



1.Scholarships

There are scholarships given by the French Embassy but the last date is somewhere in January or February, I do not think we are out with the names of the students by this time. Besides, I am not very sure these scholarships are given First Come First Serve. Most probably, the Embassy has a quota for each institute. The two students who came from IIM Bangalore had scholarships of 1800 Euros for one student and one free air ticket for the other. I believe that every year, whoever comes from IIM Bangalore, this support is given. This support is NOT from ESSEC.

I believe there is no accommodation support by ESSEC from next year onwards, which will make the accommodation provided by ESSEC (460 euros per month) very expensive. We suggest the students can also look for alternate residence in Paris (India House for instance), which will be a little cheap; the travel time will increase to around 40 minutes one-way. Rooms are cheaper around ESSEC at around 300 euros per month, but are hard to find. For rooms in Paris/ Close to ESSEC, students can contact the Coordinator at ESSEC.

2.Visa Requirements

Technically, the students should come with a student visa and be required to take a residence permit (only if the stay is more than 120 days). If the students plan to travel, the best is to ask for a tourist visa (they just need to specify at the embassy that they will be staying for less than 90 days and they will be traveling all around Europe). Students not having the tourist visa had to take *Schengen* Visa separately to travel to other countries, as the temporary student visa given ' *Dispense carte-de-sejour* ' visa is valid only for France.

There is almost no role of students in getting the Visa; The STEX Committee can actually get Visas for everyone (For students going to France) by getting in touch with Mr. Ashok Charoth in the French Cultural Center, Delhi

3.Lodging Detail

The college prospectus says that you can stay in any of the three residences of ESSEC, but in fact, there is only one residence for exchange students (Foyer des Linandes), which is a 20 min walk from the campus. The lodging is excellent with good cooking facilities, bathrooms in the rooms, TV room, Gym, etc.

4.Supermarkets and Shopping

There are two supermarkets; one called 'Leader Price' which is very close to the residence and the other called 'Auchan' which is very close to the campus. Leader Price has relatively less prices than Auchan but it has very odd hours of opening- closes at 7.00 p.m everyday, except that it is the only supermarket open on Sunday Mornings. Auchan is a big supermarket with almost everything available, it is open from 8 AM to 10 PM on weekdays and closed on Sundays.

5.Transport

Transportation is very expensive; it takes 9-10 euros just to go to Paris and back (ESSEC is in the suburbs of Paris). The hostel is 20 min walking from campus; there is an option of taking a bus, which takes 1.3 euros. Even for traveling in Europe in general, the trains are costlier than buses, but they obviously take lesser time. It makes sense to buy one of the passes; either the train pass or the bus pass, depending on how much you want to spend and how much time it takes to reach your destination. To visit Paris, there is a weekend pass – **Carte Jeunes** costing 6.4 euros per day –Unlimited travel and can be taken by students less than 26 years of Age.

6. What to take from India

Overall, everything of daily use is available in stores and as such, there is no need to take any particular thing (except warm clothes) but France is expensive in all respects, so any thing that you take from India will save your expenses. For vegetarians it makes sense to carry some of those ready to eat food (MTR or other brands), Non vegetarians do not need to worry.

7. Cheapest way to get currency

The cheapest would be to get it from friends who have been to Europe and have excess currency because they can give you better rates than the selling rates of most banks. The best way obviously is to go to any national or foreign bank's FOREX branch (most of them are in CP, Delhi).

Opening a Bank account is expensive and time consuming. It is better to carry currency and travelers Cheques. TC's can be exchanged without commission from BNP close to ESSEC. For emergency purposes, Indian Debit Cards can be used to withdraw cash in Euros from ATM machines there.

8. Professors to contact there

There is not much formal interaction with the professors. There is a session with the Academic Director, Prof Jenny (I think there is some other Prof now), who helps in finalizing the subjects. In addition, there is an Indian Prof Ashok Som, who is very helpful regards any matter.

9. Possibility of Research Assistantship

Most of the profs look for research assistants but it requires a lot of time and effort on the part of the student. It is difficult to balance the course work, travel and the assistantship. Prof Ashok Som usually has some work or the other and the students can make good money out of it. But it has to be discussed prior to taking up the assignment as most campus jobs are non paying- they reduce the fee that is to be paid in the next term- Not useful for exchange students who are not Eligible too.

10. Name of Administrative Coordinator

Ms. Delphine Lefebvre is the coordinator for exchange students.

Ms. Michele Pekar Lempereur is the Head of the University Exchange Relationships.

11. Good Courses

There is a limited number of English Courses. The Maximum credits allowed for exchange students is 5- not negotiable.

International Strategy and Management - Taken by Ashok Som, the teaching methods and course load are very similar to IIM.

International Finance - Taken by Prof. Laura Valderrama, the course is very good in terms of building the concepts

Economics of Information - Again taken by Laura, this is a very different course dealing with Asymmetries of Information, although it is very theoretical.

Analyse Marches, et Strategie: Normally a French Course, was offered in English this time. The Prof is the Advisor to the French Govt on WTO and Anti-Competition issues. Brilliant mix of Practical examples backed by sufficient Theory. **VERY HIGHLY RECOMMENDED**, if in English.

12. Dates of Arrival and Departure

The session starts in the first week of October and ends in the 3rd week of December so it very well matches with the 5th semester schedule at IIML. The exams can be advanced and are flexible. Air Tickets are the more important concern.