

# International report

Yu-Ting Hsu

National Chengchi University

Taiwan R.O.C

# The adventure in Poitiers

Life should be have some very different experiences. There are two reason for me to study in Poitiers: to live in France is one of my life goal during my life! The other is that my girlfriend is now in France, thus makes me made up my mind to study in France! Further more, ESCEM is one of the best commerce school in France. As the result, I chose ESCEM as my first exchange student experience.

## **Why I wanna be an exchange students?**

I found myself, as a Taiwanese student, sometimes confined to in limited thinking; not being able to think outside the box is a systematic problem among Taiwanese students, influence by the academic environment. The innovative thinking and creative ideas that come from foreign students constantly surprise me, and to acquire this ability, there is no better way than to place myself in a different environment, one that fosters and values creativity and criticism. In search of wider horizons, different views, and dissent values, I

Before arriving, because we are non-europe citizen. Thus we have to apply the visa which cost me around 250€. After, it's time for preparing the luggage.

During the flight, it's too dry that make me nose bleeding, furthermore there was a illness woman which drove me crazy. Thus when I arrived in France, I wasn't in the good mood. Fortunately, when I arrived, my dad's friend drive me from Paris to Poitiers. So I didn't need carry four luggages to take on the train. When I arrived in Poitiers, my fist impression is; how can I get use to this small town!! But at last it proof that I survive successfully! And I like the city very much. Although it is not that modern city, it is a very cozy city. Poitiers makes the relationship between international students more closer! When I first time saw the campus, I was wondering; is that a campus? Because my school in Taiwan has field gym even swimming pool, tennis court basketball court, even the hiking way. But eventually I find that it's not a problem, because I love Poitiers!

# About classes

## French class

The first class in Poitiers is French class, I was totally frustrated. But I enjoy the atmosphere during the class! The teacher is nice, the classmates are pretty interesting! Unlike European students, for Asian people(except Indonesian students), French is a completely different language. From conversation, grammar, especially pronunciation, are not easy for us to learn, since we are totally beginners! I'm interesting in learning French, but I did feel so frustrated. Professor teaches well and nice, but sometimes teaches quite fast. For example, some students learn fast and keep asking question, and the teacher always focused on them, thus I suggest ESCEM distribute students not only in different level, but also focus on Asian students.

## Tourism

This is the first formal class in ESCEM. About the clas, to me, perhaps my listenting is not very well, I always think the teacher's accent is very heavy that I couldn't understand. At the end, we all have to present the individual report, my topic is about the tourist in Taiwan.

## Financial market

I like the class very much, because I understood 90% of what the professor teaching. I like the way of teaching, the professor used interactive way to teach, first throw out a question, then ask students, and then illustrate. The exam is writing test, but the professor said the main purpose for the class is to know concept about the financial market, so although the test is not very easy, but don't worry, the professor doesn't failed students!

## **Banking in Europe**

The professor is very kind, and full of knowledge. During the studying in my home university, I have learned some concept about the financial system in Europe. To me, the class is just review what I have learned before. We have to do group report, and it made me more clear about the crises happening in state and Europe. By the way, the class is not very tight! During five classes, we only need to attend 3 classes. The test is multiple choices. and it's not very difficult.

## **Social and solidarity in Europe**

The professor is from Spain, it's not very easy to take this class, and we all have groups reports, I was lucky to be in German group, and we had a high score of our report.

## **Marketing research**

I enjoy the class, the professor used to stay in State, and she's quite openminded. At the beginning of the course, the professor ask us to create one survey topic. Any kind of topic is acceptable! And at the end, the topic everyone choose is very interesting. The kebab topic is even included! At the end, almost all students got high score!

## **Luxury management**

The class is very interesting, and I enjoy it very much. The professor used to be the employee of Dior, and she is very knowledgeable. In my opinion, this course is innovative and very practical! During the class, I know much about the way luxury brands' marketing. This class is my favorite one!

## **Advertisement in Europe**

I feel very sorry to professor because I didn't attend the course. Because between the traveling and class, I choose the previous one.

## **Classmates**

There are around 120 international students in ESCM. From Canada, America, Indonesia, Spain, Portugal, Swiss, UK, Japan, China, Poland and my country, Taiwan etc... During the interaction with international students, I learned a lot from different cultures. For example, Canadians always very kind, Americans are more straight, Indonesians are good at studying, and the Japanese are very polite etc... Many of us become very good friend! One even invite me to attend his wedding in India!

## **Aloha**

Aloha really help international students a lot! When I arrived Poitiers at first day. Although they didn't expect that I will be arrived here so early, they still guide me all the city center! After, they took us to Paris! Introducing us the pretty spots of Paris. Then when we were in Poitiers, they often host lots of party which made us get more and more familiar. They will do you a favor when you need it. For me, they have help me to move my luggage to my apartment. Help me to deal with the package and so on! So many thing that they help us that I can't find any word to describe them. They are the best!

Before coming to France, I was in the buddy program (which is familiar to Aloha), but that time I didn't know what international students actually need. So I didn't do well on the program. But when I saw them, although I didn't tell them what kind of help we need, they always know what we need and give an aid when in need!

As the result, I know what international students need now because I used to be an international students!

## **Life**

### **Cook**

Cooking is always not easy to me. To me, I seldom cook in Taiwan, so at the beginning of the semester, I always eat kabab, twice a day, thus every employee in kabab knows me.

After about one month, I started trying cooking at home. It was a disaster, but I still work on it! Eventually although it tastes not good as usual, it getting better. At the last month, we always cooked together. It worked to me, because I just need to follow what they told me what to do, instead of creating something weird.

## **Eat outside**

As everyone knows, french food is world famous. I tried a lot of traditional French food, snails, fromage, Foie Gras crepes duck etc... To me, the most impressive things in France are food and churches. I've been traveling in Spain, Italy and United kingdom. In the view of my point, I think the French food is the best in Europe. Especially of foie gras and dessert. For the people who like to eat, France is just like food paradise! Delicate, fresh, simple are considered the features of French food. It's totally different with Chinese food. But Chinese is also good, too. But not in Europe!! The Chinese restaurants in Europe look all the same, nothing special and it's very oily. Totally different from Chinese food in Asia. To me, I like foie gras most that I even want to import it to Taiwan for sell!! To sum up, I love French food!

## **Shopping**

In France, the shops usually close at 6-7 pm, and it's close on Sunday. It's quite different with Taiwan. So at the beginning, I didn't adapt the living style here quite a lot. But two months after, I was able to follow the way of French people living. At Sunday, just wake up until you want to wake up, then cook with your friends( normally French people meet their family at Sunday). At night, go to someone's house for pre drink and then go to bar!

### **Party**

The life in Poitiers is always full of fun and joy. At the beginning of the semester, we have the party every night, and what shocked me is that we went to 3 different places at one night, first pre drinking , then go to bar, after drinking, we went to dancing floor. But it's not all drinking party, we also have cooking party, birthday party and even movie party. I enjoy every party in Poitiers! To me, it's a very pleasure experience!

## **Travel**

It's a very rare experience for me to travel so many countries in half an year. Because of the identity of student, I got a lot benefit from it. Such as free to museum and pay lower. With the advantage of my age, I can travel through TGV with low price(12-25 carte). The main transportations for traveling are train and flight, and sometime you can buy the ticket at very low price. Because of offpeak or you ordered in few weeks ago. During the semester, I have been to Italy, Netherlands, Spain , south France, England, Germany, and Austria. I found that every country has their own feature. For France, most delicious food in he world and people don't like to speak English. For Italy (Rome), it's a very old city and not very clean. And England is polite but expensive. How about Germany? Cleaness and neat, step by step and very friendly! For Netherlands, I feel very comfortable to live there! About Spain, I think the people there are very passion and a little lazy! Because they need to take a nap everyday thus the shop will close from 1pm until 4 pm but close at maybe 10 pm ! Above all the trips, the most impressive trip is during in south France. I drove the car from Nice to Cannes, Marseille, Avignon and been to a lot of villages. It was very fun to drive in south France, totally different from Taiwan, the road is so wide and plain!

## **Why I love France**

To travel in Europe is one of my biggest dream. I love the architectures, the history and even the atmosphere! Lots of things existing in France are so good. I remember when I first time saw the Notre Dame in Paris. How shocked and astonished I was! How can human beings create such a great building! It's so beautiful and spectacular. And when I saw the Arc de Triomphe, I imagined the sight when Napoleon won his victory, he crossed by the Arc de Triomphe. When I walked by La Seine, how many heartbroken used to be happened here. And after reading da Vinci code, I entered Musee du Louvre, I saw the up-side down pyramid, I predicted that it must happened something before. And the most famous masterpiece in the world: la Monalisa, the smiling must hide some secret. After all, I went to Palais de Chaillot at night, to see how will the Tour Eiffel be when at night. I found that the combination of history and technology, the Tour Eiffel can sparkling! Moreover, the French food, I envy the French people that can taste the world most delicious cuisine everyday!

## Why I don't love France

In my opinion, except ESCM students. French people are not easily to be closed, especially Parisien. Furthermore, I don't like the way French people treat their customers. I had many many bad experience!! For examples, once I went to Amsterdam and I bought the round ticket. Everything went well at the beginning, but the thing is, when I went back I couldn't get out my ticket. And I asked the counter if they can help me to print my ticket, the funnest thing is that they say I have to go to Brussels to get out my ticket. But my ticket is from Amsterdam to Paris, thus I need to buy the ticket to Brussels then buy the ticket back to Amsterdam and take train back to Paris. It's so ridiculous that they are the cooperate companies but they just said I can't help you! Furthermore, the ticket sallee didn't tell us it's the ticket you need to get from other place! As the result, I lost almost €200. The second one is that once when I booked the ticket online and pay successfully, but I don't know somehow I couldn't print out my ticket. So I went to the Gare in advance that afraid I couldn't make the train. Then the Information center told me that they can't print out the ticket, just went to the train and the train manager will help you to print out the ticket. Because of the Information center, I thought everything would go well, but I was wrong... When I arrived the platform and went to see the train manager, asking her to help me print out my ticket. It's funny that they couldn't find the information of my reservation on their machine. I already booked the ticket online few days ago. But now they said they can't find my reservation information so they can't let me go on the train. What! I even show them the confirmation mail sent by SNCF. And they just said they don't know and couldn't help me. It's kind of weird that if it's not my fault, why I had to take this consequence? Thus I paid an other night in Paris(because I took the night train so if I got on the train I can save the money.).

One thing happens during these two days in Paris, yesterday when we went to a restaurant Hippopotamus, they made discount when you order the meal before 7:30pm. And the manager told us that we can have the discount that time. But something happened. When we checked the bill, they didn't make any discount. Thus we asked the worker why we didn't get any discount form the benefit? The worker told us that they don't have any discount today. It completely confused me and my friends, so we ask the worker that we want to talk to the manager. I saw the manager was just beside the worker that



time and didn't do anything but ignore us and talked to the worker secretly then go away. Then the worker reply: " what do you want! The refund is impossible!". It suddenly made us speechless, how come the restaurant can treat the customers like the way they did! In my opinion, I think that some French people don't like to take the responsibility. They just push it away! Like when I couldn't print the ticket, they told me to go to the train manager directly, and when the train couldn't help me to deal with the problem, she just walked away and ignore me. Then the one who checked the ticket ask me to go to the TGV service center to solve my problem.then when I went there, they said the same thing:"we can't help you, just write a letter online." At that time I suddenly feel that how can them push the responsibility to others and then others? Although I encounter many bad impression of France, I still love this country! Because of the students in Poitiers, the memory being with International students and ESCEM students will be the most great and unforgettable memory during my life!

### **Advise to ESCEM**

I think ESCEM is a very good place for learning, but if it can be more considerate to students, it would be better! First, when on Easter Days, everyone is on vacation but not include the student in ESCEM. I have asked one of my friends who studies in IESEG(Lille ), and she said that there won't be any course or test during the Easter Days, but "luckily", we got the "French Exam" on that the Easter Days. And if it should be on Easter Days, the school should told us at least two months ago because it is one of the most biggest festival that must all the students will plan their trips in advance. Thus it destroyed our whole trip and we had to replan it! I know the main purpose for students is to study hard, but sometimes the school should be more considerate to students! And the second one is that I don't know why my friend got illness but he couldn't postpone the exam? Thus he might failed the international program. My suggestion is that maybe next time when school face this kind of problem, maybe the format of exam can be transformed into reports or others.

### **Taiwan**

Taiwan is a country which is ocean around. Comparing with France, Taiwan is far smaller thane France, but the population density is the most in the world.

Taiwan is famous for its IT industry, assus, acer, HTC all come from Taiwan!

## **National ChengChi University**

Established in 1927, National Chengchi University (NCCU) is noted for its humanities and social sciences disciplines and currently housing 9 colleges, including liberal arts, science, social sciences, law, commerce, foreign languages & literature, communication, international affairs and education; 33 departments, 2 BA modules (Undergraduate Program in European Languages and College of Communication Undergraduate Degree Program), and 48 graduate institutes (including master's module), with 32 graduate institutes offering PhD programs, 16 on-the-job master's programs, and 5 English-taught degree programs (International Master's Program in Taiwan Studies, International Master's Program in China Studies, International Master of Business Administration, International Master's Program in International Communication Studies, and International Doctor Program in Asia-Pacific Studies).

## **Conclusion**

This is my first time to be an exchange student and probably be the last time because I am going to graduate this semester! I will keep the memory in mind and take it as my most valuable possession! I think during the international students life, to be honest, I didn't learn a lot from the class. Instead, I learned a lot from classmates from different countries! We share our cultures, our food, our life experiences and so on... We share joy and sadness together. To me, this kind of opportunity is very rare and has to fasten when it comes. Thanks ESCM for bringing me the best experience during my university life. I will be always keep in mind this beautiful memory!