PARIS II
YEAR-LONG
PROGRAM

Study Abroad Reports
Paris II – Assas

Studying abroad was a great experience and extremely beneficial to my professional goals. I had the opportunity in the context of the academic program to intern and the International Court of Arbitration, which is part of the International Chamber of Commerce. As an intern, along with every day administrative tasks, I worked alongside lawyers scrutinizing arbitration awards. The task of scrutinizing involves analyzing an arbitrator’s award for the flow of its legal argument, completeness, and grammatical and legal accuracy. In addition to scrutinizing awards, I performed several research tasks for lawyers at the ICC Secretariat.

I will be starting at Orrick, Herrington and Sutcliff’s New York office as an associate in January 2012, but since I was deferred, I had to find a legal internship for the coming year. I am very interested in arbitration, and even had the opportunity to work with a partner at Orrick last summer on a large case. I therefore decided that staying in Paris at the ICC would be most useful to my professional development. With the contacts I made during my internship, I was able to secure a year-long internship. When I return, I will be working directly under the Secretary General. I hope to work on larger research questions and ICC publications rather than day-to-day administrative tasks.

My study abroad also contained an independent study which I completed with Professor Caruso at Boston University. I chose to write about arbitration, specifically on the problem of parallel jurisdictions, and I was able to extensively use the resources at Paris II-Assas and the ICC library for my research. I submitted my article to Kluwer’s Journal of International Arbitration in which I will be published this coming August. I
hope to use the resources at the ICC next year to continue personal research in the field of international arbitration and hopefully publish additional work.

The rest of the classes in my LLM program at Paris-II were extremely interesting and a great complement to my knowledge of the American counterparts. My class in antitrust law, for example, focused on the interaction between EU and US law, both of which are becoming more international in nature. Other areas, such as company law and intellectual property law, also require cooperation on an international level, as large international companies operate in both legal systems. Even if I do not directly practice European law in the future, the knowledge from this program has helped me better understand the US legal system, as well as the way in which different legal systems interact on an international level.

The year in Paris was also personally gratifying. I had the opportunity to improve my French, as well as visit museums, restaurants, and concerts frequently. It was a great way to spend my third year, especially since it helped me secure an internship for the coming year in my specific area of interest. Learning an entirely separate legal system was both interesting and enlightening, as was seeing the United State’s legal system through the eyes of European professors. Finally, I met law students from around the world through my academic program, and especially through the internship at the ICC. I hope to begin my legal career with contacts and friends in the legal profession around the world.
Studying abroad was a great experience and extremely beneficial to my professional goals. I had the opportunity in the context of the academic program to intern and the International Court of Arbitration, which is part of the International Chamber of Commerce. As an intern, along with every day administrative tasks, I worked alongside lawyers scrutinizing arbitration awards. The task of scrutinizing involves analyzing an arbitrator’s award for the flow of its legal argument, completeness, and grammatical and legal accuracy. In addition to scrutinizing awards, I performed several research tasks for lawyers at the ICC Secretariat.

My study abroad also contained an independent study which I completed with Professor Caruso at Boston University. I chose to write about arbitration, specifically on the problem of parallel jurisdictions, and I was able to extensively use the resources at Paris II-Assas and the ICC library for my research. I submitted my article to Kluwer’s Journal of International Arbitration in which I will be published this coming August. I hope to use the resources at the ICC next year to continue personal research in the field of international arbitration and hopefully publish additional work.

The rest of the classes in my LLM program at Paris-II were extremely interesting and a great complement to my knowledge of the American counterparts. My class in antitrust law, for example, focused on the interaction between EU and US law, both of which are becoming more international in nature. Other areas, such as company law and intellectual property law, also require cooperation on an international level, as large international companies operate in both legal systems. Even if I do not directly practice European law in the future, the knowledge from this program has helped me better understand the US legal system, as well as the way in which different legal systems interact on an international level.

The year in Paris was also personally gratifying. I had the opportunity to improve my French, as well as visit museums, restaurants, and concerts frequently. It was a great way to spend my third year, especially since it helped me secure an internship for the coming year in my specific area of interest. Learning an entirely separate legal system was both interesting and enlightening, as was seeing the United State’s legal system through the eyes of European professors. Finally, I met law students from around the world through my academic program, and especially through the internship at the ICC. I hope to begin my legal career with contacts and friends in the legal profession around the world.
Overall, I had a very good experience at Paris II. Through the program, I developed a good understanding of European law. Many of the professors that taught us were experts in their field and had a passion for their work. They offered many unique insights and details that we otherwise would not have had if they were not such experts. In fact, Paris II brought in professors from all over Europe and even a couple of professors from the United States.

Although bringing in instructors from different locations had the advantages that I just mentioned, there were also significant disadvantages. Among the most significant disadvantages was scheduling. Because of the difficulty in scheduling these professors there were multiple times were we had eight hours of class a day. In addition, the distribution of classes was quite skewed. Fall semester was very light and Winter semester’s workload was almost unmanageable.

The program helped us understand how European law actually worked through a couple of trips to visit the European institutions. In the first trip, we visited the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg. In the second trip, we visited the European Commission and the European Council in Brussels. In these visits we saw the different institution’s proceedings and spoke with many of the different professionals who worked for the institutions. These trips were the highlight of the LL.M. program.

Although not a widespread problem, I struggled with some of the teacher’s teaching styles. These teachers would have groups work together during the first half of class to prepare to present the materials in the second half of class. When the presentations occurred during the second half of class, the presentations turned into a dialogue between the teacher and the group giving the presentation. The groups that had not prepared the materials for that particular presentation did not understand what was being discussed. Although this group system that some of the professors used allowed us to cover a greater breadth of material, our understanding of the material suffered at times. This teaching style may just be a cultural difference that took time for me to adjust to.

One of my major goals with the programs was to learn French. Through this program I was able to obtain a basic level of proficiency in French. I plan to continue my studies in French. I am very pleased with what I was able to learn. Another goal was to understand Europe’s legal system and culture. Despite some of the short comings I mentioned, the LL.M. gave me a good understanding of the European Union legal system. Moreover, several of my classmates came from different parts of Europe. Hearing their divergent opinions in class and speaking with them outside of class really gave me a good feel for the cultural dynamics in Europe.

Overall, I was very pleased with the program. As the program as only in its second-year, some problems still need to be worked out. However, I would do it again.
Paris II Study Abroad General Information and Evaluation

With regard to the LL.M. in European Law program at Paris II, the program began with an introductory week. The program was very helpful in getting us ready for the year. I have had five classes so far: The Institutional and Decision Making Structure of the European Union, Private International Law, History of the Idea of Europe, Competition Law, and External Relations.

The Institutional and Decision Making Structure of the European Union—this class focused on the major institutions in the European Union. The closest comparison as far as subject matter to a U.S. course is Administrative law. The professor mostly engaged in a lecture format. She asked questions of students who volunteered. This class laid the foundation for the rest of our classes so it was taught in three hour blocks two days a week. We have already taken the test for this class.

Private International Law—this class is very similar to the U.S. law school format. The professor assigns two people to present on a topic. After presenting the topic for the day, the professor uses them to answer her questions throughout class. She also randomly calls on people during class. Among the classes taken so far, this is the most demanding.

History of the Idea of Europe—this class is not a legal class. It covers the history of Europe. At times the teacher is difficult to understand because of his French accent. The material that is being covered is very interesting.

I have had a great experience at Paris II. In addition to the class described above, I am taking a French class provided the program. Paris II has been gracious enough to allow my wife to attend the program as well. The teacher is excellent and is really helping me to learn the language. My family and I are not living in University housing. The University does not provide housing for families. The classes are small. There are only 16 people in the program which makes for a tight-knit group.
well as the president of the European Parliament, both of which were great experiences.

Finally, the university is planning a trip for our program to spend four days in Luxembourg in December visiting the institutions of the European Union, including the Court of Justice. I am looking for to the trip a lot, and overall I have had a tremendous year abroad.