



Indian Institute of Management
Lucknow



IECS
Strasbourg, France

Information about the 2003 Exchange program :

A) Ways of getting scholarships either in India or abroad and getting other funding there (Rooms, grants)

Although, there is no specific scholarships for having an exchange program with IECS, but a student can always claim the resident grant that French state offers to all students studying in France. This grant, known as CAF, is normally around 40 euros a month. However, it requires the student to have a 'Carte de Sejour' (Resident Permit), which can be obtained with the help of BDV (Bureau de visitants - Student Exchange committee of IECS). It must be noted that to obtain the Carte de Sejour, one needs a long term visa (1 year visa is sufficient). Longer Visa also implies higher visa cost (only if you don't get student's fee waiver at French visa office), higher travel insurance cost and no refund of value added tax on consumer durables bought in European Union. So far, there is no other source of scholarship or funding.

B) Visa Requirements

Listed below are the items required for the french visa application:

1. Passport
2. Filled in application form. this can be downloaded from www.francein-india.org. Please download the long stay form if you intend to stay more than 90 days.
3. 2 passport photos
4. Invitation letter from the french institute stating that you have been selected for the exchange program
5. A bonafide student certificate from IIM L
6. Biodata
7. Degree certificates - class 10 onwards
8. Proof of accomodation (printed email will do)
9. Financial statement - loan sanction document will do
10. Health insurance
11. Return tickets - reservation document from a travel agent will do
12. A letter from IIML stating that you have been selected to go on exchange

You need to have 3 sets of photocopies of all the above 13 items plus the originals. in all, 4 sets. You need to arrange them in two folders - each of two sets. one will have two xeroxed sets and the other - one set of originals and one set of xeroxes. one folder gets checked by the embassy and the other by the cultural center.

Visa requirements were posted by Intexchange committee on our yahoo groups called ex04. You can refer to message number 96 for further details.

c) Lodging Details

The student has to initially contact IECS and get assured of accommodation. This is also a prerequisite for Visa formalities. The student should contact Leita Boucicaut at Leita.Boucicaut@urs.u-strasbg.fr or Vincent Lehu at Vincent.Lehu@urs.u-strasbg.fr or Maya Perolla at Maija.Perolla@urs.u-strasbg.fr (preferably in the given order).

IECS is under a university system (like FMS in Delhi University) and hence the student hostels are allocated by the University of Robert Schuman (URS). The student's hostels are located at numerous places, including one right in front of IECS building. Year 2003 students from IIML stayed in Paul Appell, 8, Rue de Palerme, Strasbourg (marked with ● in the map attached) which is about 15 minutes walk time away from IECS building (marked with ● in the map attached). All university hostels are excellent in facilities. Cleanliness, room space, security systems, cooking and entertainment facilities are definitely more than satisfactory. Since these hostels are university hostels for all international students, they offer you an amazing cultural mix with students from all over the world living next to you (especially Europeans).

These facilities, if compared with the room rent (184 euros a month for a chamber room - one with an attached bathroom and personal refrigerator or 140 euros a month for a normal room - one with an shareable bathroom and no refrigerator), makes these rooms an absolute delight in Strasbourg city. In these hostels, one has to share kitchen facilities (hot plates) with other students on floor. Batiment A, B, C and D in paul appell also have Microwave Owen in the kitchen. These hostels also offer internet connectivity on payment basis (around 10 to 15 euros a month, but you need your personal computer). Similar rooms in nearby locations will cost around 350 to 400 euros. Right now, IECS attracts more number of students for its exchange program that its rooms quota decided by Robert Schuman University. Hence, you must ensure that you get one of these rooms first. You may also insist to get a room in the hostel right in front of IECS building - it will save your daily 15 minutes - 730 am and 15 minutes - 745 pm walk in breezy Strasbourg weather (Oct - Nov Temperature is around 8 C in day time and 2 C in night time). This particular hostel is still in initial stages and might not give you as many facilities as listed above. If you want to stay in a hostel with more facilities around, ask for Paul Appell (preferably Batiment A, B, C or D).

All rooms will include an upfront payment of security (around 190 euros under university hostels and around 300 euros if you still persist for an independent flat), which is refundable later on. All Colleges in URS finish their semester in January end. Because of this, the security is refunded only in January, irrespective of date of leaving of student. For IIML students who come back in 3rd week of December, they promise to send the security back to the given

address in India, or transfer to student's bank account in Strasbourg, if he has it. To open a bank account in France, you need a long term visa (1 Year).

One must note that URS by defaults allocates rooms for the entire period from September to January (since all other students have Erasmus exchange program which has this range). Hence, by default, student will be asked to pay, in total, a rent of 5 months, irrespective of his/her period of stay. But, if IECS authorities specify your exact period of stay (which does not go beyond Dec 31) to URS, you can do away with rent for 4 months only. So ensure right in the beginning that IECS is booking your room for 4 months only i.e. till December.

Following are the snaps of rooms in Paul Appell (Chambre room : One with attached Bathroom and Refrigerator)



Window Side View



Door Side View

D) Supermarkets and shopping

Day to Day shopping

The location of hostels will not affect your chance of day to day shopping. There are big retail outlets at the most prominent places of city. ATAC is the most popular and visible one (one outlet next street to IECS building and one at Esplanade – marked with ● in the map attached), but it not the most economical one. An outlet called LE MUTANT (market with ● in the map attached) in Esplanade (Esplanade is 5 to 7 minutes walk from Paul Appell or IECS) is probably more economical than ATAC..! But it does not offer huge variety (as ATAC does). They store only the economical brands in popular product categories. These stores are open from 8 am to 730 pm on weekdays and 8 am to 630 pm on Saturday. All stores remain closed on Sundays.

There exist some stores that beat the rates of LE MUTANT too. These stores are in Germany. It takes 15 minutes on a cycle (referred as 'bike' in Europe) to go from Strasbourg to Kehl. Just as Strasbourg is the border city of France to Germany, Kehl is the border city of Germany to France and River Rhine is the diving line between two nations. These two nations have a considerable difference in their taxation structures. High Indirect Taxes make French day to day shopping expensive. However, use of Direct taxes has resulted in much lower rates of

commodities on the other side of Rhine (German Side).

This has created Cross border arbitrage between these two nations. This is typically a favorite of students in Strasbourg - to go 'biking' to Kehl and enjoy cheap shopping of German goods..! Just to give you an example... till Dec 31 2003, a Cigarette carton which would cost 40 euros in France will cost 22 euros in Germany, 29 euros in Luxembourg, 18 euros in Poland.. Etc

It only costs around 12 to 15 euros to rent a 'bike' for a month..!! You can definitely save more than that by buying your stuff in Kehl and then you can also use your bike for Site seeing in Strasbourg..!

Please note, all shops and showrooms in Strasbourg and France in general close latest by 745 pm (except Asian Store at Gare Central – marked with 🟡 in the map attached). So, no matter what you are buying, buy it before 745 pm. On Saturdays, this time is reduced to around 5 to 6 pm. Sundays: DONT GO OUT SHOPPING..! You will be forced to think that France remains closed on Sundays..! and it is true..!

If self cooking becomes a big hurdle, buying a second-hand microwave oven in the beginning of your stay can be good idea. It would cost about 50-60 euros at the time of buying and will fetch around 20-25 euros at the time of leaving Strasbourg (sell it to other student some in your hostel)

Non Day to Day shopping..!

Best Time: Dec 1 to Dec 25 (Christmas celebrations)

Best Places: Christmas Market (Spreads from Place Broglie to Place de la Gutenberg to Cathedral to Homme de fer). Christmas market is surely the best time in Strasbourg..! Discounts, variety, celebrations, crowd are incredible..! Good time to buy clothes, souvenirs, gifts etc

The prices of Consumer durables do not change much in December, hence they may be bought at anytime in your stay. Before buying them, one must compare the prices in different nations (At least the closer ones - Belgium, Luxembourg, Germany and France) since the difference might be so high that going to that country and buying there can be significantly cheaper.

Other shopping places worth visiting: Homme de fer, C & A between Republique and Place Broglie Stations. Apart from shopping places, Strasbourg hosts the position of “capital of Europe” by being the headquarters of Parliament of Europe (along with Brussels in Belgium). Strasbourg hosts the offices of various representatives of European nations in EU. These few buildings, recently made, are a remarkable piece of architecture! Below are the few pictures of these buildings.



European Parliament



Council of Europe

There is a temporary market which runs from 8 am to 12 noon every Tuesday and Saturday in front of IECS building. This market is largely a collection of people living in nearby villages selling apparels, daily use appliances, varieties of cheese, non vegetarian food, flowers etc. Bargain is common in this market especially with ones selling apparels.

Indian Food

There are few Indian restaurants near cathedral but they are too expensive. A meal at them will cost around 25 to 30 euros.

There is a shop called 'Asian Store' in Gare Central (Railway station of Strasbourg) run by a Bangladeshi family. This store hosts a variety of Indian food. A student's favorite is the ready to eat Indian recipes like Chana Masala, Dal Makhani, Shahi Rajma, Punjabi Kadhi etc. You also get numerous other things like papads, noodles, Wheat flour, Spices, Milkmaid mixes etc.

This store also provides Telephone cards especially for India, which gives you much more talking time as compared to cards from other places. (you will get 36 minutes in 7.5 euros, although the storekeeper promises 42; but this 36 is also really good as compared to other cards). Moreover, this store also offers 'informal' discounts for people from Indian Subcontinent. This is the only place where you can get a 15 euros telephone card in 14 euros.

Apart from Indian food, the next best alternative (if you do not cook yourself) are the university restaurants. These are subsidized restaurants and are meant only for students. One can get a vegetarian meal in around 2 euros and non vegetarian meal in around 3 euros. The food is of high quality and these restaurants are favorite meeting places for students (apart from classes and hostels of course). One is located next to Paul Appell batiment E, and one at tram station Univeriste. You should get a card made for payment at these restaurants. This card can be made between 11 am to 1 pm at restaurant at tram station Univeriste. This card can be credited as and when you like. At the time of departure from Strasbourg, your remaining balance will be refunded back. It is believed that payment through this card (as against cash payment) provides additional discounts on food – I am not sure on this one, please check ..!

E) Transport

Flight Transport:

Emirates Airlines is one of the cheapest. It allows you to carry 30 Kgs in luggage + 7 Kgs in hand. They are a little flexible in those limits too. Other airlines do not provide that much of space. You also get a stop over at Dubai and get to look at the world famous - Dubai Duty Free..! Please note, that if the stop over at Dubai is more than 4 hours, you are entitled to a free meal at 'Safar', a famous restaurant inside Dubai airport.

Emirates Airlines runs its flight from Delhi to Paris (via Dubai). Strasbourg has an international airport too but a very small one. Strasbourg airport is connected with the city through regular bus service plying between Navette airport and Tram/Bus station called Baggersee (marked with ☉ in the map attached). It will cost around 7 euros to reach Strasbourg airport (including the internal city tram or/and bus). For us, an only relevant airline was Austrian Airlines that runs from Delhi to Strasbourg (via Vienna). There are few flights from Delhi to Frankfurt (in Germany) too. Most Strasbourg residents prefer using Frankfurt than Paris for their international flights. We went to Paris and then to Strasbourg, but actually going from Frankfurt might be a better option. Traveling between countries on road will not be a problem since practically there are no visible borders between EU nations.

From Paris to Strasbourg

SNCF trains run between all major cities of France. Currently, the train track between Paris and Strasbourg does not allow fast trains. The slower trains (which are as fast and beautiful as Lucknow - Delhi Shatabdi) takes 4 hours. One can make the 12-25 student card from the CDG (Paris airport) itself. This card allows a discount of 50 % on all intercity travel fares.

Even otherwise, if you are less than 25 yrs of age you get 25 % discount. You must have an internationally accepted students card (like ISIC card – check ISIC website for details <http://www.isic.org/sisp/index.htm>) and a photograph to make this card. ISIC Card costs around Rs 200 and 12-25 card costs around 40 euros and is valid for a year. Talking about cards, you may also consider subscribing to the youth hostel card. With this particular card, you can get subsidized temporary accommodation in almost all the European nations. This is especially beneficial if you are planning for a lot of site seeing. This card can be obtained from Chanakya Puri, New Delhi office of Youth Hostel Association (I am not sure on this name) at a cost of Rs 50 only. You need your IIML Identity card, passport and a photograph to subscribe to this card.

After you have 12 - 25 card from the CDG airport, you should move to Gare de l'est (East Station). From here, you can get the train to Strasbourg. With 12-25 card this ticket will cost you around 19 euros. However, this card is not valid in the trains at peak times. So please check the relevant times when this card gives you 50 % discount.

Transport Inside Strasbourg

Strasbourg city has a tram system. There are 4 lines of trams (a kind of a train that runs on roads along with cars, buses, bikes and all). These tram lines are represented by thick lines

in the attached map. Tram system in Strasbourg is very efficient and serves the major transport needs of the city. Trams run from 4.30 am to 1 am and buses run from 5 am to 1 am everyday. Tram frequency in weekday's peak times is one every 7 minutes. At no point of time, does the frequency go below one every 15 minutes. Monthly pass for trams / buses costs 24 euros for students. Always remember to take the ticket (Uni direction single pass) from one of those machines installed at every tram station and VALIDATE it by putting it in another small machine next to it.

Strasbourg also runs buses which are represented by thin lines in the attached map. Even otherwise, Strasbourg is a small city and one can cover a reasonable chunk of the city by walking only. Transport does not have a big role to play anyway. Bikes (referred as 'cycles' in India) are the most economical ways of commuting inside city. For outside city, you should have 12-25 card which gives you 50 % discount on all inter city trains.

F) What to take from India:

Well, there is nothing that you can not get in Strasbourg. But, everything there will be around 3 to 4 times expensive than India. So there is nothing special, but you can always take things to save your money there..!

One thing that you will miss there is your computer...! The computer lab at IECS runs from 800 am to 745 pm in weekdays and till 2 pm on Saturday (Sunday, as expected, it is closed). So, for the time you have the lab open, most of the time either you will have classes or shopping or lunch etc..! Unavailability of computer will become a major hurdle in your academic and non academic work. Taking a Lap Top, if you have any, will be a wonderful idea !

Take a lot of winter clothes. Strasbourg is one of the coldest cities in France. It is normally 3 to 4 Degrees C below Paris. The temperature feels even more chilling because of the consistent breeze that this city receives from northern europe.

Things that you should not take:

No Electric Devices!! France has a different plugging system. Indian appliances like Electric Irons, Hair Dryers etc won't work.

Very little Formal clothes - IECS culture won't give you any chance to wear formals. This also means that you should have a lot of party wear and casual wear. But, be prepared with some formal sets for dinner with faculty of IECS. Two sets will be more than sufficient.

G) Cheapest way to get currency:

There are numerous ways to take money abroad. One can just convert currency into euro paper currency or take TCs (Travelers cheques) or use CCs (credit Cards) or use international special purpose Debit Cards. The conversion rates are worst for Paper currency and best for Debit Cards. TCs are in middle. We personally used Visa enabled UTI Bank's Travel currency card. You can deposit money in this card in rupees which are converted to USDs at 10 paisa

less than the current TC rate. You can then withdraw euros from France from any ATM machine with some transaction cost.

All these tools have some advantage and disadvantages. For example in Cash Conversion, you hedge all of the euro increase exchange rate risk. But you risk by carrying the physical notes. In TCs also, you are hedged to the euro increase exchange rate risk but you have a little lesser liquidity. You need to find places to convert your TCs (but that's not tough in France, even post offices do it), but you get a better conversion than paper currency conversion.

In Debit Card, you hedge your rupee to dollar exchange rate risk but you are exposed to Dollar to euro exchange rate risk. But, you get the best conversion rate in this product. The convenience is at its best here, since you don't carry cash and you don't need to find places for TCs. You just need to walk into any ATM (there are too many in Strasbourg).

Total amount of money allowed to be taken out of India as per RBI guidelines is 20,000 USD.

You should select your method as per your own choice.

H) Professors to contact there:

Mr. Ludwig Kreitz at Ludwig.Kreitz@urs.u-strasbg.fr: During your three month stay at IECS Strasbourg, you will inevitably find him as the most helpful person in France. You can contact him for any issue and especially for issues related to selection of courses, credits etc. But, do not bother him too much for petty issues since he is the Director, International Relations, IECS. He, along with his family, visited IIML in fourth week on December 2003.

I) Possibility of Research Assistantships

There is no structured research assistantship program in place. However, one can always ask Professor Kreitz about this in detail. The relationship between IIML and IECS were still in nascent stages in 2003, hence a lot of things were yet to be decided. Possibility of a dual degree was one such concern. To know more about these issues, one should either contact Professor Avinash Mulky in IIML or Professor Ludwig Kreitz in IECS.

J) Name of the Administrative Coordinator

Vincent Lehu at Vincent.Lehu@urs.u-strasbg.fr: He works in the international relations cell and is responsible for issues related to all visiting students. He is a very helpful person.

Leita Boucicaut at Leita.Boucicaut@urs.u-strasbg.fr: She was appointed as an assistant to Mr. Kreitz in November 2003. One can contact her for small issues. She is very efficient and helpful to visiting students.

IECS's counterpart for our student exchange committee is known as BDV (Bureau de visitants). You can also contact them for issues regarding 'Carte de Sejour', buddy program, local site seeing, parties etc. You can contact Ms. Catherine Gorgus, member of BDV, at catherine.gorgus@iecs.edu. You may refer her, the names of IIML yr 2003 exchange students to IECS for a quick recall.

K) Good courses

Although, IECS offers very good courses in French language, it has limited courses in English language. In 2003, there were 8 courses in English language across all four years of IECS academic structure. To satisfy 180 hours requirement of IIML, a student will have to take all 8 courses (24 Hrs X 8 = 192 Hours). Hence, technically, you won't get any choices while allocation of subjects (that is unless you are not taking courses in French language).

Assuming that you take courses in French language or there are new courses offered in English language in 2004, and hence you end up getting 'a choice' to select the courses, there are few courses that you should not miss:

European Integration by Professor Ludwig Kreitz –

This course will teach you all that you will ever need to know about how Europe has evolved over the years. This course is even more important considering the fact that idea of such integration has just been initiated by India in SAARC. South East Asia is expected to live all those years that Europe lived from 1960s till now.

Cross Cultural Issues in Human Resource Management by Professor Christoph Barmeyer –

This is the most interactive class we ever attended. A class of 15 nationalities combined with the teaching skills of Mr. Barmeyer makes this subject the most wanted subject at IECS. If you want this, you have to ensure you are registered early. All Subject allocations will be on First Come First Serve Basis on French Intranet on a particular day. However, if you could not register in time, talk to Professor Kreitz, he might help you out as an exception (If you cannot complete your 180 hours without this subject).

Financial Markets and Financial Institutions by Professor Bernard Schipp and Professor Holland –

This course is taken by two world class professors who are visiting IECS every year.

Professor Schipp is from Dresden University, Germany and holds tremendous respect in his area of research - Quantitative Finance and Econometrics.

Professor Holland is from Glasgow University, Scotland and is a very experienced and respected teacher around the world. He has also been a regular guest professor at IIMA.

The name of this subject is a clear disguise, at least for what Professor Schipp will teach. If you have finance in IIML or even otherwise, if you are interested in some number crunching

financial techniques, this is the course you must not miss..! His USP is his up-to-date knowledge of latest quantitative tools and techniques being used in the world of Finance.

Professor Holland's teaching is incredible in its own sense. He teaches finance almost without any numbers..!! His clarity of financial concepts especially that about working of different financial intermediaries, is mind-boggling. His world class experience of almost all the major countries presents a vast variety of prevailing financial concepts.

As a finance student, you will probably appreciate this course more than any other course at IECS.

Management of International Teams by Professor Christoph Barmeyer –

This course, as already said, has My Barmeyer. Hence, not worth missing !

The USP of this course is the experience of working in a globally distant multicultural team. In 2003, this team was made up between students of IECS, Strasbourg, France and students from University of Saarbrucken, Germany. Working in a virtual team can be a life time experience and a very important one too given the India's growing domination in World's IT Industry, which significantly operates on virtual teams.

L. Dates for arrival and departure

2003 IECS semester started in first week of September. The first week had a student tour to some places in Europe. You should ideally try to attend this trip. But in 2003, IIML fourth term exams ended on 7th September. So, it might happen that you miss the trip. You will be required to reach Strasbourg as soon as possible (not before 31st August). In 2003, we reached on 12th September.

2003 IECS semester ended with its last exam on 18th December. Since the sixth trimester would have already started in IIML, you will be required to reach IIML as soon as possible.

M. Comparative experiences of students of other IIMs (If different from IIML students)

In 2003, IECS made their first ever exchange program with any Indian Institute. Talking about Asia in totality, they have programs with only IIML and one institute in Shanghai, China. Their most of the programs are with other European countries (known as Erasmus program), North and South America, Australia and a few in Africa.

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Strasbourg Tram-Bus Map

