

Partner university: Université de Tours

Country: France

Program: Formation Duale (PFP)

Exchange dates: Sept – Dec 2018

Pre-departure:

The preparation before leaving is an essential part of the study abroad process, especially when going to France. About a month before my visa appointment, I started gathering the necessary paperwork as some time to research and buy extended health insurance is needed, for example. The visa application process can be quite frustrating – if you need a visa, make sure to follow all instructions provided fully and during your appointment, be prepared for the whole thing to take two hours. If you need a visa, I'd recommend making the visa appointment as soon as possible just in case you go to the appointment and don't have all the required documents. By scheduling the appointment early, you may still have enough time to schedule another appointment (possibly several weeks later) and receive your visa in time.

In Tours, cards are accepted at most places, but not all. It's a good idea to check if your

For our specific program, almost all of our classes were chosen for us. Including us, the Canadian students, we had about 25 students total and took most classes together. There's lots of group presentations, some group papers and some individual papers. I highly recommend doing the presentations early on in the semester as this will reduce your load at the end of the semester when all the papers are due. Some classes are quite "magistraux," meaning the professor lectures with little student participation but other classes require a lot of student participation. In general, the profs are happy to provide support to students and set up appointments with them outside class hours to answer questions, provide feedback, etc.

The international office and Erasmus Student Network organize many activities, such as excursions to the region's castles, food and wine tastings, cooking workshops, and lots of social events.

Hiking in Brittany