

Internship at the OECD in Paris, France

Summer semester 2020

My experience working at the OECD on family support services was very fulfilling and I learnt a lot about policy work. Unfortunately, due to the Covid-19 pandemic I was only able to live in Paris for 2.5 months out of my 6 month internship. Due to restrictions put in place by the French government, everyone at the OECD was told to telework until further notice. The OECD was very flexible with staff returning to their own countries and working from aboard. I was provided an OECD laptop which equipped me to work from Berlin. I was able to continue working on my internship through telework.

Intercultural experience:

During the time I spent in Paris, I was able to see many things. I loved walking around Paris and exploring the city. Museums, parks and the French bakeries were my favourite. At the OECD there is an association called ALORA which costs 5eur a month and gets you access to the gym at the OECD, discounts to many cultural events in the city and they share many insights into the city with members. ALORA also hosts workshops, social events, cultural events, language courses and organized sports.

I would recommend les bois de Vincennes, la promenade plantee Jardin des Plantes and bois de boulogne for some greenery. Palais de Toyko, Quai Branly and the national museum of history of immigration for some culture. Many museums have one free day a month, check this list for more details <https://about-france.com/paris-free.htm>. Marche Mouffetard has a great market on the weekends and is very lively in the evenings. The Francois-Mitterrand library is beautiful and huge for a good study location next to the river with many cafes and restaurants on boats.

Personal preparation:

In preparation for my internship in Paris I started looking for accommodation right away (one month before moving). Housing is very expensive and hard to find in Paris. I was lucky enough to be able to find accommodation through friends in Berlin but I have added a list of housing websites at the bottom of this report.

Visa: With a student visa from Germany I didn't need a visa for France but the OECD has a department which can help with that process if needed.

Moving: I took the train from Berlin to Paris which took a whole day but it's much more enjoyable than flying. Since there is no direct train, I transferred in Mannheim.

Phone: I got a SIM card with 'Free', it was only 10eur a month for unlimited calling and SMS and lots of data.

Public Transportation: Getting a Navigo card is the first step to getting a monthly pass. First you go to any main metro or train station and they will ask for proof of address, for 5eurs they will take your pictures and print it on the Navigo card. After that you can re-fill the public transportation card with your monthly transit passes. One thing to remember is that in Paris the monthly pass goes by calendar dates, so make sure to buy it before the first of every month (on the first of the month the lines are very long!), then you can recharge it every month on any machine in the metro stations. A monthly pass cost 75eur a month.

Health insurance: I utilized the health insurance through the Erasmus scholarship and never had issues being re-funded. To find any medical professional in Paris you can use <https://www.doctolib.fr>

Money: If you need to open a bank account in France but using a German bank account is also okay.

- 1) Crédit du Nord, 59 boulevard Haussmann , 75008 – near Galeries Lafayette shopping district – <http://www.credit-du-nord.fr>. A friendly, multi-lingual team, debit cards and on-line banking included in our Norplus package. Special discounts for OECD staff.
- 2) Société Générale (a French bank) has a branch onsite at the OECD (in the Marshall Building). If you wish, you may open a bank account prior to your arrival by sending the Société Générale a copy of your offer letter along with a copy of your passport (E-mail: paris16eme.oecd@socgen.com / telephone: +33 1 45 24 53 10).

Experience during internship:

The OECD sends a lot of information before the start of the internship. They are very helpful and responsive to any questions you might have. They have many interns coming from around the world and are very informed of the process. I was lucky to meet some wonderful co-workers on my first week who welcomed me with open arms.

The OECD organizes a welcome event 2 times a year for interns where the Secretary General and the Chief of Staff as well as many other staff from the OECD present their roles and welcome you. There is also an intern circle which sends regular emails with information and events, they host a weekly after works drink and weekly coffee breaks for interns to meet and network. The intern circle hold board meetings every two weeks where every intern is welcome to join or be an active part of the intern circle group. The staff at the OECD are very friendly and open to sharing the knowledge they have, there is a wealth of information if you reach out to people and ask. From the first day I was treated as a team member and part of team meetings and discussions about projects.

In the first weeks of my internship the OECD hosted two large minitrials related to migration and intimate partner violence. Even though these topics were not what my internship was related to, I was allowed to volunteer a couple days for each event to support the teams hosting the events. I was able to attend some of the meetings and listen in on open events. Through these events I was able to connect and network with many co-workers but also experts in their field. My manager often gave me flexibility to join any training, webinars, or events that were interesting to me. I appreciated the opportunity to engage with other topics and learn about new fields during my time at the OECD.

My internship contributed to the work on family support services. This work involved continuing to develop the questionnaire on family support policies and the questionnaire on family service providers. We used a LimeSurvey platform to collect all the responses and one of my roles was to monitor the answers to the questionnaires and be in touch with respondents and key partners to ensure good quality of survey answers. I also contributed to analysing the survey responses, which in addition to literature review was used to draft a working paper and policy briefs on family support policies. I also contributed to other team activities, including the work on child well-being by providing comments on draft papers and contributing ideas to the Covid-19 reports.

Gaining personal knowledge through the internship

I learnt a lot about policy work during this internship which had always been a dream of mine. I gained a lot of knowledge about how the OECD works and how their reports are produced. I was very happy to contribute to collecting data on family support services and also contributing to writing the final report. My manager at the OECD was also my thesis supervisor and helped me a lot to find an appropriate topic which also linked to the internship role and research on family support services.

I was also lucky to arrive at a time where the OECD was hosting two very interesting Ministerial on migration and intimate parent violence. I was able to volunteer for both and attend the conference sessions to gain a lot of personal knowledge as well.

Unfortunately, I was only in Paris for 2.5 months before Covid-19 hit and I had to return to Berlin, however the OECD was very flexible and allowed me to continue my work by teleworking.

At the end of my internship, I was offered an external consultant position on the same family support service project. I look forward to continuing my work with the OECD.

Housing:

Websites for short and long-term accommodation:

- <http://www.book-a-flat.com/> (website in English)
- Paris Attitude (<http://www.parisattitude.com/>)
- Lodgis (<http://www.lodgis.com/en/paris,vacation-rentals/>)
- Home Rental Service (<http://www.homerental.fr/>)
- Paris Rental (<http://fr.parisrental.com/>)
- Scandic Immobilier (<http://www.scandic.fr/>)*
- Citadines (<http://www.citadines.com/>) – short term furnished flats
- Home Rental Service (<http://www.homerental.fr/>)
- Paris Attitude (<http://www.parisattitude.com/>)
- Paris Address (<http://www.parisaddress.com/>)
- Rentals Paris (<http://www.rentals-paris.com/>)
- Short-term rentals (website available in English) <http://www.inter-logement.net/>
- France-USA Contacts - FUSAC (<http://www.fusac.fr/en/>)
- http://www.homelidays.com/FR-Locations-Vacances/fr_iledefrance_75-paris_fr/list_r2.asp
- Subletting (<http://sublet.lodgis.com/>)
- Cattalan Johnson (<http://www.cattalanjohnson.com/>) real estate multilingual services

Classified ads

- Se Loger (www.seloger.com)
- 123IMMO (<http://fr.123immo.com/search/>)
- A Louer.fr (<http://www.avendrealouer.fr/>)
- OGIP http://www.immobilier-iledefrance.net/agence/36917_/html
- Hestia (<http://www.hestia.fr/annonces.php>)
- Lodgis solutions (<http://www.lodgis.com/>) (available in English)
- National Real Estate Association *Fédération Nationale de l'Immobilier* - FNAIM (<http://www.fnaim.fr/indexe.htm>)
- Particulier à Particulier – normally individuals without estate agencies (<http://www.pap.fr/>)
- Le Bon Coin (<http://www.leboncoin.fr/>)

Co-location/flat sharing:

- Colocation Paris/ Colocataire Paris <http://www.recherche-colocation.com/paris.html>
- Appartager <https://www.appartager.com/>
- Roomlala http://fr.chambrealouer.com/location?utm_source=France-FR&utm_content=DISPLAY-CHAMBRE&gclid=CIiYnfyaza8CFcEmtAod-xyS1A%20%20E2%80%93%20to%20rent%20a%20room%20in%20somebody%20%20%20home

Cite Universitaire:

- Cité Internationale universitaire de Paris (Here in English) <https://www.ciup.fr/maisons/>

Student accommodation

- My Housing by Adele.org <https://www.adele.org/>
- Location-etudiant.fr
- Hébergement-temporaire.fr <http://www.hebergement-temporaire.fr/>
- Paristay.com
- Crous Paris <https://www.crous-paris.fr/>
- Étudiant.gouv.fr <https://www.etudiant.gouv.fr/?>
- Couchsurfing <https://www.couchsurfing.com/>
- LODGIS <https://www.lodgis.com/en/paris,long-term-rentals/>

Website to book accommodation online

- SPOTAHOME
(a mobile application is available for Android) <https://www.spotahome.com/>