

Chen Wenjun

Business and Administration, BABA2017

Bachelor 2nd year

France, Dijon

Burgundy school of business

Experience Report

The first time I knew about Erasmus program was from the announcement on the bulletin board in the faculty of business. There are also officers in the international office available to provide some detail information about this program. Some students who have joined in the Erasmus program before were also there to answer the related questions, such as the living cost, the feeling to staying in other countries and the people there. I think it's very useful to ask someone who has the same experience and provide some suggestions. Erasmus program is an exchange program in the Europe with 12 months period. It provides students a good opportunity to study abroad without paying extra money. There are several advantages of this program: Firstly, students who join in the program don't have to pay the tuition fee for the receiving school. Secondly, Erasmus students could get 420-520 euro allowance each month depends on the country they choose. Thirdly, students could experience different culture and lifestyle through this program, especially meeting new people in other new countries. I expected to have different experience in other countries and study their culture through the program.

In the bachelor program, there are 78 schools available. I spent lots of time in searching information about the listed schools and trying to find one that suits me. I was interested in the Middlesex university in London, since the university of peccs has partnership with this school. By enquiring Lilla - the coordinator - about the detail information, I knew that Middlesex requires one academic year for Erasmus student and is available only in the fall semester. I was disappointed. However, Lilla gave me suggestion that I could choose to go to French schools, which have short period for a semester (around 3 months), then I could continue the rest Erasmus period in London. I was suggested to join in the burgundy school of business. The wine tourism program in Dijon is well-known there. I agreed that

it's good chance to learn more skills in tourism field. Finally, I decided to put the Burgundy school of business on my list as my preference. To apply to this program, the bank account information, the language certificate and motivation letter are required. The board will make a decision to nominate this student or not. Fortunately, I got the nomination in a week. The officers in Burgundy school of business contacted me 2 weeks later and required me to submit the necessary documents to be qualified. In general, the documents are CV, transcript and the current courses that I was learning in that semester. The accommodation also provided by the receiving school. They offered me the options to choose the type of room that I could afford. Since I have been to Paris in last spring, I knew that the living expense in France is quite high compare to Hungary. I chose a single room in the dormitory which cost me 250 euro per month. The early registration for the courses was required before the mobility, because the receiving school had to make a class schedule in advance. Since the matching content was required when choosing the courses, this was the most difficult part for me in this procedure. The major that I chose in France was wine tourism, which differed from my major in pecs. I couldn't find any course that related to the curriculum in my home university. After discussing with my coordinator, the solution was the courses that I learnt in France will be transfer to the module C in my transcript. In order to graduate on time, I decided to study the courses in both schools at the same time. The last step of the application is to sign the learning agreement and required documents. At the end, I got the acceptance letter and accommodation certificate from the French school before I left. The acceptance letter showed the period of the spring semester, which was from January 4th to April 5th. The allowance was also transferred to my bank account before I went to France, which was 470 euro per month. I searched the location and booked the flight. It's all set.

There is a train and bus station in Dijon, except for the airport. I flied to the Basel airport, then took the SNF train to Dijon. It took me 7 hours to arrive from pecs. The transportation fee cost me around 300 euros (flight ticket, train tickets and tram ticket). During the mobility, I was living in Crous résidence Montmuzard in

Dijon. The dormitory is fifteen minutes away from the school by tram. The transportation system including trams (two tram lines: T1 and T2), buses, bicycle-sharing. I usually went out by trams, because the two tram lines are connected to the shopping mall, train station and tourist spots along the way. It's convenient and fast. Since France is in the eurozone, everything that I bought was priced at euros and expensive. The monthly pass for all those transportation means is 42 euros. I usually purchase the necessities in the biggest super market - carrefour- in France. Everything is relatively cheaper there. For example, one kilogram of oranges is 1 euro. The other supermarkets might sell it at 3-4 euros. I prefer to cook by myself rather than eat outside. The average price of the food in restaurant is 22 euros per meal. The monthly cost by cooking on my own was around 250 euros. In conclusion, the total cost for meeting the basic needs in Dijon is 542 euros.

There is lots of entertainment here, such as the pub, party and club etc. Most of French people like to spend 3-4 hours on a dinner in a gastronomy restaurant, especially in drinking wine. Wine is part of their lifestyle. Since I study in wine field, I usually went out with my friends in a wine pub to taste the wine. It is also convenient to travel everywhere by taking the train and the bus, since the location of Dijon is at the middle of France. It takes 4 hours to go to Paris by bus or 2 hours by train. The famous city is not far away from Dijon, such as Lyon, Colmar and Auxerre. I usually visited the nearby cities by bus, which are cheaper than by train. French architecture is very beautiful and elegant that it's worth to see it. After traveling for some European countries, I would say French food is the most delicious food in Europe, especially the desserts. It served in a small portion, but in an elegant way. For instance, Fondue is a traditional French dish which made of cheese coupled with baguette and salad.

I also met some friends in Dijon. They are my classmates from different countries, such as Japan, Taiwan, France and Ireland. We shared our stories and culture together. For example, my Japanese friend told me that Japanese people has changed a lot nowadays. They tend to work in the middle cities instead working in

Tokyo due to the stress. My Irish friends told me that they can't live with oven in everyday life etc. I enjoyed being with them and listen to them. Their culture, customs and food represent the values of the people in their countries. Studying and living in France is unforgettable experience in my life.

The first day I went to the school, I got a student card that represents my student status. The student card can be used as the library card and the entrance card. There are five buildings in the campus that named as A, B, C, D and E. Each building has three floors. The lectures are taken there. There is a kitchen with 18 microwaves inside that students could warm their lunch there. The learning center is in the first floor in building C. It provides any resource that needed for the study purpose. There are three copying machines inside. Students could print anything at a lower price (3 cents per paper). I usually studied in the learning center where it's a quiet place.

The officers in the international office are very nice and helpful. They gave me a contact list so that I could contact the corresponding staff whenever needed. For instance, I had a problem to access the internet in the school. The technical staff is available on the list that could be found easily. The teachers are the specialist in their work field. They focused more on practice rather than theory and led us to two field trips to integrate the theory to practice.

I like the program to study wine. The more I study wine, the more I get to know the French culture and people. I also realized that wine business suits me. I might be a businesswoman in this field in the future. In terms of the local ESN and buddy system, I didn't realize they were existed. Perhaps I was concentrating on my study more than them. I took a gastronomic trip with some of the international students that organized by the school. The payment was 30 euros per person for a day to visit the bread factory, wine factory and taste the French food in a family-owned restaurant. It was very good. I did learn a lot from this trip. For example, the ginger

bread is the traditional food for French, but its origin was from China. The French meal is 3 courses generally, appetite, main course and desert included.

The luckiest thing happened to me was the WSET exam that was available on 28th, January. WSET is the official certificate in wine awarded by the official institution in London. It's well-known all over the world. I got a whole day training from the professor (Philip) who is a master in wine. He showed me how to taste wine paired with food. The main grape varieties in the world, such as chardonnay, merlot and pinot etc. He also told us that the three types of wine like distilled wine, sparkling wine and fortified wine. We also tasted 7 glasses of wine to shape our sensory. After the training, I gained deeper understanding of wine, even though I am the beginner in the wine field. I appreciated that the professor gave me the precious lesson, which makes me fall in love with wine. This was an additional class that I took in Dijon. I got the WSET certificate with the grade in 97 out of 100.

The five courses that I registered were tourism marketing, direct wine sale, Viticulture, Oenology, Sensory analysis, wine tourism experience, and intercultural management and communication. I learnt more about the trend of the French tourism market from the tourism marketing class. The top ranking of the French tourism market attracts many tourists from the US, China, Japanese and other Europe countries etc. The class was interesting, because I could learn the trend of the tourist industries from the teacher with 15 years' experience in tourism. The evaluation of the class was 4 groupwork projects and one field trip report. In the group work, we were required to form a group randomly and made ppts to represent our tasks. For example, to list some points to convince a wine grower to open his market to the public. Since we also took two field trips in Jura and Burgundy, the report was required. During the field tips, we learnt the operation of wineries, wine tasting skills, the protection of wine in the cellar and the wine making skills. The final assessment of this subject was 17 out of 20.

In the wine tourism experience class, my task is to form a group to design a 5 days' trip routes in France. The presenting time was at the end of the semester. I formed a group with 3 French girls. We designed a 5-day route to visit 6 cities in Provence. The arranged activities include wine tasting, vineyard visiting and photograph etc. We did search a lot on the price of the food, hotels, activity fees and transportation etc. When cooperating with my teammates, I learnt the way to get along with French people and deal with them. I appreciated that the characteristic that my teammates have is efficiency and creativity. I enjoyed working with them without concerning anything. We made the balance sheet and the power point together. We got 18 out of 20 in the project due to the well coordination.

I was taught by a teacher who has 30 years' experience in wine tourism in direct wine sale class. He usually talked about his experience on his work and showed us the feedback from his customers on Instagram to express the importance of customer value. His experience impressed me a lot in the real business world. Unlike the other teachers, he always encouraged me to stay focus on my work. I would say that he is a good teacher that I met in France. His requirements for passing this course was to complete two groupworks and pass one written exam. I formed a new group with two French guys and one Japanese guy in this class. This was a huge mistake that I have made. We couldn't cooperate with each other well due to the discrepancy among us. The worse thing was that we couldn't fix it. The final assessment of the groupwork that we got was 14 out of 20. I realized that not every French people are efficient. Sometimes, they are lazy and arrogant.

I like the Oenology, Sensory analysis subject so much. This subject was divided into two classes with two professors. One was teaching us in wine tasting; and the other was teaching the viticulture and oenology of wine. The teacher who taught me in wine tasting is from Spain. He has good English and is willing to help. When I asked him questions, he was patient all the time. What he taught was very interesting too. In every wine tasting class, he gave us seven types of wine to taste. He taught us how to identify the characteristic of wine and the wine faults. For

example, if the wine tastes like vinegar, which means that the wine is oxidized. The other teacher is a French teacher who is the specialist in viticulture. He gave us the materials about the viticulture in his classes. The history and the other wine knowledge that he taught attracted my attention. For instance, the mildew disease comes from the mild weather with rainfall. He also educated us the wine making skills that was very practical. The evaluation of this subject was the combination score form two written exam papers that account for 50% each. Although I liked this subject very much and worked hard on it, I got the passing grade at 10 out of 20 unfortunately. I did review all of the materials that the teacher gave me in the class. I thought I might get high grade in this subject, but the result proved me wrong. During the exam, the content of the exam paper covered only 40% in those materials. I think I might get the higher grade by reading more extra materials about wine in my spare time.

I was very satisfied with the teacher who taught Intercultural Management and Communication. She is American. Her teaching method was very flexible. She made things understandable without any stress. I was evaluated by 3 groupworks and one written exam. I wouldn't say that I got high grade in this course, but I was happy to meet her in France. She gave each of us a chick as a gift in her last class and told us that to remember the experience when studying in France.

The semester ended on 5th, April. The school arranged the exchange students a bye-bye party in the kitchen. The food offered was delicious. We were given three pieces of paper to write down three words that describe the image of Dijon. Dijon is quiet, beautiful and elegant in my mind. I was given a notebook labeled the school's name as a souvenir. Students gathered together and talked about their experience in Dijon. I think everyone would not forget the experience in staying in France. We all left a piece of our heart in Dijon.

It's time to say goodbye to my friend and the school. It's not that easy, but this is life. I am happy that I met them in France and they also like me. My friends told

me that what they will do after graduation. For example, my Taiwanese friend wants to be a soldier in the army. Japanese friend wants to become a white collar in Japan etc. I am happy that they all have their goals in the near future. Considering I still have the exams in the university of pecc in May, I decided to book the flight to come back as soon as possible to prepare for my exams.

After the mobility, there are still some documents needed to be filled in just in order to complete the whole procedure, such as the learning agreement etc. To take the survey and write the experience report is part of the final part of the program. It is a quite long process to apply for this program, but worth to do it. I am willing to recommend the Erasmus program to everyone, especially my friends. This is a great opportunity to experience different culture and meet new people in other countries. It helps me to improve myself and broaden the horizon. This is also a good way to find what you really want in your future career or in your life. For those who haven't made decision yet, I would suggest them that do not miss this chance.

In the conclusion, I want to thank all of the officers involved who gave me the opportunity to join in the Erasmus program. Thanks for the contribution that the officers made to coordinate and support my study in both schools. I am very appreciated it. The experience in studying and living in France is precious in my life. I would never ever forget it.

The Pictures that I want to share listed below:

The transportation in Dijon



Dijon city



Campus of Burgundy School of Business



French food



School life



Field trip



Byebye party

