

THE REIMS EXPERIENCE

Visa Requirements

We need to have a French Schengen Visa, not a single transit visa and this needs to be specified to the Embassy in India because we all got a transit Schengen visa which meant that we could only go out of France to other Schengen states but we could not re-enter France. This posed a big problem for us especially as we were living away from Paris and had to incur extra expenses to obtain a Spanish visa to enable us to travel to other places.

Also since our course was finishing in less than 90 days so we took a visa for less than 90 days but this did not allow us to obtain the CARTE SEJOUR which is a residence permit which entitles you to some support on your rent expenses.

Lodging Details

The school can help arrange for the residence as they did for us this year. However this would be a bit expensive than what you can otherwise find once you reach there. If you are the enterprising kind then you can book a youth hostel for yourself for a week before you leave India and then try to look for an accommodation there. **A word of caution. REIMS is not a place where people are very friendly as far as speaking in English is concerned so its not going to be easy to look for an apartment if you do not speak French. It is VERY IMPORTANT that you know basic French before you venture out on such an enterprise.** We got an accommodation arranged by school in a place called Residence Courteaux which was far away from college and hampered our ability to use the Computer Centre Resources. Also the college was in a plan to shift to its new campus this year so all said and done it should be okay if when you search for accommodations look for one near the canal because it is close both to the school and the city centre.

Supermarkets and shopping

For your daily shopping needs you should rely on the big hypermarkets namely Carrefour and Cora. But you can also shop at Champion or Inter-marche the supermarkets which are located more conveniently and also ED which is a discount store quite close to school

Transport

Ask the college to arrange a shuttle for you from Paris Airport to REIMS. It is very convenient after a tiring flight and also is comparable to taking the metro, then the train to Reims and then the bus from the Gare (Railway station) at Reims to your place of residence.

For daily travel within Reims the bus is cheap provided you buy the monthly pass available from the SNCF office near theatre on Rue Chanzy

For travel within France and places close to Europe you can take the rail pass which works out to be cheaper for train travel as it gives you 50% discount.

What to take from India

Warm clothes, definitely masalas, cooker or something else to cook your food in. And also carry with you some packets of MTR (pre cooked packaged food) from India. To give you an idea we list out what we took

1. 24 packets of MTR (if you can afford to take more of these then you'll never ever miss Indian food)
2. 4 kgs of Rice (was good as making it was easy and it was also expensive there)
3. Toiletries (can be left because they are cheaper over there)
4. Stationery items of daily use, pens etc. (expensive there)

5. 5. Warm Clothes (Don't carry too many formal clothes because we don't think that they will be of much use)

Cheapest way to get currency

Cheapest way would be to take cash/TC from India. The SBI counter at the departure lounge does not charge any commission so is cheapest but we don't know whether there is a limit to the amount of exchange that can be obtained at the airport. Use of the ATM involves a lot of Visa and other charges, which makes it an expensive method. It can be used for emergency or for POS purchase because that does not involve any such processing charges.

Professors to contact there

The school arranges for faculty drawn from schools all over the Globe for the IMP program in which we enroll. So it isn't possible to contact faculty we feel. However the Incoming exchange coordinator can be contacted who will be extremely helpful in the above matter

Possibility of Research Assistantships

This is possible but we made use of it only to finish our credit requirements. We do not know if this can involve some financial assistance. We had this arranged through our student coordinator.

Name of the Administrative Coordinator

There are two people who facilitated our stay in college
Lydie Kopezun - Incoming Students Coordinator
Frederique Delhom – Coordinator for student exchange

Good courses

The course change every year as we have short course of one week (15 hours duration) in IMP. So do not know what exactly would be offered. Each course and each professor had its own merit but there was a course on Market Simulation, which proved to be an eye opener for us and also very educative. It gave us hands on experience in running a business of our own.

The campus has a simulation centre, which is highly reputed, and most of these simulation courses offered are a must for anyone who is going to Reims Management School.

Dates for arrival and departure

The school is very liberal and not firm on these dates so can be chosen in accordance with our schedule and credit requirements. We left one week after the 4th term and came back a week before the 6th term so was very convenient for us.

Comparative experiences of students of other IIM's (If different from IIML students)

The school did not have students from any other IIM's this year so we can't say much