

Double Diploma in SKEMA Business School in France 2018/19

The place I chose for my study abroad was the campus of SKEMA Business School in Sophia Antipolis, located within the biggest technology park in Europe, and at the same time in one of the most beautiful regions of France, the French Riviera. My choice was dictated by SKEMA's wide array of programs and courses, including Master in Luxury and Fashion Management, that I really wished to pursue.

The proximity of an airport in Nice made the travels from Poland extremely easy. There exist multiple direct connections from and to Poland, available at affordable prices. I recommend finding accommodation in Antibes or Juan Les Pins - charming seaside resorts, with convenient transportation to the university. In the season they are overtaken by tourists, but off-season, those towns are quieter and welcoming.

SKEMA campus is located around 25 minutes from the center of Antibes. The university is well organized, has a rich scientific background and many research possibilities, new digital and interactive learning aids and tools that allow students to work from their own laptop. Not to mention, many places to relax between classes and student canteen.

Sophia Antipolis is entirely different than Cracow, and there are even more differences between CUE and SKEMA, as the French university has 6 smaller campuses located in the United States, Brazil, China and 3 campuses in France. Students can choose between many business courses that focus on the newest trends and technologies, are aimed at most competitive markets and guarantee constant development for all students. Courses were led in English, based on American standards. My major was concentrated around the luxury goods - especially on marketing, management, and communication in the luxury industry, but the classes also stimulated creative thinking and showed how to build long-term relations with customers. All the courses were very practical and allowed students to get to know the current market needs.

Of course, the location of SKEMA Business School almost forces you to go out and explore! French Riviera is full of places known from the movies, literature, and history. Student life concentrates in bigger cities and it is fuelled by many student organizations, allowing you to meet people, participate in various activities, travel and have fun!

For everybody that is still hesitating whether they should go for the exchange - trust me, you do not want to miss this great possibility! Even if not all your expectations will be met, studying abroad is another life experience that you will not regret. When studying business you need to always apply the theoretical knowledge and focus on practical experience, soft skills, and leadership, especially in the international environment. Leaving for the student exchange definitely a challenge, but a very satisfying one. It is the perfect time to discover yourself, get inspired, plan your future career and gain tons of confidence and life skills. Cultural shock? Probably, but as economists like to say: it depends. And you are in power to verify your openness, kindness, and confidence.

The year I spent in France was the adventure of my lifetime. I went abroad twice, which only proves how amazing experience that was. The exchange was a breakthrough moment in my life, and nothing will ever be the same as before. Our decisions make our lives special, and I definitely have discovered many new things about myself, other people and the whole world. I studied, I had fun, I traveled, I made memories that will stay forever.

My recommendation? Pack your suitcase, but a big smile on your face and radiate your positive energy, everything will fall right into place. When studying abroad, you are not alone - there are people just like you, slightly scared and not sure what to do, but happy to do something. Soon, you will be sharing the most memorable moments with them, they will become your friends, that you will visit in a couple of years and spend the whole night reminiscing on the good times. So..., just go!

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Detailed description and report from study abroad, available upon request in the International Programmes Office.