

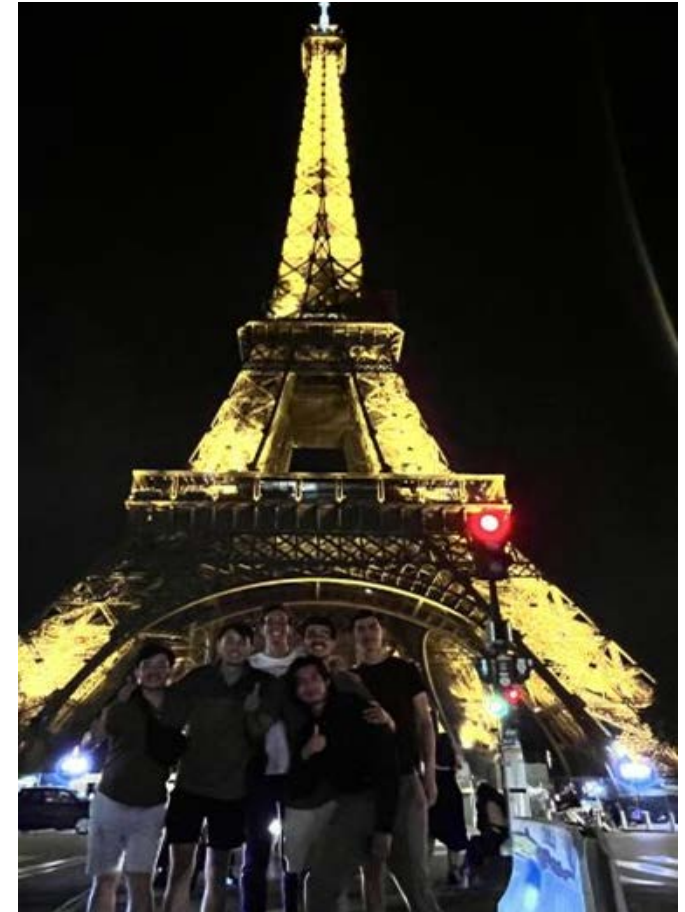
Study Abroad Experience

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CVEN 311 France Program



TEXAS A&M
UNIVERSITY.

Paris, France



- Group of us in front of Palais Garnier, the opera house in Paris!
- Night group pictures in front of the Eiffel tower.
- We caught the eiffel tower light show multiple times and got a couple souvenirs.

Paris, France



- The first week of the study abroad program began in Paris, I had such a great time from taking my first ever flight to even getting my first ever jet lag!
- The first week was so overwhelming in such a good way because I have never been outside North America. To hear people speak another language, seeing different architecture and culture was such a shock to my comfort zone. But making new friends during the trip helped me realize that I wasn't alone!

Normandy, France



- After Paris we traveled around the Normandy region and visited various sites. Including Omaha Beach, Saint Malo, and Mont Saint-Michel.
- To start, we visited Omaha beach, it was so surreal seeing the huge craters in the ground and learning the history behind them.
- Then shortly after, we visited the Normandy American cemetery to visit and honor the American troops who died in Europe during world war II. It was an extreme privilege to visit and pay our respects and learn about important history on sight.

Normandy, France



- We stayed two nights in Saint Malo and got to enjoy beautiful beach scenery and trying new seafood!

Normandy, France



- These photos took place at Mont Saint Michel where we took a tour of the church and village within the mountain!
- It was so amazing learning how a village was built on a mountain and getting to know that the population of the village is only 30 people!

Marseille, France



- We actually visited Marseille twice on this trip!
- For the first visit, we took a scenic city tour where we learned about the history of the city and its culture.
- In the city tour, we visited the city's highest point where Basilique Notre-Dame de la Garde is located!
- The second visit of Marseille consisted of taking a boat tour to see the calanques of Marseille. The calanques are known for their unique geological formations and underwater caves!



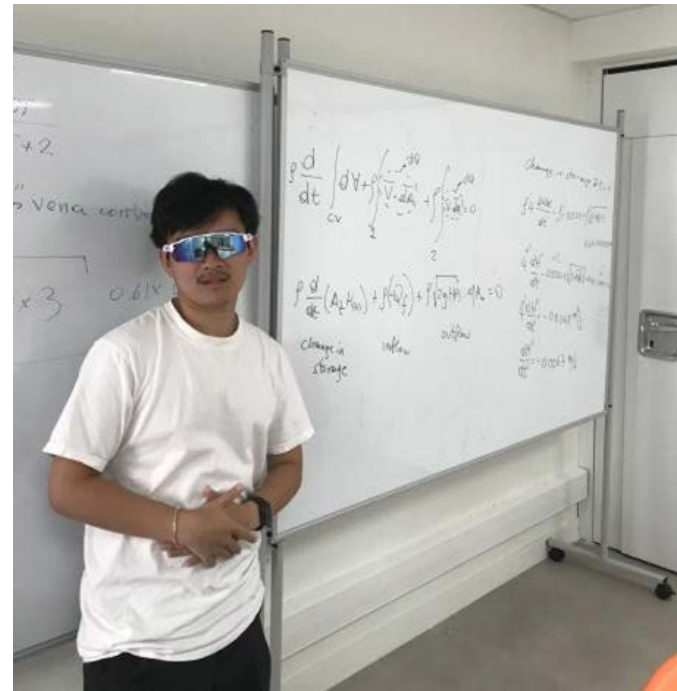
Marseille, France



- Exploring Marseille, doing my duties of helping other tourists, trying new foods, and seeing iconic scenery!

Aix-en-Provence, France

- In Aix is where we stayed the longest and did the fluid dynamics course. It is also where I got to feel like more at home with my own room at the dorms and the freedom to do whatever. It is also where I got to know more french people more personally and make friends while studying!
- It is also where we had the Art et Metiers Gala where we dressed up and have a blast with fellow students and past alumni. Just be prepared to continue partying until 5am if you want the full experience!



Aix-en-Provence, France



Barcelona, Spain



- A friend and I took a trip to Barcelona for our four day weekend because we wanted to test our spanish and also see similarities between us as Mexicans and the Spanish! We also missed hispanic food so the trip was necessary!
- We found out that there are a lot of similarities and some differences such as food, sayings and overall culture. It was a true experience coming to Spain!

Barcelona, Spain



- As fellow soccer fans, we visited FC Barcelona's Camp Nou where we found out Kyle field definitely feels so much bigger than Camp Nou!
- Saw a fountain show and tried Paella! I am not the biggest fan of sea food but I definitely had to try what the locals told me about!



Reflection

Overall, this trip was a once in a lifetime opportunity which is why I wanted to come. I had my doubts coming here when I said I could just come after I graduate. But to come to Europe during college with fellow students, having 5 extensive weeks of traveling and having most of the trip covered by financial aid is what definitely pushed me over the board. I am glad I took this trip and got to see and experience things that I am not used to back home. I can definitely say this trip has helped me become more social, understanding, and a better engineer. As engineering isn't only about math and science, it's also about people and understanding where they come from and how they view certain things. Coming to Europe and getting to know fellow French students opened my cultural lens and how to manage difference in cultural to solve a problem. I am very glad and thankful for the opportunity to come out here and experience new ways of life!



Thanks and Gig 'Em!



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