

## **STAP Experience Report**

emlyon business school, France

Fall Term 2024 (26.08. – 14.12.)



University of Cologne

M. Sc. Business Administration – Supply Chain Management

### **Courses:**

Leading Strategic Change – 5 ECTS

Strategic Networks – 5 ECTS

Climate Strategies for Organizations – 5 ECTS

AI & Business – 5 ECTS

## **Preparation of the semester abroad**

The processes before the start of the semester abroad are not difficult or complicated. It can seem like a lot, but if you read all the emails carefully and follow the steps, you can manage it well.

On the one hand, there is the process for obtaining the Erasmus Grant. This also includes the Learning Agreement, which needs to be completed and signed by both universities. In order to fill out the Learning Agreement, you should already know which courses you would like to take. You will receive all the information you need from emlyon and can then see what interests you. It is important to know that you only need 4 modules, as all modules have 5 ECTS and the University of Cologne automatically rounds up to the required 24 ECTS from 20 ECTS. When choosing a course, you can also specify more courses so that you are sure to get your 4 courses. In most cases, however, you will get your first choice.

You also have to fill in the IAEL for the emlyon. You will be given access and have to upload various documents. If you have done everything, read the emails from both universities carefully and no one contacts you again, you can be sure that everything is in order and you are ready for Lyon! The emlyon also offers zoom sessions where you can ask questions about the IAEL process if you are stuck.

## **Accommodation**

While you are filling out the documents, you should also look around for accommodation. The university will certainly offer zoom sessions again, where they will present the various providers in Lyon. For many providers, including crous, which you can compare with the Studentenwerk, you need a rent guarantor, which can cost several hundred euros. I chose LivinFrance because it was advertised by emlyon and you don't need a guarantor there. I lived at 322 Avenue Berthelot in the 8th arrondissement. I was happy with my shared flat. Many people I met complained about dirty apartments. I think in one case the room was also affected by mold and bedbugs. I also know a person who found a room via Facebook and it turned out to be a scam. LivinFrance seemed very reliable to me. Just make sure that you are well connected by public transport, don't need too long to get to the university and have a supermarket nearby.

## **About emlyon business school**

The business school has a very good reputation in France, but also worldwide, which is why you are at a really good address here. I was also lucky that the new campus was opened at the start of the fall term. The new campus is located in the 7th arrondissement at 144 Avenue Jean Jaurès and is now in the middle of Lyon and much easier to reach than the old campus. The new building is modern and it is actually fun to be there and meet up for group work or to study for exams, for example.

## **Completed courses**

I mainly chose Strategy courses, which I was told were much easier than the Finance courses. I also found the courses easier than in Cologne. Since there is a lot of group work, it might be helpful to choose your group members carefully. Some of us have noticed that working with international peers often leads to a more balanced workload compared to some French students, who might occasionally rely more on their groupmates.

### AI & Business:

I can generally recommend this course, as it takes a closer look at the topic of AI and you can definitely learn something new. 25% of the final grade is made up of a business case, which you work on in groups. 25% are 3 online quizzes on the lecture content and 50% another group project to propose a technical AI solution and a data approach to address a business issue. It was one of the most challenging of my modules.

### Climate Strategies for organizations:

I also found this course very exciting because it gave me another good impression of the current climate crisis and showed me what companies are already doing and what still needs to be done. 70% of the grade consists of a 10-page case study in which you work in groups on a company and its climate strategies. As you have submissions every week and are already working on the topic, the final submission should not be a major effort. 30% of the grade consists of a written exam on the lecture content.

### Leading Strategic Change:

I can also recommend this course because you work on some interesting cases and the workload is relaxed. For each lecture, you must write a reflection on each case, which counts for 25% of your grade. You have to present a case in group work. The grade also counts for 25%. At the end you have enough time to write a leading change assignment, which must be a maximum of 3 pages long, to give you a more personal way to experience leading change.

### Strategic Networks:

Compared to the other courses, this one is at least worth recommending, as I didn't learn much that was useful for me. It is very theory-heavy and actually also very time-consuming, as you have to read different papers for each lecture and the professor randomly selects students who have to answer questions about the papers. This is then graded. There is also group work and an exam. But you can definitely achieve a good grade if you summarize the papers from the beginning.

## **Life in Lyon**

Lyon is definitely a beautiful city and, especially with its two rivers, a lovely place to be in the summer. It is also often said that Lyon is very similar to Paris, but cleaner and quieter. I found the old town in particular really nice and to walk along the rivers. You should know that the prices in France are a little more expensive, but you should still try out the restaurants, bars and cafés in Lyon. There is an organization made up of students called BDI, which often organizes parties and other activities.

## **Traveling**

Lyon heats up a lot in summer, which is why I would recommend taking a trip to Annecy, especially on hot summer days. For me, the small town surrounded by the Alps and the beautiful lake was one of the best trips during my time in France. I can also recommend a trip to the Côte d'Azur. We were more flexible with a car and visited Cannes, Nice and Monaco for a day each. I can also recommend Marseille and it is easy to reach by train. For a day trip, you can also go to Grenoble and take the cable car to get a great view over the city. Because Lyon is so well located, you can also get to Paris within 2 hours or visit Geneva in Switzerland. In November, the BDI also organized a ski trip to Val Thorens, which was also a great experience.

## **Conclusion**

I can only recommend a semester abroad at emlyon. It has a new campus and offers interesting courses. Due to the location of Lyon, you can reach many great cities in a short time and a semester abroad is always worthwhile, even if it's not emlyon :)