

Paris – Ecole des Hautes Etudes et Sciences Sociales (EHESS)

faculty/college	Geesteswetenschappen
level	<input type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Ancient, Medieval and Renaissance Studies

destination city & country	Paris, France
how did you travel to your destination?	Thalys
name university abroad	Ecole des hautes études en sciences sociales
start date	01 / 10 / 2021 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	28 / 02 / 2022 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

I think this process does not differ much from other exchanges, despite maybe the fact that your application has to be completed in French.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

I was very happy about the support I received from my teachers and from the broader staff members at the UU.

academic preparation

There is not much need for academic preparation. Just be prepared to take initiative and to write a lot.

language preparation

I would say that at least a level of B2 French is mandatory. Everything is done in French. All of your classes but also most interaction with other students will be in French. That is great for your French but also, sometimes, a bit intimidating. However, teachers are always willing to repeat and elaborate on things if you cannot understand their French.

finances

Paris is very expensive. That should not be a surprise. However, there are the great Crous resto's where you can have dinner for 3,30 and if you look hard enough there are enough bars where you can get pints for under 3 euros. Still though, Paris is expensive.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

As an exchange student, there is not much of a study programme. However, many of the seminars available take the entire year and therefore you cannot get any ECTS for them. This can be a complicated puzzle, which for me led to a situation where I was studying 18th century history (for one of my seminars) as a medievalist because I needed the ECTS. This is a symptom of the EHESS simply not being that familiar with exchange students.

academic quality of education activities

The academic quality is amazing. You are working with incredibly skilled researchers who are all (at least the ones I have met) very willing to help and to think along with your own research.

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counselling & support at receiving university abroad

This really depends on your luck. I had a great 'tutrice' who helped me a lot with my choices in seminars and research. However, I have also heard stories about students having terrible tutors. The exchange coordinator at the EHESS was also great but the secretary of my particular programme barely ever responded to my emails which was an annoying example of French bureaucracy.

transfer of credits

it's France, so that takes some time. It should also be noted that most seminars at the EHESS take up the entire year which means that, if you only plan on going there for one semester, it can be hard to find the right courses that can give you enough credits.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

This was nothing special, but fun.

accommodation

I stayed at the Cité Universitaire which was great and not expensive. Even though housing in Paris can be hard to find, it's never as complicated as in big Dutch student cities like Utrecht.

leisure & culture

It's Paris... Leisure and culture will be fine.

suggestions/tips

CONCLUSIONS

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain

Yes, Paris is great, the EHESS is great and going on exchange is probably almost always a great experience.

do you have any additional advice or comments?