



Paris College  
of Art

# **Exchange Report**

**Philippe Brandt Kofod**

**Paris College of Art - Megan Tierney**

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I chose to study abroad, as I wanted to try to in another European city, to broaden my cultural and linguistic skills. I chose Paris College of Art, as I have always liked Paris as a city, and been traveling a lot all over France. I visited Paris College of Art on one of my travels to Paris, and liked the school and had heard good things about it from prior students, and reputation. I expected to have an angle on design that was more art influenced, and thereby broaden my knowledge and design skills. More than that I expected to become more familiar with the city of Paris, and the French traditions and their culture.

My classes at Paris College of Art, was mostly focused on communication design, through moving visuals, graphic design, print, web development and film. The classes gave me a better understanding of the skills needed to create valuable communication design, and how to add value to a product through artistic and design methods. The classes focused on how to promote and differentiate yourself from other artists and designers, and building and presenting your work and portfolio in the best possible way, from a work perspective.

Most of the classes were very hands on and challenged my skills in the different programs needed to creative communication design, and my own skills and mindset on how god design or art is made. The different teachers gave me more perspectives on how to use the Adobe programs to its full potentially, and how my design can differentiate from my coworkers at school, or later in a working environment. I have gotten an understanding for the different printing options, and how they can have an effect on your digital work when it is put in to production, whether it being poster design, UX design or packaging design. Learning the process from start til the end product, has given me a lot of knowledge in understanding production, and take all steps in to consideration from the starting point,







I moved to Paris a month before school started, and that gave me a lot of time to experience the must see's, the history and heritage of the country that shapes it now. Paris has a rich scene of museums and exhibitions that often changes the installments, and thereby gives you a big opportunity of experiencing new art and design often. There's a lot of places to visit in the outskirts of Paris, which will take a bit of time to get to, but that I would highly recommend. Versailles is a nice one day trip, except the que which often takes two to three hours, especially their garden which you could walk around or even sail in for hours. The market Saint Ouen aux Puces is a great way to find old French antiques and just browse the the hundreds of stalls with everything from home decorations, to old clothes and designer bags.



The best way to network in my opinion is to engage in activities within the school, and engage with the other students at lunches, lunch talks, expeditions etc. Regarding meeting French people from outside school, there's a lot of places to go and be social. Places such as the Rosa Bonheur restaurants/ clubs located in different places of Paris, is a good way to get some good food to eat, and meet new people. Otherwise grabbing every opportunity to get some food or something to drink with the other students from Paris College of Art, who have been in Paris longer than yourself, to get introduced to their friends and their friends friends.





Getting to Paris from Copenhagen is very easy, and if you buy your plane ticket early, you will be able to get a ticket at a very low price. I myself flew with Ryanair from Copenhagen to Charles De Gaulle. Trying to avoid the high season will further insure that you get your tickets as cheap as possible. Getting from the airport is easiest and cheapest by train directly from either Orly or Charles De Gaulle, it is possible to get tickets at the train station at the airport when you land. It is still a good idea to keep yourself updated on the situation in France, as they often have strikes which can interfere with all public transportation and plane traffic, and make it a nightmare to get to- and from the airport.

I stayed in Montmartre just north of the church Sacré Cœur, in a traditional French neighborhood, with street cafés, bistros and all sorts of specialized small butchers, fish traders and grocery shops. The neighborhood was close to school, which meant I wouldn't have to pay for public transportation to school, and back home. I would highly recommend to get a place as close to school as possible, as many of the students from my classes often had troubles getting to school. Especially in the end of the semester because of the nationwide strikes shutting down all the public transportation, with no alternatives than Uber, Lime or taxi as transportation. Regarding food we often went to markets to do our groceries, as it is one of the cheapest and most authentic ways to do it, and if you come late there is good discounts to get from the vendors. It will cost you something in the beginning, as you will have to locate the cheapest alternatives, and that can take some time, as the prices differentiate a lot in the different shops. I will highly recommend eating at either Bouillon Pigalle, or Chartier Bouillon, they are staples in Paris and a very cheap place to go out and eat and drink, and still get a authentic and French experience. If you're up for spending a little more money, places like Chez Janou, Po-





lidor and La Couple, are good places to both get an experience, good food and a bottle of French wine.

I wanted to do a study abroad in Paris, to practice and improve my French skills, as I have been taking French classes since the second grade, and travelled to France more than once a year. As the school is american and most of the students are american or themselves study abroad students from around the world, I didn't get to talk a lot of French other than what I did outside of school. I think I got a lot from learning what other cultures and people from outside Denmark focus on in their process and finished product. I do feel that the students were a bit too young, and not as motivated as I was myself, probably because im further in to my education, and I want to get as much experience and good skills as possible before going in to the job market.

The teachers at the school are very well qualified, and gave good feedback and points to improve in the different classes and assignments. If you are motivated yourself you will be able to improve yourself as a designer or artist within the one semester at Paris College of Art. Mainly because of the big diversity of classes you will be able to chose from, and learn to create in the different medias, whether it being film, graphic design, screenprint etc.

All in all if you are dedicated to doing a lot of work, learning a lot and meeting a lot of new people, I will highly recommend doing a study abroad semester, at Paris College of Art. I would check other smaller cities in France, if that is the desired destination, as there are many good design schools outside of Paris, as I have learned. One thing to take into consideration is that Paris College of Art is more an American school than french, with reflects a lot on how the administration runs the school, the teaching methods and the students.

