

NCCU IMBA Dual Degree Report

School: ESCP Business School, Paris Campus (2022-2023)

Preparation:

1. Applying to ESCP Business School:

2. Before departure:

a. **Visa preparation:**

- **Start early!** The process can take longer, so apply well in advance.
- Check the Campus France website for the latest requirements and updates.

i. **Gather Documents:**

- Valid passport (valid for at least 6 months after intended stay)
- Completed visa application form (download from Campus France website)
- Admission letter from a French university recognized by the Ministry of Education
- Proof of accommodation (I didn't find my accommodation yet when I applied, so I just input the address of ESCP instead)
- Proof of financial means (bank statements, scholarship certificate)
- Health insurance covering your stay in France
- Two passport-sized photos

ii. **Pay Visa Fee:**

- Check the current fee on the Campus France website.

iii. **Online Application:**

- Create an account: Register on the Campus France website.
- Fill out the form: Provide details, and attach scanned copies of documents.
- Schedule an interview: Choose a date and time at your nearest consulate.

iv. **Interview:**

- Attend on scheduled date: Bring original documents and a copy of your application.
- Be prepared to answer questions: Discuss your study plans, financial arrangements, and intentions in France.

v. **Visa Decision:**

- Processing time takes 2-3 weeks.

vi. **Resources:**

- Campus France website: <https://www.campusfrance.org/>
- French Ministry of Foreign Affairs website: <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/>

b. **Available Scholarship:**

- 法國在台協會 France Excellence 獎學金
- 學海飛颺
- NCCU 商學院學生赴國外進修計畫補助

- NCCU 商學院Amundi匯裕匯理國際交流學習獎學金

Please visit the [Bureau Français de Taipei's website](#) and the [NCCU College of Commerce's website](#) for more information.

c. Accommodation:

Renting a property in France can be quite challenging mainly because of the requirement of a guarantor. However, I highly recommend using [Book-A-Flat](#) due to its reliability, efficient deposit return process, and exceptional customer service. Their team is known for providing a seamless search and rental process, especially in Paris. As per French law, tenants have the right to terminate their lease without any penalty by submitting a cancellation request before moving out (one month for furnished rentals and three months for unfurnished rentals). Also, [Book-A-Flat](#) agents are considerate and professional. They schedule a visit a week before the move to inspect the apartment for any uncleaned areas and advise on areas that you can clean yourself to avoid additional cleaning charges. In summary, Book-A-Flat is an excellent option for those looking for a hassle-free rental experience in France.

i. CAF

The French government provides financial assistance to individuals and families to help cover housing costs. This support is also available to international students.

- **Required Documents:** The application process requires several documents, including your passport or ID card, visa, visa validation, and original birth certificate (you can get it translated upon arrival in France). Having a French bank account is also necessary as the rental assistance will be paid directly to you through this account. To receive rental assistance, you will need to have a French bank account as the payment will be directly transferred to your account. In case you need a translator, I would suggest contacting [洪碧霞小姐](#) as she is a professional and efficient translator.
- **Application Process:** You should apply for CAF as soon as you secure your accommodation, as payments begin the second month of your lease. The application can be filled out on the CAF website. It's recommended to move in at the end of a month, like August, to benefit from the payments starting from September. The entire process can take several weeks to months, but you will receive payments for the entire duration once approved, sometimes as a lump sum for the initial period.

Upon arriving in France, the steps to apply for CAF are as follows: 1. **Create a CAF Account:** Visit the CAF website to create your account. 2. **Apply for Housing Assistance Online:** After creating your account, apply for housing assistance online.

Submit Required Documents to CAF: After completing the online application, you need to submit the requested documents either via your CAF online account, by mail, or by dropping them off at a CAF office.

For detailed guidance and step-by-step instructions, the [CAF website](#) provides comprehensive information.

3. Living in Paris:

a. Bank:

Personally, I recommend Société Générale for banking. I had no trouble when I used them. To set up a bank account in France, you need to first go to the bank to make an appointment. Then you can set up the bank account on your second visit. It's different from Taiwan; you won't be able to open a bank account in one day. I went to [this branch](#) to open the bank account because it was close to ESCP. But now ESCP has relocated, so you can find another branch that's close to where you live.

b. Telecom:

For telecom services, I recommend using [Free Mobile's](#) 5G plan. You pay €19.99 per month, and it can be used in most European countries except Switzerland and a few others.

c. Transportation:

I highly recommend purchasing the [Navigo Annual Ticket](#) for transportation in Paris. It's a cost-effective and convenient option that offers unlimited travel on the Paris Metro, buses, trams, and RER networks within selected zones. This pass is perfect for those who want to explore every corner of the city without worrying about purchasing individual tickets. With the annual pass, you can hop on and off public transportation as you please, providing a seamless experience as you discover the iconic sights and hidden gems of Paris. For the most up-to-date information, including pricing, zones covered, and how to apply for the pass, it's best to visit the official website of RATP.

d. At ESCP:

Signing up for a specialization in the first semester isn't an option, but I strongly suggest considering a specialization in the second semester. The courses offered in these specializations tend to be more in-depth and practical compared to the general free track classes, providing a more significant value to your learning experience.

Additionally, I'd recommend joining the sports club at ESCP to everyone. For an annual fee of approximately 90 euros, you can enjoy access to a range of sports clubs, including horse riding, golf, yoga, boxing, badminton, and up to 30 other sports. On a personal note, the Yoga class stands out as a must-try. The instructor, Stefan, brings a unique blend of humor to his sessions, making each class not only beneficial for your physical well-being but also incredibly enjoyable. It's a great way to balance academic rigor with some physical activity and relaxation.

4. Before you come back to Taiwan:

Before moving out of France after completing your studies, several important steps must be considered to ensure a smooth transition. These steps help in settling any outstanding obligations and ensuring that you do not face any legal or financial issues after you leave the country. Here's a brief summary of the things to do:

- **Notify Your Landlord:** Inform your landlord of your departure according to the notice period specified in your lease agreement to avoid extra charges.
- **Close Your Bank Account:** Visit your bank to close your account or to understand the procedure for managing your account from abroad. Some banks may allow you to keep your account open if you're moving within the EU or to a country with specific banking agreements.
- **Cancel Utilities and Subscriptions:** Notify utility providers (electricity, water, internet, etc.) to cancel your services.
- **Cancel Your Insurance:** If you have health, home, or other types of insurance, make sure to cancel these policies.
- **CAF (Housing Assistance):** If you received housing assistance, inform CAF of your departure to avoid overpayments or penalties.