



Lyon is located in the South-East of France, approximately half way between Paris and the Mediterranean coast. It is the capital of Rhône-Alpes, France's second largest economic region.

ESDES School of Management (<http://www.esdes.fr>) is part of the Catholic University of Lyon. The website gives full information about the school and the university in both English and French.

The school diploma has been granted the top level of recognition by the French Ministry of Higher Education, which means that the diploma awarded at the end of the fifth year is a fully authenticated 'grade de master'. Only 37 of the 230 business schools in France are authorised to do this. ESDES is also a member of the association of top schools called the 'Alliance des Grandes Ecoles de la Région Rhône-Alpes' (AGERA).

International exchange students are invited to join our International Business Program, which is offered in English at either bachelor's or master's level, for either one or two semesters. Full information is available on our website. As you will see, there are also some classes available in French.



Twenty Frequently Asked Questions

Q1 What can I study?

A. If you are coming as an exchange student you will probably join the International Business Program (IBP). See the ESDES website at <http://www.esdes.fr> for full details.

- Most of the IBP classes are taught in English, and these constitute a complete program of one or two semesters. You can also replace some of the English-taught modules by French-taught modules if you wish.
- If your French is very good, you can apply to join the main ESDES program, which is mainly French-taught. However, it is not possible to mix modules from different concurrent semesters (e.g. 2nd year and 3rd year or 3rd year and IBP). If you want to study at ESDES for more than two semesters you must take the entrance exam (see Q 14).
- If you are looking for non-business modules, please note firstly that some of the IBP options require no previous experience of studies in the area of business. A list of these is available on request. You can also follow modules taught elsewhere at the Catholic University of Lyon, but almost all of these are taught in French. The Catholic University of Lyon site, <http://www.univ-catholyon.fr>, gives information about these and we can provide you with the direct links to the different module lists.

Q2 What are the language requirements for studying at ESDES?

A. If you are not a native English speaker, you must submit proof of language competence. It can be simply a letter of recommendation from an English teacher (and from a French teacher if you wish to take courses in French) or an IELTS/TOEFL test score. We do not yet stipulate a minimum score but this is likely to be introduced in 2008.

Q3 Will I survive at ESDES even if I am a complete beginner in French?

A. Yes of course! A wide offering of courses is available in English, although outside of the classroom you will certainly want to be learning French for your everyday interactions with French people.

Q4 Can I stay for two semesters (even if my French is not very good)?

A. Yes. A full program of 30 ECTS credits is offered in English, in each semester.

Q5 How do I apply?

A. Download the application form from the website and return it to us, together with the requested documents, before the end of May for the autumn semester, and before the end of October for the spring semester (see http://www.esdes.org/en/int_ins.htm). You can also send it by email, but the application itself must be a scanned version including both your own and supervisor's signature. The photographs must be sent through the post at all events.

Q6 Will I get help with finding accommodation?

A. Yes. The university housing office will help you. Here is the link to the information you need: <http://www.univ-catholyon.fr/fr/etudiants/logement.php>. You must contact the university housing office at service.logement@univ-catholyon.fr as soon as you have received your official letter of acceptance from ESDES. Please don't write to them before this, but we advise you to do so immediately after you receive your letter of acceptance. The housing office does not assist students upon their arrival who have not submitted housing requests beforehand, or who have failed to respond to any offer of accommodation made to them.

Q7 When will I receive my letter of acceptance?

A. Letters of acceptance are sent out once a week in May/June and October/November.

Q8 How do I register for courses?

A. All students must register for classes online (this means you!). You must complete the online registration process in June for first semester or November for second semester. You will be contacted by email to let you know exactly when and how to register for classes.

Q9 Are there any limits to access to certain courses?

A. Yes. All the master's level modules require previous relevant learning experience. Some classes are given at the same time as others, so you should consider which classes are suitable to your program of study and which alternates you should select in case two of your classes are offered at the same time. You must decide on this with your advisor at your home institution before registering if you are an exchange student.

Q10 Can I study at ESDES even if there is no partnership agreement between ESDES and my own institution?

A. Yes, but please note you can only follow the IBP and you will have to pay fees of course.

Q11 How much does it cost to study at ESDES?

A. There are no tuition fees for exchange students. The only fee is €100 which covers personal liability insurance, student union fees and subsidized cultural events. The cost of housing ranges from about €150 to €350 per month. You should allow about €300 for food and drink etc., which means your monthly budget will be somewhere between €450 and €650. Students who receive a subsidy from the CAF for housing (see Q12) may be reimbursed for some of their housing fees. Non-exchange students pay the normal rate of fees (€2900 per semester in 2006-7).

Q12 Is there any financial assistance available for international students?

A. Yes. Two types of financial help are available.

1. Help with accommodation costs is provided by the French government agency known as the 'CAF' (Caisse des Allocations Familiales). The amount reimbursed depends on the rent you pay and on your financial resources.
2. If you will be in the fourth year of your university studies when you come to ESDES and you are coming as an exchange student you can apply for a MIRA scholarship of €500 per month. This funding is NOT available to students who are only present at ESDES from September to December, even though this is quite possible to study for this period of ESDES without MIRA funding. Applications for MIRA funding must be received before the end of February 2008 for study periods the following year. Study periods can be for whole year (September – May) or for the second semester only (January – May).

Q13 What should I do about health Insurance?

A. ESDDES will send you a proposal for insurance costing about €35 per month with your acceptance letter. You may decline the offer if any of the following apply to you.

1. You are an EU citizen and provide proof of your European insurance.
2. You have your own insurance and can demonstrate to ESDDES that the cover is not less than that of the ESDDES proposal.
3. You take out French student social security, which costs €180 for a year (no reduction for shorter periods). We do not recommend this solution because the insurance cannot be activated before you arrive and it does not provide complete cover. Consequently you will need your own short-term insurance for the first few days of your stay and also supplementary insurance for the remaining period. This is complicated, so we strongly recommend that you opt for the ESDDES proposal.

Q14 What kind of diploma will I obtain at the end of my studies at ESDDES?

A. You will be given a full transcript of your academic results for your students at ESDDES indicating grades and ECTS credits obtained. Students wishing to receive a diploma must apply for admission the ESDDES degree program. This involves taking the entrance examination and studying in French. Please see our website for details.

Q15 What happens if my term dates doesn't correspond to yours?

A. We try very hard to arrange our semester dates to suit as many people as possible and we expect you to adhere to them. Permission for late arrivals and/or early departure will only be granted in exceptional circumstances.

Q16 Do I need a visa to study in France?

A. Almost certainly yes if you don't come from the European Union. Check this carefully with your university and/or local French Embassy.

Q17 Do I need to obtain a residence permit after I arrive?

A. Only if you don't come from the European Union and are staying for six months or more. ESDDES will help you to prepare your application for this document.

Q18 How can I prepare for my stay at ESDDES?

A. It is very important to contact the accommodation office and reply to any messages that are sent to you. This may mean arranging for someone else to read your e-mails if you do not have internet access at times. You may also want to brush up your French, as your level of comfort in new surroundings will increase rapidly, the more you are able to use your French to get around.

Q19 Will I be homesick?

A. Probably yes at some point, and this is quite normal. Learning to overcome homesickness is part of 'adapting culturally' to your new environment. By the end of the semester, many students find they are sad to leave their new home and friends.

Q 20 This is the one we didn't think of!

A. Please send it to us at miller@univ-catholyon.fr.