

Exchange program

EFAP Paris



Where and when did you study abroad?

I studied at EFAP in Paris for the fall semester in 2023.

What KEA program did you attend at the time?

I'm studying Entrepreneurship & Design at KEA.

What classes did you take during your semester abroad?

Event communication: I really enjoyed this class. We worked both as a company in need of hiring an event planning agency and as an agency, where we had to create an event for a company.

Project Management: For this class you have two super cool teachers, who's worked with a lot of known company and been in charge of their project management. We learned a lot about different project management methods and tools, and how to create a successful team.

Digital marketing: Very sweet and talented guy teaching this class. Every class begins with us typing in to an anonymous site, how we're feeling today + "the question of the day" from the teacher. Very nice learning environment.

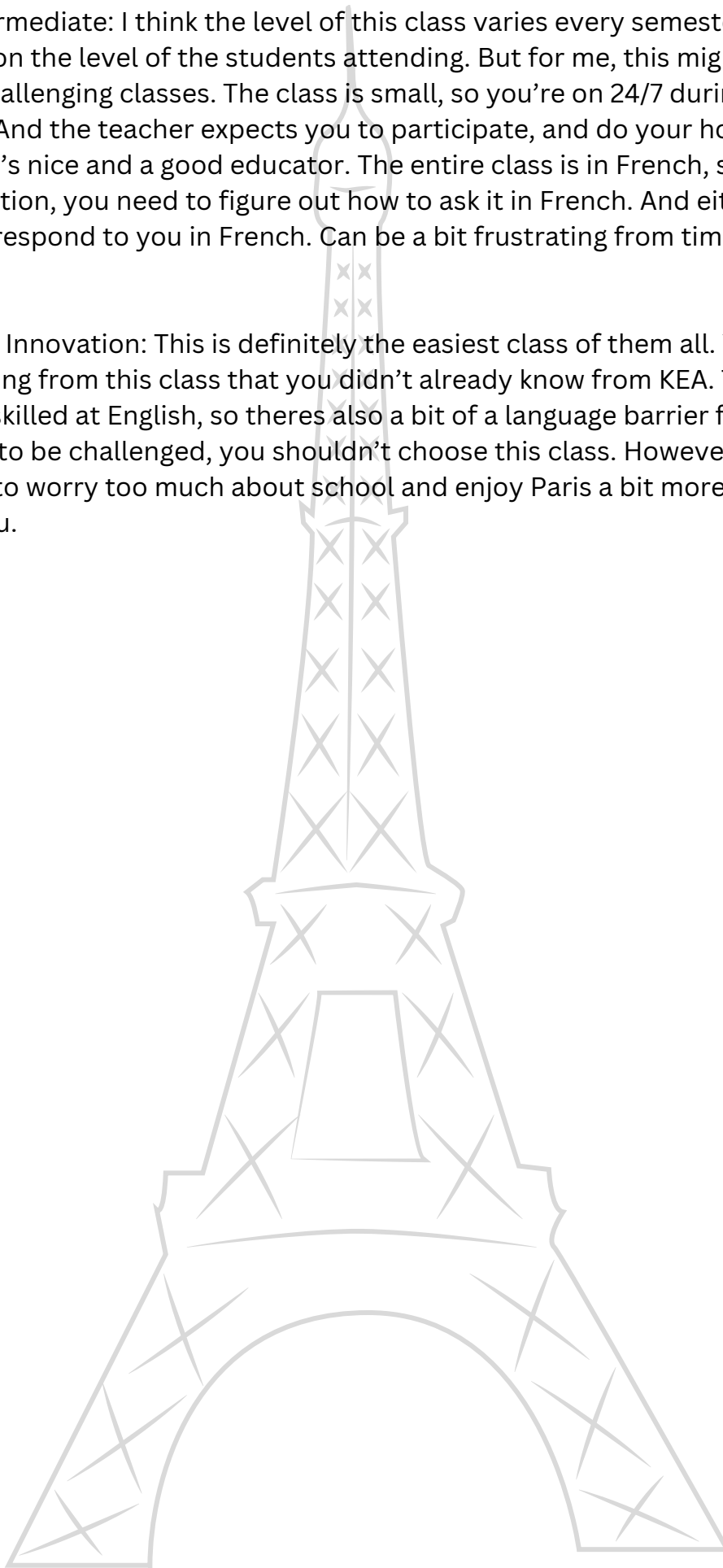
Fashion Communication: The teacher here used to have a very important role within the fashion industry in Paris, and have set up countless fashion shows for Dior. Her classes are very captivating and she has a lot of inside knowledge from the industry. She mostly teaches about fashion history and the different aspects of fashion shows.

Communication strategy: Easy class to follow. If you studying "Entrepreneurship & Design, you will have heard most of the stuff being taught in this class before. The teacher will guide you through the key elements on how to create a successful campaign or communication strategy.

Media relations: This class is taught by an American woman, and she's quite different in the way we're used to in both Denmark and KEA. She can be a little intimidating, but the class is very interesting. She mostly teaches about PR and crisis communication.

French intermediate: I think the level of this class varies every semester depending on the level of the students attending. But for me, this might be one of the most challenging classes. The class is small, so you're on 24/7 during the 3 hour class. And the teacher expects you to participate, and do your homework. However he's nice and a good educator. The entire class is in French, so if you have a question, you need to figure out how to ask it in French. And either way, he will always respond to you in French. Can be a bit frustrating from time to time.

Creativity & Innovation: This is definitely the easiest class of them all. You won't learn anything from this class that you didn't already know from KEA. The teacher is not very skilled at English, so there's also a bit of a language barrier for this class. If you want to be challenged, you shouldn't choose this class. However, if you don't want to worry too much about school and enjoy Paris a bit more, this is the class for you.



Academic experience

How helpful was the receiving school in the process of choosing classes and settling you in?

You get all the information pretty close up until departure, so you have to be patient. But you get detailed information about each class and once you're in school you have a week to change your mind, if you feel like a class wasn't as expected.

What classes/study experiences did you find the most rewarding? Why?

I enjoyed the classes "Project Management", "Media Relations" and "Event Communication" the most. Project Management both because of the two teachers, who are very skilled and industry people and also because of the subject.

Media relations was probably the most demanding class I had, mostly because the teacher is a bit intimidating. The stuff she teaches is very interesting, but her way of teaching is very fast paced - so you need to pay attention if you want to keep up. Event communication was just a fun class. You get to create a brief of the details and idea for an event as a company. Later on you receive a brief from a company and you as the agency has to pitch your best idea for the client.

What classes/study experiences did you find least relevant or least valuable to you? Why?

Creativity and innovation. As previously mentioned, I guarantee you won't learn anything new from this class. But if you don't want to be too stressed out about school, this is the class for you.

Communication strategy wasn't a bad class, but I didn't learn anything new, that I hadn't already gotten from KEA.

What classes would you advise other KEA students going to the receiving school to choose or not to choose?

I can recommend each class depending on what your goal is for your exchange program is. I didn't enjoy creativity and innovation, but I enjoyed having one less class to stress about.

I might not recommend communication strategy, just because the level of this class won't teach you anything new. So maybe pick something else you find interesting.

I'd recommend digital marketing, because of the teacher. He's very nice and creates a comfortable learning environment. And I'd recommend event communication too. Teacher here is also nice, and the assignments in this class are fun and manageable.

Practical experince

How was the application process?

Once you've been nominated by KEA for a spot at EFAP, the application process is very long and a bit confusing. The platform you have to use, is a bit complicated, but Hanne (International Mobility Coordinator) will guide you through it.

What did KEA help you with?

KEA helps you with the whole application process and guides you though how to apply for the ERASMUS grant etc.

What help did you receive from your school abroad?

I think EFAP's administration works quite well. Lisa and Clara are always reachable if you have any questions both about school or daily life in Paris. They came with suggested for how to find housing, do's and don'ts in Paris, how to go to the doctor etc. I found them very helpful.

Did you have any practical difficulties settling down in at your destination?

Once I had booked and paid for my apartment, I didn't have many difficulties - however finding a place to stay is very difficult and expensive (if you choose not to stay in student housing).

In general french people can be a bit difficult to deal with, if you don't speak French. They definitely won't go out of their way to help you and many won't even try if you speak to them in English.

How helpful was the receiving school in this process?

Lisa and Clara from EFAP was always available to help if I had any questions. They probably would have gone to the doctors office with me, had I needed it.

Where did you live?

I stayed in the 10th arrondissement with another KEA student. We had a very difficult time finding a place to stay in the city and everything was very expensive. You also have to be careful about what sites you're searching for accommodations on. If you have any doubts whether or not you're talking to a sketchy company/person, you can always reach out to the school for advice. We ended up renting an apartment through an agency, and paid a big fee for their help. So far I think it's been worth it, and whenever we had a problem with the apartment we could contact them and they would help solve the issue.

What was your expenses?

Rent was definitely the most expensive post in my budget. I paid around 1450€ a month including utilities. I spend around 85 euros for a metro card a month - you might be able to do this cheaper, depending on how much you're expecting to use the metro. I wasn't able to walk to school from my place, so I had to use the metro frequently. Otherwise most of my money went to food and shopping. A lot of the museum in Paris are free to students, so that's a nice cheap activity to do here.

I received SU and Erasmus during my stay. I was also subletting my apartment back home in Copenhagen, so I'd get a monthly payment from that too. I don't think you'd be able to make ends meet with just SU and the Erasmus grant. You'd either have to spend from your own savings or apply for other grants.

I applied pretty late for some grants, and haven't received any.

Cultural/Personal experience

What challenges did you experience culturally while being abroad?

As mentioned french people aren't always the most helpful, if you don't speak French. And you will definitely encounter a lot of people who doesn't speak English. In general things move a bit slower here and technology is not as advanced as we're used to back home.

How helpful was the receiving school in this process?

I didn't experience anything that I needed the schools help for.

What was the best cultural/personal experience during your studies abroad?

There are a lot of Erasmus activities that you can take part in. Here you can meet Erasmus students from other schools too. Other than that the other Erasmus students at EFAP was all very nice, and interested in getting to know each other. Keep in mind ages can vary a lot though. Students are around 18-26 years.

What advice would you give other KEA students going to study abroad at the receiving school?

Take advantage of the Erasmus offers and recommendations from school, students etc. The way of learning in France is a bit different from KEA, and you won't be experiencing any "learning by doing" here. Your schedule is very manageable and you have plenty of time to enjoy and experience the city. Personally I went to the local flea markets almost every week and they are all year around both saturday and sunday. They move around every week and you can go follow [kiss.vintage.paris](https://www.instagram.com/kiss.vintage.paris) on instagram - she uploads the locations each week. Also download the RATP app, it works just like "Rejseplanen".

