Introduction to the Guide

This guide is intended to be used as a resource:
- to help CEMSies decide where they want to do their exchange semester(s)
- for CEMSies to familiarize themselves with their host city when they are preparing to do their semester(s) abroad

This guide includes information on the following for each city:
- Introduction to the city and university
- Visa requirements for the country
- Information and tips on housing
- Average expected expenses
- Tips to help you make the most of your exchange!

In case some relevant information is missing, we recommend you to contact either the local CEMS Club or the CEMS Programme Manager of that university.

Sincerely,
Student Board & CEMS Clubs around the world
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Why Finland?

Finland is a laid-back country in which nature is omnipresent. Espoo, where the Aalto University campus is located, has many forests to explore and national parks. Helsinki is a metro ride away from campus, where you’ll meet a chill, cool Nordic capital.

Fun facts:
Finland is continuously ranked the happiest country in the world, and the second most innovative. Espoo has been ranked the most intelligent community in the world. For architecture lovers: Helsinki has the biggest collection of Art Nouveau (Jugendstil) architecture in the world.

Why Aalto?

Aalto is a prestigious Nordic research institution that hosts the School of Business within a vibrant, multi-disciplinary campus. It has been awarded the prestigious “triple crown” of AACSB, EQUIS and AMBA accreditations, and was the first Nordic school to achieve this. Otaniemi and its surrounding areas hosts the largest innovation hub in the Nordic countries. The School of Business is contained within the same building as the School of Arts, Design, and Architecture to foster multidisciplinary; you can observe these fashion creatives and industrial designers work in their studios from Aalto Biz study rooms. You can also reach the capital city in no time, directly from the metro within the building, or escape to total nature for a forest-seaside jog at 5 minutes’ walk.

Contact info

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CEMS Club Helsinki

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Facebook: @cemclubhelsinki
Website: https://www.cemclubhelsinki.com

CEMS terms

Term 1: early September to mid-December
Term 2: early January to end of May
Visa requirements
Before travelling to Finland, make sure you are informed about any immigration regulations regarding visas and residence permits that may apply. Find all information in the 2023–2024 Aalto University School of Business Fact Sheet.

Housing
Exchange students primarily obtain apartments through HOAS (Foundation for Student Housing in the Helsinki Region). Additionally, AYY (Aalto University Student Union) offers housing. Student apartments are spread throughout the greater Helsinki area, with many of them conveniently located on campus. These well-run student organizations are typically your best bet for housing, and you can apply directly through the above organizations.

It is highly recommended that you begin researching accommodation well before your arrival. You should arrive in Helsinki at least 1 or 2 weeks before the start of your programme to locate or finalize housing, if you do not have signed a contract of student housing from HOAS or AYY. Luckily, the university provides plenty of information to help you along the way.

Transportation
You can buy a monthly ticket valid for travel in the Espoo and Helsinki area for 43 euros/month. This allows for train, tram, metro, bus, and ferry. Additionally, you can ride city bikes during late spring, summer and early autumn, with stations located in convenient spots all over Espoo and Helsinki. Visit HSL website for more information.

Tips

Grocery Stores
The cheapest options are Lidl, Prisma. Additionally, as it costs 2.95€ to eat a plentiful meal, including salad and bread at any of the many student canteens, many exchange students eat their meals there. These are located all over campus, and all over the entirety of Espoo and Helsinki, and are often open from breakfast to dinner.

Everything you need to know about studying at Aalto University School of Business, from pre-arrival to post-arrival, is in the 2023–2024 Aalto University School of Business Fact Sheet.

Living Expenses

Rent
Student housing obtained via the above student organizations typically runs in the 350–600 euro/month, range, with prices for private housing typically exceeding 600 euro/month.

Food and daily necessities
An approximate food budget is 200–300+ euros per month. Student meals at university cafeterias, located all over, cost 2.95 euros (more premium options cost ~5 euros) and typically include salad and bread. On campus, there is a variety of choices including two vegan restaurants. Regular student restaurants always have a vegetarian/vegan option, in addition to the regular daily menu. You can typically add coffee to your meal for 1.00 euro.
Google Maps
Click the photo below to access the list of top selected spots.

Travel / sightseeing destinations

Suomenlinna
Suomenlinna an inhabited sea fortress built on eight islands about 4 km southeast of the city center of Helsinki. It is a great travel destination, especially during summertime if you plan to have a picnic or just enjoy the castle. City ferry is included in your regular HSL student ticket in zone A.

Lapland
Lapland is the most northern region of Finland. It is a must-see place during winter, and if you are lucky you may even see the northern lights.

Top 3 CEMS events of the year

Running cocktails
A traditional CEMS event that allows you to have fun with your fellow CEMSies and enjoy great cocktails.

Cottage trip
A traditional Finnish cottage party with your fellow CEMSie.

CEMSightseeing
Event that takes place during the orientation week. Local CEMS students will take you around Helsinki and show you the best places to visit.
Why Egypt?

Egypt is a unique, ancient and wondrous destination that has a lot to offer its visitors, no matter their ages and interests. It is a fantastic place for nomads, scholars and residents alike. The Greater Cairo area has a population of 20 million people with the city sprawled along the longest river in the world, the Nile. Encompassing the Pyramids of Giza, beautiful mosques and churches as well as numerous museums, the Arab world’s most populous city is teeming with life. When you decide to study in Egypt, you open yourself to a new world filled with diverse cultures, histories, art and ideas.

Why AUC?

Founded in 1919, AUC is a leading English-language, American-accredited institution of higher education and a center of intellectual, social and cultural life of the Arab world. Its community of students, parents, faculty and staff, trustees, alumni and other generous sponsors represent more than 60 countries. The AUC School of Business is one of the top business schools in the MEA region and ranked as the number one business knowledge hub by Eduniversal. The School has achieved a Triple Crown accreditation being accredited by AACSB, AMBA and EQUIS.

Contact info

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CEMS Club Cairo

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@cemsauc

CEMS terms

Term 1: early September to mid-December

Term 2: Late January to late May
Visa requirements
American, Canadian and European Union citizens of some countries will be able to obtain a tourist visa upon arrival at the Cairo airport. Because of changing visa regulations, check with the Egyptian consulate or embassy in your country about new visa rules. After your arrival in Egypt, AUC will work with the Ministry of Higher Education to obtain your student visa. However, since obtaining the student residence visa may take up to two months, you must get a tourist visa to enter the country. Make sure you have a passport valid for the duration of your stay in Egypt.

For further visa and arrival information kindly visit here.

Living Expenses
Living expenses: 100–400€/month. You can eat very well for under 1€ per meal like locals or go for western comfort and buy imported food. Your choice!
Tourism/travel expenses: 0 – 600€. From walking through the streets of Cairo to going on Nile cruises between Luxor and Aswan, desert Safari in Siwa or in a beach resort on the Red Sea, trip options are endless and the workload very accommodating!

Tips
Grocery Stores: Oscar, Seoudi, Fresh food market and any other small stores you come across.
Store Hours: Most stores are open until 10 pm, some stores remain open until 12.
Best Places to Frequent: The Great Pyramids of Giza and Downtown Cairo are must visits in Cairo. Consider a trip to the red sea for diving and snorkelling and definitely visit Luxor and Aswan to experience ancient Egypt.

Transportation
There is a metro that you have to try at least once, especially if you commute between Maadi and Tahrir. Otherwise most of the transportation happens with Uber. To give you a ball park: an hour of driving is around ... 7€!

Housing
Choosing your housing in Cairo is probably going to be the decision with the most impact on your unforgettable CEMS exchange semester in Egypt. You can either opt for the hassle-free option of getting a room either in on campus dorms or close to campus student residences. You will have an easy and quick access to all campus facilities, from the library, gardens to the extensive sports facilities for free (gym, pool, tennis courts, etc.). This solution is best if you want to put convenience and your academic life first.
If, on the contrary, you would like to discover in depth vibrant Cairo, a city that never sleeps, we highly recommend you to get a room in a flat share in neighbourhoods such as Zamalek, Garden City or Maady, where you bold choice of going out of the beaten tracks and coming to Egypt will reach its full potential in terms of exposure to the local culture, and of course, making the best of the Cairo nightlife!
Don’t hesitate to get in touch with the actual cohort, via social media or your CC president, as we start to have really cool flats that we aim to transmit from cohort to cohort! It could also be the opportunity to give you all the tips and tricks of living in Cairo, for sure an unforgettable experience!
Price range:
350€/month in the dorms/residence
200€ – 300€/month in a shared flat
Useful Websites: AUC Student Residences, PropertyFinder
Google Maps
Click the photo below to access the list of top selected spots.

Travel / sightseeing destinations
Alexandria
The famous antic city on the Mediterranean coast, bridging the Egyptian and the Mediterranean culture. Be sure to go during the week, even for a day trip, to visit its famous library! You can go there by train, a cultural experience in itself, or simply take an Uber!

The great pyramids of Guizah
The last remaining of the seventh ancient wonders of the world. It speaks for itself!

Top 3 CEMS events of the year
Luxor-Aswan Nile Cruise: For five days we go south to higher Egypt, to discover all the wonders of ancient Egypt spread around the Nile. From Abu Simbel to Karnak, passing by the valley of the kings at sunrise in hot air balloon, you will come back feeling you took an Egyptology intensive. A running joke was: nobody knows how many temples we visited!


Siwa safari trip: Siwa is an oasis in the Egyptian desert, the last stop before the Libyan border. Have you ever swum in the middle of the dunes? Have you ever visited a middle aged old mud castle? Have you ever heard about sand boarding? Have you ever cruised through the Egyptian desert in a 4x4? Those are some of the activities you will do during the long weekend escape to Siwa!
Copenhagen Business School
Copenhagen, Denmark

Why Copenhagen?

Copenhagen is not only a beautiful city full of history, modern architecture and vibrant culture. It is also home to the Danes, who are ranked among the world's most happy people. You will often stumble over the Danish word "hygge", which basically means being around friends in a nice and cozy atmosphere.

Why CBS?

CBS is one of the largest business schools in Europe. It’s a Danish university with an international environment. We welcome more than 5,000 international students of all nationalities each academic year. You can count on CEMS Club Copenhagen to be active, supportive and to organise an amazing semester for you and your fellow CEMSies.

Contact info

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CEMS Club Copenhagen

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instagram: @cemsclubcopenhagen
facebook: @cemsclubcopenhagen
linkedin: @CEMS Club Copenhagen

CEMS terms

Term 1: early September to mid-December

Term 2: early February to end of June
Visa requirements

Before travelling to Denmark, make sure you are informed about any immigration regulations regarding visas and residence permits that may apply. More information is available here.

Arrival

If you’re staying in Denmark for more than 3 months, you will need to get a CPR-number. It is the Civil Registration Number, which is of great importance for your life in Denmark. It is used in all aspects of life in Denmark, such as accessing health services, libraries, banks, etc. To be able to get this number a residence permit is usually necessary. Check this website to learn how, when and where to get the residence permit. Once you get the residence permit, the CPR number will be sent to you after some weeks.

Transportation

City of bikes – Copenhagen is the city of bicycles. If you decide to use a bike as your number one transportation, you can buy one cheaply through www.db.a.dk, different Facebook groups, by going to the local bike shops or asking the students leaving Copenhagen.
Metro, Buses, S-trains (local trains) – Make sure to check Rejseplanen or the app, which will give you easy info on the fastest route to your destination.

Living Expenses

Average cost of rent (utilities are usually included) – 3,000-5,000 DKK
Average monthly cost of groceries – 1,500-2,000 DKK
Transportation pass – 300 DKK

Tips

Grocery Stores: Lidl, Netto, Fakta, SuperBrugsen.

Store Hours: Most stores in Copenhagen are open from 8.00 to 22.00.

Housing: When searching for the perfect place to live, you should always be aware of fake deals and always keep reality in mind, when a deal sounds too good to be true.

Housing

It can be very difficult to find accommodation in Copenhagen. The rent is high, and the rooms are small. The best way to find something is through contacts, so if you already know somebody in Copenhagen, try to ask them if they know of any rooms available. Otherwise, try to post your interest at the CEMS Facebook group. CEMS students are leaving for exchange every semester, and most of them are subletting apartments or rooms, so you might be lucky. Areas within biking distance from CBS: Østerbro, Nørrebro, Vesterbro, Amager, Inner Copenhagen, Valby, and Frederiksberg.

CBS Housing Department – The International Office
Address: Dalgas Have 15, 2nd floor, west 2V022 DK-2000 Frederiksberg
Phone: +45 3815 3006 (reception)
E-mail: housing.intoff@CBS.dk
Opening Hours: Mon, Tues, Thurs: 10 – 12 and 13 – 15; Closed on Wednesdays and Fridays.

Other Websites
HousingAnywhere Website
Lejebolig.dk
Boligportalen.dk
Google Maps

Click the photo below to access the list of top selected spots.

Travel / sightseeing destinations

Noma: For the fine diners Copenhagen features an unproportionally large amount of nice and Out-of-the-box-thinking restaurants like The Alchemist featuring 50 "impressions" and Noma, which had been rated the world’s best restaurant four times.

Freetown Christiana: Centrally located in Copenhagen is one of the world’s most famous "hippie" communes. Nice to chill sunny days often featuring live music on one of their venues e.g. Nemolod, Den grå hal, "Operaen" and Christiania Jazz Club. Cannabis is sold openly here, but please be reminded it’s still illegal in Denmark.

Louisiana Museum of Modern Art: If you find yourself more into art, head north along the coast to “Louisiana”. Pretty cheap and world-famous for its combination of art, architecture and landscaping.

Top 3 CEMS events of the year

Friendship Boats: Sailing trip in small student-controlled “e-boats” around Copenhagen’s historic harbor. The most stress-relieving sightseeing of all the must-see sights with the possibility of tasting good amounts of Denmark’s finest beer assortment in the meantime.

CEMS Mentorship programme: Running throughout the semester CEMS students are paired up with local professionals and workshops on how to get value from mentorship opportunities.

Deer park trip: Just a 30 min train-ride from Copenhagen center lies “Jægersborg Dyrehave”, a UNESCO world heritage site privately owned for centuries by the Danish kings and queens for hunting.
Corvinus University of Budapest
Budapest, Hungary

Why Budapest?
Budapest is one of the most popular tourist destinations in Central Europe, a city of unique history and amazing sceneries. Hungary borders seven countries, making Budapest an ideal base for foreign trips too.

Why Corvinus?
Corvinus is the highest-ranked business school in Hungary, and has been awarded AACSB, AMBA, EFMD, EAPAA, PRME, CFA and BSIS accreditations. Every semester, around 30% of CEMS students are international. CEMS Club Budapest is actively organizing both formal and informal events to enhance networking opportunities for incoming, home and alumni Members, including for example Rotation Dinner and Summer Camp.

Contact info
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CEMS Club Budapest
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CEMS terms
Term 1: early September to mid-December
Term 2: early February to mid-May
Visa requirements

Before travelling to Hungary, make sure you are informed about any immigration regulations regarding visas and residence permits that may apply. More info available [here](#).

Arrival

When moving to Budapest, students will need to go to the immigration office to obtain a registration card if their continuous stay exceeds 90 days. More info on the residence permits can be found [here](#).

Living Expenses

Average cost of rent (with utilities): 350–500€
Student pass for public transport: 7,5€/month
Living expenses in Budapest based on feedback from the visiting students: 900–1000 €/month. This amount includes accommodation, travel and other living expenses.

Tips

Grocery Stores – Spar, Coop and CBA. Aldi & Lidl have more student-friendly pricing.
Store Hours – Most stores in Hungary are open seven days a week from 8.00 to 21.00 (except for Sunday when shops usually close earlier, at 18.00).
Housing – You should always make sure you sign a contract before sending any money and it is ideal to have a call with the landlord as well. Be aware that you will usually be asked to send a deposit (usually 1 month's rent) in order to book the room.
Best Places to Frequent – Inner City, Margaret Island, Deák Square, Buda Castle, Gellért Hill, City Park, Andrássy Avenue, and of course the Party Quarter.

Housing

Price range: $$$
Districts 1 and 5: District 1 is where Buda Castle is located, the most historic part of Budapest. District 5 is the inner part of the city where most parts of the district are in walking distance of Corvinus. District 2 or 12: Many houses with gardens, surrounded by green mountains and relaxed suburbs atmosphere. Getting to the university takes around 30 minutes.

Price range: $$
Districts 6, 7 and 9: Districts 6 and 7 have a vivid nightlife, the Party Quarter is located in district 7. Many bars, restaurants, cafés and clubs are located here. District 9 is where Corvinus is located, so it is in walking proximity.

Price Range: $
Districts: 11, 13 and 14: These areas are more relaxed. District 11 is right across the Danube from the school and houses many small bars and cafés, much less touristy than in the Party Quarter. The other two districts are around 30 minutes from school but are very relaxed: District 13 is near Margaret Island, a popular jogging and picnic destination, and District 14 is home to the City Park and the Zoo.

Where to find housing?
Facebook Housing Groups
Erasmus Budapest
Budapest flats/apartments for rent short/long term
Budapest flats and apartments for rent
City Budapest flats for rent and sale
Flats for Erasmus in Budapest
Rent a flat/room in Budapest
Student Dorm Companies Off Campus Milestone Budapest Semmelweis
Shantee House
Google Maps

Click the photo below to access the list of top selected spots.

Travel / sightseeing destinations

Lake Balaton: Probably the best location in Hungary in summer and only a short train ride away from Budapest. There are some wine areas located close or book yourself a boat to explore the large lake.

Croatia: Book yourself a car and get ready to explore Croatia which is only a few hours from Budapest! Take a stroll in its capital Zagreb or drive even further to enjoy the coast with some beautiful beaches.

Top 3 CEMS events of the year

CEMS Winter/Summer Camp: Twice a year, the whole cohort will spend a weekend together with Alumni and Corporate Representatives. The location is often around Lake Balaton which offers numerous opportunities for fun activities.

Rotation Dinner: This is your chance to meet CCB's corporate partners in a rather casual setting. Students spend each course of a dinner at different corporate partner’s table so they can get insights about the possibilities and get to know potential future colleagues.

Charity Run: This event is organized together with ESN Corvinus and takes place at beautiful Margret Island. There is a 5km running track and a few hundred students, alumni and corporate representatives will run for good causes in Hungary.
Why Ithaca?

There is a reason that the small town of Ithaca is often referred to as “gorges Ithaca” (pun intended). With over 150 waterfalls and countless beautiful gorges that are located right next to Cornell’s Campus, Ithaca is a great place for every outdoor enthusiast. Besides, the town is surrounded by wineries and cideries. In fact, many say that the Finger Lakes Region is the best wine region in the United States. Just 4h away from New York and 3h from the Niagara Falls, Ithaca allows for many different weekend trips. However, most importantly Ithaca is a student town that gets its lively vibe from over 28 000 students studying at Cornell and Ithaca College. Thus, you can find many bars and restaurants around Collegetown and Downtown to enjoy drinks and food with your friends.

Why Cornell?

Besides its excellent academic reputation, Cornell offers a glimpse into the real American student life. Away from the hustle of big cities, Cornellians have created a close-knit community with a vibrant student club scene with over 1000 organizations. You will definitely meet like-minded people from all over the world that share your interests and passions. Apart from great management classes, Cornell’s diverse course catalogue also gives you the option to tap into fun courses such as Introduction to Wines or PE classes such as Sailing, Climbing or Skiing. Joining the Big Red Family will make your exchange truly special!

Contact info

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CEMS Club USA

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@CEMS Club USA

CEMS terms

Term 1: end of August to mid-December
Term 2: mid-January to mid-June

Exact term dates available here.
Visa requirements

You will receive the necessary information and documents for your visa application from Cornell before your semester begins. Most probably your personal appearance in a U.S. embassy or consulate will be required to obtain a visa, and as a student, you will most likely apply for an F-1 visa. We highly recommend starting the application process as early as possible.

Arrival

Most international flights arrive at John F. Kennedy International Airport (JFK) or Newark Liberty International Airport (EWR). From New York, you can either take a bus to Ithaca or rent a car that you return in Ithaca. Ithaca and Syracuse (1.5 hour drive away) also have an airport. They are not very busy, but we recommend you to check the flight schedule to these airports as well.

Bus: The journey is approximately 4 hours. The tickets cost around $50-65 and the price usually includes one big suitcase and your hand luggage: OurBus, GreyHound, BusBud

Car rental: Car rental is also a good option, and might be cheaper when a car is shared.

Companies that have return options in Ithaca are: Budget, Enterprise, Avis, Hertz. Please bear in mind that you will need an internationally accepted drivers’ licence and that drivers under the age of 25 must pay an underaged driver fee.

Transportation

TCAT: An easy and cheap way to get around campus, town, and the area is using TCAT, the public bus system. With your Cornell student ID you will be able to use the buses for free. For more information visit here.

Ithaca Carshare: In case you require a car from time to time to get around town or do the grocery shopping you have the option to use Ithaca Carshare. As a student you can make use of a reduced membership fee if you choose the frequent drivers’ package ($168 / year) or won’t pay any membership fees for infrequent use. For more information visit here.

Car Rental: For longer trips we recommend renting a car from one of the companies operating in Ithaca.

Housing

On-campus university housing is usually not offered to graduate or exchange students. If it changes, you will definitely be informed, however, do not count on this as your primary option.

The most popular area for students to live off-campus is Collegetown. Ithaca’s housing market pre-covid was known to be quite harsh for the students, making it hard to find accommodation for one semester only. It has changed during Covid, but when it gets back to normal, you should start looking for accommodation as soon as possible.

Rental prices start from c. $600-800 pp/month in an old-style apartment/house with shared bathroom and common areas.

This kind of accommodation can be rented through one of many real estate agencies. Prices of rooms in refurbished apartments or residences such as Collegetown Terrace Apartments start at $1000 and can reach the price of $2000 for a studio apartment. In pre-covid times, many of the residences didn’t offer one-semester leases. Housing comes furnished, but usually there is no equipment provided, such as kitchen utensils, bedding etc.

A good option is to sublet a room. Join Cornell housing group to see the options.

Cornell off-campus living website may be helpful when searching for housing. Another helpful resource can be College Pads.

Tips

1. There is no possibility to withdraw from the Student Health Plan for international students. Do not count on your own health insurance to be accepted by Cornell as a substitute.
2. Sign up for free Walmart+ accounts to get your food delivered to you (saves a lot of time as grocery stores are located outside the city)
3. Make sure to order / organize your bedding before arriving as most student accommodations come without bedding or kitchen equipment
4. For around 100$ a semester you can get a gym pass that gives you access to most Cornell gyms and swimming pools.
5. Explore the nature and state parks in the area and go for hikes. Ithaca really is “gorgeous”!

Living Expenses

Estimated one-semester cost:

Housing – starting from $2500 (see Housing section)
Student Health Plan – c. $1500 (compulsory)
SEVIS and visa costs – c. $510
Course materials – $100-200

Food – To assess the cost of food you can visit the Walmart website for prices. Prices of a meal in a restaurant start from c. $12 excluding tip and tax (around 15%).
Travel / sightseeing destinations

New York City: New York City is only a quick 4 hours away and it’s definitely worth a visit. With more than 500 galleries, 200 museums, and 18,000 restaurants the “Big Apple” offers great activities from everyone. Visit world-renowned landmarks such as the Statue of Liberty or One World Trade Center, explore Times Square and Central Park, or stroll along the Hudson River – the city is a must-see when you are in the U.S.

Niagara Falls: In 3 hours you can reach the famous Niagara Falls at the Canadian border. The famous waterfalls are always worth a visit and the experience changes over the seasons. Visiting Niagara Falls can also be done as an extensive day trip. And on your way back to Ithaca, why not stop in close-by Buffalo for some delicious Buffalo wings?

Adirondack Mountain: The Adirondack Mountains are located in northeastern New York and are especially popular with outdoor enthusiasts. With more than 200 lakes, including Lake George and Lake Placid, there is a huge number of watersport activities that can be enjoyed in summer. It’s the perfect place to go on hikes, play games, and enjoy a bonfire and roasted marshmallows with your friends.

Google Maps

Click the photo below to access the list of top selected spots
Why Barcelona?

The Catalan capital is placed as one of the most vibrant cities on Earth, having something in store for anyone that washes upon its shores! From its thriving food scene that will tantalize your taste buds with its delectable tapas and fresh seafood to its unique charm that will captivate you with a blend of history and modernity. Barcelona allows you to start your day sipping vermouth by the beach and end it at a rave in a Roman tomb. The city’s Mediterranean climate adds to its allure, inviting visitors to bask in sunny days on the beach or sip sangria at outdoor cafes. With its vibrant atmosphere, rich cultural heritage, and unforgettable sights, Barcelona promises an extraordinary journey for every traveler.

Why ESADE?

Esade Business School is a prestigious institution renowned for its excellence in business education. With a rich history spanning over six decades, Esade combines academic rigor with a practical, global perspective, preparing students to become leaders in the business world. The school’s programmes are designed to foster innovation, entrepreneurship, and ethical leadership. Esade’s faculty comprises distinguished professors and industry experts who provide a dynamic learning environment. Moreover, the school’s strong network of alumni and corporate partnerships opens doors to valuable connections and career opportunities. Beyond the classroom, Esade offers a vibrant campus life, with student clubs, events, and a supportive community that encourages collaboration and personal growth.

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CEMS Club Barcelona

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CEMS terms

Term 1: early September to mid-January
Term 2: mid-January to early June
Visa requirements

Make sure you are informed about any immigration regulations regarding visas and residence permits that may apply.

If you are non-EU member, you need to get the DNI (which is identification for foreign nationals) and you need to get this 1 month before coming here. You need this to do an internship in Spain. Processing in Spain takes a lot of time, so plan your schedule well in advance.

Arrival

You need to register at the local municipality to get ‘Empadronamiento’ identification that you are living here at a legal place and you need to get this from your house owner.

Housing

Please join the Facebook group for incoming CEMS students, where Caroline (ESADE housing manager) will post new offers in the city that are approved and safe to proceed. Moreover Erasmus Play is the best housing search website for students. Also websites such as Badi will be very helpful.

Among CEMSies, we aim to swipe flats, so check carefully our Facebook channels!
CEMS Barcelona flat hunt
ESADE MSc Housing

It is highly recommended that you begin researching accommodation well before your arrival. You should also arrive in Barcelona at least 1 or 2 weeks before the start of your programme to locate or finalize housing. Be aware of scams!

Tips

Everything you need to know is given in the student document published and accessible to incoming students on ESADE website.
Best Places to Frequent – CEMS Club Barcelona tailored a Google Maps to show what we like to most about the city, from study places to nice bars.

Living Expenses

Average rent and utilities: 600 EUR/month
Food and groceries (if cooked at home): 150–200 EUR/month.
Average meal in Barcelona is 8–15 EUR

Transportation

Many Spaniards travel through bikes and the local biking app is Bicing. You can also check out Kleta bike rentals. It is very cheap to get a bicycle around the city. However, we recommend students to get transportation card of 40 EUR/month, which is super cheap and you can use this card to travel to Sant Cugat everyday where the campus is located.
Google Maps

Click the photo below to access the list of top selected spots.

Travel / sightseeing destinations

The Sagrada Familia is an iconic masterpiece in Barcelona, Spain. Designed by the visionary architect Antoni Gaudí, this extraordinary basilica combines Gothic and Art Nouveau elements. Its breathtaking façade, intricate details, and towering spires make it a symbol of architectural brilliance and an awe-inspiring landmark.

Sitges, a picturesque coastal town near Barcelona, is a charming Mediterranean gem. Known for its stunning beaches, vibrant festivals, and quaint streets lined with colorful houses, Sitges offers a delightful blend of relaxation, culture, and natural beauty, making it a perfect getaway destination.

Santa Maria del Mar is a stunning Gothic basilica in Barcelona, Spain. Known as the "Cathedral of the Sea," it showcases remarkable architectural beauty and historical significance. Its majestic nave, soaring columns, and intricate rose windows create an atmosphere of serenity and awe. Steeped in history and adorned with artistic treasures,
Why São Paulo?

São Paulo is the largest city in Brazil and the financial heart of the country. The population and environment of São Paulo is diverse, turning the city into the most cosmopolitan city on the continent. São Paulo has immigrant communities from all around the globe including immigrants from Portugal, Italy and Japan.

The city is a strategic place to travel around Brazil and South America, enjoying an amazing opportunity to visit Brazilian postcards like Rio de Janeiro and Salvador.

Why EAESP – FGV?

EAESP – FGV is one of the best business schools in Latin America. It offers a high-quality programme with huge interaction with Brazilians and international students. FGV has been awarded with the prestigious “triple crown” of AACSB, EQUIS and AMBA accreditations. The university is located in the heart of São Paulo and its prestige across the country guarantees professional opportunities for its students.

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CEMS terms

Term 1: early August to early December

Term 2: late February to late June
Visa requirements

Once the student is accepted by FGV, the university sends an acceptance letter, which in this case is the student’s only “non-personal” document. The other documents are the student’s responsibility. The visa procedure varies by country. Our recommendation is to enter the website of the Brazilian consulate of each country. E.g. German website where you have the contacts and necessary documentation to apply for a Brazilian student visa (VITEM IV) can be found here. FGV strongly recommends that students start the visa process as soon as they receive their Acceptance Letter from FGV EAESP.

Arrival

Once you arrive in Brazil, make sure you check the stamp you get at the airport by the Federal Police. The stamps of arrival in the country must finish with the number 1 or any odd number. You must keep the entry card that you receive when arriving in Brazil! It might be requested when you leave the country, or even when you visit other South American countries! The original Visa Application Form must be brought to Brazil to register your visa at the Federal Police. The registration must take place in São Paulo city and must be done within 30 days after the arrival of the student in the country (bear it in mind if you are arriving earlier in Brazil). Please pay attention that your mother’s family name on the birth certificate & visa application form is correctly written, otherwise you could encounter problems at the federal police once in São Paulo asking for the residence card. Once you registered at the federal police, you will wait at least 3 months to receive your residence card, which you will have to keep safe, as you will need it to leave the country (even if you travel to other Latin American countries) and to enter it again.

Living Expenses

Average cost of rent without utilities – R$2,500 (room)
Average monthly cost of groceries – R$ 800 (month)
Transportation pass – R$ 4.40 per ride
Average price of a meal (PF – Prato feito): R$ 30

Tips

Grocery Stores – Dia ($), Carrefour ($$), Extra ($$), Pão de Açúcar ($$$), St. Marche ($$$$).
Store Hours – Usually grocery stores are open from 7AM – 10 PM, regular stores from 10AM – 10PM.
Best Places to Go – Paulista Avenue, Parque do Ibirapuera, MASP, Museu da Imagem e do Som, Museu do Futebol, SESC Pompeia, CCBB.
Housing – In addition to the neighborhoods mentioned in the housing section and the table found in this document, our suggestion is to look for apartments together with FGV students, this is an interesting way to avoid fraud and improve your Portuguese. Ask former FGV students or CEMSies for their flat/ house contacts.

Transportation

São Paulo metro and bus systems are very efficient and reach almost any place. A Bilhete Único (metro card) is one of the most convenient ways to use it. Uber is super cheap, and a better option in terms of safety, especially at night, costing around 15 euros for 1 hour drive. Better to avoid taking Uber Pool, as you don’t know the other car travelers.

Housing

EAESP FGV does not offer on-campus housing, however it is quite easy to find a good accommodation on the outskirts of the university. Another option is to live in a neighborhood close to a subway station since FGV is located close to the Trianon-MASP station.
Some neighborhoods recommended are: Bela Vista (one of the most traditional neighborhoods in the city, close to the university and to the Paulista Avenue), Vila Madalena (a bohemian area surrounded by bars, shops, restaurants and art galleries), Jardins (upscale shopping and residential zone, with several options of studios that can be rented by the Housi app, and the Uliving student residence, where many CEMSies enjoy to be) and Vila Nova Conceição (next to the Ibirapuera Park). Please avoid the regions close to Luz, República, Anhangabaú and Sé stations, as they are not the safest ones.
Google Maps
Click the photo below to access the list of top selected spots.

Travel / sightseeing destinations
Beaches located close to São Paulo: Ubatuba, São Sebastião and Ilhabela

Rio de Janeiro: Rio de Janeiro, Búzios and Paraty

Santa Catarina: Florianópolis, Balneário Camboriú, Blumenau (Oktoberfest) and Urubici

Bahia: Salvador, Praia do Forte, Trancoso, Caraíva and Chapada Diamantina

Other places located in the Brazilian Northeast: Lençóis Maranhenses, Jericoacoara, Praia da Pipa and Maragogi

Nature spots: Iguazú Falls (one of the Natural Wonders of the World – border with Argentina and Paraguay), Pantanal, Jalapão and Amazônia

Top 3 CEMS events of the year
Boteco Crawl in Vila Madalena
Weekend Trip to Ubatuba
Coffee and Flower Farm Visits
Why Paris?

"Breathe in Paris, it nourishes the soul" as Victor Hugo rightly describes this soul-uplifting city! There's everything your heart desires – romantic afternoons in the countless Parisian cafés, gastronomical adventures in French restaurants, relaxing picnics in the park, getting lost in umpteen museums and art galleries or enjoying the bars and the incredible nightlife in the city of lights.

Why HEC?

Coming from a tradition of French excellence, HEC Paris has established itself as a world-renowned institution over the years. It's known for a high quality business education that prepares the leaders of tomorrow guided by its motto "Learn to dare" and the vision that "Tomorrow is our business". Its prestigious alumni base and the international network make HEC unique. It ranked as the #1 European Business School in 2022 by the Financial Times among many other prestigious awards.

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CEMS terms

Term 1: mid-September to late December

Term 2: mid-January to mid-April
Arrival
Make sure to prepare all the necessary documents that you are requested to bring to HEC (e.g. copy of your passport, visa if necessary, proof of insurance, etc.) ready. You will receive all the necessary information well ahead of time.

Transportation
Metros in the city, RER’s to get outside the city, Ubers. Not a lot of people bike but it’s starting to take off. Bikes: Lime, Vélib, swapfiets.

Tips
Grocery Stores – Cheaper options are Franprix, Lidl & Carrefour, there’s Auchan near the campus
Store Hours – The most usual business hours are from Monday–Saturday, from 9:00 am to 7:00 pm. Major shopping centers and department stores are open all day from 9 am to 9 pm or 10 pm.
Sundays are quieter, and it might be more difficult to shop on that day.

Housing – It is highly recommended that you begin researching accommodation well before your arrival (3–4 months). If you choose to stay at ECLA you can be quite spontaneous in your arrival. Otherwise it is advisable to arrive in Paris at least 1 or 2 weeks before the start of your program to locate or finalize housing. You should always make sure to sign a contract before sending any money (in case you can’t visit the property in person) and it is ideal to have a Zoom call with the landlord and other tenants as well.

Living Expenses
Average monthly cost of groceries – 200-300 €.
Transportation pass – 75 € / month or 23€ / week.
Insurance: EU Citizens have to buy an additional package that covers the entire semester for 15€.
(Pwd: cciparisidf). NON-EU Citizens have to provide proof of an insurance covering risks of personal liability, housing, repatriation assistance, individual accidents and medical expenses abroad (sickness and accident).

Visa requirements
Before travelling to France, make sure you are informed about any immigration regulations regarding visas and residence permits that may apply. The information can be found here.

Housing
Most HEC local students live in student residences on the campus in Jouy-en-Josas, a small town outside of Paris. However, most CEMSies choose to live in the city of Paris or in Massy (ECLA Campus). If you need to visit the campus regularly and do not have a car it is advisable to find an apartment close to the RER B that goes to Massy from which a shuttle will drive to campus.

Price range: $$$ Area: Jardin du Luxembourg (RER B station: Luxembourg): It is an area that is close to one of the prettiest parks in Paris, near the Parisian attractions and still quite well connected to the university if you do not have a car. Moreover, it offers every kinds of services.
Price range: $ Area: Massy – ECLA Campus (RER B station: MassyPalaiseau): Campus ECLA is ideally located between the university and the city of Paris, and it’s close to the train station. It is relatively easy to get an apartment there and about a third of the CEMS cohort stayed there in Spring 2023.
Price Range: $ Area: Cité Universitaire: The Cité Universitaire is a huge campus located in the 14th arrondissement in the South of Paris next to an RER B stop which can bring you to campus. Almost every big university has their student housing there. It is a beautiful place, with affordable rooms and lots of interesting people to meet! Every year a bunch of CEMSies also live there.

Facebook Housing Groups
Logement Paris (Sciences PO Group)
Logement Colocation & Sous Locaention Paris (S. Po)
Rents Paris (ESCPGroup)
Other Accommodation Websites
Campus ECLA
LODGIS (agency)
Google Maps

Click the photo below to access the list of top selected spots.

Travel / sightseeing destinations

In Paris: so many great sights, Eiffel Tower, walks next to the Seine, Notre Dame, Sacre coeur and monmartre, Grand Palais, Tuilleries, Louvre, Jardin du Luxembourg, Arc de Triomph, le Marais, Bastille, Nation,... The CCP has also created an interactive Google map that you can use to explore Paris and the campus.

Close by: Versailles

A bit further: Mont Saint Michel, Reims, Tours and the Loire Castles....

Top 3 CEMS events of the year

Croissant cooking class: CEMS Club Paris took their CEMSiess to a cooking class at Maison Fleuret in the 7th arrondissement in Paris. There they had the chance to learn how to make croissants, pains au chocolat and macarons!

ABinBev Beer Tasting & Pub Quiz: In April, our CEMSiess enjoyed the great taste of Belgian beers while getting to know our corporate partner ABINBEV.

Alumni Fashion Meet-up: CEMSiess from all over the world had the chance to get to know the luxury fashion and beauty industry while talking to 8 CEMS alumni working at LVMH, L’Oréal, Estée Lauder, Armani, and Sephora. More than 50 people signed up!
Why Hong Kong?

As a former British colony and current Special Administrative Region of China, Hong Kong is a unique place where East meets West and old meets new. Home to an exceptional culture, Hong Kong has inherited ancient Chinese heritage and experienced a period of Western, colonial influence, making it a multifaceted city where English and Cantonese, towering skyscrapers and historical sites exist side by side. Its position as a global commercial and financial hub means that the city welcomes people of all backgrounds as well.

Why HKUST?

Established in 1991, the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST) Business School is recognized as one of the youngest and most respected business schools in Asia. We are the first business school in the region to be awarded accreditation by both the US-based Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB International) and European Quality Improvement System (EQUIS). Our programmes are consistently ranked among the very best in the world by international media and our faculty is considered to be among the most qualified.

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CEMS terms

Term 1: end of August to end of December

Term 2: early February to end of May
Visa requirements

Refer to your country's Chinese embassy website to see which visa you need and how to apply.

Arrival

Information on all things you need to take into consideration when moving in to Hong Kong can be found on the university website.

Housing

Unfortunately, HKUST only offers campus housing for Bachelor's students. Thus, CEMSies will have to arrange their accommodation via the private housing market. It is a good idea to contact your fellow CEMSies living or going to Hong Kong in order to ask for housing tips or arrange accommodation together.

Transportation

You can find useful information on the transportation available in Hong Kong from here. In addition to the sophisticated transportation system within the city, Hong Kong also has good flight connections to all around Asia.

Tips

Best Places to Frequent – Food: Mr. Wongs, International Finance Center rooftop. Bars: LKF (ladies night on Thursdays), Wan Chai (ladies night on Wednesdays), Ozone. Other: Hong Kong ravi club (eetisesti kyseenalasta, Disney World.

Living Expenses

You can find estimations on the living costs in Hong Kong here.
Google Maps

Click the photo below to access the list of top selected spots.

Travel / sightseeing destinations

Disney World
Lions Rock
Dragon’s Back
Victoria Peak
The Big Buddha
Man Mo Temple
University of St. Gallen
St. Gallen, Switzerland

Why St. Gallen?
St. Gallen is a beautiful town with a strong heritage in eastern Switzerland. It offers beautiful nature, tourist attractions (a UNESCO World Heritage site) as well as a myriad of bars, restaurants, and local stores. Due to the well-established public transportation system, you can easily reach the entirety of Switzerland in a few hours!

Why HSG?
HSG is considered to be among the world’s leading business schools, being accredited by EQUIS, AACSB, and AMBA. With its diverse programmes, HSG has continuously been ranked high by the Financial Times, even offering the top-ranked master’s in management. Moreover, due to the comparably small size of the town and the university, the interaction between students and the activity of student associations on the campus is very high!

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CEMS terms

Term 1: mid-September to mid-December

Term 2: mid-February to end of May
Visa requirements

Before travelling to Switzerland, make sure you are informed about regulations regarding visa and residence permits. Info can be found here. After your acceptance to HSG, the CEMS Office will provide you with more information on the visa process.

Arrival

When moving to St. Gallen, you will need to register with the city authorities within 14 days of arrival, otherwise you can be fined.

Housing

The HSG does not offer on-campus housing. To find off campus housing, students can choose between two possible approaches:

1) Housing Office: The Housing Office at HSG provides off-campus accommodation for guest students. For details regarding costs, terms and conditions please see the housing information on the Housing Office website. To apply for housing, students must complete the housing application and submit all required documents. Students may of course contact the housing managers for any assistance before their arrival or during their stay.

2) Finding Housing on Your Own: If you choose to find your own housing, allow enough time for your search. The negotiation of your rental contract is your own responsibility. Luckily, due to many students living in SG, apartment turnover is high.

Possible Locations: Being a comparably small town, there are very few differences between the various parts of St. Gallen. In general, locations close to “Marktplatz” (city center), the main station, or near a street called “Langgasse” are popular spots for many students. Overall, most students live in areas up to 15 minutes away from the city center. It is usually quite easy to find an apartment in this radius. With that, you will reach everything by walk which is amazing!

Facebook Housing Groups
Sharing is Caring: The main Facebook group at HSG, often also used for housing matters.

Other Accommodation Websites
Flatfox, ImmoScout24, Comparis.ch

Tips

Grocery Stores – Migros, Coop, Denner, Aldi, Lidl.

Store Hours – Most stores in Switzerland are open from 8am to 7pm from Monday to Friday. On Saturdays, some stores already close at 6pm (or even 4/5pm e.g. smaller clothing stores). On Sundays, most stores are closed except a few, e.g. those located at the main station.

Best Places to Frequent – Focacceria (great focaccia & Italian food), Seeger (cosy café & bar), Stickerei (burgers), Ad-hoc (student bar), Trischli (club for students on Wednesdays), Garage (2nd most popular student club), TheCO (HSG's co-working space), Square (HSG’s new university building) & Drei Weihern (ponds, jogging, BBQ, sunsets & beautiful view over SG).

Housing – You should always make sure you sign a contract before sending any money, and it is ideal to have a Facetime/Zoom call with the landlord and other tenants as well. Be aware that you will usually be asked to send a deposit in order to book the room and the amount will be defined by your landlord.

HSG Application & Welcome Guide – The HSG will send each guest student a thorough guide on moving to, studying and living in St. Gallen.

Living Expenses

Average cost of rent without utilities – 550 CHF
Average monthly cost of groceries – 300 CHF
Transportation pass – 120–180 CHF depending on age (half-fare card; half-price travel throughout CH).
Insurance – 90–280 CHF per month (depending on your age and personal needs).

Transportation

You can reach everything by bus, tram or walking when living in SG. If you decide to use the buses & trams, you can download the following apps: Mobile CFF or/and FAIRTIQ. They will give you info on the route & price from point A to B. The transportation pass is between 120–180CHF depending on age (half-fare card; half-price travel throughout CH).
Google Maps

Click the photo below to access the list of top selected spots.

Top 6 CEMS events of the year

**CEMS Cup:** It’s time for a little competition where the CEMS cohort is assigned into groups to fight for the trophy through 6 rounds of challenges! Challenges going from Flunkyballs, Beerpongs, Flip-cups to Water transfers and more...

**Ski Trip:** Whether it’s fall or Term 2: you will definitely experience some snow and have the opportunity to ski, snowboard, sledge & ice skate!

**Swiss Trip:** During a whole weekend you will explore different beautiful parts of Switzerland!

**Scavenger Hunt:** A competition between several CEMS Groups across the city with more than 50 small tasks/ challenges/ activities to be completed the fastest and with the best score possible.

**Famous event: CANTUS:** A unique singing event where all CEMSies are gathered to celebrate while being directed by 2 toastmasters, that will implement some rules during the night. The night is always a lot of fun, during which people sing well-known and lesser known songs together, engage in competitions, meet punishments and drink beer.

**CEMS Farewell:** The most expected event of the semester, a 3-day weekend full of parties, games, sports, hikes and more. The opportunity to gather one last time with the whole CEMS cohort somewhere in Switzerland, in a cozy Chalets...

Travel / sightseeing destinations

**Zürich:** Just 45min train ride away, the largest city in Switzerland and the capital of the canton of Zürich. From enjoying the view on the lake, having a supreme water quality for swimming. These outdoor pools, or “badis” have become nightspots in the centre of the city. Zürich’s sights, eye-wateringly pricey shops and effortlessly cool nightspots are in the Altstadt.

**Geneva:** Around 3 hours train ride to the famous Lake Geneva, one of Switzerland’s most beautiful places. From the international bustle of Geneva to the many vineyards that crawl up the hillsides around the lake, there’s plenty to do in the surrounding region. And there’s a lot of activity on the lake, too. Windsurfing, water skiing, and kayaking are all possible.

**Lausanne:** Around 3.5 hours train ride to the world’s Olympic Capital, the city is draped on steep slopes on the north shore of Lake Geneva. Both the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the Court of Arbitration for Sport are here, and there’s a new world-class Olympic Museum if you want to pull that sporting thread. The Romanesque and Gothic cathedral is Lausanne’s reference point, and still bursting with medieval decoration despite the turmoil of the Reformation.

**Lugano:** Around 3 hours train ride to the city called the “Monte Carlo of Switzerland” blending Swiss and Italian cultures into an unforgettable weekend break. Home to plenty of museums and warmed by Mediterranean breezes, you might even think you’re in nearby Italy when you visit. Outside the city, impressive villas are sprinkled around the lush hillsides that rise from the lake.

**Lucerne:** Around 2.30 hours train ride to the picture-perfect lakeside cities. Surrounded by three large mountains, the compact medieval city sits on the shores of Lake Lucerne. Wandering around the captivating old town, you’ll be forgiven for thinking you’ve stepped into a painting. There’s ancient churches, bustling squares and plenty of boutiques to explore as you marvel at the architectural wonder of the city. The highlight being the Chapel Bridge, a covered wooden bridge that has been connecting the center of Lucerne since 1333.
Indian Institute of Management Calcutta
Kolkata, India

Why India?

India is a land of contrasts, where one can find ancient tombs next to glass skyscrapers, the tallest mountains, and the most picturesque beaches. It is only as a guest of India that one may explore the diversity across different parts of the country through their cuisines, festivals, languages and celebrations.

Why Kolkata?

Kolkata, is the City of Joy. It is home to astounding palaces with rich history and numerous museums. One should not miss the extravagant celebration of Durga Puja (fall semester), when its streets transform into beautiful kaleidoscope.

It is known as the cultural capital of India, home to the Nobel laureates, internationally acclaimed traditional dancers, and several mouth-watering sweet and savory delicacies for you to try!

Why IIMC?

Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Calcutta, or "Joka", is the oldest B-school in India. It is currently AMBA, AACSB and EQUIS accredited and is highly ranked for its MIM programmes. As one of the nation’s elite universities, IIMC is notable for the diverse range of academic opportunities offered by its renown faculty. Students have unmatched opportunities to interact with a global corporate network.

Apart from academics, life at IIMC is full of extracurricular activities supported by the 30–odd student-run clubs on campus. The campus is known for its 7 lakes with residence and academic halls having exquisite, scenic views.

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CEMS terms

Term 2: early September to early December

Term 1: early December to early March
Visa requirements

Foreign students coming to India should possess a valid passport of their country and a valid Indian visa. The Indian High Commission located in various countries issues visas. Incoming students should directly contact the Indian Embassy in their respective country or visit the e-portal of the Ministry of Home Affairs to study the visa categories and apply accordingly. More details available here, here and here.

Arrival

Visa valid for more than 180 days require foreigner registration with the FRRO within 14 days after arrival, otherwise you can be fined. More details available here. You will have buddies from the CEMS Club to support your queries throughout.

Housing

Our campus includes only on-campus residences. The programme here is a residential one, hence it's necessary to stay inside the campus. Have an exciting view of the lakes from the hostel rooms and go for bird watching early morning around the campus.

Living Expenses

Average monthly cost of food – Each hostel provides you food 4 times a day. The cost is roughly INR 6000 each month, but varies depending on actuals.

Transportation to city – No transportation pass is required. When going out, most students use Uber/Ola, which isn't very expensive in India. A ride to the city centre costs approx INR 300.

Tips

Grocery Stores – Inside the campus, shops are available which provide you with the basics to live. Kotler Shop (Open 11 AM to 4 AM), Mohan Da shop (Open 9:30 AM to 10:30 PM) and Co-op store (Closes at 8 PM). Apart from that the campus has a Subway and Nescafe.

Best Places to Frequent – The city is full of monuments and places to visit. Be it an early morning tea at a river bank (Prinsep Ghat) or a late-night dance at a club (Roxy). Explore the mesmerising nightlife on Park Street. Visit the colonial structures like the Victoria Memorial, the popular bazaars and parks. Moving a little outside the city, you can visit the mangrove forests at Sunderbans. Your fellow students would be the best to provide you the other locations.
Indian Institute of Management Calcutta
Kolkata, India

Google Maps / Food

Indian cuisine is known for its flavors and spices. Experience popular dishes like tandoori chicken, biryani, dal makhani, samosas, pani puris and what not! Check out the map below to access the list of top selected spots.

Travel / sightseeing destinations

Rajasthan – You can visit the "pink city" Jaipur, for its iconic medieval architecture and the royal city of Jaisalmer for its stunning sand dunes and forts.
Uttar Pradesh – From one of the wonders, the Taj Mahal to the beautiful temples of Varanasi, a humble abode to all pilgrims who bathe in the mighty Ganges
North East India – You can enjoy uninterrupted natural beauty at Darjeeling, Gangtok, Meghalaya (Shillong) and Assam (Kaziranga national park).
Kerala – “God’s own country” Kerela boasts of peaceful greenery, wonderful food and authentic tea gardens.
Himachal Pradesh – With multiple hilly regions, many go to Kasol for its adventure sports/trekking and Manali/Spiti Valley for its snow-capped mountains breathtaking views of "The Himalayas"

Top 3 CEMS events of the year

Indian culture immersion events – During both the semesters, India experiences many festivals. In the fall semester, we celebrate Durga puja and Diwali, while in the spring semester we celebrate the colourful Holi! You can also enjoy regional festivities through Pongal and Onam lunches, Dandia nights, yoga workshops or in-home Bengali meals with students through multiple events across the year.

Industry Interactions – Get a chance to interact with over 100+ prominent conglomerates and global firms. With a wide range of Consulting, Investment Banking, Marketing giants and international players, IIMC offers exposure by participating in their campus interactions arranged by our in-house recruitment office.

Fun campus events – Experience multiple fun campus events including Prom nights, Live music shows, PRIDE celebrations and City trips.
Why London, Canada?

London, Ontario, Canada is a bustling student city with a lot of opportunities to meet people from all around the world. It is situated in South Western Ontario and is known as the Forest City due to its many parks, forest areas and walking trails. London is conveniently centred between Toronto, Detroit and Niagara Falls.

Why Ivey?

Ivey Business School is recognized as one of the best schools in the country. It is one of the largest case producers in the world, second only to Harvard. Ivey uses case-based method learning, preparing you for the real world.

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CEMS terms

Term 1: early September to mid-December

Term 2: early January to end of April
Visa requirements

It is required to get a student visa before coming to Canada. You will find all the required information on the Canadian Immigration website.

Transportation

There are buses, taxis and Ubers within the city. Trains connect to surrounding cities.

Housing

You can either stay on the campus residence halls or find private housing off-campus. Price range: $$: The MARQ (75 Ann- Street) This is the preferred option for most CEMS exchange students. If you want to live with other CEMSies in an apartment or in the same building this is the best option. The MARQ is approximately 20 minutes from Ivey and located closer to downtown London, ON. Price range: $$: University of Western Ontario (UWO) Residences This is the best option is you want to live directly on campus and close to Ivey. The city center, all bars and downtown London, ON, are 30–40 minutes away from campus. Price Range: $ – $$$: Private Housing If you prefer to live by yourself or with other Canadian Students, privately organized housing might be the best option. Just make sure you find accommodation close to The MARQ or Richmond Street, as this proved to be the most convenient area for most students. Useful websites: Off-Campus Housing Services Facebook groups: Roommates Wanted Housing at Western

Tips

Bring a coat because Canada has really cold winters (November–March)!

Feel free to reach out to any of the CEMS Club Members in case you have any further questions on anything relating to your semester!

Arrival

All information needed will be provided at the airport. Most students arrive to London by train coming from Toronto airport (3 hours away by train). Alternatively, you can also fly to London International Airport, flight duration from Toronto is 25 minutes.

Living Expenses

Average cost of rent (with utilities): $600 – $1500/month
Food: $400/month
Clothing: $125/month
Cellphone: $100/month
Miscellaneous: $100/month
Laundry: $50/month
Ivey Business School
London ON, Canada

Google Maps
Click the photo below to access the list of top selected spots.

Travel / sightseeing destinations
Toronto
Just a 2 hour train ride away, the famous city Toronto waits for you to be discovered. From enjoying the view on top of the CN Tower to exploring "The Village", there are endless options to do some sightseeing that you can enjoy!

Niagara Falls
This famous Canadian location is not only one of the tourist attractions in Canada, but also surrounded by gorgeous wineries, cute little towns and many other attractions worth a visit while checking out the falls.

Blue Mountain
Just a 3 hour drive away from London, this a small village that has summer and winter activities such as skiing, snowboarding, tree-trekking, mountain biking, hiking and many more!

Top CEMS events of the year
CEMS Cooking Event
CEMS members teach your friends how to cook traditional meals from all around the world.

CEMS Social Event
Enjoy a wine night with your peers to get your mind off school and get to know one another.
Keio University
Tokyo, Japan

Why Tokyo?
According to the latest QS Best Student Cities ranking, Tokyo was named the second best student city in the world for two consecutive years. Among many Asian cities, Tokyo remains one of the attractive places to settle and study for international students. You will be able to experience a very unique and welcoming culture, with a perfect balance of modern and traditional. There is always an event on from music festivals, limited themed cafes, to more traditional festivals. The nightlife in Tokyo is also amazing. Shibuya, Roppongi, and beyond are chock of fun bars, clubs, and izakaya pubs.

Fun fact: Tokyo has also been named the world’s safest city for the third time in a row by EIU, and the best big city in the world by Condé Nast Traveler.

Why Keio?
Keio is located in Tokyo and Kanagawa, one of the world’s largest metropolitan areas. Keio is constantly ranked as one of the top universities in Japan, and it is known for its quality of education and research. Keio also affords students comfortable, safe living environments that encourage interaction yet allow privacy. Outside of the classroom, a fulfilling campus life awaits. There are over 400 clubs and societies run voluntarily by students for all manners of sports and interests.

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CEMS Club Tokyo

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Website: https://cems.club/tokyo/

CEMS terms
Term 1: late September to early February
Term 2: early April to late July
Visa requirements

Before travelling to Japan, make sure you are informed about any immigration regulations regarding visas and residence permits that may apply. More information available here.

Arrival

You will be issued a resident card at a port of entry besides having a seal of landing verification stamped in your passport. Make sure to carry the card with you at all times and present it when requested by an official or police. You are required to visit your local ward/city office where you live. Bring your resident card and register your residence within 14 days of finding a place to settle down.

Living Expenses

Average cost of rent without utilities – ¥60,000 – ¥100,000
Average monthly cost of groceries – ¥25,000
Transportation pass – ¥5,000 – ¥7,000
Insurance – ¥3,000 – ¥3,500

Tips

Grocery Stores – Marusho, Maru Etsu, Aeon, Ito Yokado, Seijo Ishii, Hanamasa, Seiyu.
Store Hours – Most stores are open throughout the week from 11am to 11pm. There are also many 24h restaurants, convenient stores and supermarkets.
Hidden Jems in the City – Gotoku-ji Temple, Asakusa-jinja, Nezu Shrine and Shibuya Sky
Housing – Most of the Japanese landlords would require you to have a guarantor in Japan. It is recommended to live in one of the dormitories Keio offers or rent with proper student dorm companies, rather than from individuals directly.

Housing

Keio offers several off-campus student dormitories. The application is handled on a first-come first-served basis, so it is recommended to apply as soon as possible. However, the availability to exchange students changes every year and should be confirmed with the programme coordinator.
Price range: ¥¥¥, District: Ginza
Ginza is a popular shopping district featuring high-end department stores and famous brands, with buildings dating back to the Edo period. Chuo-dori, or ‘central street’ is the main shopping avenue of Ginza where you’ll find famous products from all over Japan and stores with artwork by Japanese artists.
District: Roppongi/Akasaka
The Roppongi/Akasaka area is known for its nightlife, collection of Western restaurants and being the location of the iconic Tokyo Tower. You’ll find the most English spoken in this area with most restaurants and cafes being catered towards visitors.
Price range: ¥¥, District: Shinjuku
There are all sorts of museums, restaurants, cafes, and stores in Shinjuku. Here, you can find the famous Robot restaurant, the Samurai Museum, and some of the city’s best ramen and curry restaurants. The area is lively and bustling with people shopping, working, and exploring. In many ways, Shinjuku is a kind of shrunken microcosm of all great things in Tokyo.
Price Range: ¥, District: Waseda
Waseda is one of the famous areas for students because of how convenient it is. It is located closely to some of the most popular areas in Tokyo. For instance, you can get to Shinjuku, Harajuku, or Ikebukuro in around 10 minutes by train. Waseda is also relatively quiet and calm despite its urban nature.
Facebook Housing Groups
Tokyo Accommodation Board
Tokyo Housing, Apartments, Sublets, Short Term Rentals & Room for Rent
Student Dorm Companies Off-Campus
Tohjin Dormitory
OYO Life
Keio University
Tokyo, Japan

Google Maps
Click the photo below to access the list of top selected spots.

Travel / sightseeing destinations
Sensō-ji Temple, Tokyo’s oldest Buddhist temple, is the city’s most famous shrine, and it welcomes more than 30 million visitors annually. This is a must-see sightseeing attraction in Tokyo.
Meiji Shrine is surrounded by forest that is home to trees representing species found across Japan.
Tokyo Skytree is the country’s tallest structure. Standing at a height of 634 meters, Tokyo Skytree is recognized in the “Guinness World Records” as the world’s tallest tower.
Shibuya – Scramble Crossing is an intersection right outside Shibuya Station where as many as 3,000 pedestrians cross every time there’s green light. This is where you can experience the urban side of Tokyo and many visitors are surprised by the number of people.

Top CEMS events of the year
Career Design Studio – Bizjapan x CEMS Club Tokyo: Awarded 1st place (out of 33 countries) in the Desired category of CEMS Club Awards Fall 2020. Event for designing and hosting an online workshops targeting over forty Japanese undergraduates, aiming to raise awareness of CEMS in Japan.

Alumni sharing: CEMS Alumni Chapter in Japan organizes alumni events irregularly and may have CEMS students join as well.

Company seminar/ visit organized by school: Keio University organizes company visits or career training seminars for all the CEMS students each semester. These companies include Google, Richemont, and etc.

Offline gathering: We cooperate with Keio student clubs and other organizations outside of school to gather Japanese students and foreign students. These gatherings are great opportunities to know how local Japanese students live their life and experience cultural diversity.
**Why Istanbul?**

As Napoleon Bonaparte said: "If the Earth were a single state, Istanbul would be its capital."
Istanbul is a vibrant city and a melting pot full of history and brilliant architecture to discover. Istanbul is also a global trade hub, an artist metropole and foodie capital. And if you branch out beneath the city’s borders you find some of the world’s best beaches, natural parks and historic sights.

**Why Koç?**

Koç University is one of the leading business schools in the region, a top-ranked business school in Turkey and the Turkish partner of the Top 20 Financial Times ranked CEMS management programme. It offers a wide array of courses taught by some of Turkey’s most influential professors and business professionals.

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**CEMS Club Istanbul**

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**CEMS terms**

Term 1: mid-September to mid-January

Term 2: late January to early June
Visa requirements

You may or may not be required to obtain Turkish education/study visa. If you are eligible for touristic e-visa, you must enter Turkey with an e-visa. If you are exempt from visas to Turkey, you can travel with only a valid passport. If none of previously mentioned options applies to you, you must apply for visa at a consulate. Because you will apply for a residence permit after arriving in Turkey, you must enter with a valid passport. Nationals of certain countries are eligible to enter Turkey with their driver's licence or national ID, however none of these documents are accepted for residence permit application.

Transportation

If you want to avoid spending your day in traffic jams, you can get an Istanbul Card (approx. 50TL and 9,9TL per ride) for rides on the second oldest metro in the world and all other public transport in the city. If you prefer ride-sharing services, BiTaksi is highly recommended.

Living Expenses

Student meal menu at Koç University Dining Hall: 24-26 TL
Transportation: İETT Bus (Campus – Sarıyer) – 9.9 TL (student card)
Dolmuş (Sarıyer – Beşiktaş)– 10 TL
Taxi (Campus – Taksim) – 280 TL

Housing

Double bunk beds are available at West Campus for those who apply and make payments during the assigned period. Items you may want to bring: towels, pillowcases, sheets, duvet and duvet covers. If you choose to find your own housing, the negotiation of your rental contract is your own responsibility. Price range: –TR 10000– 15000.

Name of district: Cihangir. Central, very lively area filled with restaurants, cafés, bars, etc. which is considered to be one of the "coolest" districts in Istanbul, located near old town.

Name of district(s): Zekeriyaköy, Sarıyer. Close to Koç GSB, filled with nice restaurants, cafés, bars, activities, parks, etc. Many Koç students live here.

Other Accommodation Websites:
HürriyetEmlak, Sahibinden

Tips

Grocery Stores – Migros, CarrefourSa, BIM
Store Hours – Most stores in Turkey are open from 8:00 to 22.00 from Monday to Sunday. These days it is very common to order Groceries through apps such as Getir and Yemeksepeti.

Best Places to Frequent –There is always an activity around the city. Either a concert at Babylon, a film premier at Nisantasi, an exhibition in Istanbul Modern or a jazz night in Nardis Jazz Club. If it's art, entertainment and music you're looking for, you are at the right place to feed your appetite! Istanbul offers a vibrant night scene. Most of Istanbul's nightlife venues can be found in Besiktas, Beyoglu, Kadikoy and Karakoy. Also, there are nightclubs in Ortakoy, near the sea.

It wouldn't be wrong to define Istanbul as a city full history and culture as well as arts and aesthetics. One thing is for sure: there is something for everyone who wants to get to know the rich resources this city has to offer.

Housing – You should always make sure you sign a contract before sending any money (in case you can’t visit the property in person) and it is ideal to have a Skype call with the landlord and other tenants as well. Be aware that you will usually be asked to send a deposit in order to book the room and the amount will be defined by your landlord.

Arrival

Istanbul has two sides; European and Asian. Koç University is located on the northern-most part of the European side. Istanbul Airport lies on the Southern European side while Sabiha Gökçen Airport is located on the Southern Asian side. The majority of transportation from both airports leads to Taksim, the city center. Students will be welcomed by their mentors upon their arrival at the dormitory management for room check-in.
Google Maps

Click the photo below to access the list of top selected spots.

Travel / sightseeing destinations

Princess Islands
The Princess Islands ("Adalar" in Turkish) is an archipelago in the Sea of Marmara. It is a small haven of peace in Istanbul and a perfect place to relax and enjoy nature. During summer, we recommend you to get there on weekdays rather than weekends because they are invaded by the townspeople and the tourists.

Top 3 CEMS events of the year

Cappadocia Trip: Cappadocia is a beautiful region in central Turkey famous for its fairytale scenery, cave dwellings, remarkable rock formations and, of course, the hundreds of hot air balloons that soar in the sky during sunrise each morning.

Scuba Diving Trip: The azure, clear waters off Turkey’s coast hide a varied treasure chest of ancient underwater cities, hundreds-year-old wrecks and colourful marine life.

Turkish Breakfats: Throughout the semester, the CEMS club organises various Turkish Breakfast events in different locations in the city, allowing students to visit some of the city's most beautiful sites and learn about local traditions.
Why Seoul?

Seoul offers a brilliant mix of the vibrant, large city atmosphere and the opportunity to discover traditional Korean culture. There is also a plethora of cool cities and activities to visit within South Korea as well as Japan, China and other countries just a few hours flight away.

Why KUBS?

KUBS is the most prominent and well-known Business School in South Korea and has received the prestigious AACSB and EQUIS accreditations. Classes are shared with the local "Global MBA" cohort, fostering interaction with local students. Situated outside of the center, the University is well connected to the Seoul metro network, so exploration of Seoul’s diverse neighborhoods is always easy. Lastly, CEMS Club Seoul is young and cohorts are often small, so there is great flexibility and opportunity.

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CEMS terms

Term 1: early September to mid-December

Term 2: early March to mid-June
Visa requirements

To stay an entire semester, students must apply for a student visa at their local respective South Korean embassy. Exact information on necessary documents and payment can often be found online on the embassy’s website. Once approved, the visa is a single-entry visa. After arrival in South Korea, the visa can be changed to a multiple-entry visa. Guidance and support on how to do so is offered by KUBS directly.

Arrival

It is a good idea to connect with your cohort before the semester starts so you can coordinate housing choices and share tips and tricks. When arriving in Seoul, no registration with the authorities is needed.

Housing

While KUBS offers limited on-campus housing for international students, most CEMS students stay in off-campus housing.

ON-CAMPUS: KU has two dormitories for international students: CJ International House and Anam Global House. Single, double and triple rooms in student suites or in dorms are available. Rates vary between 640€ and 1’523€ per semester. Application periods: Spring (December), Fall (June).

OFF-CAMPUS: Most students stay in the “Crimson House” dorm as it is within walking distance to KUBS, has a great rooftop for summer evenings and is a great meeting place to start adventures, without the strict rules of living on campus. Rooms come in various sizes depending on the price. Single rooms ranging from very small (2.3m x 2.4m for 320€) to medium size (4.2m x 2.6m for 450€). All rooms come with a desk and bed. The medium sized rooms (type C) come with an additional table and two chairs. Shared kitchen in the bottom floor as well as adjacent restaurant. Many other restaurants and shops within walking distance. Booking the room is via email with the manager of Crimson: crimsonhouse7712@gmail.com

Other students have also coordinated together before the semester started to stay at Airbnb flats together. Prices can vary strongly depending on size and outfitting of the apartments.

Tips

Grocery Stores – Hyundai, Shinsegae and Lotte. CU and 7/11 for convenience stores.

Store Hours – Stores are open Monday through Sunday and are open until late (around 22:00) and longer for some convenience stores.

Best Places to visit – For going out the typical neighborhoods are Itaewon (trendy spot for bars, restaurants and clubs), Gangnam (posh and high-end clubs) and Hongdae (student area incl. bars and karaoke).

Bars: Chunja, student bar in Anam to really grasp the Korean drinking culture. Azit, disco pub in Anam, where you can play beerpong and enjoy some music. Thursday Party in Itaewon and Corner Pub in Hongdae are also recommended.

Restaurants: In Seoul you can find almost anything: from Korean traditional food to American brunch, from Japanese donkatsu to pizza... You can look on "MangoPlate" to find good ones. In Anam: Cheolnam (Korean), Baeksojeong (Japanese), GoGo Indian, Toro Sushi, Tratar Mexican. There are many nice restaurants close in the area between the palaces (Anguk station), in Hogdae (Hongik University Station) and Gangnam. Outside of Seoul, Busan and Jeju Island are highly recommended destinations.

Living Expenses

Average cost of rent (Studio, 45m2) – 500€. Expect slightly lower if going into a dormitory.

Average monthly food expenses – Groceries are quite expensive, especially fresh fruits. Thus, eating out is often the cheaper option. At a cheap restaurant, a meal will cost ~6€.

Transportation

Transportation pass – Monthly pass ~42€, pay as you go option also available for 0.95€. Taxis are also cheap and safe for when public transport is closed.

Insurance – Monthly cost for health insurance as well as various other smaller insurances from a large international insurance provider costs 72€ per month.
Google Maps
Click the photo below to access the list of top selected spots.

Travel / sightseeing destinations

Jeju Island
Beautiful beaches, the hippest bars and the chance to hike up a volcano! Limitless fun!

Busan
Explore this cultural hotspot of Korea, which is particularly nice during the cherryblossom season.

Top CEMS events of the year

Trip to Busan
End of the year trip to the beautiful beaches of Busan, the second largest city in South Korea. Surfing, socializing and hiking are just some of the amazing activities that you can do here.

Scavenger hunt
Explore Seoul and get to know your fellow CEMSIES with exciting challenges and try to visit as many highlights of Seoul together as possible.
Why London?

London’s cultural offering is ideal for students who are looking for a culturally enriching study experience. It’s one of the finest cities in the world. Samuel Johnson famously said that when a man is tired of London, he is tired of life. And that may well be true. Need we say more?

Fun Fact: More than 300 languages are spoken in London. So, when you are in London, you will find someone who speaks your language.

Why LSE?

The character of LSE is inseparable from its location. Situated in the heart of central London, the school is located in one of the most cosmopolitan cities in the world. Only a short distance from Europe’s financial, legal and cultural centres, LSE is actively involved in UK and world affairs. LSE is stimulating, well connected to its alumni network and very much part of the 'real world'.

Contact info

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CEMS Club London

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CEMS terms

Term 1: Mid September to Mid-December

Term 2: Early-January to Early April
Visa requirements

Before travelling to the UK, make sure you are informed about any immigration regulations regarding visas and residence permits that may apply. More info on visa requirements can be found here:
LSE VISA GUIDE
ISVAT Enquiry Forms

Housing

LSE has several student accommodations. However, their availability to exchange students changes every year and should be confirmed with the programme coordinator.
Price range: ££
Districts: Covent Garden/Leicester Square/Soho: The Covent Garden/Leicester Square/Soho area is very popular with visitors on foot – it’s a neighborhood made up of numerous little streets lined with restaurants, bars, and shops, some of them completely pedestrian, and there’s little in the way of traffic. It’s very central, right in the heart of London.
Price range: £
Districts: Warren Street (Fitzrovia), Kings Cross, Southbank: Lively area surrounded by plenty of options for food, clubs and pubs. Popular area for students living abroad due to its connectivity to most of the major universities in London.
Price Range: £
Name of district(s) Whitechapel, Southwark.
Camden Town: Optimal if you want to stay on a student budget, live in a multicultural neighbourhood and discover the treasures of the city far from the noisy tourist areas.

Tips

Store Hours – Most stores are open throughout the week from 7am to 11pm (May change in some areas).
Best Places to Frequent – Primrose Hill, Columbia Road Flower Market, Kyoto Garden, Saint Dunstan in the East, Borough Market, Top Secret Comedy Club, Portobello Road Market, Camden Market, Neal’s Yard, Sky Garden, China Town, Brick Lane, Seven Dials & Shoreditch.
Cafes: Drury 188–189, Bageriet, Gail’s, Fabrique, Black Sheep, Dillon’s Café & Nordic Bakery
Restaurants: IVY Brasserie, Dishoom, Maroush, Cheese Bar, Circolo Popolare, GÔ, Mari Vanna, Kintanêt Padella.
Housing – Some landlords ask for the rent to be paid in cash, however we would advise you to only make the payment via bank transfer or other legitimate methods. Or look for a housing option if they are adamant on cash payments. Start looking early to find a best deal as most landlords prefer to have a long term contact.

Living Expenses

Average cost of rent without utilities – 900–1200£
Average monthly cost of groceries – 120–170£

Arrival

Some nationalities must register with the police when they arrive in the UK. You only have to register if your Biometric Residence Permit or decision letter says you must. Find out more about Police Registration here.
Google Maps

Click the photo below to access the list of top selected spots.

Travel / sightseeing destinations

Hyde Park: Hyde Park is possibly the most famous park in London, and it is one of the largest. The park’s famous Speaker’s Corner is still occupied by debates, protests, and performance artists every week.

Westminster: Westminster is considered the political hub of London and is home to the Houses of Parliament and the world-famous Big Ben. Big Ben is the name of the bell housed within the iconic clock tower, and it still chimes every hour.

Camden: Known for its alternative culture, the crowds here are filled with goths, punks, rockabilly and tourists alike. Camden has a vibrant body mod community and you will find a number of piercing and tattoo shops in this part of town.

Soho: The area is now the most popular nightlife spot in London. In addition to bars and clubs, Soho has a number of theatres, jazz bars and restaurants to explore.
Why Louvain-la-Neuve?

Louvain-la-Neuve is a small student town and in 15 minutes you can walk through the whole city – so no need to worry about any transportation to university. Indeed, you’ll live close to all your friends and reach sports facilities, classes and shopping in no time! At the same time, LLN is well connected so that you can reach Brussels within 40min by train; from there you can catch fast trains to London (2h), Paris (1h), Amsterdam (1.5h) or visit many other beautiful cities and the coast in Belgium. Furthermore, besides the CEMS Club there are also other international student associations and you can get to know people from around the world easily.

Why Louvain School of Management?

LSM has a large network of academic partners in the world and thanks to its close proximity to Brussels, the programme offers many corporate events with top-tier companies. Furthermore, there are a lot of options for elective courses. As an exchange CEMSie, you usually do not have any issues with getting the courses you would like to take. Besides that, you also have the option to easily fulfil your 3rd language requirement with a French course provided by the language institute.

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@CEMSClubBelgium

CEMS terms

Term 1: mid-September to mid-December (+exams in Jan)

Term 2: early February to mid-May (+exams in Jun)
Visa requirements
From the perspective of a Russian incoming CEMSie (probably the most tricky process): It is recommended to start documentation preparation 3 months before the beginning of the semester. Especially it is recommended to pay attention to the following docs: no-criminal records certificate (its translation and apostille on it), confirmation of administrative fees payment (it is not visa fee, it is a different document) and solvency proof. The last one is the most costly. Do not transfer money to Belgium in advance, as the process to receive it later takes some time and is quite bureaucratic. A helpful link is to the visa center - the only one place that is eligible to take your document to the embassy (in Russia it was the only one way to apply). Further information available here.

Living Expenses
Average cost of rent: 360 €
Average monthly cost of groceries: EUR 250 to 300 € (depending how many parties you do and how many times you eat outside – LLN has many nice little restaurants and cafes where you can get delicious lunch!).

Housing
As an exchange CEMSie, you usually have a spot for student accommodation guaranteed. However, you would still need to apply officially at the student housing service (information are provided by the incoming manager). The housing service tries to allocate incoming CEMSies together into one accommodation. It's a great way to live with CEMSies, cook, party and study together! It is also possible to look for an apartment in Brussels, also some home CEMSies are commuting every day. However, student life is special in LLN. Student Accommodation prices for a private room in a flatshare (usually 4 to 6 persons, shared bathroom & shared kitchen) is around 360 Euro. If you look for something short-term, there are also many Facebook groups.

Tips
Grocery Stores – The cheapest option is Aldi, which is located a bit outside the city center (roughly 15min walk from the city center). Delhaize has the widest selection of groceries and is located in the basement of the small shopping mall in the center directly. If you want to save on your groceries, you can also have lunch at one of the three student restaurants in LLN. They offer a daily dish with a vegetarian option on a daily basis for only 3,35 €.
Everything you need to know about studying in LLN you will find in the LSM CEMS incoming students guide available here. Furthermore the LSM CEMS office usually replies to all of your questions in a timely manner.
Best Places to Frequent – As LLN is a small student town, you don’t need to be afraid to miss anything spectacular as everything is quite close. LLN has a nice lake which is perfect for having a barbecue in the summer.
Housing – When accepted by the LSM, you will receive all the necessary information on how and where to apply for the student accommodation. Don’t be nervous if they don’t reply until 1 or two weeks before your arrival – for many exchange CEMSies it took a while. More short-term solutions via private sub-rent can be found via Facebook.

Arrival
There are two main airports close to Louvain-la-Neuve: Brussels-Zavantem and Brussels-Charleroi, the latter is usually the cheapest to fly to within the EU (Ryanair, Laudamotion, etc.). From Brussels, you can reach LLN by train and you just need to change once. Upon arrival everyone, whether from the EU or not, whose primary residence is in Belgium is required by law to register with the local town council. After visiting the city hall, the police might come to your place to check if you really live there. After that, you get your residence permit. Please find more information here and here.
Google Maps

Click the photo below to access the list of top selected spots.

Travel / sightseeing destinations

One nice thing about Belgium is its location and its small size: From here you can visit neighboring countries within a couple of hours e.g. NL-Amsterdam, FR-Paris, DE-Frankfurt. But there are a lot of beautiful cities in Belgium as well such as Brugge (said to be the Venice of Belgium and has a very historical and romantic atmosphere), Ghent and Brussels of course. But also for nature-loving incoming CEMSies, the Ardennes provide a nice area to go for hikes.

Transportation

If you live in LLN, you do not need to consider transportation other than walking or maybe biking. For train rides to other Belgian cities there are reduced prices for persons younger than 26 (Youth Ticket – Go Pass 1). Furthermore, on weekends you just pay half the price of each train ticket. For reference: normal train ride one-way to Brussels is 5.50€.

Top 3 CEMS events of the year

Koln Xmas market

Trip to Rotterdam

Xmas dinner is amazing
Why Bergen?

Bergen is a beautiful city on the coast of Norway. It offers stunning nature for hiking and camping (seven mountains and a fjord), tourist attractions (a UNESCO World Heritage site) as well as nice bars, restaurants, and local stores; you can taste whale meat and experience fjord cruises!

Why NHH?

NHH is one of the best business schools in the Nordics. It offers a high-quality programme with diverse courses in traditional topics such as finance and economics, but also in environmental studies and business development. Moreover, because of the small size of the city and the university, NHH offers a lot of interaction between students in the form of many active student associations and clubs!

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CEMS Club Bergen

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CEMS terms

Term 1: August to December
Term 2: late January to late May/early June
Google Maps

Click the photo below to access the list of top selected spots.

Travel / sightseeing destinations

Thanks to affordable national flights and car rentals in Norway, students generally travel a lot within the country. There are good bus and train connections as well. Many students want to explore the North where Tromsø is popular for Northern lights and Lofoten for hiking adventures. Areas around the cities like Stavanger and Ålesund have much to offer for nature lovers. Traveling to Oslo means discovering the vibrant capital of Norway. The islands of Svalbard near the North Pole are some of the most extreme travel destinations within the country. Within a reasonable distance from Bergen there are also some national parks like Folgefonna, Hallingskarvet and Jostedalsbreen.

Top CEMS events of the year

Running cocktails, cottage/Norwegian Lapland trips and hiking events are only some examples of the variety of events that CEMS Club Bergen organizes.
Nova School of Business and Economics
Lisbon, Portugal

Why Portugal?

Portugal and Lisbon are a great place to live for many reasons: food is delicious, people are super friendly, there is an average of 300 days of sun a year, alcohol is very cheap (beer is 0.5€) and there are so many fun things to do and see given that Lisbon is the capital. Travelling within the country is also cheap and diverse.

Why Nova?

Nova has triple crown accreditation by EQUIS, AMBA & AACSB, making it a great academic school to study in. Classes are dynamic and professors are young and have corporate experience. Nova’s Master in Management is ranked #16 by the Financial Times and Nova is #1 business school in Portugal. Although it is not located in the city center, the campus is brand-new (2019) and it is right on the famous Carcavelos beach, where people surf all year around. The best thing about Nova, besides its great location, is the sense of work-life balance and community openness. Everyday something different and not related to the university is happening on campus.

Contact info

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Facebook: @cemsclublisbon

Website: https://www.cemsclublisbon.com/

CEMS terms

Term 1: early September to end of December

Term 2: early February to end of May
Visa requirements

Students from the EU and the EEA do not need a student visa to study in Portugal but if your stay in Portugal will exceed 90 days, you must apply for a certificate of registration upon arrival at the local city council office. You should bring a national identity card or passport, as well as a valid European Health Insurance Card in order to be officially added to the population register. You should report your arrival and receive the registration within the first four months in Portugal. Students who are EU/EEA nationals can also work in Portugal without any restrictions. Non-EU/EEA students wanting to study in Portugal will require a student visa and a residence permit for the duration of their studies. International students should visit the Portuguese embassy or diplomatic mission in their home country to make their visa application. Non-EU students must obtain their visas before travelling to Portugal. Your visa application can take anywhere between one to three months to process, so make sure to apply early!

Arrival

Once non-EU students arrive in Portugal, they should book an appointment with the local branch of the Portuguese Immigration and Borders service (SEF) to apply for their residence permit. EU citizens have 90 days to register at SEF. Many students find it helpful to join the ERASMUS student network that gives you some discounts and organizes a lot of events and trips for international students. Your CEMS Club will have for sure organized some welcome days to show you around the best places.

Transportation

The Lisbon transport network works smoothly and is relatively punctual, although at times it could benefit from a higher frequency of service. The major means of transport in Lisbon are: BUS, Train and metro. From the green line on the metro you can reach Cais do Sodré where you can catch a 15 or 25 minute train to Carcavelos. Most students have the monthly pass that allows you to travel inside Lisbon and in the surrounding districts by bus, metro, tram and trains. You can get this pass at Cais do Sodré station and if you have under 23 years old you get a student discount.

Tips

Grocery Stores – Pingo Doce, Continente, Lidl
Store Hours – Most are open every day from 10am to 10pm. Inside shopping centers every day until 11pm
Housing – Be careful when renting a house. Always ask for exact location and lots of pictures. Skype calls to see the house are possible but not regular. Most of the houses for rent are quite old. This means they are super spacious but quite cold during the winter. Do not expect AC or heating.

Living Expenses

Average cost of rent without utilities – 400/500€
Average monthly cost of groceries – 100€
Transportation pass (monthly) – 30€ – 40€
Insurance – 150 €

Housing

You can either live in Carcavelos, there are on and off-campus residences from milestone, or you can live in Lisbon. Most students live in Lisbon to better enjoy the city life but living near the beach is also good. In Lisbon you should live on the green metro line or near the train station. Most students live in Santos, Bairro Alto, Cais do Sodré, Baixa, Martim Moniz or Marques de Pombal. Price range: 350€-650€ in all the above-mentioned districts. It depends if you are lucky or not with your landlord and what you are willing to settle for. Try to contact other CEMSies who have been in Lisbon to pass down contacts. There are some apartments that CEMSies are always living in.
Facebook Housing Groups
House Exchange Nova Sbe (1.500 members), Rooms to rent / Quartos para arrendar em LISBOA (6.200 members), Apartments and rooms in Lisbon – flat sharing (11.500 members), Lisbon Expat Rooms, Flats & Roommates (8.300 members), Arrendamento Quartos e Casas em Lisboa (115.000 members, PT), Casas/Quartos para arrendar em Lisboa (150.000 members, PT).
Other Accommodation Websites
Idealista, imovirtual, HousingAnywhere, SpotAHome Uniplaces
Nova School of Business and Economics
Lisbon, Portugal

Google Maps
Click the photo below to access the list of top selected spots.

Travel / sightseeing destinations

**Porto:** Porto is the second-largest city in Portugal after Lisbon and was chosen as “The City to Visit This Year” by Forbes in 2017. Porto is a definite must-see city in Europe, even if it is just for a weekend break. Porto is just the perfect size to explore by foot: you can have a walk around the Douro River, try some delicious Portuguese dishes in traditional restaurants, party in the many bars downtown and a lot more.

**Costa Vicentina:** If you are a lover of nature, beaches and surfing you can not miss Southwest Alentejo coast! Here you will find some of the most beautiful hidden beaches in Portugal and less touristic villages to relax and enjoy the sun!

**Algarve:** The Algar is the beautiful southern coastline of Portugal where you can find the sunniest weather in all the country and amazing beaches! Here you will also find a very vibrant nightlife with a lot of fun bars and clubs.

Top 3 CEMS events of the year

**Running Cocktails:** This event is quite popular and done many times each semester! CEMSies who host the Running Cocktails receive other CEMSies at their homes for drinks and socializing!

**Trip to Porto:** One of the most popular events is the trip to the city of Porto where CEMSies get to know Portugal’s second largest city and try the world famous Port Wine!

**Sailing Trip:** To make the best out of Lisbon’s sunny days the CEMS Club organizes boat trips along the Tejo where CEMSies can enjoy the views of beautiful Lisbon at sunset hour!
National University of Singapore
Singapore

Why Singapore?

Singapore is really vibrant, convenient and has amazing food! Singapore is hailed as a highly favourable destination to get a competitive degree. The country’s beautiful environment and global connections make it an enthralling destination for international students to live, interact, and work unitedly. Singapore may appear like a little dot on the world map, but it bustles all over with attractions and activities. The country’s affluent multicultural heritage is highlighted through the several cultural groups such as Indians, Chinese, Malays, and Eurasians living together harmoniously.

Why NUS?

NUS is one of the leading business schools in Asia, known for the quality of its education and its international outlook. It was the first in Asia to be awarded the prestigious AACSB and EQUIS accreditations. The NUS community is huge and you can always make good contacts by tapping into this network. Approximately 95% of students studying CEMS at NUS are international!

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CEMS terms

Term 1: early August to early December

Term 2: early January to early May
Visa requirements

NUS starts the process for a student visa for you. It's an online application. Once you get entry approval from the ICA, you are allowed to enter the country within the 2 week period you applied for. After arrival, you need to complete the Student’s Pass formalities in order to get a student's pass (i.e. student visa).

Housing

Exchange students usually live at PGPR or Kent Vale because it's close to campus. The housing is valid till the end of the semester here (i.e. April). However, on-campus housing for Graduate students are very limited. You are encouraged to look for off-campus housing.

Another possibility is to rent an apartment, though it is harder to do so for a span of 4 months. You can post on Facebook to find people to live with. Before initiating your search, it would be great to get in touch with the rest of your cohort - not only as a way of starting to know each other, but also to form groups in case you want to look for accommodation together. The sooner this happens, the higher the likelihood of finding a suitable place.

Facebook Housing Groups
FindYourRoomInSG
Room Rent/ Roommate in Singapore
Other Accommodation Websites
RENTINSINGAPORE
Property Guru
NUS Accommodation guide

Tips

Grocery Stores
Cold storage has all the groceries, though slightly expensive. Fairprice is good as well.

Freetime activities
You can rent a bike and cycle around the city for fun or visit as many Hawker Centres to try out different kind of cuisines.

Housing
Housing should be finalized before arrival.

Transportation

The bus and MRT are very accessible, cheap and easy to use.

Living Expenses

Average cost of rent: 700-1800 SGD
Monthly public transport cost: 60 SGD
Living expenses monthly: 300-500 SGD
Google Maps

Click the photo below to access the list of top selected spots.

Travel / sightseeing destinations

Gardens By the Bay: This is a hugely popular tourist attraction in Singapore with a treetop walk and an oft-photographed indoor 114-foot waterfall.

Pulau Ubin: Pulau Ubin is an island and even stepping onto it is like time-traveling to the way Singapore was decades ago. Also getting to it is quite adventurous: you take a 10-minute ride on a chugging bumboat from Changi Point Ferry Terminal.

Thian Hock Keng Temple: This is Singapore's oldest Buddhist temple. The elaborate architecture, done up in the traditional southern Chinese style, was built without using a single nail. Definitely a must-see while you're in Singapore!

Sentosa: Sentosa is an island resort off the southern coast of Singapore that's home to major tourist attractions like Universal Studios Singapore and the S.E.A. Aquarium.

Top 3 CEMS events of the year

Crazy 44

Google Critical Thinking Event

Financial Sustainability with BNP Paribas
Rotterdam School of Management,
Erasmus University
Rotterdam, Netherlands

Why Rotterdam?

Rotterdam is one of the most international cities you can experience. Countless nationalities live here and enjoy life together. After its destruction during WWII, the city has now entirely changed its face and is known for its modern architecture and a vibrant lifestyle. The university is an important part of the city and you will see many students making Rotterdam their own. The city has the perfect size for studying and life never gets boring. You will have the feeling of living in a major city, while everything can still be reached by bike. You will find most students going out in similar places in the city center.

Why RSM?

The university is, just like the city itself, an absolute melting pot, hosting over 30,000 students from all around the world. RSM consistently ranks among the top 10 of European business schools and possesses the Triple Crown Accreditation. The CEMS/MIM programme is ranked as the third best Management Master worldwide. The university’s CEMS Club is known for its activity and has won several awards in the past years.

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CEMS terms

Term 1: Early September to mid-December
Term 2: Early February to end of June
Rotterdam School of Management, Erasmus University
Rotterdam, Netherlands

Visa requirements
You do not require a visa if you are a national of: European Union (EU); Liechtenstein; Norway; Iceland; Switzerland. If you are not a national of one of these countries, then you may need a short-stay Schengen visa. This allows you to stay in the Schengen area for a maximum of 90 days within a 180-day period. You can use the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Schengen Visa Advisor to see whether you need a visa or not. Even if you do not need a visa, you must still meet certain conditions in order to visit the Netherlands. These can be found here; Immigration and Naturalisation Service (IND).

Arrival
If you are staying, or plan to stay, in the Netherlands for more than four months then you need to register (inschrijven) at the town hall in the municipality (gemeente) where you are living. Whether you’re a Dutch citizen or an international, everyone living in the Netherlands is required to be registered at their home address. Being registered allows the Basisregistratie personen (BRP or Municipal Personal Records Database) to better handle emergency situations, to track the size of the Dutch population and to allocate the right municipal taxes to each household. Registration additionally is required to open a bank account and simplify other everyday transactions.

Living Expenses
Accommodation (furnished, including shared / individual utilities): €500–€850 / month
Insurance: €55 / month
Books and study materials (may vary per study programme): €50–150 / month
Daily expenses (food, drinks, clothes, going out, public transport, etc.): €350 / month
Other (non–recurrent) expenses: Visa and residence permit fees (for non-EU students): €192
Bicycle (secondhand): €150
A number of items with their average prices
Cup of tea or coffee in a café: €3.00
Cheese sandwich: €4.00
Beer: €3.50
Meal in a typical student restaurant: €12.50
Cinema ticket: €10.50
Hairdresser (cut and blow-dry): €25–€60

Tips
Groceries at Lidl, Dirk or Aldi are less expensive than the same products at Albert Heijn.
Keep track of grocery discounts, all weekly discounts (‘aanbiedingen’ in Dutch) are advertised on the websites of the supermarkets too.
Buy good but cheap produce at the Binnenrotte market every Tuesday and Saturday.
Make use of the discounts of the ESN card.
Get a Rotterdam pass or Rotterdam Welcome card for discounts on cultural activities in Rotterdam.

Transportation
You can get around town easily on a bike. This is not only typically Dutch but also a cheap means of transportation. You can rent a bike at Swapfiets for around ~€17/month or buy a second-hand bike at Mega Bike. Bus tickets cost around € 2 for a single fare in the city. You can buy a 40% discount card for train tickets for travelling outside rush hour.

Housing
The student housing market in Rotterdam is very competitive and it can be quite challenging to find accommodation close to campus and at an affordable price. You basically have three options:
On-Campus Residence: For Master students, the on-campus housing options are unfortunately quite limited, but it might be worth checking out SSSH Student Housing and the XIOR building. However, getting a room is quite competitive and you’ll need to register early and be lucky. Price range: 400–700€
Off-Campus Residences: There are several student housings options (not linked to the university) in Rotterdam. The main ones include The Student Hotel (TSH), The International House, and Holland2Stay. These three residences are all located in Kralingen and within 5min biking distance from campus. However, rooms tend to be quite expensive. Price range: 600 – 1,200€ (e.g. TSH room ca. 800€)
Arrange your own room/apartment: Most of the (CEMS) students rent a flat and live with roommates. The best areas to live in are Kralingen (closest to campus) and the city center. Price range: 450€ – 1,000€ (depending on the quality of the flat).
Google Maps

Click the photo below to access the list of top selected spots.

Top 3 CEMS events of the year

1. Risk Game Night
Risk is a strategy board game of diplomacy, conflict, and conquest where alliances are formed and dissolved. CEMSies were placed into teams of 4-6 people to play together and the aim was to conquer their enemies’ territories by building an army, moving their troops in, and engaging in battle on a world map. The event turned out to be a half serious half not serious give-and-get throughout the whole night.

2. CEMS Club Christmas Gala
At the end of the fall semester we all came together for one last glorious dinner with the whole cohort. We booked a restaurant and put on our best dresses and suits to enjoy the night. With sufficiently provided food and beer we held our own CEMS Club awards, honouring those among us were voted to have impacted the semester in a memorable way. The celebrations were of course continued at the club afterwards.

3. Halloween Murder Mystery Party
For the spookiest season of the year, the creativity really starting boiling. After weeks of suspense the night of Halloween hit and prisoners, angels, and Pablo Escobar were roaming the city! It was truly a sight to behold and made for a great time. Mysteriously this group of diverse and dangerous creatures got along magnificently and parted ways peacefully at the end of the night.

Travel / sightseeing destinations

Amsterdam: From unconventional restaurants and local craft beers to a wealth of world-class museums, it’s easy to see why Amsterdam is a top tourist destination. Its bike culture and charming canals are also all part of the city’s universal appeal. The Windmills of Kinderdijk: On the River Noord between Rotterdam and Dordrecht is the famous village of Kinderdijk. The big draw these days are the fantastically preserved 18th-century windmills. Now UNESCO World Heritage Sites, the 19 Kinderdijk windmills, built in the 18th century, are the largest surviving concentration of windmills in the Netherlands. Delta Works: Zeeland’s Spectacular Dikes: Incorporating the deltas of the Rhine, the Maas, and the Schelde Rivers, Zeeland includes the numerous islands and peninsulas of the southwestern section of the Netherlands. As you travel the area, you’ll see evidence of the mega-engineering project known as the Delta Works. These massive, hi-tech dams control the water that enters from the North Sea.
SGH Warsaw School of Economics  
Warsaw, Poland

Why Warsaw?
Did you know that Warsaw is ranked the 9th most vegan-friendly city in the world? It is modern, vibrant and has much to offer from its countless parks to its famous party street! The irony is that in Warsaw’s New Town is much older than the Old Town as 90% of old buildings were destroyed during the war. However, it was remarkably rebuilt and the city is full of cafes, museums, outdoor bars by the Vistula, art zones and trendy clubs.

Why SGH?
SGH is the oldest and the most prestigious university of economics and management in Poland, awarded CEMS School of the Year in 2016-2017. SGH is AMBA, BSIS Impact, CEEMAN IQA, ECA CeQuInT, EQUIS and AACSB accredited university.
SGH’s unique selling points are: carefully selected course offer delivered by top experts in their field and top international companies, rich leisure time offer provided by several student organisations dedicated to international students, possibility to meet people who change the history of Europe and were successfully contributing to systemic transformation in Central and Eastern Europe.

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CEMS terms

Term 1:  late September to mid-late-December

Term 2:  mid-February to early June
Visa requirements
If you are EU Citizen a visa is not necessary. For outside countries check the requirements that are needed for your specific country. All documents and the procedure is explained here.

Arrival
No special registration is needed.

Housing
There are multiple websites where you can get student accommodations tailored for short-term stay such as:
Pepe Housing
Rentflat24
https://www.olx.pl

In addition, you can apply for the SGH dormitory: https://www.sgh.waw.pl/en/student-residence-halls-information-students

Locations: Metro Pole Mokotowskie, Rondo ONZ, Metro Politechnika

Transportation
Warsaw has a fantastic public transport system which easily let you get anywhere (2 metro lines, trams, buses). 3- month student ticket is around 160 PLN for all means of transportation.

Make sure to get Jakdojade App!

We also have city bikes Vertullo, which is very convenient!

Tips
Grocery Stores: discount stores Biedronka, Lidl; 7/11 types: żabka, carrefour, Lewiatan
Opening hours: usually 6AM–10PM, but on Sunday shops are closed (only Żapka is open)
The currency and payments in Poland is Polish Zloty (PLN) – it is advised to get a digital bank such as Revolut. You can pay by card almost everywhere!
Museums usually have one day during the week when you can enter for free (check the websites) and all have student discounts.
Eateries near SGH: at SGH: Jajko, Hades; outside: Costa Coffee, Bar Thienly (need to try a legendary dish Indyk Maslo–Czosnek), Galeria Wypiekow Lubaszka
Bars near SGH: Pub Zielona Gęś, Bolek Pub&tRestaurant, Flip
Accomodation: recommend to first reach out to CEMS Club Warsaw – it is common to exchange flats when some people are going for their exchanges abroad

Living Expenses
Average cost of rent (with utilities): 300-450 EUR
Public Transport for students: 0,50 EUR per ride; 3- month pass 160 PLN
Living expenses in Warsaw: 300–600 EUR/month
Google Maps

Click the photo below to access the list of top selected spots.

Travel / sightseeing destinations

Warsaw
Lots of museums and parks. Grabbing a drink at the Vistula river or visiting the Vodka museum are a must!

Cracow
Around 3 hours train ride away. Great city with lots of things to see.

Tricity - Gdańsk, Gdynia, Sopot
Around 2 hours train ride from Warsaw. Stroll by the sea in Sopot, visit Old Town in Gdansk and enjoy modern city of Gdynia!

Top CEMS events of the year

Rotation Dinner
A traditional event that we have every year with 3-4 companies. Students get together with company representatives for dinner and rotate to different tables after each course.

The Warroom Warsaw Consulting Conference
In November, we organize 3-day event, which is a combination of solving case studies with consulting companies and networking opportunities during rotation dinner, coffee chats and fun with other CEMSies!
Stockholm School of Economics
Stockholm, Sweden

Why Stockholm?
Stockholm is home to beautiful Scandinavian architecture, abundant open water and extensive national parks. It offers a perfect balance between city life, an innovative business environment and nature.

Fun facts: The first Nobel Prizes were awarded in Stockholm in 1901. Locals live on some of the 30,000 islands of the archipelago and commute by boat. It barely gets dark in June due to the midnight sun.

Why SSE?
SSE is one of the leading business schools in Europe and the top-ranked business school in the Nordics. The small number of students (~1600) allows for easy personal connections to students, staff, corporate partners and alumni. SSE’s student association provides students with all forms of extracurricular entertainment such as sports, tech, art, travel and, of course, fantastic parties. Don’t forget to participate in an official banquet!

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CEMS terms
Term 1: early September to mid-January
Term 2: mid-January to early June
Visa requirements

Before arriving to Sweden, make sure you are informed about relevant immigration regulations.

Arrival

As an EU citizen studying in Sweden for < 1 year, you do not have to register upon arrival. Non-EU citizens and EU citizens staying for >1 year must obtain a residence permit before arrival or as soon as possible.

Housing

Finding a private room in Stockholm is difficult – it is a more competitive housing market than in most other European cities. SSE does its best to provide student accommodation if requested. However, it can be quite expensive and/or located far outside of the city center.

Price range: $$$ (~SEK 6500)

Name of district: Södermalm

Why live here? Central, very lively area filled with restaurants, cafés, bars, etc. which is considered to be one of the "coolest" districts in Stockholm.

Price range: $$ (~SEK 4000-6500)

Name of district(s): Vasastan, Norrmalm

Why live here? Close to SSE, central and filled with nice restaurants, cafés, bars, activities, parks, etc.

Many SSE students live here!

Facebook Housing Groups

Bostad Stockholm
Stockholm Student Accommodation
Student Dorms Off Campus

SSE provides housing services in three different locations:

1) Huvudsta. The rooms are nice, the location is calm, and it is very pricey (~SEK 10,000).
2) Lappis. It is located outside of the center, ~20 min by bus to SSE, the kitchens are shared, and the rooms are decent and cheap (~SEK 3,400).
3) Saltis. Very central location in Vasastan, however, this housing is only reserved for some incoming exchange students (~SEK 6,000).

Other Accommodation Website

Bostad Direkt

Tips

If you are not planning on choosing student housing, you should start looking for a room ~6 months prior to your arrival. It is also helpful to contact local SSE students for recommendations.

Grocery Stores – Coop, Lidl, Hemkop, Ica

Store Hours – 08:00 ~ 21:00, 7 days per week

Best Places to Frequent – Gamla Stan for a walk; Södermalm for restaurants and a view over the city; have a Fika; art walking-tour through the metro; Fotografiska museum in the evening, there is a nice rooftop bar.

Living Expenses

Average cost of rent without utilities – ~SEK 5,500

Average monthly cost of groceries – ~SEK 4,000

Transportation pass – ~SEK 650 (students only)
Google Maps

Click the photo below to access the list of top selected spots.

Travel / sightseeing destinations

Kiruna
Far above the arctic circle in Swedish Lapland, the city long existed solely for the employees of the local iron ore mine. To be reached from Stockholm by night train, plane, or car, the region is a perfect destination for outside activities in summer and winter. Especially seeing the aurora lights and husky sledding are on the bucket list when visiting in winter.

Transportation

Public transportation
Make sure to check www.sl.se or the app, which will give you easy info on the fastest route to your destination.

E-scooters and E-bikes
Stockholm has recently seen a strong increase in e-scooter companies and e-bikes. Walking through the city, you will encounter e-scooters offered by Bird, Bold, Lime, Tier, and Voi. The e-bikes are offered by the Stockholm government and the renting app is called e-bikes, very practical and cheap (~ SEK 150 for a whole year).
Why Beijing?

As the capital of China, Beijing has an important position in politics, culture, economy and education. Beijing is the historical capital of five dynasties and has accumulated rich cultural heritage. Beijing is also a modern metropolis with the most active international activities, the most trending tech companies, and the most exciting entertainment.

Why Tsinghua?

Tsinghua University is one of the top 2 universities in China. Tsinghua has more than 40,000 students (including 3000+ international students) and an 800 acres campus. Tsinghua is located in the prosperous Wudaokou area, close to many other colleges, food and entertainments.

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CEMS terms

Term 1: early September to mid-January
Term 2: mid-February to late June
Visa requirements

All foreign students coming to study in China are required to complete the China Student Visa (X) in advance. After being admitted, Tsinghua will guide you through the visa process via email. Students from Canada, Australia and many EU countries can submit through the China Visa Application Center.

Arrival

You are required to get a residence permit within 30 days of arriving in China. If you do not live in a school dormitory, you’ll need to go to the police station to report your address after settling down.

Housing

School Dormitory: Tsinghua has dormitories for international students, but the vacancies are limited. You will need to follow the school’s email notification and apply immediately when the application opens. The price of on-campus accommodation is about 2400RMB/ month for private and 1200RMB/ month for shared rooms.

Private housing: There are no known private-run student dormitories around Tsinghua. Most exchange students rent rooms of shared apartments in Wudaokou area (along Chengfu Rd.) or Liudaokou area (along Xeyuan Rd.). These places are in cycling distance from the school, and close to the subway/bus stations. The price for a shared room ranges from 2800RMB to 4500RMB. The most common way to find an apartment in Beijing is through real estate agents. Book a hostel for a couple of days, contact an agent, and let them take you for a few visits. The rental market is fast moving, and the landlords usually do not take reservations long in advance.

Tips

Grocery Stores – TMall Supermarket on campus (B1 of Cbuilding); Lotus Supermarket in Wudaokou outside Tsinghua East Gate.

Store Hours – TMall Supermarkets on campus 7:30-23:30; Supermarkets 8:30-22:00; Shopping Centers 10:00-22:00.

Best Places to Frequent – Sanlitun area; Shichahai-Gulou area; 798 Art District

Housing – Two-month-deposit needed. Do not make transfers before checking the room. Ask a Chinese speaking friend to check your contract.

CEMS Club Welcome Guide – Exchange Survival Handbook with more detailed guides will be sent upon admission and an orientation section will be held upon arrival by CEMS Club Beijing.

Living Expenses

Average cost of rent without utilities – €350-500
Average monthly cost of groceries – €150-350
Public Transportation – around €0.5 each trip
Insurance – around 500RMB/year (Tsinghua will handle it uniformly after your arrival).

Transportation

Public transportation: Subway and bus systems are convenient and well-covered around Beijing City.

Shared bikes: Download Alipay, Meituan, or DiDi app to scan and use shared bikes. The price is about 1.5 RMB / 30 mins.

Taxis: Download DiDi app to get ride-hailing service.
Google Maps

Click the photo below to access the list of top selected spots.

Travel / sightseeing destinations

The Forbidden City: The Forbidden City is the palatial heart of China. Constructed in 1420, during the early Ming Dynasty, it is China’s best-preserved imperial palace and the largest ancient palatial structure in the world.

The Great Wall: The Great Wall of China is one of the greatest sights in the world — the longest wall in the world, an awe-inspiring feat of ancient defensive architecture. Its winding path over rugged country and steep mountains takes in some great scenery.

Top CEMS events of the year

Dumplings Day
Learn the whole process of making dumplings, and have a taste of traditional Chinese wine/beer.

Forbidden City Trip
Get a trip to the landmark of Beijing- the Forbidden City, and have a deeper understanding of Chinese history.
Why Santiago?

Santiago is a prevalent city in Latin America, and a fast-moving hub in Chile. Santiago is also the safest city in South America and it allows you to be fully immersed in South American culture. Just a couple hours away from the beach, but surrounded by the mountains, there are many possibilities for activities. Hiking, rafting and climbing are just some of the outdoors activities that are available in Santiago.

Why UAI?

UAI has a strong network of students who are helpful and supportive, especially if you would like to learn Spanish. Although the campus is far from the city, it is architecturally outstanding and set at the base of the Andes mountains. Moreover, it has a free gym with different classes such as yoga, climbing, pilates and cross fit among others as well as numerous study spaces and buses to not only get to campus/back to the city, but also to move between its different buildings. UAI is also one of the leading business schools in South America, and it has been awarded with AACSB, EQUIS and AMBA accreditations.

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CEMS terms

Term 1: mid September to mid December

Term 2: early March to end of May/early June
Visa requirements

It is recommended to get a student visa before coming to Chile. This is done in your home country, with a Chilean embassy. However, it is possible to stay in Chile on a tourist visa for a maximum of 90 days. Students in the past have opted for this option as it is more convenient, and therefore, left the country after 90 days, to then re-enter. While not encouraged by the CEMS office, it is a possibility. However, Chilean immigration is each time getting more strict about this.

Arrival

Once in Santiago, you must register your visa with PDI. This allows you to get a Chilean identity card and a rut identification number. Some apps/websites also require you to provide your rut when signing up.

Housing

The School does not provide any type of housing. However, it is fairly easy to find housing, and can be done upon arrival or shortly before.

Housing recommendations:
Price range: $$$, Name of district: Las Condes
It is probably the safest area for students, close to a lot of convenience stores, malls and parks. The L1 metro gets you everywhere in Santiago.
Price range: $, Name of district: Providencia
It is also a safe area, around a lot of bars, stores and activities. There is also a UAI bus going from there, which is convenient.
Price Range: $, Name of district: La Reina or Nuñoa
More residential areas, but they have good connection with buses and metro. It can also be convenient for sharing cars/Ubers to get to UAI.

Accommodation Websites
Santiago Exchange
Contact Chile
Roomate and Flat Finder Santiago
Portalinmobiliario
Amoblados
Comparto Depto
AirBnB

Tips

Grocery Stores – Jumbo, Lider, Santa Isabel, Unimarc. Delivery services – Rappi, Uber Eats, PedidosYa, Cornershop. They always have discount codes that you can share with friends.
Store Hours – Most big supermarkets are open 8–21, most department stores are open 8–20.
Best place to be during the weekend: Barrio Italia.
Housing – They may require a large deposit upfront. Rent is paid at the beginning of the month, on a monthly basis.

Transportation

Within Santiago: UAI has buses from different city points going to the university, usually close to metro stations. To travel around the city, you can use the metro, transantiago (buses), and apps such as Cabify, Uber, and Didi are frequently used in the city since sometimes it is really cheap.
Outside Santiago: Buses are very high quality compared to buses in Europe or other countries, definitely consider them for some trips. Also, flight tickets can sometimes be very cheap. Check directly on the airline websites, since usually, you can find really good deals. (Enter to the Spanish site, since sometimes when choosing English prices are higher).

Living Expenses

Average cost of rent with utilities: 250,000 CLP–400,000 CLP for a room in a shared apartment. Transportation costs: Pay as you go.
Living expenses in Santiago based on feedback from visiting students: 600,000CLP–850,000 CLP
*Includes accommodation, travel, and other living expenses.
Google Maps

Click the photo below to access the list of top selected spots.

Travel / sightseeing destinations

Places to visit in Chile
San Pedro de Atacama (You can pass to Bolivia to Uyuni Salt Flats), Patagonia (Torres del Paine, Coyahique, Carretera Austral, Parque Pumalín etc), Pucón, Villarica, Frutillar, Puerto Varas, Valdivia, Easter Island (Isla de Pascua), Chiloé Island (Among all the cool things you can do, check Cole Col hike in Chiloé National), Iquique, Bahía Inglesa/ Pan de azucar National Park, La Serena / Punta de Choros/ Valle del elqui/Playa Blanca/ Morrillos/......
And many many more places, ENJOY!

Top CEMS events of the year

Events change every semester, but usually CEMS Club Santiago is very active and organizes wine tours, trips to Valparaíso and Viña del mar for the weekend, going to Cajón del Maipo, hikes in Santiago, trips to the south and north of Chile, ski and surf trips, among others.
Why Bogotá?

Bogota, culminating at 2640 meters above sea level, is a very attractive city with a huge cultural richness but also has a lot to offer in terms of nightlife and activities. It is also in the heart of Colombia, which makes it easy to travel from this point. On the other hand, you should also ask yourself why Colombia. The country has a variety of climates rarely equaled, beautiful landscapes (paradisiacal beaches on the Pacific and Atlantic coasts, preserved tropical forests, magnificent natural parks, high Andean peaks, volcanoes, green hills, etc.) and a population whose kindness knows no bounds, making the country an ideal place to live an incredible experience.

Why Universidad de los Andes?

UniAndes is a university with a proven track record in Latin America. The courses offered are of a high standard and the professors are very involved and always willing to help. Furthermore, the university is located in the center of Bogota, at the foot of the mountains, which offers an incredible setting for the students. Moreover, the infrastructure is of great quality: a building dedicated to sports (fitness, gym, yoga), dance halls to learn Salsa, Bachata or Merengue, etc.
Visa requirements

There are two possibilities:

- Your nationality does not need a Visa (almost all European nationals), in this case you just need to land at Bogota airport with a valid passport and the customs officer will stamp "PID", which allows you to stay in the country and study for 90 days. At the end of this period, you will have to renew it and request the PTP from the country's embassy.

- Your nationality needs a Visa. In this case, you must take the necessary steps before arriving in Colombia.

Living Expenses

Average cost of rent with cleaning – €300–€450
Average monthly cost of groceries – €80–€100
Average Uber ride – €4 per trip
Average Menu del día – €4 per day

Housing

The university does not provide housing directly but there are different options for students:

- Student residences (Livinx18, Livinx21, The Spot, CityU) are located within a 10-minute walk from the School of Management. This is the most popular option for international students in general. Price: 300–450€ per month, depending on the type of accommodation

- Private accommodation to be found directly on Facebook groups (Short Term Rental Bogota). Preferably in Chapinero neighborhood, but it’s further away from the university

Tips

Grocery Stores – Exit, Ara, Carulla
Store Hours – Typically stores open from 7:00-20:00. Smaller street food stands may open later.
Best Places to Frequent –Zona T, Zona Rosa, Zona G variety of bars, restaurants, and nightclubs (Kaputt, Video Club, Mad Radio, Theathron); La Candelaria for cute cafés (Grosó café); Chapinero and Usaquén for Sunday walks, Parque Simon Bolivar for chill afternoons, Monserate for a hike within the city, Mercado de la Providencia, Mercado de las Nieves for lunches
Delivery services – Rappi, Uber Eats. They always have discount codes that you can share with friends.
Housing – If you already have a team of friends, try to rent a private apartment that will be way cheaper than student residences. Yet, be sure to have a signed contract. Otherwise, LivinX21 is the best option.
Transportation - Mostly Uber, Cabify, or yellow taxis. There is also the local Transmilenio as public transportation (Bus). Metro does not exist.

Arrival

Once in Bogota, you must do some administrative work for UniAndes by sending out a picture of your PID. This allows you to get the UniAndes accreditation and therefore your student card.

You will also need to get a local SIM card, which you will get by going to Claro. Don't forget to ask the employee to register your number on a specific website otherwise your phone will be blocked.
Transportation
Bus - all bookings on Redbus.co
Plane - Avianca, Wingo, Latam

Top 3 CEMS events of the year
CEMS Club Bogota has just been created, so for now, CEMS events are not fixed yet. But here are some examples of what we did so far, just the six of us:

Andrés Carne de Res: A meat restaurant that turns into a dance floor from 11pm. There are also shows and performances for the Carnival in early February. It's a great place to have fun and an unforgettable night.

Medellin trip: A weekend trip to Medellin is the perfect place to spend a weekend in a city rich in culture while combining an incredible nightlife.

San Gil trip: In a completely different atmosphere, going to San Gil over a weekend with the cohort will allow you to enjoy different extreme sports all together! (rafting, hang gliding, canyoning, horseback riding, bungee jumping, etc.)

Travel / sightseeing destinations
Colombia is a true jewel in Latin America where you will find a variety of landscapes and will be hard to see it all, but here are some examples.

Salento/Filandia: A great place to spend a weekend and learn how to make coffee. Famous for its huge wax trees, the Cocora Valley is definitely a must.

Leticia (Amazone Rain Forest) / Puerto Narino: Experience the wilderness of the rain forest in search of monkeys, fish, and insects that you would have never thought of before, anacondas, & caimans. You can also swim with pink dolphins.

San Gil: great place for extreme sports over a weekend

Villa de Leyva: Cute village to spend the weekend

Ciudad Perdida Trek: The local Macchu Picchu; trk to be done in 4 days and 2 nights. Price: 350€

Parque de Tayrona/Minca: Natural reserves next to the Pacific coast

La Guajira: Desert that ends in the Caribbean sea, a must to go surfing and windsurfing

Cartagena: The must-go city on the Caribbean Cost, from there you can travel towards little islands to enjoy and relax, perfect for the Semana Santa vacation week

Medellin/Guatape: The favorite place of most CEMSies, 5 days well spent between Comuna 13 visits, sightseeing and of course partying

Pacific Coast: Still little known to tourism, this still wild destination will allow you to swim in the bioluminescence, see whales, sail in mangroves and surf!
Why Milan?

Milan is the perfect example of old-world romance meets urban grit. It is known as a cosmopolitan city for fashion, food, and art. It's less touristy compared to the other destinations in Italy, such as Rome or Florence, but has just as much to offer. Not just in terms of architecture, art and history, but what you will come to love the most are aperitivos in the city of its origin – and we all know Milan does this best! Additionally, it is a great location to explore the beautiful lakes in northern Italy.

Why Bocconi?

The Bocconi Campus is located south of the city centre of Milan in the area between Porta Romana and the Navigli. Just last year, the new campus that stretches the University area even further has been opened. Bocconi is ranked #12 in the World University Ranking for its Masters in Management. Especially if you are interested in Finance and Investment Banking, Bocconi has lots of corporate events and company visits to help get your career started.

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CEMS terms

Term 1: September to January

Term 2: February to May
Visa requirements

Before arriving in Italy, make sure you are informed about any specific visa regulations and entry requirements, especially for Non-EU citizens. You can find more information here:
1. Government website
2. Visa Process Bocconi website

Housing

International students usually have the choice between staying in Bocconi accommodation or privately arranging a place to stay. Bocconi offers seven student residence halls, from the historic Bocconi residence to the recently constructed Isonzo and Bligny dorms. This is often seen as a hassle-free way to introduce new students to the city. Most are located on campus or in the neighborhoods around the university. If you prefer to arrange a private accommodation, the recommended areas would be anything between Porta Romana and Navigli. This way you can live within walking distance or only a short tram ride away from campus.
Price Range: €650–€900/month (for a room in a flatshare)
Facebook Housing Groups
1. Bocconi Rents
2. Shared flats, rooms, sublets, accommodation Milano
3. Milan Housing
Other Accommodation Websites
1. Idealista.it
2. Affitto.it
3. Milan Houses
4. Rental Milan
5. UniPlaces
6. NestPick
7. SpotAHome

Tips

Grocery Stores – Esselunga, Conad, PAM
Store Hours – Typically bigger stores open from 8:00–21:00, only smaller local places may take a longer break and close during lunch.
Best Places to Frequent – The Navigli for a great variety of bars; Fonderie Milanesi for the best aperitivo; Miscusi for a modern twist on Italian pasta; Venti around the corner from campus for delicious lunches; Gelateria La Romana for one of the best gelatos.
Housing – Especially when arranging a private accommodation be cautious, and make sure to be able to verify the current state and existence of the apartment. Try and contact other CEMSies to pass down contacts.

Arrival

Within 8 working days of their arrival in Italy, all NON-EU citizens who hold a valid student visa for Italy must apply for a permit of stay for study purposes (Permesso di soggiorno per motivi di studio). The university has provided more information on that on their website.

Living Expenses

Average cost of rent without utilities – €650–€800
Average monthly cost of groceries – €100–€120
Transportation pass – €20 per month
Google Maps

Click the photo below to access the list of top selected spots.

Travel / sightseeing destinations

Lots and lots in Milan
From the Duomo to the Castello Sforzesco to the famous cemeteries and la Santa Maria delle Grazie...

And lots more in reach for day trips:
Pavia – The former Roman capital
Bergamo – The walled city
Lake Como – Spectacular lake towns like Bellagio
Lugano – The surreal Swiss beauty

Transportation

Metro/Tram/Bus: The metro/Tram tickets and travel cards can be purchased in the metro stations, kiosks and offices. If you need to take the metro on a regular basis, we recommend buying various one-way tickets at a time or purchasing a travel card.
There are possibilities to rent bikes and Uber is available as well.
Why Dublin?

Dublin is a vibrant city, which is not only home for the dark Guinness beer and great pub culture, but also the home to many tech companies’ HQs in Europe. You will have a chance to meet many internationals working in Dublin which can feel comfortable, but know that the locals are extremely warm and welcoming! Also, if you, like most CEMSies, love to travel, note that Ryanair flies from Dublin all across Europe for insane deals (e.g. <50 return to London, Barcelona and more).

Why UCD?

UCD was ranked in the top 1% of higher education institutions worldwide. What makes studying here interesting for a CEMS student is how well UCD incorporates corporate partners into the students’ lives. You will have many opportunities to meet company representatives through campus visits, guest speakers and some long-term class projects. Especially, if you are interested in the Tech sector, rest assured you will be constantly immersed in that environment. Also, the university was founded in 1854, making it an aesthetically interesting place to study and be around.

Fun fact: The Smurfit Business School library is transformed from a church.

Contact info

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LinkedIn CEMS Club Dublin

CEMS terms

Term 1: mid-September to mid-December

Term 2: mid-January to mid-May
Housing

Since UCD is located in Blackrock, in the Dublin county suburbs, you have to decide whether you want to live in the city centre (40 mins from the Business School) or in Blackrock. If you decide to live in the city, try to live close to a DART train station, as those are the fastest and most reliable transportation between Dublin and Blackrock. Wherever you choose to live, there are several accommodation options:

Option 1: Student Accommodations (€)
- In Blackrock: UCD residences offer limited rooms for CEMS students at “Proby Residences” for €5,091/semester – bills included, or there is a new, private accommodation “409 Stillorgan Road” for €960+/month – bills included.
- In Dublin city: Point Campus for €920+/month – bills included, Brewer’s Close, or Uninest Students.

Option 2: House/Apartment (€–€)
Whether you are looking in Blackrock or Dublin centre, the main websites for renting a place are Daft and Spot A Home. If pursuing this option, it is recommended to call properties of interest, as they get taken very fast after being posted. You might want to arrange visits and arrive early to Dublin to see the places before signing a contract.

Option 3: Host family (€)
Some students choose to live in host families, which can allow for a more affordable option with a cultural experience. These can be found through various websites or Facebook groups, including the ones mentioned in the previous and next section. You can also check out Home stay and Find A Home.

Facebook Housing Groups
There are many Facebook groups for housing in Dublin, which you should check frequently. They mostly advertise single rooms in shared or studio apartments. Some include Dublin Room for Rent, Dublin Rent Room, and Dublin Rent a Room.

Tips

Grocery Stores – Aldi (€), Lidl (€), Tesco (€), Spar (€), Supervalu (€), Dunnes Store (€).
Store Hours – most supermarkets are open 8:00 – 21/22:00, weekends included.
Best Places to Frequent – In the center try the pubs in the Docks area and around Hogans (the most famous). The Wicked Wolf is the only one open late in Blackrock. Suggested clubs are: Camden and Nolita (free), Dicey’s, Coppers, The George (affordable). Inditex if you’re into techno.

Visa requirements

Before arriving to Ireland, keep in mind it is part of the European Union, but not part of Schengen so make sure you sort out your visa if necessary. You can find detailed information about student visas on the UCD website or official Government website.

Living Expenses

Average monthly cost of rent without utilities – can vary significantly, between 600–1,300€.
Average monthly cost of groceries – €280 Transportation pass – with a Student Leap Card, your transport costs are 1€ per 90 minutes and capped at €5/day or €20/week. Card costs €5 and it’s delivered at your address (in Ireland) after a short online application.
Belfield Campus gym – free (swimming pool – €5/entry).
Google Maps
Click the photo below to access the list of top selected spots.

Travel / sightseeing destinations
- Breweries
  - The Guinness Storehouse // Price: €€
  - Jameson Distillery // Price: €€
  - Brewdog // Price: €€
- Museums
  - The National Gallery // Price: FREE
  - The Natural History Museum // Price: FREE
  - EPIC The Irish Emigration Museum // Price: €€
- Parks
  - St. Stephen’s Green // Price: FREE
  - Phoenix Park // Price: FREE
- Others
  - Trinity College and the Book of Kells // Price: €€
  - Dublin Castle // Price: €

Top 3 CEMS events of the year
- Tech Tour Week: Exploiting the incredible Tech hub that the city offers, the amazing Corporate Relations Team organised a 3-days tour made of workshops, company visits, presentations, and coffee chats. Over 55 students from 9 different schools participated, and were able to visit over 10 companies.

TEDxCEMS Club Dublin: Our wonderful Alumni team organised an original event. As you could guess from the title, many alumni were invited to give great speeches on the topic of “making an impact”. The event proceeded with a panel and an informal gathering.

CSR Sustainability Week: Our dedicated CSR team planned an entire week of challenges and taught us a lot about sustainability, mindfulness, and much more. Students within the cohort did workshops, beach cleaning, vegan cooking, fundraising run, and quizzes.
University of Cape Town
Graduate School of Business
Cape Town, South Africa

Why South Africa?
South Africa is a diverse and beautiful country that will expose you to a rich melting pot of cultures and 11 different languages. Cape Town (affectionately known as the Mother City) has received countless awards and accolades as one of the world's most beautiful cities. From the majestic Table Mountain – voted as one of the new seven wonders of the natural world – to the award-winning wine estates, picturesque beaches, and top restaurants, this city is a unique biodiversity hotspot and a hub of arts and culture for you to explore during your time here. With a comparatively low cost of living, Cape Town is the ideal study destination. Cape Town is also home to many global and national organisations in sectors including retail, petroleum, financial services, wine and beer production, fashion, and education. It is a major centre of entrepreneurial activity and is fast emerging as the innovation hub of Africa.

Why University of Cape Town
Graduate School of Business?
The University of Cape Town Graduate School of Business (UCT GSB) is part of the University of Cape Town (UCT), South Africa’s oldest public and internationally renowned leading research university. Triple-crowned by the international accreditation associations AACSB, AMBA and EQUIS, the UCT GSB is home to the only full-time African MBA to have featured in the FT rankings for 12 consecutive years. UCT GSB is currently ranked #14 in International Course Experience and #12 in Corporate Social Responsibility. Additionally, the UCT GSB Executive Education division is consistently ranked in the top 100 by the Financial Times, currently first in South Africa and 56th globally for its customised programmes. More information here.

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CEMS terms
Term 1: late August to mid–December
Term 2: mid-January to end of May
Visa requirements
You must apply for your study visa from the South Africa embassy, high commission or consulate in your home country or country of residence. The Department of International Relations and Cooperation lists the South African missions by country. Applications can be made to the nearest South African embassy, consulate or high commission; or through the Visa Facilitation Service Office (VFS). You require medical aid cover from a medical aid scheme registered with the South African Council of Medical Aid Schemes before submitting your visa application. The cover must be for the full duration of the study programme and intended stay in South Africa. We recommend two schemes are providing good medical cover and value for money: CompCare Wellness or Momentum Medical Aid Life Cover.

Arrival
You may submit your flight information and we can arrange a transfer from the airport to your accommodation in Cape Town.

Housing
RESIDENCE ON BREAKWATER CAMPUS: The Protea Breakwater Lodge on UCT GSB campus features 191 modern, environmentally conscious rooms. All rooms are equipped with minibar fridge, free Wi-Fi, tea and coffee facilities, air-conditioning, TV, telephone and laptop friendly electronic safes. More information here. The following options are provided on campus:
Single Share Shower: Own room, but shared shower/basin/toilet with one other room R 743.00 pppn (Bed & Breakfast).
Standard Room: One bedroom and private bathroom facilities R 1036.00 pppn (Bed & Breakfast).
Single Business Suite: One bedroom and private shower/basin/toilet/ bath R 1336.00 pppn (Bed & Breakfast).
RESIDENCE OFF-CAMPUS: Students wishing to arrange their own housing should plan to arrive in advance. Recommended areas close to the breakwater campus are: Waterfront; Green Point; Mouille Point; Sea Point; De Waterkant; Cape Town City Centre/City Bowl; Thee Anchor Bay; Bo Kaap; and Gardens. Online rental booking platforms recommended by students: Property 24, AirBnB, Students at home, Hostel World, and HouseME.

Tips
Apply for your visa early since it can take 12 weeks or longer, particularly when there is high demand or at the end of the year. We recommend you apply as soon as you accept your study offer to avoid delays.

Prepare your documents in advance before travelling to South Africa, paying particular attention to your passport: Is it valid for the full length of your intended stay? Is the name in your passport the same as that in your UCT study offer and Letter of Undertaking? When you receive your study visa, check that it covers the full duration of your programme of study. If not, consult the South Africa Embassy or Consulate immediately, before travelling to South Africa. You should prepare copies of the UCT study offer letter and UCT Letter of Undertaking and keep these in your hand luggage.

Housing – It is highly recommended that you research for accommodation before your arrival. Accommodation is charged at a premium rate during the holiday season in Cape Town (15 December to 15 January, and the tourist season from 15 November to 15 March). Early booking will secure your accommodation at reasonable rates.

Money – The local currency is the Rand (ZAR). You can exchange your currency for Rands on arrival at the airport or at local banks. If you have an account at home which is linked to the CIRRUS system you will be able to withdraw cash at South African ATMs bearing the CIRRUS signs. Revolut is a good option as well. Living expenses in Cape Town is approximately 1025 EUR/month.

Climate: Cape Town has a Mediterranean climate, with dry summers and wet winters. Summers get very hot. Temperatures vary between 15°C and 43°C (59°F and 110°F) so be sure not to leave the house without a protective layer of sunscreen, a hat and a water bottle. Winter is rainfall season and temperatures drop to between 3°C and 15°C (38°F and 59°F). The Mother City is famous for its four seasons in a day, so always take a jumper when you head outdoors, or be ready to remove a layer when the sun comes out. Keep in mind that Cape Town is in the southern hemisphere. December and January are the height of the summer months, while coldest months tend to be July & August.
Google Maps

Click the photo below to access the list of top selected spots.

Transportation

Public transport: City buses MyCiTi operates a number of routes around the city and out into surrounding areas. To access the service you need to buy a MyCiTi bus card and pre-load it with travel tokens. You can buy and top up your card at the larger MyCiTi bus stations or at a number of participating retailers. Cape Town is one of the leading cities on the continent, but when it comes to public transport, it is important to remember that South Africa is a developing country, so public transport options are not as extensive or reliable as you may be used to.

Private transport: Uber & Bolt are very popular and widely used in Cape Town. A range of privately-owned metered taxi cabs are also available. They tend to be clearly marked as cabs or taxis, often with their per-kilometre rate and contact number displayed on the vehicle. You can catch a taxi on one of Cape Town’s busier streets, or you can also call the cab company and order a cab to fetch you at a particular time. Enter the numbers of local companies (e.g. Excite Taxis, CabCo). You should only use recognised and registered public transport companies. Unmetered shared minibus taxis are commonplace in South Africa. They accommodate roughly 10 people at a time and run a number of set routes. Commonly used routes for UCT students are those operating between the centre of Cape Town and surrounding areas including Observatory, Camps Bay, Sea Point, Rondebosch and Claremont. These routes are also generally considered safe. Remember never to be the only passenger in a minibus taxi. In addition to the driver and the fare collector, there should be at least three other people in any minibus you use. It is best to exercise caution when using shared minibus taxis.

Travel / sightseeing destinations

You are truly spoilt for choice when it comes to tourism in South Africa. Things to do in and around Cape Town: here, here and here. Some highlights:

Hermanus: A great place for whale watching! You are almost guaranteed to see some humpback whales in this coastal town. For the brave ones, they also organize shark cage diving.

Cape of good hope: A must-visit destination! Experience the most spectacular views on the Chapmans Peak drive, see the famous Cape point, and spend some time with the African penguins at Boulders Beach.

Muizenberg beach: great place to learn surfing! Out of the prime surfing spots around Cape Town, Muizenberg beach is especially well-suited for beginners who want to learn the art of the sport during their stay in South Africa. Watch out for the Great Whites!

Garden Route: This route is a perfect opportunity to do a road trip! On the way you will be able to do scenic hikes, wine tastings, bungee jumps, surfing etc. etc!

Kruger National Park: It's one of the largest game reserves in Africa. It covers an area of 19,623 km2 in northeastern SA. There, you will definitely see the Big 5!
University of Cologne
Cologne, Germany

Why Cologne?

Cologne is located at the heart of Europe, with proximity to neighboring European countries like Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg or France. The city features a distinct bar culture, a renowned cologne carnival, countless museums and 2000 years of history.

Fun Fact: Cologne Cathedral, a UNESCO world heritage site, is Germany’s most visited landmark.

Why University of Cologne?

The Campus of the University of Cologne is located close to the city center, within walking distance to shops, restaurants and bars. The business faculty is EQUIS accredited, the CEMS programme was ranked #1 in Germany for Master’s in Management by the Financial Times. Furthermore, the CEMS Club Cologne is constantly active and shaping the student’s experience here in Cologne.

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CEMS terms

Term 1: early September to mid-December
Term 2: early April to end of July
Visa requirements

Students from EU/EEA Countries do not need a visa. Other students please ensure you have a student visa: Federal Foreign Office

Arrival

When arriving in Germany, everyone is required by law to register in person as a resident of Cologne. Additionally, dependent on citizenship, you must apply for a residence permit. Read the information given under “Register with the City Hall” and “Residence Permit”: Informational page of the University. Rest assured, so far all of our exchange students did not have any troubles with registering in Cologne.

Housing

Several student residences are dispersed across the city. Generally, this is the cheapest option for students. Find an overview of the locations here. Apply early!
Recommended areas to live in (besides direct city center).
Price range: $$$
Köln-Lindenthal: Central and close to shopping, leisure activities and parks.
Price range: $$
Köln-Sülz: Close to pubs, university and parks.
Price range: $
Köln-Deutz: Direct connection to the campus, close to the Rhine river and city center.

Tips

Grocery Stores – Aldi, Lidl, Netto, Penny, REWE.
Store Hours – 07:00-22:00 / 07:00-24:00, be aware that all stores are closed on Sundays.
Best Places to Frequent – Spots to relax in the sun: Rheinauhafen, Rheinboulevard, Aachener Weiher, Lindenthaler Tierpark, Grüngürtel; Rheinterassen Clubs & Bars: Zülpicher Straße, Bootshaus, Halle Tor 2, Klapmühle, Brauhaus Päffgen, Flanagans Sports & Inside: Sportcenter Kautz, Jumphouse, Boulderplanet, Rhein-Center Weiden.
Housing – There are many great places to live, so reach out to CEMSies in Cologne before looking for a flat. However, of course, there are spots where you don’t necessarily want to live. Also, be quick when reaching out to offers, as there is more demand than supply.

Transportation

S-trains and buses do cover the whole city area, the organization is called KVB (see App to find routes).

Bikes are also very common, even though not all areas have good biking roads, you can easily reach any destination in the city by bike.

Living Expenses

Average cost of rent without utilities – 350€ - 450€
Average monthly cost of groceries – 200€ - 250€
Transportation pass – 0€ (included in the semester fee).
Insurance – 100€, however the insurance from your home country may be accepted. You should verify this beforehand, as a valid insurance is mandatory.
Google Maps

Click the photo below to access the list of top selected spots.

Travel / sightseeing destinations

Düsseldorf & Bonn: Both of them are large cities nearby and always worth a visit. Cologne is located in between these two cities and the Rhine river is connecting them. Lots of nice spots and very characteristic historic city centers can be found here.

Eifel: Here you find the nearest (small) mountains after a approx. one/two hours drive. Nice nature, lots of historical towns and castles make it being an awesome location for hikes.

Top CEMS events of the year

Carnival – Carnival is always 40 days before Easter, so make sure you don’t plan any trips during that time, as it is an amazing and unique experience. We cannot stress enough, how much fun partying on Carnival is in Cologne! The city gets a lot of its character because of Carnival and it is around for the better part of the year. The "street carnival" starts on November 11th with a huge day of partying. The big finale will take place in February/March with five days of partying. Don’t miss it.

CEMS Club Welcome Guide – The CEMS Club Cologne is marked by the uniqueness of being part of the PIM & CEMS Club, which overall includes over 1,700 members. Therefore, you will have a chance to meet many other students and a strong network of alumni. Furthermore, we are very active with our corporate partners, offering a workshop every few weeks. New CEMSiies are welcomed with a Welcome Weekend Trip, making sure they are included right away.
The University of Sydney Business School
Sydney, Australia

Why Sydney?
Sydney offers a great balance between culture, fun and nature. You can admire art at plenty of different museums, enjoy the highly diverse food culture or take day trips to the famous Blue Mountains. Also, Sydney is a perfect hub if you want to discover Australia and New Zealand during your exchange semester.

Why The University of Sydney?
Australia's leading higher education and research university, The University of Sydney is ranked as 1st in Australia and 4th in the world for graduate employability according to the QS world rankings. Also, with over 200 clubs and societies, the university offers a vibrant and highly international campus life.

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CEMS terms
Term 1: mid-August to mid-December
Term 2: mid-February to mid-June
Visa requirements

You will have to obtain a temporary student visa with a valid Overseas Student Health Cover. More information available here.

Arrival

You can enter the country from the moment you receive your VISA, and, in most cases, you will have to leave latest one month after the end of the semester.

Housing

There are quite a lot of accommodations types available in Sydney. The rent can range from $250 per week up to more than $1000 per week depending on the type of property and locations. Since most of CEMS courses are in CBD campus, it is convenient to live nearby the CBD areas: CBD, Surry Hills, Newtown, Redfern, Glebe, Ultimo. If you are attracted by beach lifestyle, below suggested suburbs might be a little far, but it can guarantee you a great view and chill beach lifestyle, which is a highlight of Sydney: Bondi Junction, Manly (Ferry Transportation), Coogee.

For suburbs locations, you can find it through this map.

For info on on-campus housing, check here.

Facebook Housing Groups
1. Sydney rooms/furnished apartments
2. Shared flats, rooms, sublet Sydney
3. Sydney flatmates/house share

Student Dorm Companies Off Campus
1. Urbanest
2. Unilodgers
3. Jglu

Other Accommodation Websites
1. Flatmates
2. Realestate.com.au
3. Domain.com.au

Tips

Grocery Stores – Woolworths, Coles, Aldi, Costco.
Store Hours – 7 AM-10 PM.
Best Places to Frequent – Bondi Beach, Manly, Darling Harbour, Pancakes on the rocks, Taronga Zoo, Luna Park – just a few highlights.
Housing – It is very typical to rent an Airbnb for the first 2-3 weeks and look for accommodation while you are here.

Living Expenses

Average cost of rent without utilities – 300 AUD/week
Average cost of groceries – 250 AUD/week
Transportation pass – depends on usage – 50% student discount
Insurance – 330 AUD/semester
Google Maps

Click the photo below to access the list of top selected spots.

Travel / sightseeing destinations

Sydney Opera House is a multi-venue performing arts centre at Sydney Harbour located in Sydney, New South Wales, Australia. It is one of the 20th century’s most famous and distinctive buildings. Sydney Harbour Bridge is an Australian heritage-listed steel through arch bridge across Sydney Harbour that carries rail, vehicular, bicycle, and pedestrian traffic between the Sydney central business district (CBD) and the North Shore. The view of the bridge, the harbour, and the nearby Sydney Opera House is widely regarded as an iconic image of Sydney, and of Australia itself. The bridge is nicknamed "The Coathanger" because of its arch-based design.

Top 3 CEMS events of the year

Boat Party: At the beginning/ end of the semester, boat party would be offered which is one of the most popular CEMS events in Sydney. A great opportunity to enjoy the time & the wonderful view of Sydney skyline.

Corporate Coffee Break: Regular internship and company introductions to capture the opportunity for future career. A list of the business partners will be selected during the semester from various career areas to share their professional experiences.

Blue Mountain Hike: As one of the major attractions in Sydney, Blue Mountain hike has been introduced for CEMS Sydney over the years. Enjoy a magnificent view with nature atmosphere which allows you to get away the crowd from the city.
Why Prague?

Prague, the City of Hundred Spires, has managed to keep all its charms and secrets despite being in the center of modern Europe. Once you visit Prague, you’ll want to move in!

Why VŠE?

Over its sixty years of existence, Prague University of Economics and Business (VŠE) has acquired substantial international recognition as one of the top business schools in Central and Eastern Europe. VŠE possesses numerous prestigious accreditations (EQUIS, EPAS, ACCA, FIBAA and other). Among the 15,000 students, approximately a quarter are international students. In addition, The MIM programme, which is taught at the Faculty of Business Administration, ranked 14th in the 2021 Financial Times Masters in Management Global ranking. Most recently, CEMS at VŠE Prague has been voted the CEMS School of the Year 2021/2022.

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CEMS terms

Term 1: mid-September to mid-December

Term 2: mid-February to mid-May
**Visa requirements**

As Non–EU citizen, after being accepted to VŠE, you will have to apply for a visa at the nearest Czech Embassy. Find the detailed information at the website of the Ministry of Interior of the Czech Republic in the long-term visa category.

**Arrival**

After arrival, all students need to register with the Foreign Police and register to the study programme at the VŠE.

**Housing**

VŠE offers and guarantees a place at the university dormitory for all international students. The dorms are located 13 minutes far by tram from the campus. Price list of the accommodation can be found [here].

Price range: €€€

City center: It’s the closest you can get to all events, restaurants, cinemas, pubs and all the fun stuff.

Price range: €

Vinohrady: Prague upscale area full of beautiful architecture, parks, restaurants, great accessibility to the university.

Price Range: €

Žižkov: If you want to stay close to all students, Žižkov is the area for you, since the university dormitories are located in this area.

Facebook Housing Groups
1. [Prague Rent a Room/Apartment](#)
2. [Flat Rent Prague](#)
Housing Companies Off Campus
For offers directly from the owners you may look at [Bezreality](#) or [Expats](#).

**Tips**

Store Hours – 09:00 – 21:00.
Best Places to Frequent – Vítkov Monument, Letná Park (there are many amazing cafés and restaurants), Náplavka, Stromovka park, Riegerovy sady, and Old town. Famous pubs include "U Fleků" or "U Pinkasů", while "Lokál" or "Kozlovna" are popular chains.
Housing – Before paying the deposit, always make sure you have a contract, call the landlord and ask him to send you more pictures or a video.
CEMS Club Welcome Guide – [Crash Guide for International Students](#).

**Transportation**

The transportation pass is extremely affordable and gives access to trams, metro and buses in Prague. The connections are frequent, with tram routes running during the whole night.

**Living Expenses**

Average cost of rent without utilities - 350 – 700 EUR
Average monthly cost of groceries - 150 – 300 EUR
Transportation pass - 5 EUR per month with student pass (more info [here](#))
Insurance - Approx. 200 EUR per year
Google Maps

Click the photo below to access the list of top selected spots.

Travel / sightseeing destinations

Prague and surroundings: Prague itself is full of history with many churches, beautiful architecture and parks ideal for a romantic date or a Flunky ball tournament. Visit Riegrovy Sady and watch a spectacular sunset over the Prague Castle, explore narrow streets in the Old Town, drink a beer at Vltava riverside or take a hike to the top of Petřín hill where you can climb the Petřín Lookout tower. Around Prague you definitely should not miss out on the Karlštejn and Křivoklát Castles or UNESCO-registered medieval city of Kutná Hora with a church only for bold CEMSies (it’s built from bones!).

Český Krumlov: Located in Southern Bohemia and part of UNESCO World Heritage Sites, Český Krumlov is a typical 1-day trip destination from Prague if you want to see just the city, or a longer vacation in case you decide to go rafting and enjoy an active vacation. The rafting journey will take you through several cities and sights and combined with fun parties at the camping sites it is an ideal summer vacation for you and your CEMS friends!

Top CEMS events of the year

Opening Event - Be it in an indoor location or in a rooftop with an amazing view over Prague, the Opening Event is sure to make you excited about the upcoming semester. It’s an opportunity to meet the Corporate Partners, a few Alumni and get to know better your cohort. The underlying goals are networking opportunities and a well spent evening!

Bonding Weekend - Following the Opening Event and the kick-off of the semester, the Bonding Weekend is famous for joining the new-joiners together with the whole cohort in a cottage somewhere in the countryside. It’s a great chance to create memories and bond with fellow CEMSies!

CEMS Gala - What better way to end the semester than to enjoy a fun evening with everyone who was part of the semester. A high point of the night is the announcement of the CEMS Club Awards winners!

Closing trip - A traditional must-attend event wrapping up the semester through various sports and social activities. In 2022, the Farewell Winter Camp was held in breathtaking Tatra mountains in the heart of Slovakia.
Why Vienna?

Vienna has ranked the most liveable city ten times in a row due to its culture, rich environment, safety, and great infrastructure. If you want to explore outside this amazing city, there is a plethora of historic cities and impressive landscapes to visit, all within a few hours journey.

Why WU?

WU is one of the largest universities of economics and business in the EU and is repeatedly ranked as a top institution by Financial Times. Approximately 50% of students studying CEMS at WU are international and about 50% of CEMS students are women. Lastly, the CEMS Club Vienna is also one of the most active and innovative CEMS Clubs in the world!

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CEMS terms

Term 1: October to late December
Term 2: mid-March to end of June
**Visa requirements**

Before traveling to Austria, make sure you are informed about any immigration regulations regarding visas and residence permits that may apply. More info here.

**Arrival**

When moving to Vienna, you will need to register with the city authorities within 3 business days of arrival, otherwise, you can be fined.

**Housing**

WU does not offer student residences, so students do need to organize their own accommodation.

Price range: €€€

Districts: 1st (Innere Stadt), 2nd (Leopoldstadt):

You want to walk to WU and live close to the city centre, you love walking among historical buildings and have everything at your doorstep.

Districts: 6th (Mariahilf), 7th (Neubau), 8th (Josefstadt): You have a lot of bars and brunch spots; you love having fun and you want to enjoy the trendy-side of the city.

Districts: 3rd (Landstraße), 4th (Wieden): You’d like to live close to a green area, in a calm family- neighbourhood and enjoy the good vibes of a comfortable area.

Price Range: €

Districts: 18th (Währing), 19th (Döbling):

You want to live in a house with a garden and a parking space, be surrounded by green areas and live a good suburbs life.

Price range: €€

Districts: 5th (Margareten), 10th ( Favoriten), 15th ( Fünfhaus), 16th (Ottakring), 20th (Brigittenau): You want to stay on a student budget, live in a multicultural neighbourhood and discover the treasures of the city far from the noisy tourist areas.

**Tips**

Grocery Stores – Hofer, Spar & Lidl have more student-friendly pricing.

Store Hours – Most stores in Austria are only open from Monday to Saturday, from 8.00 to 20.00 (except for Saturday when shops close at 18.00).

Best Places to Frequent – The CCE has created an interactive map of the city that you can use when exploring Vienna! Once you’ve followed the link, you can find the map under Saved --> Maps.

Culture – Vienna is known as the city of music and there are over 400 balls in Vienna each year!

Housing – You should always make sure you sign a contract before sending any money (in case you can’t visit the property in person) and it is ideal to have a video call with the landlord and other tenants as well. Be aware that you will usually be asked to send a deposit in order to book the room and the amount will be defined by your landlord.

Facebook Housing Groups - CEMSational Vienna, Rooms and Apartments in Vienna, Vienna Housing, Rooms, Apartments, Sublets, Vienna rooms for rent, Erasmus Vienna accommodation housing rentals rooms and flats for rent, WG-Zimmer in Wien Gesucht, Wohnungen in Wien privat zur Vermietung, WG & Wohnung Wien gesucht

Student Dorm Companies Off Campus – Make sure you apply early: DeAD, Milestone, The Student Hotel,

Other Accommodation Websites - WG Gesucht, Housing Anywhere, Nestpick, Jobwohnen

**Transportation**

Transportation pass– 75 Euros per semester, you need to be registered as a student and have your student number already to get the discounted student card

**Living Expenses**

Average cost of rent without utilities – 500 Euros

Average monthly cost of groceries - 250 Euros

Monthly insurance premium is approximately 62 Euros/month.
Google Maps

Click the photo below to access the list of top selected spots.

Top 3 CEMS events of the year

Vienna Wine Hike - During the fall semester, you can enjoy one of the most popular CEMS events in Vienna. The traditional Viennese Wine Hike gives you the chance to try regional wines, enjoy a magnificent view from the top of local wine hills over all of Vienna and do some sports at the same time!

CCV Getaway Weekend - This event is a staple every semester! One weekend filled with spike ball and beer pong tournaments, chilling at the nearby pool during the day and of course - party at night! And all of this next to lake "Neusiedl" in the beautiful wine region Burgenland. Don’t miss the craziest party-weekend with one of the most active cohorts of the whole alliance!

CEMS Waltzing days - During the Viennese ball season, you can put on your tuxedos and ball gowns and dance in the legendary Hofburg at "WU Ball". One of the most classy and posh events in the whole CEMS universe, this night brings together students and alumni from all over the world living their own "Bridgerton fairytale".
A Message From the Creators

Thank you to the representatives of each CEMS Club that submitted pages for this guide - it could not have been created without your efforts!

I hope that this guide will be used to help CEMSies decide where they want to spend their semester abroad and make the transition to their host university and new city easier.

Sincerely,
The Student Board, GT Team & CEMS Clubs all around the world

2023 CEMS Cities Guide #KnowYourSchool