  ☐ No  ☐ Yes
If yes, how did you arrange this?  One months rent arranged with the landlady of my apartment

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

Please comment on off-campus housing:
Accommodation is very difficult to find, both on and off campus. I requested on-campus accommodation, but was unable to get it due to not enough spots being available. Upon arrival in Bordeaux, I had to search for off-campus housing by myself-- the university was not very helpful in the process. For the first month, I was living in an airbnb. Rent in the city is much more expensive, so I ended up paying triple what I had expected. However, the apartment was centrally-located and much nicer than campus accommodation.

Approximately how much money per month is needed for living, including accommodation and meals?  600 EUR

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?

How would you recommend students bring money (Canadian/American cash, travelers’ cheques, local currency?)
Bring euros with you (I initially brought 600 euros, i.e. 1000 CAD). Debit and credit can be used after to pay or withdraw money from banks.

What is/are the preferred method(s) of payment at most establishments? Cash Debit Credit card

Please comment:

ACADEMIC DETAILS
Was it possible for you to get all of the courses that you wanted? No Yes

Please describe the course registration procedure:
You have one week to attend courses before choosing which you would like to take, so that you can see if you are interested in taking it. I recommend attending as many as you can, just to make sure you get courses that you like.

What discipline(s)/program(s) are you taking at your host university? Political science

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.
Instruction is very different to SFU. The professors lecture, with or without powerpoint slides, and there is very little in-class discussion. Courses are graded based on one final exam, with sometimes a project or paper in addition. But there is rarely any homework or external required readings.

What do you feel is/will be the main academic benefit of your participation in this exchange program?
Learning material from a whole new perspective. Most of the courses were european political science courses, so it was interesting having a different outlook than what I am used to. I learned a lot about the European Union and its politics from a French point of view. Additionally, I was staying during the French presidential elections, so this topic was discussed frequently in class and was extremely informative.

Submission Instructions:
1. Please complete and return this form by E-mail to studyabroad@sfu.ca as a PDF.
2. Subject line of email: Questionnaire - [Host Country, Host University]
3. Please include your full name and student number in the body of your E-mail.