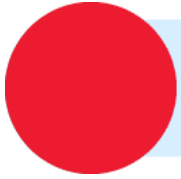




Exchange Experience Reports

Sciences Po, France



Host University Evaluation

Reports

Name: Audrey L. **Term Abroad:** W'19 **Faculty:** Arts 1

Name: Shreya D. **Term Abroad:** W'19 **Faculty:** Arts..... 3

Name: Maya H. **Term Abroad:** W'19 **Faculty:** Management..... 6

Name: Nilhan K. **Term Abroad:** S'18 **Faculty:** Arts 9

Name: Audrey L. **Term Abroad:** W'19 **Faculty:** Arts
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

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. Sciences Po Paris is more about oral presentation (up to 50% of your grade), which I loved and preferred over classic evaluations such as final written exams.



Exchange Experience Reports

Sciences Po, France

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?

More interaction with students. The classes were smaller. More oral presentation and opportunity to talk.

What were the main evaluation methods in your courses?

Oral presentation ('oraux finaux')

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 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 |

Is there anything else you'd like to share about the academic experience at your host university?

1. It is on 20.
2. It is harder to have a B or an A.
3. 13/20 its really good!

Student Life

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

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

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

Host university's international office, local website, club at my host university



Exchange Experience Reports

Sciences Po, France

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

Enjoyable, pretty, accessible, near a metro, renovated and innovative (new technologies everywhere)

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

Maison des Étudiants Canadiens (14th arrondissement)

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

Invest your time in a club and make French friends!

Name: Shreya D. **Term Abroad:** W'19 **Faculty:** Arts
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 published list of classes you could take as an exchange student.

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.

They were about as rigorous in terms of material/ course content and exams, but it was easier to do better than my French peers.



Exchange Experience Reports

Sciences Po, France

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?

McGill has a range of quality of professors, it was the same for me there.

What were the main evaluation methods in your courses?

We had presentations, papers, & exams. Each class had a mixture of the 3.

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

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

Is there anything else you'd like to share about the academic experience at your host university?

It was more intense than other exchange uni options but it was fine compared to McGill! You are required to take more classes, however.

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 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 checked="" type="radio"/> Very confusing, I was lost | |

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

Honestly, their resources were lacking- I had an international student buddy who I had a bad experience with but other people may have a better experience with that program.



Exchange Experience Reports

Sciences Po, France

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

It was safe (you need to be ID'd to enter anywhere, and they check bags). It didn't have much of a campus feel, but it had everything I needed I suppose. The library was average I would say, and it was busy but I was able to almost always find a seat.

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

It was nearly IMPOSSIBLE to find housing in Paris and we received NO support from the host uni. They did direct us to Comforts of Home, but it was 1800 a month for rent with them, and on average people were able to somehow find places for a lot less - I paid 1200. It was insane trying to find housing there especially with the number of scams in Paris. I lived in Le Marais.

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

Don't stress if it is hard to find housing- everyone else is in the same boat as you! Check out Comforts of Home even though it's expensive and check the housing portal on the SciencesPo website- you do need your login, however.

Don't be afraid to be super outgoing and ask people you briefly meet to hang out! It's easy for people to fall into their own habits and not reach out- you can be the one to initiate!

Try and make friends with the full time, non-exchange students at your host uni!

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

Eat lots of croissants and baguettes! They are truly amazing there and nowhere else compares.

Take advantage of all the museums that are free with you having a VISA!

Walk a lot! It's easy to always be on the metro in Paris as it's so big but walk when you can!



Exchange Experience Reports

Sciences Po, France

Name: Maya

H. Term Abroad: W'19 **Faculty:** Management
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?

Class registration didn't open up until about 2 weeks before our classes started which was very stressful because I was worried, I wasn't going to get into the classes I wanted. However, everything ended up being fine, but they did fill up extremely fast!! Also lots of courses that I had originally wanted to take ended up not being equivalent on McGill's end which was a bit annoying for me.

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.

My classes were much more based on readings and class participation than my business classes at McGill were. We also had a handful of presentations, but these were MUCH easier than at McGill and much less professional. Also, I only had one end of year test and no other exams at all. However, I did have a lot more papers to write than I usually have at McGill but again the level of difficulty was fairly low.

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



Exchange Experience Reports

Sciences Po, France

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?

My classes were all very small, so I got to know the professors quite well. I found they didn't stand up and lecture as much, rather they engaged the class in discussions and fostered more participation and critical thinking.

What were the main evaluation methods in your courses?

Mainly final papers as well as a few short presentations and assignments. No final exams (this wasn't the case for the whole school though, just the courses I happened to take).

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

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

Is there anything else you'd like to share about the academic experience at your host university?

While McGill evaluations are normally more structured around memorizing the material for exams, I found that at SciencesPo we were more encouraged to deeply learn and critically think about what we were being taught. As such, they never evaluated whether we had memorized the facts of our courses, instead we were evaluated more so on our thoughts and critical thinking methods.

Student Life

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

<input checked="" type="radio"/> Very satisfied, everything was clear	<input 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?

The Sciences Po exchange program (their exchange office). They were very responsive to all emails and inquiries.



Exchange Experience Reports

Sciences Po, France

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

Campus was very safe even though I was in Paris during the "yellow jackets" movement. There were security guards outside all our main buildings, and we did have to get ID'ed and have our bags checked every day before entering any buildings on campus - I was originally a bit frightened by this but I know they were only doing it for our safety. There were a lot of social opportunities that you could have gotten involved in as well.

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

I lived in a long-term Airbnb rental right downtown Paris (2nd arrondissement). We didn't receive much support at all from the host university and the housing process was EXTREMELY DIFFICULT as I previously explained in the challenges section. Websites were unclear, communication was difficult, etc.

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

Take part in the Welcome Program / Orientation week! I met a lot of my good friends immediately through this program. It also taught us the methods of learning at SciencesPo which were very different from at McGill. And you get to explore the city and do lots of fun activities right off the bat!

Make sure you register for your classes at the EXACT time it says! Registration fills up incredibly fast and a lot of my friends were late registering and unfortunately didn't get into the classes they wanted.

Take a variety of different style of courses. At SciencesPo, they offer lecture courses as well as "methodology", "artistic" and "seminar" courses. I would recommend taking a few types as they teach in different methods.

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

Even though living downtown Paris is expensive I'd recommend it as you're only there for 4 months. It is so much nicer to walk everywhere in Paris rather than have to spend your days on the super crowded Paris Metro.

Make sure to take advantage of all the perks of being a student in Paris while you can - most of the main attractions and museums are free with your student visa :)



Exchange Experience Reports

Sciences Po, France

Name: Nilhan K. **Term Abroad:** S'18 **Faculty :** Arts
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?

They had options on their website both for the summer courses and elective courses, which were straightforward. They also included a clear description of the course, so I knew what to expect before I went to the class.

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 of the courses I took was more or less had the same difficulty with the courses I took at McGill. The intensity and workload were minimal; they only had a final essay, which reflected the entire grade for the course.

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?

I took two courses at SciencesPo, two of which had amazing professors who had an excellent knowledge of the subject that they were teaching. Both courses only required a single essay for the final grade, which was not too overwhelming to write.



Exchange Experience Reports

Sciences Po, France

What were the main evaluation methods in your courses?

There was only one final essay for the courses, which was the only assignment. Thus, the course work was not so overwhelming.

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

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

Is there anything else you'd like to share about the academic experience at your host university?

The size of the classes was smaller compared to those in McGill. Which allowed for easier access to professor and allowed students to ask questions during the lectures more easily, and also makes the lectures a platform which you can debate the discussed topics with your classmates. It also allows you to know every single classmate of yours, which creates an environment more comfortable to socialize.

Student Life

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

<input checked="" type="radio"/> Very satisfied, everything was clear	<input 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?

They sent emails about everything we needed to know prior to our arrival and orientation. They even sent emails about Paris, the way to get to our residence from the airport etc.

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

It was a very small campus (not even a campus, just a few buildings), but the location was amazing, very nice cafes around to go check in between classes. Smaller campus also allowed to get engage with other students more easily.



Exchange Experience Reports

Sciences Po, France

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

I lived in a residence recommended by SciencesPo, I liked the location, it was very nice. SciencesPo also included transportation details from the residence to the campus.

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

You are only allowed to enter the campus if you show a valid ID from SciencesPo, unlike McGill, so beware to have your ID of all times.

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

Some parts of the city can get bit dangerous during night, so you might want to be a bit cautious when you go there.

Some markets sell products at higher prices in some neighborhoods than that of other neighborhoods, you might want to watch out for that and do your shopping accordingly.

Your metro cards should have a photo of you on it; polices do regular checks, and you will be penalized if they caught you having no photo on your metro pass.