

### **1. When, where, and for how long have you been an Erasmus student?**

- Université Paris Diderot
- September – December 2018 --> 4 months

### **2. The Country and its Characteristics Please describe the region in which you lived as an Erasmus student (surroundings, traditions, people, etc.)**

Living in Paris was a wonderful experience. The city has a beautiful architecture and living there gives you the opportunity to experience the areas you don't see as a tourist. There is a broad range of museums and art galleries to explore as well as a variety of concerts and cultural events. Most restaurants and bars are expensive, but it is possible to find affordable options in areas like Belleville and Oberkampf. And overall, it's even nice just to have long walks through the city.

I lived in student housing close to Gare d'Austerlitz (Crous Résidence Pitié-Salpêtrière). The area was only a 15 minutes walk along the Seine away from Notre Dame and close to Quatier Latin (a very pretty area with narrow streets, restaurants and bars).

Although it was easy to get in contact and talk to people when going out, it was a little more difficult to get into regular contact with French students. Although we met occasionally, I think the "Erasmus-Bubble" is sometimes hard to escape when staying only for a short period of time. So it's necessary to make a strong effort to meet locals.

### **3. FACHLICHE BETREUUNG/Academic Advising Did you get help from the partner university during your stay abroad? Were there programs for incoming students? What did you think of the courses offered by the partner university? How did they work with your Learning Agreement (could you take all the courses you wanted?)?**

- The International Office offered an introductory meeting on basics about how to enroll into courses, cultural events, sport courses etc.
- The bureaucratic work was pretty complicated as the enrollment process is not unfold online, so that we had to enrol per person via every single department we took courses in which could be confusing at times
- As Diderot has a different system concerning the master thesis each student had to find a supervisor for his/her thesis at the beginning of the stay. My supervisor was really helpful concerning coming up with a topic, researching, finding archives and literature etc.
- The course offer didn't fit my research interests perfectly, but I could find a sufficient amount of courses to fit into my learning agreement. Most courses were interesting, but the work load was much smaller than at Humboldt University (less texts to prepare for class etc.). The working atmosphere differed from Berlin since there were not so many lively discussions in class. In one course the lecturer gave me the feeling of being personally offended when I criticized one of the texts chosen by her (although it was clearly criticism on the content of the text not on her choice of the text). Overall, I feel like the courses in Berlin enabled me to learn more within one term and to enjoy more exchange with other students.

### **4. SPRACHKOMPETENZ/Language Proficiency Did you take part in preparatory language courses at the university? In which language did you study at the partner university? Did you improve your language skills during your stay abroad?**

- No preparatory language course

- French and English
- I definitely improved my French skills, especially my vocab, and my reading and listening comprehension.

**5. WEITEREMPFEHLUNG/Recommendation Would you recommend this partner university? Please explain why or why not.**

- If you're in the final stage of your studies and ready to begin your MA thesis, I can recommend Paris since you'll find enough time and advisory help to prepare your thesis. In an early stage, it can be overwhelming because you're expected to work on your thesis from the first semester onwards in France.
- The course quality varied depending on the lecturers. Overall the work load was not so big, and in some courses there was only slow progress in the topics discussed in class

**6. VERPFLEGUNG AN DER HOCHSCHULE/Meals at the University How expensive are the meals at the university cafeteria? Are there sufficient options for people with allergies, vegans, and vegetarians?**

- One lunch menu costs around 3,50 Euro.
- There are vegetarian options (not really vegan ones, except for salads and side dishes). However even vegetarian options are sometimes not great [e.g. "tarte aux légumes" with fish in it]

**7. ÖFFENTLICHE VERKEHRSMITTEL/Public Transportation Did you use public transportation? How expensive is it? Is it advisable to have a bike?**

- In the warmer months I used "Velib" which is a bike rental system with stations all over town (really uncomplicated to use, and cheap, but sometimes there were functioning problems)
- In winter I used public transport and had a monthly ticket (you have to buy a Navigo Card which you can afterwards top up depending on your needs: 22 per week, 75 per month)

**8. WOHNEN/Accommodations How did you find your room/apartment/flat-share? How is the price-performance-ratio?**

- I lived in a Crous student residence. I had my own room including kitchenette and a small bath room. The price-performance-ratio was excellent with 407 Euro per month for a room of my own in a relatively central area (Pitié-Salpêtrière)
- The student residence was located in a hospital area which meant that sometimes helicopters landed next to my building. That could sometimes be a bit noisy, but considering all other advantages I was really content with the housing

**9. KULTUR UND FREIZEIT/Culture and Leisure Time Which cultural opportunities in the city did you experience? How are the options for museums, galleries, sport events, bars, and restaurants?**

- Museums (e.g. Jeu de Paume, Palais de Tokyo)
- Concerts
- I used "affordable yoga" for sports
- There's a broad range of restaurants and bars. I especially enjoyed the areas around Canal Saint Martin, Belleville and Quartier Latin

**10. AUSLANDSFINANZIERUNG/Financial Situation How much did you spend per month?**

- I had the financial Erasmus support as well as an income of around 400 Euros per month and personal savings
- Between 1000 and 1500

**UNTERSCHRIFT/ SIGNATURE**

- I agree to
- I do not agree to the publication of my report on Humboldt's Online platform and the Moodle group for the European History Master (which is accessible to the European History students and coordinators)

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Location/Date/Name