

INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMS – MOBILITY SCHOLARSHIP QUESTIONNAIRE

A - My Program of Study

In Grenoble, I decided to follow the Fashion and Design Program. Each program consists of a total of 30 ECTS. The classes are very interesting! However, there is A LOT of group projects, group assignments and group presentations. Here are the classes I had to follow:

Course	Continuous assessment	Exam	Duration of the course
Fashion Management 5ECTS	40% case studies group work	60% lectures	3 weeks
Brand Management 5ECTS	40% class discussion case study group work group presentation	60% lectures	3 weeks
Sustainable Development 2.5ECTS	100% case studies class discussions group projects		2 weeks
Design Management 2.5ECTS	100% cases presentations		2 weeks
Legal context of Fashion and Design industry 2.5ECTS	50% case studies problem solving contract analysis	50% 1 hour quiz 1 hour essay	2 weeks
Retail Management 2.5ECTS	100% exercises role plays case studies projects store practice analyses		1 week
Capstone 5 ECTS	100% Individual proposal Presentation Final report		2 weeks
Language Module (French, Spanish or German) 5 ECTS	60% Quiz Presentations In class exercises	40% Written exam	3h/week for 3 months

At Grenoble École de Management (GEM), you choose a specialized program and the school chooses the classes for you. Therefore, **you cannot pick your classes nor the time slots**. They also have the right to add or remove classes at their discretion. One of the many things that are different than uOttawa is that you have to be available from Monday to Friday in case any courses change. Because of this style of scheduling, I found it difficult to book trips in advance. Each class is very interactive. Make sure to participate and to be prepared when coming to class. The teachers try to engage the students and apply the theory you've learned – similar to DGD. Most of the classes have case studies, case analysis, presentations and essays. Unlike uOttawa, every week you have a different schedule. **It is important to regularly check the Student Portal for your schedule or in case there are any changes.** In terms of difficulty, it is much easier than uOttawa. However, the workload is about the same. This is due to the fact that you have to meet with your different groups often. I've been told that this program is not usually this busy but since it is getting more popular every year, it is becoming more



D – Budget

In terms of cost, studying abroad in France is about 20% higher than Ottawa. The advantage of being in Europe is that travelling within the EU is relatively cheap. However, you may have to travel to Lyon often to catch a plane since the Grenoble airport is very small and only flies out to certain countries (the UK, Ireland and Italy). It only takes roughly 1h to get to Lyon from Grenoble. The cost for food, clothes, accommodation, transportation and leisure activities can vary so much. This will depend on your personal budget but here are some of my “daily” costs to help you out:

- Accommodation: 400-649 euros/month
- Tram pass = 15 euros/month
- Phone plan = 19.99 euros/month (unlimited calling/SMS worldwide, 100G of data)
- Bus or Train ticket to Lyon \approx 6–20euros
- Sandwich \approx 2-4 euros
- Bread \approx 3 baguettes or 3 croissants for 2 euros
- Drinks \approx 1,5 euros for a bottle of wine
- School Books \approx 0 euros. I took my books out from the library and extended the return date
- Amenities (toilet paper, towels, kitchen appliances, lamp, toiletries) \approx 30-50 euros paid once
- 1 day ski pass + transportation \approx 20-50 euros
 - rental skis, boots, helmet \approx 15-20 euros

E – Application procedures before your arrival

Get your visa before you get to France or they will send you back to Canada!! Go to France Visa Consulate website. Here is the link: <https://ca.ambafrance.org/ExperienceFrance>. I got the 3B visa – *Inter-University Exchange*. The application is pretty straight forward. If you download the pdf, there is a checklist of the documents you need. Make sure to book an appointment ahead of time. Sometimes you need to book 1 or 2 months in advance. I recommend you to book a date when you know you’ll receive the GEM acceptance letter in time for your consulate meeting. The GEM acceptance letter is one of the requirements to obtain your visa. I had to change my appointment date as GEM did not send me my acceptance letter in time for my first Consulate meeting – very easy to change appointment dates. Also, I had to go to Toronto for my meeting, as Ottawa does not have a France Consulate for visas. You can extend your visa length for free - Instead of a 4-month student visa, I got a visa for 6 months in case I wanted to travel afterwards.

Keep checking your emails as the coordinator will contact you in order to apply for your program at GEM. The application is very easy and straightforward. They will email you with all the steps to follow on how to register to GEM. Then you just have to wait until you get your acceptance letter.

F – Address and description of housing. Cost of Housing

I live at *La residence des Estudines Eurocoles*. I absolutely love it. Google may say otherwise but I found the service excellent and very fast. The staff is super friendly and the room is great. A big bonus about this residence is that it is right beside to school – literally a 30 second walk. However, every room is different so it will depend on which type of room you get as some of them are nicer than others. I found my flat through this website: <https://grenoble-em.studapart.com/en/>. The GEM studapart is a website that has all of the residences/apartments/other accommodations in one place where you can compare each one of them. It was user-friendly and the staff was great to help me with any questions I had.



I have a **T1 31m²** which means a single room (1 person) flat. This includes:

- A fitted kitchen with a fridge, 2 hot plates, a microwave, low and high pieces of furniture
- There is a “BZ” (sofa bed as a bed), a table, a desk and a wardrobe for my clothes.
- The bathroom is equipped with a shower, a sink and a toilet. (In my flat it is a bath instead of a small shower.)
- A blanket and some appliances are provided



Water is included in the rent.

You have FREE access to the Internet by WIFI.

You will have to pay extra for housing insurance and electricity.

Washing machines and dryers are free to access 24/7. However, it is 4-6 euros for one wash.

Please note that their maintenance engineer is available Monday to Friday to fix any issue you may have in the room – very good service. My friend had a problem with her fridge and under 12h they gave her a brand-new fridge.

You also receive discounts at local shops and restaurants nearby for being part of les Estudines.

Stuff I had to buy/bring:

- Pillow + pillow case
- Linen
- Bed sheets
- Towel (bath mat, towel for shower, towel for dishes)
- Wall plug adapters

Accommodation: 649 euros/month + electricity ≈ 675 euros/month

The price per month for the 18m² is 543€, 21m² is 579 €, for 25m² is 594 €, for 32m² is 649 € and it can go up to 764€ for the 1 bedroom flat (T2).

(Source: Les Estudines Grenoble Europole)

Here are other options that my friends did that you can consider:

- Renting an Air Bnb for 4 months: Beautiful!!
- Estudine Botticelli: Nice. Looks like a modern version of Europole
- Estudine Marie Currie: Also nice. Looks like a modern version of Europole
- Renting an apartment: very French style. Great but further away from school.

G – Other comments and recommendations

Grenoble is a very student oriented city. I've heard that it is the best city in France to study in because of its amazing student life. It was so easy to make friends because most of the students are on exchange so they are going through the same things as you. Even the French students are super friendly. They are used to having exchange students in their classes, thus, making them more accepting/welcoming than other schools perhaps. Grenoble is the perfect size to have your own space yet be close to everyone. It is located in between beautiful mountains. If you like the outdoor and the mountains, Grenoble is the place for you. I always find myself hiking, running and skiing during my time off.

I – Description of my experience

This experience has been nothing but amazing so far. I love the people, the food, the school, the scenery and everything that comes with it. The quality of life in France much better than other places I have visited. I am so grateful and happy to be where I am. I believe an experience like this is incredibly valuable. This can teach you so much about yourself and other cultures. You create friendships all over the world. Why stay in one place when you have a whole world to discover? Here are some photos from Grenoble





