

Hill Summer Study Abroad Testimonial

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IÉSEG School of Management, Paris, France, July, 2019**



What was special about the university you attended?

IÉSEG was unique because I was learning with student from across the world and all classes were in English. It is also a highly accredited school. Students were also invited to select two free cultural tours that IÉSEG organized. These ranged from cheese and pastry tasting, to the Versailles gardens! Also, on the first day after class, they took everyone on a boat cruise on the Seine River!

What were the classes like?

I loved the classes because IÉSEG let us choose what we wanted to take! I took a different class each week. We were provided with 3 courses to choose from each week. This way, I was able to pick classes that were relevant to my major, or that I was very interested in! I took European Integration, Cross-Cultural management, Fashion in Business, and Emotional Intelligence and Client Relations which were all very compatible with my HR major.

How did the experience enrich your university education?

This trip was the highlight of my university experience. It was so unique to learn about business outside of the UofR in a completely new setting and style. Being exposed to different teaching styles and different learning opportunities definitely enriched my university education.

Did the experience change the way you see the world in any way?

Living in Paris, as opposed to being a tourist, changed the way I see the world and the way I travel. I learned that while travelling it's not always about seeing every landmark our tourist attraction; you will learn and experience so much more if you immerse yourself into the culture.

Did the experience influence your thoughts on the importance of diversity in any way?

It was so interesting to study with such a diverse group of students. I had classmates from Mexico, Italy, Spain, Brazil and many other countries! Being able to experience the differences in cultures and how that affects business was really eye-opening.

Why did you choose to go on a Study Abroad?

The Study Abroad program had interested me since my first year of university and had been wanting to go back to Europe since going on a trip with my high school. However, I was timid to commit to a full semester or year and also go alone. The summer study tour program was perfect for me – only one month long and I would be with 19 other Hill students.

What surprised you about your destination?

I was surprised at how much I felt like a local, for a prairie girl at least! We quickly formed a routine, and it honestly felt like a second home. We never felt rushed to go do all the touristy things. There was ample time to fully take in each experience and spread them out over the month.

Would you recommend the Summer Study Abroad programs to other students? Why?

I would absolutely recommend the Summer Study Abroad program to every Hill student. You will learn so much more than business! You will gain independence, be immersed in a new culture, and meet a variety of students from around the world. Best yet, you are getting two classes worth of credits towards your degree while there.

What was the biggest highlight from the experience?

It is impossible to pick only one highlight, but seeing the Eiffel Tower light up at night for the first time was so surreal and magical. I am getting chills again just thinking about it.

What are your best insider tips for other students who plan to go on an exchange to help them have the best possible experience?

- Pack for hot weather if you are going to Paris in July – there is no air conditioning, but you get used to it!
- Say yes to every experience and adventure!
- Take pictures, but also make sure you take in each experience with your eyes and not through your phone.
- Also, you absolutely, 100% have to go to Amorino. It is the BEST gelato. Even if you are lactose-intolerant you should still go, it will be worth it (and they have sorbet options).

