EXCHANGE PARTICIPANT QUESTIONNAIRE

STUDENT INFORMATION

Faculty: Business

Major/Minor: Finance/Economics

Host university: ESCP

Host Country: France

Dates of your exchange: (month/year) January/2015 to (month/year) May/2015

TRAVEL

Approximately how much did air transportation cost? $1,200

Approximately how much did any required ground transportation cost? $100/month

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? $0

If yes, what documentation was needed? 2B Visa Application Kit: Inter-University Exchange

Did you need a visitor visa/permit? □ No □ Yes: What was the cost?

If yes, what documentation was needed?

Where was your immigration documentation processed? French Consulate (Vancouver)

How long did it take to procure your visa/permit? 4 weeks

Were any other documents required (residence permit, etc)? □ No □ Yes

If yes, please comment: Photographs, Passport, Letters of Acceptance, Round-trip Airfare, Bank Statements

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: The RER B runs from Charles de Gaulle airport (N. Paris) through the city center, and down to the other airport (Orly) in S. Paris. There are approx. 17 metro lines in Paris.

What is the closest airport to the host university? Charles de Gaulle

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: This is the best way to meet all the other exchange students. ESCP gets approximately 100 exchange students per semester.
LANGUAGE PROGRAMS
Is there a language program available either before or during the term? ☐ No ☐ Yes
If yes, how long is it? 10 weeks
Is there an additional cost for language training? ☐ No ☐ Yes: How much?
Please comment: Non-compulsory

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 Internationale Universitaire de Paris (Not related to ESCP) and Vivaldi (ESCP)
What is the average monthly cost of accommodation? $900
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? 35 minutes
Please comment on internet and phone access in your dormitory:
Wifi is included in the monthly fee. Better access through the LAN cable. Phone is for local calls only. Cell phone plans are only $25 per month for unlimited everything.
Did you have to make a deposit for your accommodation prior to arrival? ☐ No ☐ Yes
If yes, how did you arrange this? E-Payment
Is off-campus housing easily available? ☐ No ☐ Yes
Please comment on off-campus housing:
Most other students used an agent. Average monthly cost was $1,100 which was shared with strangers. Apartments are small and not well sound-proofed.

Approximately how much money per month is needed for living, including accommodation and meals? $1,700
Any other comments on accommodation:
The above figure excludes travel expenses throughout Europe. A one-week trip can easily cost over $1,000 between transportation, accommodation, food/drinks, and activities/sightseeing. Groceries in Paris are fairly inexpensive; I spent around $50 per week and cooked 90% of my meals when in Paris.
**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?)

Local currency only. Use a debit card to withdraw funds. I bank with BMO and incurred no fees when withdrawing at Credit Lyonnais and BNP Paribas.

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

Please comment: Cards payments require purchases >$15 in most establishments.

**ACADEMIC DETAILS**

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

Please describe the course registration procedure:

The incoming student coordinator will email a course list and a time for when and how to enroll in courses. It is done online through the university’s platform.

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

What is the language of instruction in your courses? English

If not English, are English-taught courses available? Yes

Describe the manner and quality of instruction at your host university.

Having only taken Finance courses, my opinion may be slightly biased. In France, the education system is largely lecture-based, and so it is less interactive than at SFU where we often have tutorials. Additionally, less content is covered, but we spent a lot more time going into depth and understanding. At ESCP, we covered an average of 5 chapters per course in 10 lectures; at SFU, we cover at least one chapter per week. At ESCP, we focused on a deeper understanding of the material, whereas at SFU we tend to be asked to memorize formulas and little thought-provoking analysis is required.

What do you feel is/will be the main academic benefit of your participation in this exchange program?

The courses offered at ESCP are very different from those offered by SFU, which is the main reason I applied for my exchange here. The main benefit was having access to new content, specifically Investment Banking and Financial Analysis of Firms.

**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.