

1) Town of your host university: Lyon 3

I am studying at Lyon 3 (Jean Moulin). I am a politics and economics student at Queen's University.

<p>Airline flight Canada-France-Canada. Can you change your return date? Other useful information?</p>	<p>I booked my flight with KLM. I came home for Christmas, so I just booked my return date for December (after checking Lyon 3's website to find out when classes ended in December). I then booked with Air Canada to return to Lyon in January and to come home mid-June. I can change my return date for \$150 Canadian.</p>
<p>Travel arrangements between landing point and final destination</p>	<p>I flew all the way to Lyon (through Amsterdam), and in my opinion it was definitely worth it (as compared to taking the train from Paris). You'll have tons of bags with you, and you'll be extremely tired when you arrive, and taking the plane the whole way just makes it that much easier. Once you arrive at the airport in Lyon, you can take the Satobus for 6 euros and 70 cents into the city... there are many stops in the city, so the best plan is to check which one is closest to your final destination beforehand... The Satobus is a GREAT deal, because I'm told that if you take a cab it costs about 40-50 euros to get into the city. I actually ended up staying in a hotel my first night (which I would totally recommend... it gives you a place to rest your first night, and you don't have to worry straight away about buying sheets and pillows and everything). I got off the Satobus at Part-Dieu and had no trouble finding a cab there, and then took the cab to the hotel with all my bags.</p>
<p>Rez ? (yes or no)</p>	<p>Yes. I originally requested to live with a host family (Lyon 3 offers this option and I know many students who have done it and been happy with it. If you live with a host family, the rent is about 500 euros per month, and you eat breakfasts and dinners with your host family.) In the end the international office couldn't find a French family that would accept a vegetarian, so I ended up going with a student residence and was happy with it.</p>
<p>Which one? What is included in rent?</p>	<p>I lived in Central Park, which ended up being perfect for my purposes. I requested a T2 (where you share with another student), and the international office paired me up with a Spanish exchange student who is also studying at Lyon 3. As far as I know, in most or all of the other residences, if you choose a T2, you end up sharing a bedroom with the other student. However, at Central Park, we both had our own bedroom, and shared the kitchen and bathroom. This worked out really well, because you still get lots of privacy, but the cost is a lot lower than getting a private studio all to yourself. Central Park is also great because it is situated really close to Lyon 3 (a fifteen-minute walk from both the Manu and the Quai campuses). I would definitely recommend it. However, just a heads up, it is quite different from a Canadian student residence in that it is much less social (doors are closed all the time, and there is really no common room in which to socialize).</p>
<p>If no rez, what kind of accommodation? What does it include and how</p>	<p>N/A</p>

did you find it?	
Did you have to purchase equipment? (yes or no). If you answered yes, what type (bed linen, kitchen ware, appliances, etc.)	My residence was fully furnished, but no extra equipment was provided. I actually ended up bringing most of my dishes with me from home, as well as towels. I bought the rest (shower curtain, waste basket, other dishes, hangars, sheets, blankets, and pillows) at Carrefour. As far as I can tell, none of the student residences have ovens (just stovetops with two burners), but you'll get used to this fast enough!
Rent before APL (CAF)	327.50 euros rent plus 7.50 euros for water per month. Plus the electricity bill, which comes separately (I pay about 25 euros a month for electricity I would estimate, after splitting with my roommate)
Rent after APL (CAF)	240 euros
Bank account? (yes or no)	Yes.
Which bank?	I opened an account at LCL. It only cost about one or two euros to open a student account, and for that you also get your liability assurance which you will need to buy anyways.
Cell phone? (yes or no)	Yes.
Which company and how much do you pay?	I bought a pay-as-you-go phone from Orange, and only paid 29 euros for the phone. I spend about 20 euros per month in prepaid cards, but I send a lot of text messages and hardly ever actually phone anyone! Texting is SO much cheaper than calling, and basically all the international students therefore rely on texting.
Land line? (yes or no)	No
How much do you pay?	N/A
Internet access, costs	I have been extremely happy with the internet in my residence. You buy a prepaid access card. It costs 114 euros for 6 months of access, or 75 euros for 3 months. You can also buy daily or monthly cards, but naturally you get the best rate if you buy the 6-month card. Towards the beginning of the year, the internet cut out randomly about once every two weeks or so, but since then they have improved the connection, and now it is extremely reliable. I use skype with no problems! I use skype for basically all of my contact with people in Canada, but also keep a long-distance phone card on me for those times when my internet is down. You can buy phone cards at any bureau de Tabac, to use with pay phones. Also, McDonald's offers free wifi (with a purchase naturally), which has definitely saved me a few times throughout the year! And as soon as you get your student card, you'll be able to access the wifi on the Lyon 3 campus.
Local transportation: do you use a pass? (yes or no). How much do you pay?	Yes, I do buy TCL monthly card, and it costs 32.40 euros per month. The public transportation system is AMAZING!
How many Fall courses?	In the fall, I took 6 courses, plus the mandatory French class, the mandatory cultural tutorial, and an optional English-French translation class for ERASMUS students. I had to meet a 30 ECTS credit requirement (per term) for my home university, and at first I found this really overwhelming! The truth is that you will have to take MANY more class hours in France than you do at home in order to get the same number of credits; however, there will be far less work outside of class! There are

	<p>basically no required readings, for instance. So try not to be too stressed out when you figure out how much time you'll have to be spending in class! That being said, you should definitely be strategic about picking classes: some classes involve 30 class hours for only 2 ECTS, whereas others involve only 20 hours for 3 ECTS credits! As far as I can tell, it is very arbitrary. So when you are picking classes, you should definitely keep this in mind. The booklets that list all the classes will tell you how many class hours each course involves, and how many ECTS credits each class is worth.</p> <p>Also, keep in mind that classes with TDs (Travaux dirigés) involve a lot more work than simple CM (Cours magistraux) classes. CMs are lectures, and TDs are tutorials; some CMs have required TDs attached to them (so that you have to do both the TD and the CM to get the credits), whereas others just have a CM (with no associated TD requirement). For the TDs there is often an assignment to do every week. Therefore, to keep my workload from getting too out of hand, I limited myself to 2 classes with TDs per term. Many students only take 1 TD per term.</p>
How many Winter courses?	This term I am taking 7 classes, plus the mandatory French class. Once again, only two of these 7 classes have TDs associated with them. I have found the workload to be quite manageable.
How many ECTS in total?	63 total. I took 30 ECTS credits first term and 33 second term.
	Just to give you an idea of class hours, this term I have 4 hours on Monday, 2.5 on Tuesday, 9 on Wednesday, 5.5 on Thursday, and 3 on Friday. Fall term, I had 3 hours of class on Monday, 3.5 on Tuesday, 6 on Wednesday, 3.5 on Thursday, and 3.5 on Friday.
What did you bring with you from Canada that is most valuable?	My laptop computer, my iPod (great for waiting in long French line-ups!), and pictures from home!
What did you bring with you from Canada that is least valuable?	Honestly, I can't think of anything I brought that hasn't been useful!
Monthly budget without traveling	<p>In Euros: (rough estimates!)</p> <p>32.40 for transport pass</p> <p>240 rent (once you take CAF into account)</p> <p>25 electricity (variable obviously)</p> <p>200 food</p> <p>30 cell phone and phone cards</p> <p>20 internet (on average with a 6-month prepaid card)</p> <p>10 laundry</p> <p>80 miscellaneous and entertainment</p> <p>+ travelling!</p>
Other relevant useful information for future	My best advice is to keep an open mind before coming to France! I know it's hard, but try not to come with any specific expectations.

ONT students	<p>Definitely don't expect school in France to be similar to school in Canada! Remember that you are embarking on this adventure in order to experience a different way of life, a different culture, a different language! For the first few weeks I found myself comparing France to Canada a lot. I would always think, "In Canada, we would not do things like this! At Queen's, this is not how it works! Etc. etc." Now, after 8 months in France, I have stopped expecting things to be similar, and I am certainly glad that I have! Try to take everything in, and appreciate the differences that you find! That is the whole point of this experience!</p> <p>Expect to find the first month or two difficult. It is perfectly normal to have trouble adjusting at first: I certainly did! Just before leaving for France, I was extremely overwhelmed, thinking about all of the things I had to do in my first few days in France: get there, find my residence, get everything figured out at the university, get my carte de séjour, etc. etc. etc. A friend gave me a very useful piece of advice: "Take things one at a time. Concentrate on one thing at a time. First, think about getting on your first flight. Don't worry about what comes after. Once you arrive in Amsterdam, focus on making your connecting flight. Don't worry about what comes after. Take it slow, and focus on one task at a time. It will all work out." I kept rerunning this advice in my head over the whole trip, and it really calmed me down. It will all get done. There is a lot to do, and it can be VERY confusing, but there are lots of people who will be going through the same thing as you, and you will be able to figure it out! Confidence! :)</p> <p>I signed up for the orientation course offered by Lyon 3. It cost 200 euros, and in all honestly, I was not super impressed by the actual quality of the course. However, it was a GREAT way to meet other international students... I met most of my best friends in Lyon there, so for that reason alone I would recommend it! It's nice to meet other friendly faces right away after your arrival!</p> <p>ERASMUS students are amazing... you will meet so many amazing people from all over the world, and they are all so open and ready to make friends! That being said, I definitely made a point to stick with the other international students who also wanted to speak French. I sort of purposely avoided other Anglophones, or at least those who only wanted to speak English all the time. I would definitely recommend this if your main goal is to improve your French! It may be really tempting at times to stay in Anglophone circles (and there will be lots of students who will do this!), but try to avoid this if your goal is to work on your French!</p> <p>It can be really difficult to meet French students! Because French students follow a program where all of their courses are decided for them, they basically have all their classes with the same students, and thus it can be really hard for foreigners to break into their social circles! I found this discouraging at first, but ended up just being really outgoing with</p>
--------------	--

everyone, asking lots of questions, introducing myself to people in my classes... some people won't be very responsive, but if you keep at it, you'll be able to make great French friends too! For me, it was a lesson in being outgoing! Also, if you sign up for sports classes at the university (there are many offered at Lyon 3, you just have to pay a one-time fee of 35 euros for the whole year), it is much easier to meet French students! I also play in the Lyon 3 orchestra (something that I DEFINITELY recommend if you are a musician), and was able to meet French students that way. The point is, it can be difficult at first to make French friends, but if you put yourself out there, you will in time! :)

Expect the university to be EXTREMELY disorganized! Signing up for classes will inevitably be extremely confusing, so just make sure that you ask lots of questions! And if you don't get a good enough answer, ask the same question to multiple people... eventually you'll find someone who knows the correct answer! It can be extremely frustrating, but try to embrace the challenge... and if you stay for both terms, I promise you that second term it will all be much easier!

Especially towards the beginning of the year, I felt homesick a lot of the time, and considered shortening my stay to only one term. However, now I am very glad that I stayed for the whole year. This second term I finally feel settled in Lyon, and I have been able to take advantage of a lot more opportunities, including travel. If you find the exchange hard at first, know that you are not alone, but that if you persevere, in the end you will be extremely thankful that you did!!!

Good luck, and enjoy what I am sure will be an amazing year abroad!!!