

Department : IMBA 2017

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Programme Grande Ecole

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As a part of the dual degree program in Nantes of France, at the Audencia Business School, students could spend two semesters to study abroad for a year and I decided to it would be a good option for my study abroad experience. Nantes caught my eye as a dynamic city in the heart of France with affordable prices. It is as great opportunity to explore with the language, culture, French cuisine, the people and political context. Here I would share some tips when you planning to France for study or living in Nantes.

Preparation

First, applying for French long-term student visa (VLS-TS), which is for students who will be studying for longer than 3 months in French only. You can have residence permit in France with this visa along with the OFII. You have to go to the France-Visas website to submit the online application and pay for the application fee. Once you get the notification from email then you can make a reservation for your interview with the Campus France. For the OFII, there is much easier way to apply in terms of new policy which start from 2019, you just need to online without the paper work and go to the Immigration Bureau to submit the materials in person.

Courses

Each semester, students will choose one major and 2 electives for each semester, so there will be 4 electives in two semesters. These courses are compulsory and students have to take the entire set of a major which includes 7 to 8 courses. These courses cannot be waived. One set of a major is 28 ECTS, so students will take 56 ECTS for 2 majors during two semesters' studies. Links for courses : https://apply.exchangestudents.audencia.com/index.cfm?FuseAction=PublicDocuments.View&File_ID=10869

- Consultant Management

The courses are quite intense and heavy, students are mostly composed by European but few from Asia people, 70% are French speaking. For the students from Audencia, they were been selected with excellent academic performance and great English ability. Some of the lecturers are from enterprise or famous consulting group in France, you can learn hands on experience from them with tons of projects and presentation.

- supply chain & purchasing Management

Audencia is most renowned for the program of Supply Chain Management, which offers a truly global experience and merges both global sourcing and supply chain in addition to logistics operations, warehousing, and transport management. Audencia also works alongside the corporate world and is a leader in responsible management practices.

Living in Nantes

Nantes is the sixth largest city in France and was voted the greenest city to live in. It used to be the capital of Brittany, now it has become the capital of Pays DE la Loire after divided into districts, but it still with richful Bretagne culture and historical sites. Every summer the government plans a number of art exhibits in different parts of the city. See Le Voyage a Nantes website for details. <https://www.levoyageanantes.fr/>

Rents in Nantes are about half to one-third compared to Paris, a one-bedroom, one-hall apartment in the city center costs about 550 euros a month. If you apply for CAF, the support is between 80 to 150 euro, it would be a great help for foreign students.

For the CAF application, you need to go to this website (www.caf.fr), apply online and print the application form. Bring the application form, passport, student VISA, proof of housing, OFII, and bank RIB to CAF office in person and apply for it. You can track the progress and additional information through CAF website.

There are some platforms provide rental service, you can search on the website or from Audencia's website as well. In France its necessary to buy house insurance when you rent the flat. I selected ADH, which is designed for students and you can register online directly. ADH : <https://www.assurances-etudiants.com/en/>

Food:

The famous local food is crepe and you can get salt or sweet flavor in downtown, which is around 10-15 euro for each! Fresh and delicious mussels in summer! There's a restaurant in the city center called Aux Moules du Bouffay, which is very affordable, especially you can eat French fries unlimited until you're full. There are also a number of restaurants and bars clustered around Le Hangar a Bananes. Young people would gather in the restaurants and bars around Galeries Lafayette in the city centre.

**Transportation:**

There is no metro in Nantes but mainly are three tramway light rail trains with bus routes. Also, the city is very friendly for people who are riding the bikes and many places have well planned single lanes. There are also public bikes such as the Ubike in Taipei, which costs 29 euros a year and 1 euro a day. Other public transport one-way tickets are €1.70 (unlimited transfers in one hour) and €5.60 for a one-day pass. Students who are expected to stay for several months can consider applying for a Carte Libertan after opening a bank account, Carte Libertan is free to take the general public. Please refer to Tan's website for more details.

Other spots:

The most iconic attraction "Les Machines DE l'île" is represented with the famous mechanical elephant. In fact, mechanical island park is based on the famous writer Jules Verne, who wrote "around the world in 80 days" and "20,000 leagues under the sea"

There are some museums in downtown, as well as a Jardin des plantes, where you feed goats. There are two major rivers running through Nantes: La Loire, L'erdre, I used to run along with the rivers but you can also do canoes or paddling activities there.

There is the chateau des ducs DE bretagne which is not far from the train station, and it's always music festival in the summer! You can do shopping as well with one lafayette department store, IKEA and 2-3 shopping malls. There are some asian supermarkets: A Chinese supermarket, a Japanese supermarket, and two southeast Asian supermarkets. It's not that big, but it's very well completely. If you want to see a movie, you should go to Gaumont (you can get some movie in English speaking) or another one in a mall near ikea.

