

Studies in ESCP-Europe

It has been two months since I came back to China. On Sept. 2, 2010 with six other Chinese students, I flew to Paris to embrace our forthcoming studies in ESCP-Europe where we harvested not only exotic sceneries and customs, but also profound knowledge and friendship.

Romantic as Paris is, it can conquer you within several days. Be it a ramble along La Seine, or a lazy afternoon in Jardin des Tuileries, or some thrilling entertainments in front of Notre Dame de Paris, romantic is something you don't have to feign or conceal here. It is an attitude of life, as someone has said: "All are romantic in Paris."

There are "two Paris" in the locals' eyes: the big Paris and the small Paris. The small Paris refers to the downtown area that includes 20 districts in which our school (ESCP-Europe) is conveniently located.

ESCP, as one of the three most distinguished business schools in Paris; ranked the 1st in the field of Masters of Management according to the FT ranking last year. A celebration party then was specially arranged to which we exchange students were also invited.

Apart from its excellence in academic performance, ESCP has been famous for its internationalization as well. International students, coming from Europe, America and Asia, account for a half of the total number of students in this school, with Chinese and Indians topping the list. The same is true of the faculties. So you can live an easy life in France even if you know nothing about the French language, premise is that you are a good master of English, but life should be all the more comfortable if you could speak a little French.

The biggest obstacle in one's studying in France, I deem it is the courage, I mean, to speak with a foreign language. As I have mentioned in the previous passage, you could live a pretty easy life here without any knowledge of the French language, but even though you do know the language very well, it's just hard for us Chinese students to begin a conversation. As a business school, ESCP's courses contain lots of case studies, almost in every class. Some important courses, such as Strategy, the one I have selected, not only require case exercises in class, but also case analysis work after class. Foreign students are very used to this kind of teaching method. They would voluntarily make a presentation on the platform. They can raise their hands and interrupt the professors and proactively answer the professors' questions in class, very dynamic in thoughts, and active in participation, while the Chinese students would keep in silence, too silent that the professors have to encourage us to answer the questions. Actually, we knew the answers for most of the time, but just didn't know how to express ourselves fluently in English or French, especially in debates. This will lead to a vicious circle deteriorating our performance.

A great thing about studying in France is that you have very easy access to other European countries during your stay here. As is known to all, Europe is the cradle for modern civilization, and there remains too much to be observed and learnt from this time-honored continent.

One last thing I'd appreciate in this experience is the memorable time I spent with those lovely guys from different countries of the world. We cooked, we partied, we laughed and the one year abroad accelerates our growth.

To summarize, the experience of studying in ESCP-Europe provides me lots of precious memories. Thanks to this chance, endeavored by many teachers in SEM, Tongji University, we are favored with both knowledge and skills which, we believe, will benefit us in the rest of our lives.

(09 Finance Liu Yilei)

