

A) Your program of study (courses, assignments, course format).

At Grenoble École de Management, all student must choose to study in one specific program of the following.

- Fashion and Design
- Finance and Accounting
- Marketing and Advertising
- Entrepreneurship
- Global Management

Each of these programs have specific classes (generally 7-8 classes) that must be followed and cannot be switched for other classes.

I chose to study in Entrepreneurship, this program had 7 classes. 5 of these we're followed by only the entrepreneurship students and 2 of them were followed by all exchange students (Capstone and Foreign language)

The classes and their credits are the following:

- Business Planning (5 ECTS- 30 Hours)
Course format: Course was taught in a span of 2 weeks (5 classes per week)
Assignments: Continuous presentations and final presentation
- Entrepreneurial Finance (5 ECTS- 30 Hours)
Course format: Course was taught in a span of 2 weeks (5 classes per week)
Assignments: Presentation and final exam
- Entrepreneurial Opportunities (5 ECTS- 30 Hours)
Course format: Course was taught in a span of 2 weeks (5 classes per week)
Assignments: Presentation and final Project
- Entrepreneurship in Hi-Tech Sector (2.5 ECTS- 15 Hours)
Course format: Course was taught in a span of 1 month (1-2 classes per week)
Assignments: Presentations and final Project
- Sustainable and Social Entrepreneurship (2.5 ECTS- 15 Hours)
Course format: Course was taught in a span of 1 month (1-2 classes per week)
Assignments: Presentation and final Project
- Capstone module (5 ECTS- 30 Hours)
Course format: Course was taught in a span of 2 weeks (5 classes per week)
Assignments: Group work and final presentation
- Foreign Language (5 ECTS- 30 Hours)
Course format: Course was taught every Tuesday for the whole semester
Assignments: Midterm, presentation and final exam

*All assignment can vary depending on the professor

For the foreign language class, all students must take a french class (you will be placed in a class depending on your level) unless you are already fluent in french you will then study another language.

Program difficulty and work load

In general, the difficulty level of classes at Grenoble École de Management is much easier than at the University of Ottawa. Also, considering the different programs to choose from, I believe entrepreneurship is the easiest one. Taking into consideration that the classes are easier as well as the fact that all classes are pass fail, I would say the difficulty and work load is approximately 1/3 of the University of Ottawa. A big reason why I consider the classes much easier is because there are very few exams. Including midterms and final exams, I have a total of 2 exams and 1 test all semester.

Although the classes are much easier, there is still a heavy course load. Classes at Grenoble École de

Management are generally 3 hours and it is not uncommon to have two 3 hour classes per day. During the semester, there were about 6 weeks where I had over 20 hours of class per week. This being said, I believe there are more classes hours at Grenoble École de Management than at the university of Ottawa. You must also take into consideration that all of these classes are held in small classes of about 20 people or less and that your presence is mandatory, more than 2 absences can make you fail the class.

B) The timetable (academic calendar, registration dates, orientation, beginning and end of classes, exams, holidays, number of semesters, etc.)

Important dates for winter semester

Mandatory integration and orientation meeting: 4th of January

Start date (First day of class): 8th of January

Reading Week: 17th - 24th of March

Exam period: 23rd -27th of April

The winter semester begins on the 8th of January and ends on the 27th of April at latest (depending on your exams). This being said, there is a “mandatory” introduction on the 4th of January, although it can be a pain to go to Grenoble four days earlier than the first day of class, I definitely recommend attending the meeting since it allows you to meet almost all the exchange students. During the winter reading week a big week of skiing, partying and challenges is organized for the student named Altigliss. Although the event is popular for the exchange students many decide to travel instead.

C) Procedures to follow upon arrival. List and description of services offered by the International Exchange Office of the host institution. Registration and course selection. Social activities

Once I arrived in France the school was pretty helpful to answer questions about the program and French formalities. For approximately 10 days there was a welcome desk run by French students who dedicated time to help new coming exchange students. The welcome desk had a calendar which included activities for the exchange students. These included, a night out at a bar, a fancy supper, bowling and a few other things. These activities were very enjoyable since it allowed all the exchange students to meet each other.

D) Budget outlining the cost of studying abroad (i.e. airplane tickets, housing, vacation and daily travel costs, textbooks, meals, etc.).

Coming into France I had a rough budget estimation of 12 000CAN\$ for the whole trip. I believe I stayed somewhat close to my original goal however I may have slightly surpassed it.

Unfortunately, I lost my computer half way through the semester which had all my expenses for the trip. For this reason, I will only be able to give estimates of my expenses.

Cost estimates for the first 3 months of the semester in Canadian dollars

- Planet ticket Montreal to Grenoble there and back: 1 000\$
- Trip to Barcelona before arriving in Grenoble: 600\$

- Rent per month and startup fee: $880\$ \times 3 + 300\$ = 3\ 000\$$
- Entering France formalities: 400\$
- Groceries and other food per week: $80\$ \times 12 = 960\$$
- 2 day trip to Lyon: 200\$
- 4 day trip to Paris: 400\$
- 2 day trip to Marseille: 200\$
- 5 day trip to Nice and Monaco: 300\$
- 2 day trip to London: 200\$
- 7 day ski trip to Val d'Isère (AltiGliss): 850\$
- 4 days of skiing: 250\$
- Other expenses (electricity, bus pass, activities.....): approximately 1 200\$

Approximate total expenses after 3 months: **9 500\$**

E) Application procedures before your arrival (visa deadlines, documents required for visa, course registration, housing deposit, etc.).

In general France is a bit more formal than most countries when it comes to studying abroad. For this reason, numerous amounts of formalities had to be taken care of before your arrival in France and once you arrive in France. These formalities include:

French Visa: Getting your French visa requires many different personal documents and information that takes a while to get together. You should also take into consideration you'll have to make a trip to Toronto before leaving for France because you can only get your application for French visa approved in Toronto (if you come from Ontario). Once you attend your Visa appointment in Toronto, the office verifies your application which can take up to 15 business days.

To know which documents you need for your visa, visit <https://ca.ambafrance.org/ExperienceFrance> and download the visa application kit.

OFII: When you receive your French Visa you are given an OFII stamp that you must keep and bring with you in France. Once you arrive in France you must complete a process to receive your OFII, the school will help you accomplish this process upon your arrival. This process can take many months since the OFII department schedules an appointment for you during the month of February or March.

CAF: The CAF is "Caisse d'allocation familial", which is a French institution that reimburses French residents for living in France. As a student living alone, CAF will generally give you 100€-170€ each month (excluding your first month in France) that you are living in France. Once you arrive in France the school will help you submit your CAF request.

Housing payments: If you chose to stay in a student residence you are generally obliged to pay the first month rent before arriving in France. To do so you might need to talk to your bank to transfer money internationally. Once I arrived in France, my residence obliged me to open a French bank account which I would have to use to make all future rental payments.

F) Address and description of housing. Cost of housing.

Location

The residence in which I chose to live is Estudine Europole at 2 Rue Pierre Sémar. This residence is the closest residence from the school which takes less than 3 minutes to walk to. This residence was also very close to the Grenoble train station which was approximately a 5-7 minute walk. Being close to the

school and the train station was very nice since I rarely had to tram. Since the train station is very close to the residence my room was facing directly at the train tracks. This could be considered as a disadvantage for many students since the train passes all day and early in the morning. Although some students say the sound of the train was loud and would wake them up in the morning, I did not find it was a problem at all.

The room

The room I rented at Estudine Europole was the 18 meter square flat. My room, which was on the 6th floor, included a bathroom with a small shower, a kitchen with a sink, a microwave, a fridge and 2 elements, a wardrobe, a double bed, 1 big desk, 1 small table and 2 small drawers. The room was obviously pretty small but I found it was big enough for my liking.

The price

The price of the 18 meter room was 550 euro per month including water and WiFi but not electricity. During your first rent payment you have to pay a deposit equal to your rent as well as an extra 200 euro as a startup fee. I believe the price of this residence was reasonable and similar to most residences in the area. Most students living alone payed about 600 euro per month for their rent and people living with roommates generally payed less.

Atmosphere

Since this is the closest residence to the school you would expect it to be a somewhat of a party residence. Unfortunately this residence, and unfortunately all residences around Grenoble, do not have much of a party or social vibe. The residence had no common room or anything of the sorts for students to meet and interact.

Overall review

The review for this residence online is very poor. I must say that I was 100 percent satisfied with the residence. The staff at the residence were very nice and the service was quick.

G) Other comments or recommendations

Things to take into consideration:

- Grenoble has no airport which means you need to take a 1:15h (generally around or less than 10 euros) bus ride to get to Lyon
- Some of the best ski resorts in the world are situated just over an hour from Grenoble
- Grenoble is very well situated to allow for bus and train travelling

H) Add a description of about five to seven sentences summarizing your experience.

This exchange was honestly one of the greatest experiences of my life. I was very lucky to be able to travel a big part of Europe, go skiing at amazing ski resorts and create good friendships with many of the other exchange students. I have absolutely no regrets in choosing France and Grenoble École de Management as my school. Although the semester was very costly I highly recommend taking one semester of your University studies to go abroad. It was one of the best decision I have made and by far my favorite university semester.