

Tour(s)ing the Centre of the Loire Valley: My Exchange in Tours

By Janelle

they/them

SFU Student Undergraduate

Arts + Social Sciences › French | Arts + Social Sciences › Political Science

Study Abroad › Exchange

Initiative: Global Skills Opportunity

Program: Study Abroad › Exchange

University: Université de Tours

Location: Tours, France, Europe

Experience Faculty: Arts + Social Sciences › French, Arts + Social Sciences › Political Science

share

Studying abroad was a truly indescribable, fulfilling experience where I have gained knowledge, created memories, and gone through experiences I will remember and cherish for years. I've learned more about the world and about myself.

Experience Details

Semester: Fall

Year: 2023

Introduction + Preparation

To prepare, I first looked at my options for exchange. Since I wanted to improve my French, I wanted to pick a city in France as it is where the language first originated. My second thought was to choose a location that would be budget-friendly and that would be close to Paris because I knew that I would want to visit often so I picked Tours, a small city by the Loire River within a three-hour drive from Paris. I then asked people who had previously gone what their experience was like and it was highly recommended by many people, particularly those with similar interests as me so I decided on Tours as my location. Other preparations included buying items I did not think would be available in France such as certain teas I liked and researching what the city was like and what places I should visit.

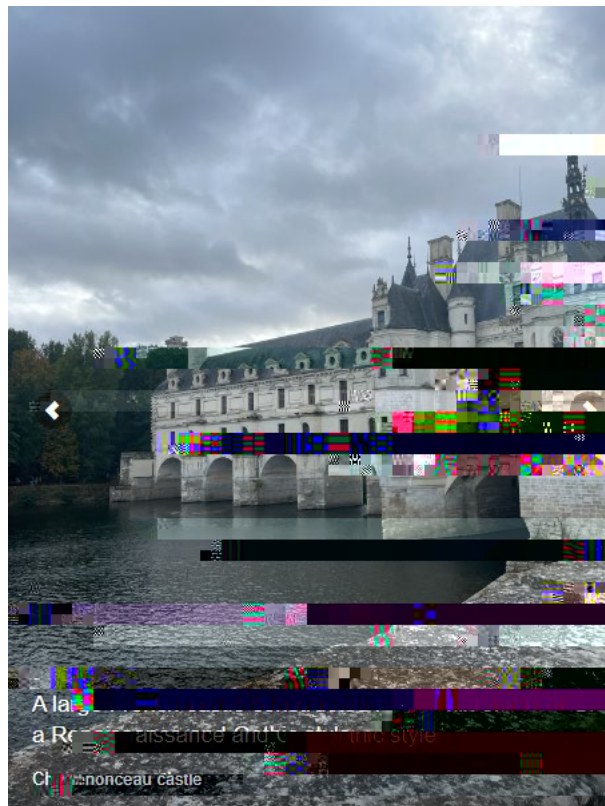
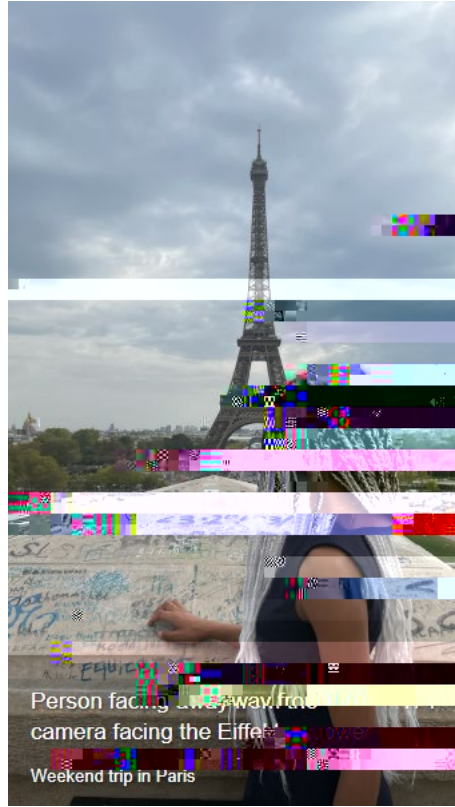
Preparation Tips for Future Students

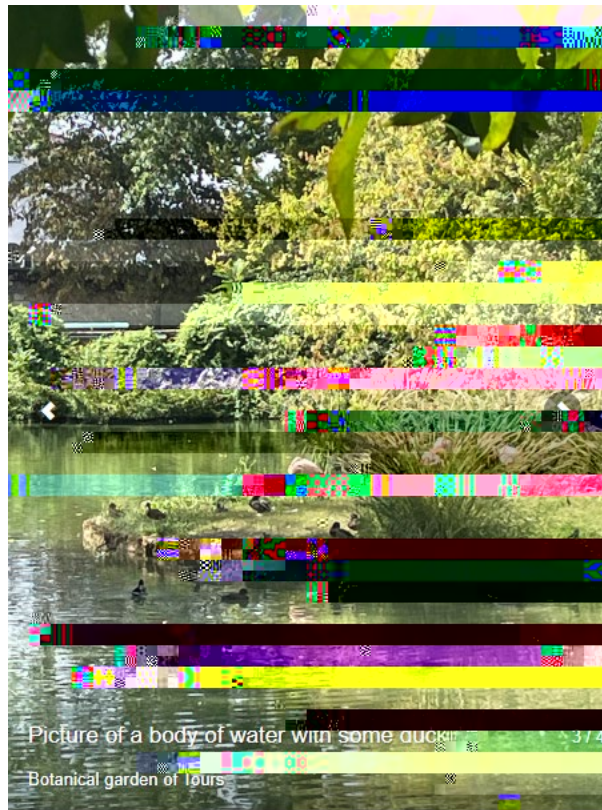
Cultural and Environmental Observations

One of the first differences that I noticed was how connected Europe is, in general. It is easy to travel to another country nearby and is not as expensive as it would be to travel from British Columbia to a nearby province. Numerous modes of transport are available in a wide price range and oftentimes, flights are one of the cheapest options--a flight from Paris to Madrid costs as little as \$45. Likewise, public transport is very good even in smaller cities. Having a car, while convenient, is not necessary and many people use public transportation because of how reliable and practical it is. As a result, there were fewer cars on the road compared to Vancouver. The cost of living in France is much cheaper than in Vancouver but some necessities I found

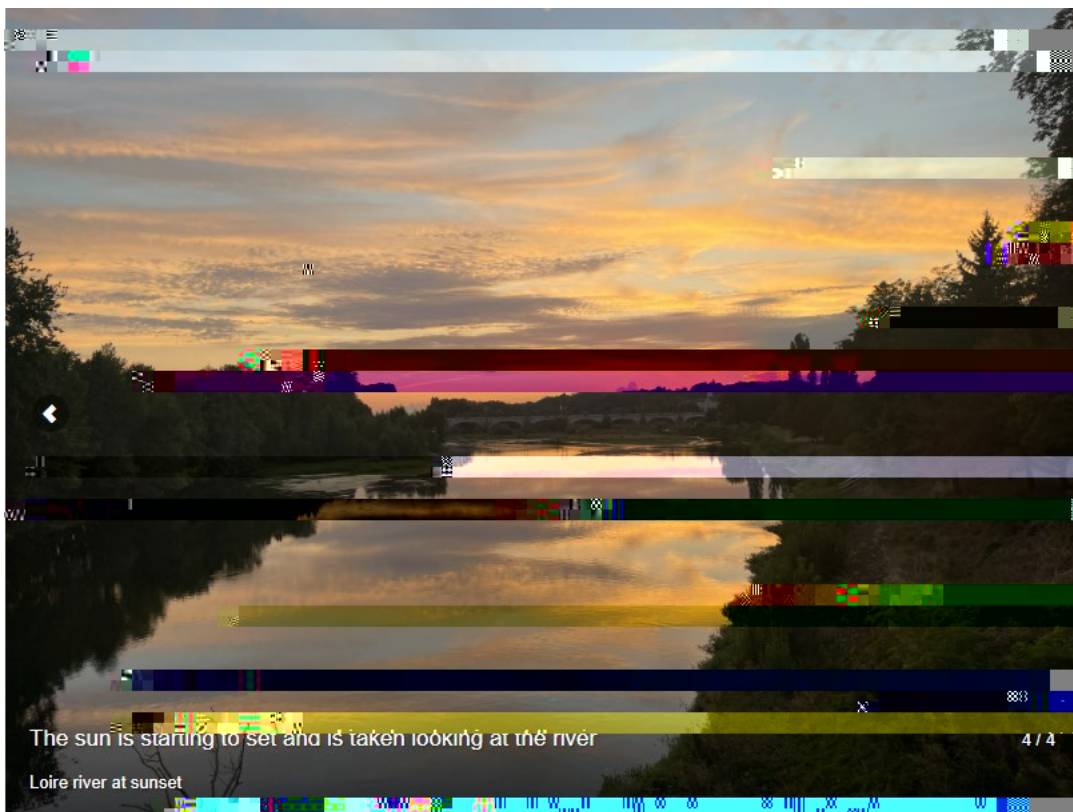
Connection to Academic Studies or Career Goals

I enjoyed my experience and liked living in France and would love to return. This exchange has made me consider going back to pursue ~~an~~ or a work program there. From ~~the~~ I will decide whether or not I see living in France as an option for my career or future. My main goal during my exchange was to improve my French and I believe I succeeded. After even just 4





Picture of a body of water with some ducks
Botanical garden of Tours 3 / 4



The sun is starting to set and is taken looking at the river
Loire river at sunset 4 / 4