

1. Introduction

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2. Preparation

Here are the things you must do before departing:

- Apply for the visa after receiving an acceptance letter.
- Translate the birth certificate to French and get the Apostille stamp.
- Look for accommodation.
- Buy accommodation insurance.
- Find a guarantor for the accommodation.

Applying for a France Visa is not a major problem, but finding accommodation can be challenging. It is advisable to secure accommodation in advance before your departure. I recommend reaching out to Cardinal Campus or visiting their website, as they offer student accommodation at reasonable prices. As for the guarantor, I utilized Garantme, which offers discounted rates through Emlyon's contract agreement. I suggest contacting the school again to inquire whether they can provide any discounts.

Here are the things you must do after arriving:

- Validate your Visa
- Apply for Social Security number
- Apply for the CAF (housing allowance)

As soon as you arrive in France, the first thing to do is to validate your visa, which will cost you around 50 euros. After that, I would suggest applying for the social security number on the "etudiant-etranger.ameli" website. Once you have received the social security number, you can then apply for CAF. The housing allowance will provide you with around 100-200 euros per month as long as you are renting the accommodation.

3. Accommodation

I stayed at Le Kiosk or Good Morning Lyon Vaise of Cardinal Campus. It is a new student residence that opened its doors in 2022, located in the 9th arrondissement of Lyon, near the Vaise train station. It cost me around 400 euros per month, which is a reasonable price. Below are some photos from their website.



4. Studying at the host institution

Emlyon adopts a trimester system: the Fall semester from September to December, the Spring semester from January to April, and the Summer semester from April to June. Furthermore, each semester is divided into two cycles, resulting in a total of six cycles in the academic year.

Cycle 1 :	Cycle 2 :	Cycle 3 :	Cycle 4 :	Cycle 5 :	Cycle 6 :
01/09/2022 to 22/10/2022	24/10/2022 to 21/12/2022	03/01/2023 to 04/03/2023	06/03/2023 to 29/04/2023	02/05/23 to 09/06/2023	12/06/23 to 22/07/2023
FALL SEMESTER 2022		SPRING SEMESTER 2023		SUMMER SEMESTER 2023	

Keep in mind that DD students have to pass the Emlyon requirement in order to graduate. Emlyon required that DD students have to pass 60 ECTS which is separated as below.

	43 ECTS to be validated
Management Courses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Core Courses*: 16 ECTS -Early Makers DNA Courses**: 6 ECTS -Elective Courses: 21 ECTS <p>The core courses may be waived if previously taken at the home institution. In this case, students are required to complete their obligations in terms of ECTS by taking further elective courses.</p>
Master's thesis (PFE)	15 ECTS: N.B. It is possible to submit a single thesis in satisfaction of the requirements of both the home institution and emlyon business school. Should students choose to carry out their thesis at their home institution with a supervisor from that university, students should then replace this option with a further 12.5 ECTS in elective courses at emlyon.
Maker's Project + course "Fundamentals of Project Management" (G1O02E)	2 ECTS
Completion of a 6-month work experience placement	

***Core Courses as of September 2021:**

Corporate Finance (5A1F01) in Spring semester 2023	4 ECTS
Marketing (5A1M03) in Spring semester 2023	4 ECTS
Organizational Behaviour and leadership (5A1O02) in Fall semester 2022	4 ECTS
Strategic Management (G1H02E) in spring semester 2023	4 ECTS

****Early Makers DNA Courses as of September 2021:**

PCE - Business Creation Project (G1H07E) in Fall semester 2022	4 ECTS
Prototype (5A1X02) – in Fall semester 2022	2 ECTS

The courses are usually 5 ECTS or 2.5 ECTS. Emlyon offers hundreds of elective courses in different fields from Accounting, Corporate Finance & Economics, CSR and Sustainability, Data Science and AI, Humanities, Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Leadership and Human Resources, Marketing Negotiation and Sales, Strategy Consulting and Supply Chain. Students are only able to take 3 elective courses per cycle.

Personally, I chose to study 12.5 ECTS in elective courses at Emlyon University to replace the Master's thesis and instead complete a thesis at NCCU. In total, I completed 61 ECTS. Below are the courses I took at Emlyon University.

Fall Semester

Core courses

- Project Management (2 ECTS)
- PCE (4 ECTS)
- Organizational Behaviour & Leadership (4 ECTS)
- Prototype at the makers' lab (2 ECTS)

Elective courses

Cycle 1

- Organizing Social Innovation (5 ECTS)
- AI & Business (5 ECTS)
- Consumer experience and service quality. (5 ECTS)

Cycle 2

- Design of Supply Chain (5 ECTS)
- Business analyst toolbelt (5 ECTS)
- Operations Strategy (5 ECTS)

Spring Semester

Core courses

- Strategic Management (4 ECTS)
- Makers' Project

Elective courses

Cycle 3

- Digital Marketing (5 ECTS)
- Global Purchasing Strategy & Operations (5 ECTS)

Summer Semester

Elective courses

Cycle 5

- The Belt and Road Strategy for Business (5 ECTS)

As you can see here, I don't really recommend taking 3 elective courses in Cycles 1 and 2 since you will already have 4 core courses throughout the semester.

4.1 Makers' Project

Makers' project is the project that allows students to put into practice the theoretical knowledge learned in the classroom and challenges them to develop additional skills. Using a project management approach, you will develop a group project from the topic given by the school. A makers' project includes:

- 1) Strategic thinking (regardless of the theme): situational analysis, competitive positioning, determining target markets, identifying objectives and performance indicators (KPIs);
- 2) An operational implementation and/or execution (following project management logic with on-the-ground action)
- 3) A concrete realization (when proposing a “creation” you must at least provide a functional prototype)

Your makers' project requires commitment and risk-taking (you can never be sure that it will succeed). It has a collective aspect, involves taking an active role, and requires project management. Sparking interest is a real source of motivation and leads to a genuine achievement requiring realistic planning. Because a makers' project is ambitious by nature, it lasts an average of 4 months.

4.2 PCE - Business Creation Project

PCE is a group business plan that consists of six members and allows students to develop any business idea. This project will take place during the fall semester and last for the entire duration of the semester. My suggestion is to choose your teammate wisely, as it will make your life much easier.

5. Conclusion

I thoroughly enjoyed my time at Emlyon University, particularly the classes. The professors were highly knowledgeable, and the overall atmosphere was pleasant. Emlyon provided a wide range of choices for courses and internship opportunities, including career events held on campus.

However, there are three important things to note. Firstly, not being able to speak French, like myself, can make life a bit challenging at Emlyon. English is not widely spoken, and there is a preference for French speakers, especially when dealing with bureaucracy. Additionally, most documents will be in French. It would be highly beneficial to learn some basic French before arriving. Secondly, the administrative office on campus takes forever to reply to emails and resolve issues. It is much more efficient to visit the office in person to seek assistance. Lastly, there are a lot of free riders in the class, and unfortunately, there is little you can do about it. Based on my experience, group projects are common in every course, and you may encounter free riders in each of them.

In closing, my advice to you all is to keep an open mind and stay positive throughout your time at Emlyon. When I first arrived, I faced many challenges, but looking back, I'm grateful for those experiences as they taught me important lessons. You'll have the chance to meet friends from different countries, so make an effort to get to know them and learn from each other. Best of luck on your journey!