

As for my mandatory semesters abroad, I decided to visit the Aix-Marseille Université in Aix-en-Provence, France. The semester abroad started on the 27. August 2023 with an integration week and ended, successfully, on the 26. April 2024 with the last exam.

The Faculté de Gestion (Business and Economics Faculty) of the Aix-Marseille Université (AMU) is allocated in the city of Aix-en-Provence. It offers for business students, native as well as exchange students, the so-called IPBE (International Program for Business and Economics) and is fully held in English. Of course, separately the students may select several classes in French, as well as French language lectures.

The IPBE offers the following classes for the fall/winter semester:

- Advanced Statistics (6 ECTS)
- Business Economics (5 ECTS)
- Managing Global Organisations (5 ECTS)
- European Competition Policy (5 ECTS)
- International Trade (5 ECTS)
- International Marketing (5 ECTS)
- Business Game (5 ECTS)
- Project Management (5 ECTS)

And the following classes for the Spring Semester:

- Marketing Research (6 ECTS)
- Network Organisations (5 ECTS)
- Managing the Innovation Process (5 ECTS)
- Labour Market Analysis (5 ECTS)
- Corporate Financial Management (5 ECTS)
- Competition and Strategic Behaviour (5 ECTS)
- International Finance (5 ECTS)
- Public Economics (5 ECTS)

Here you have got to pay attention, to not choose classes, which have already been covered by classes from the International Business program. Further, Competition and Strategic Behaviour cannot be chosen if you already took European Competition Policy as well as Business Economics during the fall semester, as it contains the topics of both classes.

Of course, there are a few more classes held in English, but since those merely give 3 ECTS and may collide with the time table of the IPBE classes, I would recommend to choose classes solely from the IPBE.

For the majority of classes, you will have to write either a mid-term exam or prepare several assignments, such as group projects and/or reports, besides the final exam. In rare occasions, such in my case with international trade, you may have to write a mid-term, prepare a group project and write the final exam.

As for the application, you have to note the Aix-Marseille Université in your list of favourite universities for the semester abroad. If you get the opportunity to go there, you first have to choose the classes you want to participate in from two excel sheets, for each semester and upload it to a drop box of the office of international relations. Next, the AMU demands to create an account on the website of the AMU, in which you may have access to the intranet, including time table, webmail, student file, etc. Further, the office of international relations may ask you, if you need an accommodation. If so, they will reach out to the Crous, the head association for the student

accommodations as well as university. Then you will need to create a separate online account for the Crous service, in which you will eventually find the reservation. The costs of the student accommodation depend on the size of the room, which will be allocated to you. In my case, it held 19sqm, a restroom as well as kitchenette and a simple bed, for approx. €365,25/month. The Crous residences are allocated across the city of Aix-en-Provence.

Of course, you can find, independently from the Crous, an Airbnb.

The public transport in Aix-en-Provence functions very well and is comparably cheap. A ride costs €1,30 in cash or €1,20 with card. There are several discounts, such as monthly tickets, 10er cards, and more. You can get the tickets, such as the 3-month-ticket, in the city centre, at the tourist information centre. The 10er cards are available at every ticket vending machine.

Besides the studies you may find some time to enjoy the city of Aix-en-Provence. The city centre still holds the charm of the Provence, with many historical buildings as well as the classic mediterranean flair of the region. Further, every Tuesday and Thursday are markets on the two major places in the city centre, which are worth a visit. And so are several museums, which are distributed over the city as well. Besides that, the city holds many different restaurants, pubs and places to spend time in the afternoon or evenings.

The Erasmus Student Network (ESN) organises weekly activities, you can join. Events may be a trip to the Saint-Victoire, the mountain towering over the region, an event in the Mistral night club or a language café, where you can try different languages.

Just approx. 40 minutes from Aix by bus, is the city of Marseille. Here, the harbour district as well as the beach are recommendable for a sight seeing trip. Yet, it is recommendable to stay cautious, as Marseille is not as safe as Aix-en-Provence.