

This report covers a 1-month semester at EMLYON Casablanca during the completion of the African Business and Social Entrepreneurship summer program. The program consisted of 5 modules ranging from Moroccan Culture to African and consisted of lectures, in-class assignments, tests and site visits.

Preparation for Exchange

Preparation for this 1-month exchange to Morocco is relatively simple. Due to the short length of the session, visa to stay in the country. Additionally, all courses taken by students are fixed so there is no need to research course options prior to arrival. Finally, EMLYON Casablanca

Packing

When packing students should put special care into the clothing they bring both due to climatic and cultural concerns. The temperature in Morocco is typically around 35 degrees (Celsius) while the coastal Casablanca is more moderate at 25 degrees. Additionally, Moroccan culture places importance on dressing modestly. When in public places, I advise wearing clothing that is loose fitting and covers your skin to avoid negative attention. However, in private places (e.g. university campus, private beaches, shopping malls, restaurants) there is no expectation to dress modestly and western fashion is welcomed.



Other than clothing and bedding, I recommend students pack all that they would need a month of school.



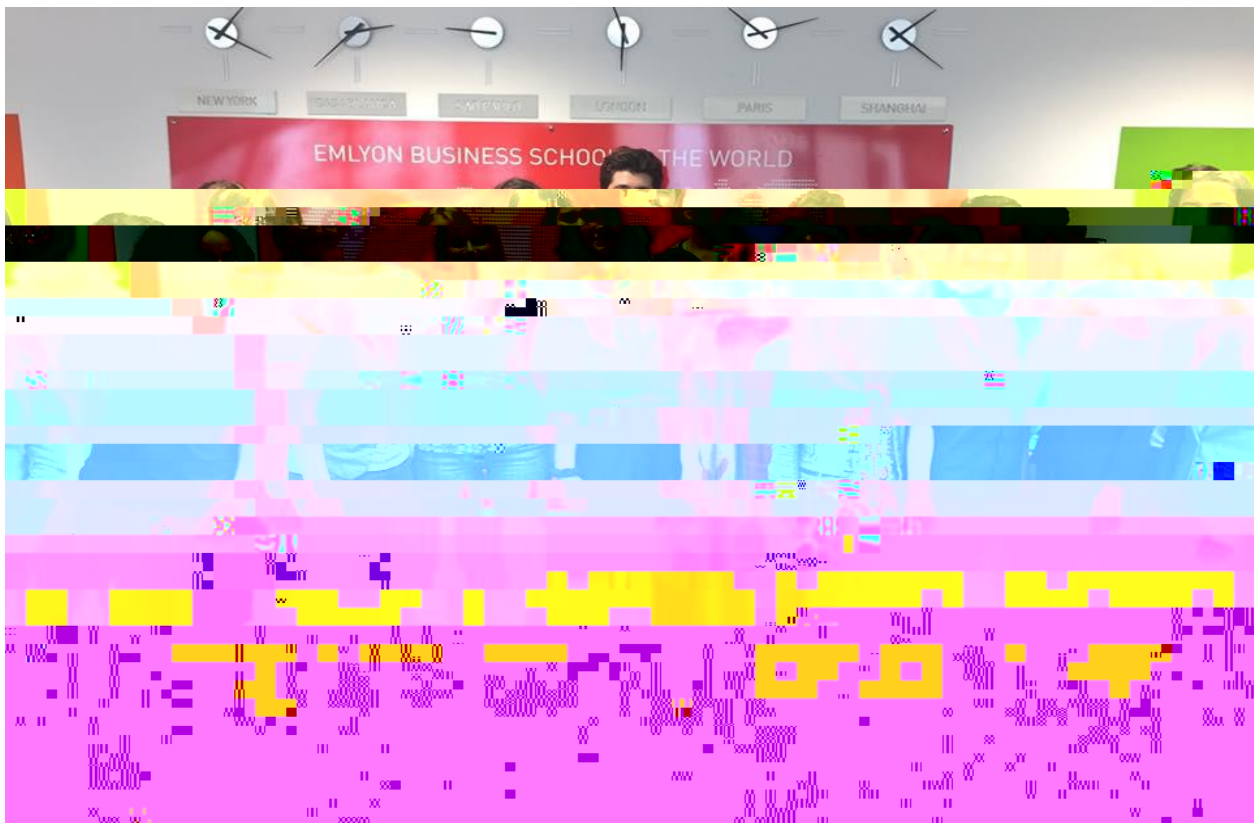
During Exchange

Upon arrival, you should take a taxi or a train to the residence, but I personally recommend taking the taxi following a long flight. Additionally, I recommend arriving in Casablanca a few days before orientation in order to acclimate yourself to the time change and climate. Orientation is a brief meet-and-greet with fellow students as well as an introduction by the staff. Due to the small size of the program, there is no need for additional orientation activities.

Academic

EMLYON Ca Marina district of Casablanca. It boasts a view of the entire city, including the Hasan II Mosque and the iconic Casablanca Lighthouse. The staff and fellow students are extremely friendly, all lecturers are extremely knowledgeable and the local students are eager to have visiting students.

The course is conducted in 5 segments taught by a combination of local business-leaders and EMLYON professors. Evaluation for these classes were largely project based and most work was completed in class. Presentations were frequent and in-class participation was a requirement. Lecturers were informative and engaging and the content of this course is highly interesting.



2017 Summer Program Group Photo, Casablanca Campus

Reflection

The greatest challenge I faced while on my exchange was the language barrier. Not only did I have trouble communicating with locals, but I had difficulty with my classmates and the administration staff. As the secondary language in Morocco is French it is very popular for French tourists and expats. This extended to my classmates, they were all from Quebec City and only half were fluent in speaking English. The result is that any activity outside the classroom was dominated by French. Often, I had no idea what the dinner conversation was until I asked someone to translate or decided to switch to English. The , due to everyone else understanding French, spoke entirely in French as it was understood

