



Exchange Experience Reports

Science Po Campus Reims, France

Host University Evaluation

Reports

Name: Emma G. **Term Abroad:** F'19 W'10 **Faculty:** Arts..... 1

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Academic life

How easy was it to figure out your course selection at your host university?

- Super simple!
- Relatively straightforward
- Pretty difficult to navigate
- It was complicated and frustrating

What did the process look like? Was it easy to register in your preferred classes?

There was a certain time to register in classes and they filled up incredibly quickly. After that, you absolutely could not change your classes, even if it turned out to be way too difficult (in terms of language) or simply uninteresting. I couldn't get a lot of the classes I wanted.

Were your courses as academically rigorous as your McGill courses?

- Yes, they were as rigorous as my McGill courses
- They were similarly rigorous to my McGill courses
- No, they weren't as rigorous as my McGill courses

We'd love to know more about the academic level of your courses compared to McGill. Please explain your answer to the previous question using examples, ex: assessments, readings, labs.

The academic level was far lower than McGill; standards for essays, for example, were very low (they didn't expect actual research etc--I would get a far higher grade there for a similar standard of work). I think this was because the exchange students could only take 'elective' classes and not the more difficult normal classes. There was a huge emphasis on presentations and in most classes most time was spent listening to others, which felt quite frustrating.



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How did the teaching quality at your host university compare to what you're used to at McGill?

- It was better!
- Pretty similar
- It was much worse

Tell us about it! How did it differ from the teaching quality at McGill? What can other students expect from their profs and course work?

While some of the professors were absolutely amazing and passionate, others were definitely not. Some kept changing grading criteria, others relied solely on student presentations etc.

What were the main evaluation methods in your courses?

It was typically 1 presentation, 1 essay, and 1 exam, although sometimes there were more presentations and smaller assignments.

How would you describe the evaluation and grading methods at your host university? Please select as many adjectives as applies!

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fair | <input type="checkbox"/> Unfair |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Transparent | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Complicated |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Easy to understand | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Difficult to understand |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Similar methods to McGill | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Different methods from McGill |

Student Life

Were you satisfied by the welcome and orientation services provided to you by your host university?

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="radio"/> Very satisfied, everything was clear | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Pretty satisfied |
| <input type="radio"/> I was able to figure things out, but it took some time | <input type="radio"/> Pretty confusing |
| <input type="radio"/> Very confusing, I was lost | |

What is the best resource that helped you find your way at your host university?

There were so many exchange students so we all had to find our way together.



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What was the campus environment like at your host university? Please describe your experience on campus with regards to safety, social opportunities, accessibility, etc.

The campus was tiny, compared to McGill, but beautiful and both old and modern. It was incredibly safe and there are a variety of clubs, but it's much more difficult for exchange students to get involved. The campus was the best part of the university.

Where did you live? Was it easy to find housing? Did you receive any support from your host university?

The first semester I lived in residence, which the host university helped with, but the second semester I moved into an apartment with friends which I found much better!

What advice would you share with students travelling to your host university? Briefly give up to 3 tips!

Classes are completely different! They are much smaller (mostly between 7-25 people) and rely a lot more on presentations than essays or other written work.

Definitely take part in integration week--it was much easier to meet people and make friends, even though the events weren't necessarily great.

What advice would you share with students who will live in your host city? Briefly give up to 3 tips!

Reims is very small but cute! I would recommend travelling a lot though--Paris is only 40 minutes by train and if you get a Carte Jeune it is much cheaper!

There are several cool historical places to visit, including the cathedral, a museum where they signed the end to World War One, and an art museum. These should be free if you show you are a resident!