

Student Report

Fall 2016- Toulouse 1 Capitole University

General Information

University	Toulouse 1 Capitole University
City	Toulouse
Country	France
Period	Fall 2016

Preparation

Application

After the nomination by the International Office of the Erasmus University, I could do my formal application on the website of Capitole university. They ask as language requirements B2 level in the language you are following classes in. As I only followed courses in English, I didn't have to have a level B2 in French.

After my application I got the final confirmation of my acceptance at the end of June, together with some other information as the academic calendar.

Accommodation

If you want to stay in one of the university residences, you have to mention this in your application. I got at the beginning of July the confirmation that I got a room. If you don't receive a confirmation, contact the International office. Some people didn't get a room and had to look for a 'collocation' themselves. CROUS has different student residences in Toulouse. I personally got a room in residence Arsenal. I think Arsenal it's the best residence to stay in, as it is next to the university and the closest to all the bars and places to go out.

The room is about 9 m² with an own bathroom. In every hall is a kitchen, which you have to share with the other people. In the kitchen is now equipment, only hot plates, an oven and a micro. So you have to buy/bring plates, pans etc by yourself. If you buy your stuff in Toulouse, I can recommend to buy this at HEMA near Esquirol.

I paid 292 euros per month. This is without the housing subsidy you can get from the French government. I would advice to look before arrival at the website of CAF how this works and which documents you have to provide.

Arrival

I went to Toulouse by plane. From the airport you can take the 'navette aéroport' for 8 euros or go by tram and metro. Once arrived, I had to arrange several things, like opening a bank account and to get a French phone number. I would advice to get to provider free because they are the cheapest. For 20 euros, you get 50 gb internet and unlimited texting and calling in France. Especially the big amount of internet is useful, as you don't have internet in the residence for the first 3/4 weeks. I also took a Tisseo public transport card. For 10 euros per month, you can unlimited use the public transport. You can get this card at one of the Tisseo offices at the airport or at metro station Jean Jaures.

A week before the official semester starts, the university organises an introductory week. As I followed M1 courses at TSE, my classes also started in the same week.

Courses

Overall, the courses were not super easy as they were on Master level, but the workload was lower than in Rotterdam. I didn't have to hand in homework every week and you have way more time to study for your exams. For the courses with 6 ECTS I had tutorials every week in which we did some exercises. The attendance to these tutorials is mandatory. All my courses were in English.

6 ECTS - Game Theory

This course gives a base in game theory, from static and dynamic to complete and incomplete information games. The theory during lectures is a bit boring, but I liked the exercises. For this course, I also had a midterm in the end of October.

6 ECTS – Macroeconomics

I really liked this course. We covered topics in different macroeconomic models. The exercises were quite difficult, but the midterm and final exam were really doable as they were quite similar to the tutorial exercises.

6 ECTS – Intermediate Econometrics

This course was a mix between my courses Econometrics I and II during my bachelor. For this course, we didn't only have exercise tutorials (TD) but also computer tutorials (TP). During this computer tutorials we learnt programming in R.

4 ECTS – French Course

This course is offered by the university. In June I got an email about this course and then I had to subscribe. Unfortunately the course is not free and I had to pay 130 euros. During the introductory week, I had every day a 3 hour class and from then 10 weeks 1.5 hour per week.

3 ECTS – Understanding Real World Organizations

This course is given by one of the best teachers I've ever had. He tries to link actual events to economic theory, which made this course very interesting. The course focuses on all kind of organizations and how to see them in an economic context, not only companies but also churches and criminal organizations.

Finances

Expenses per month	
<i>Accommodation</i>	<i>292,- (excluding subsidy from the French government, CAF)</i>
<i>Phone</i>	<i>20,-</i>
<i>Public Transport</i>	<i>10,-</i>
<i>Groceries</i>	<i>150,-</i>
<i>Going Out</i>	<i>200,-</i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>672,-</i>

I also made some trips during weekends. These expenses are not included, as well as my journey to Toulouse.

Daily life

You never have to be bored in Toulouse, the weather is nice and it is one of the biggest student cities in France. Upon arrival, go to Place St Pierre at night to meet other students. Every night a lot of students gather at this square and on the stairs near the Garonne to enjoy the long summer nights. Besides ESN Toulouse organizes a lot of things. I went on an introduction weekend, they organized trips to Carcassonne, Albi and a wine yard and of course a lot of parties. But you can also do a lot of other things by yourself, Bordeaux, Montpellier, Pyrenees and also Barcelone is closeby.

Overall I had an amazing time in Toulouse and made a lot of new friends. Don't let the French language scare you off as other students are always there to help you and the people from Toulouse are in general really friendly.

If something is unclear or you have some questions, don't hesitate to send me an email: 409135lp@student.eur.nl