



The more you know,
the more you dare®



Tel Aviv University
TAU Recanati

The Leon Recanati Graduate School of Business Administration

Taking the exchange program at HEC is perhaps the best thing that happened to me in 2013. If you choose to do the same, you will enjoy great professors, international atmosphere, excellent teaching methods, and the most beautiful city in the world.

Choosing your courses

From the year 2013, exchange students at HEC Paris must apply for a specialization, which is part of the customized phase courses (קורסי בחירה). The positive side is that you get to know the group of people that takes all the courses with you, and there's an interesting logical connection between most courses. The negative side is that you cannot choose other courses that might interest you and you have to attend all courses in the specialization. Therefore, choose wisely! I can recommend the specialization "Leadership in Global Organizations", but you can also choose from: Finance, Marketing, Entrepreneurship, Strategy, and more. When applying for a specialization, also make sure that you can receive TAU credit for the courses.

The courses are 18 hours each and can be conducted during one week or the whole semester (like the specialization backbone). There is no real order of courses, so some months are very busy, while others are relaxed. Students are valued by participation in class, group exercises, and a final exam (take home or in class). Stay in Paris for another month- after the semester is over you may still have to submit your last exams, and off course enjoy this wonderful city.

Don't be shy to ask Françoise's help (the lovely lady in charge of the exchange program) and to approach the MBA student council for any inquiry.

- Each student has a personal HEC email account and calendar, where your classes and many events are scheduled.
- HEC Career Management Center is offering many interesting CEOs lectures as well as personal consulting services.
- You can join different clubs, like entrepreneurship, marketing, sailing, and sports.
- Every month a Trek is organized for a venue outside of France, to meet senior managers of interesting companies- to hear about opportunities and to network.
- All the classes are in English. To learn some French you can try the HEC language center, the Sorbonne and such, and mainly- don't hesitate to try talking with people!

VISA

Before booking an appointment at the French embassy you need to collect several documents- some HEC can supply, but others are more annoying like a prove that you have a place to live for your stay.

Accommodation

For me, one of the best things in this experience was Paris itself.

Exchange students cannot live on campus, since there are not enough rooms. You can look for a flat in Jouy en Josas or nearby, which will be cheaper (~700 euros) and closer to HEC, but most of the time very boring. The activities for students staying near HEC campus are mostly organized by the students. Going out for an evening in Paris will require a 1 hour train, and returning by midnight.

Living in Paris is very expensive, but worth the investment. Look for an apartment near RER B/C station, which will take you strait to school. You can study during this 1 hour ride. Begin looking asap, since it's not easy to find a nice flat. Most of the rentals that you will find on websites are for long-period contracts. A friendly website for short terms is <http://www.sabbaticalhomes.com/>. Although it is not ideal, you should consider the option of moving between two places if you cannot find a flat for the whole semester. You can even discover different areas of Paris that way ☺

Transportation

For HEC take the train RER B or C. for Paris use the Metro. When attending classes more than three times a week, use Navigo card- it cost 5 euros and is rechargeable, you can buy it in any metro office at the stations. Some students live in Paris and own a car, and usually will be happy to have friendly people joining for the ride.

Taxis in Paris are quite expensive and often take more time than the metro. The city-bikes, Velib, are nice and accessible in every corner.

Mobile Phone and other services

Be patient and creative... they are absolutely terrible. I went with "Bouygues" and not only the internet and fixed line didn't work, the mobile turned out to be more expensive than a pre-paid one. To get this combo you will need a French bank account, which takes 7-10 days to open. It also takes about 10-14 working days to disconnect from the internet package.

Travelling in Europe

If you wish to travel in Europe during your stay, try to book you flight/train tickets in advance; they will be much cheaper.

I loved HEC, and this experience was so wonderful that I would do it again, and again... if you have a specific question, or think that I can help, you are welcome to write me- dafna.goor@gmail.com. Bon voyage!