



When BBA office asked me to share my experience in the newsletter, honestly I don't even know where to start. I could write a cliché essay saying how wonderful year I had in Paris but it won't be the essay that I want other to read. The first 3 months are the toughest that you could possibly ever imagine. The language barrier [they don't speak English or if they do, they speak broken English], culture shock [the unisex toilet] and the bureaucratic, complicated, and inefficient administration systems in everything, all of these make me scream out loud and ask myself 'why am I even here?'. My school is located at the poshest area in Paris where you can see a big chandelier inside a glamorous apartment. My school is relatively small. It is just 2 buildings connected with each other, not a real campus. I was a bit disappointed at first but later on, I found out other schools in Paris are all like this due to limited

space. The registration process is somewhat confusing. You need to do the 'contrat d'étude' [learning agreement] online to reserve a seat for the courses. After that, you need to see your academic advisor to sign your contrat d'étude and go to each department to enroll the courses again to confirm. Although it is time-consuming process, Dauphine allows you to have 3-week trial period to sit in and see whether you want to take it or not which I think it is fair and square. The most exciting one next is to see new friends. There is a welcome party for exchange students to become the real 'Dauphinois'. Moreover, there is a party on every Thursdays which is randomly held in different bars/clubs.

Apartment hunting is incredibly hard in Paris. The cheapest that you can find is around 500 euro/month and of course you have to be very lucky. Dauphine offers you housing as well called 'cite universite' which is located in different areas. The biggest one is located 2 tram station away from Chinatown. Normally, you have to live with a roommate and shared a bathroom. The cost of living in Paris is expensive. The decent meals in a restaurant cost at least 20 euro. A can of Coca Cola costs 1 euro. A single trip metro ticket costs 1.6 euro. A bottle of Evian water from the automatic machine in the metro station costs 1.7 euro. A sandwich costs around 4-5 euro. An instant noodle [Mama] from Chinatown costs 0.3 euro. So the best way to live in Paris is to cook. Don't be surprised when you come out of the supermarket and spend almost 100 euro for just a grocery shopping.



Paris has a lot to offer especially to people who are really into art, cuisine and fashion. I was surrounded by many luxurious boutiques and world-class museums. I always wonder why everyone is falling for Paris. After I had been there for a year, Paris is not just a romantic city. It teaches me one of the most vulnerable lessons of all. It helps me to know what I want in life and shapes me to become who I am today. Je t'aime Paris.