



Tel Aviv University  
**TAU Recanati**

The Leon Recanati Graduate School of Business Administration

Get ready for a unique experience!

The HEC MBA full time Program is a 16-month program, with a Fundamental Phase and a Customized Phase. Exchange students enter the program in the Customized Phase, and take electives in this period with the other exchange students as well as the full-time students.

There are two terms: fall (September to December) and spring (mid-April to mid-July). The university is located on Jouy-en-Josas, close to Versailles outside of Paris (an average of 1 hour ride in train)

In three words- GO FOR IT. The exchange program is an excellent opportunity for personal and intellectual development. It exposes you to people from all over the world with diversity of views and different visions of management.

If you can experience this while drinking fine wine with nice croissant on the side, it's even better. Paris is one of the richest cities in the world in the sense of its culture, art, cuisine and fashion. You will never get bored with what this city has to offer. Stay updated with what and when with 'Periscope'- the local time out, 'A Nous Paris'- a free newspaper with many recommendations or just visit [timeout.com/paris](http://timeout.com/paris) .

### **Accommodation:**

The option of staying within the campus (in what they call Residence Expansiel) is cheaper though definitely not my recommendation to you. Jouy En Josas is located far from just about anything and therefore the majority of exchange students, as well as 2<sup>nd</sup> year full-timers choose to live in Paris. The school can't help you find a flat to rent but they do provide a list of useful links regarding accommodation.

The closest arrondissements to school are the ones on the left bank and the fastest commuting is from Gare (station) Montparnass. When looking for a place to stay, take commuting to school into consideration since it has the potential of taking a very large part of your day; for instance, choosing to live in the Marais, by far the most awesome district, will mean spending ninety minutes on average for each direction.

## Commuting:

The name HEC PARIS is simply a PR scam. It is actually located in an extremely small village 20 km from Paris (a bit like BGU airport being in Tel-Aviv). Commuting from Paris is not easy and it takes between 35min to 1.5 hour to reach. The App/website that is going to be your best friend is [RATP.com](http://RATP.com) which tells you exactly how to get from point A to B. Don't question its results, it proved itself over and over.

The Paris transportation system is divided into zones. Based on your schedule and the number of days in each month you need to commute to school, decide whether to buy a 10 tickets 'carnet', or a weekly/monthly free pass. The latter, Navigo Pass, is a rechargeable smart card offering a fixed fee rate for the OPTILE, RATP and SNCF Transilien transport networks in the Paris area and can be purchased in metro stations. Take into account that the monthly Navigo pass is valid from the first to the last day of the month, and the weekly Navigo pass is valid from Monday to Sunday, regardless of the day you purchase it. The cost to recharge your Navigo pass depends on the number of zones you want to use. For example, zones 1 and 2 cover the city of Paris. Jouy-en-Josas is located in zone 4.

For more information visit: <https://www.navigo.fr/>

For getting around inside the center of Paris you can also use the 'Velib' which is a service similar to 'Tel-Ofan', offers bikes for short-time renting.

Best commuting tip - find friends with cars 😊 many full timers living in Paris own a car and will be happy to give you a ride (if you are nice). It is both faster and cheaper.

## Visa

For stays of three months and above you will need to apply for a long term visa. This is a long process including submitting many documents and a short interview in the embassy. Plan starting this process at least 1.5 month in advance in order to be set in time for you flight. You can find the list of documents you will need and other useful information in:

<http://www.ambafrance-il.org/article9937,9937.html>

## Schedule

You will need to take 8 classes, 18 hours each. About 2 months prior to your travel, the HEC exchange coordinator will send you all the information you'll need, including a booklet of courses you can choose, their exact schedule and full descriptions, as well as the procedure of choosing electives. Almost all courses are offered in English, the primary language on the MBA Program. In addition to classes, you can attend Career Management Center (CMC) events, club meetings, parties, companies' events, career day and so on; all these events are optional.

The student council will provide access to a Google Calendar which is updated with all school activities and classes.

Usually the Class format is Case studies, discussions, management simulation, student projects, lectures and a lot of teamwork. Since you attend each class with different students you can meet many new people and frankly, it's all about the networking.

### Last tips

- Buy a SIM card from <http://mobile.free.fr/> it's 20 euro per month all inclusive.
- Want to travel around Europe? Book flight/train ticket as early as you can because it's cheaper. You can fly to Madrid for 50 euro round trip with easyjet and take the Eurostar to London in 90 euro.
- Paris is an expensive city. Except Boulangeries, those are very cheap.
- Expenses: A monthly 4 zones Navigo pass is about 100 euro. A single ride in the metro inside Paris is 1.75 or 1.25 (carnet). Rent can range from 700 for a little room and up to 1400 for shared apartment. Try airbnb first, and then move to use the agencies.

Good luck 😊