ACCOMMODATION: ESC Clermont sent us some pdf containing useful information regarding how to find an accommodation in Clermont. There is a private agency, Moversia, which has a convention with the School and helps students to find a place before going there: they ask you which kind of accommodation you want, how far from the School, which is your budget etc. The cost of this service is around 400€. But I (Tommaso) wouldn’t recommend it because in my case the apartment they found me, wasn’t exactly as we agreed and so I had to find another one on my own. Anyway, they also help with French bureaucracy and first steps (opening bank account, CAF...). If I (Tommaso) may suggest a place where to stay is the Residence LeParc Belvedere, it is near the train station and 20 min on foot from the School (5 by bus).

In the pdf sent by the School there were indicated others residences and websites to find an apartment with private owners. It is very advisable to start looking for a place very early: 3/4 months before because there are many students in Clermont and so the later the more difficult to find a good one.

Very important thing about accommodation is the French CAF (Caisse d’allocations familiales). Simply said is a public institution which helps people with their rent, basically if all requirements are met they will give you up to 170€ monthly. Don’t forget to bring in France your birth certificate translated in French. CAF allows you to ask for this help online on their website, but we strongly suggest you to open your account on the website and then go physically to their offices bringing there all the documents required. Check regularly the advancement of your request and if necessary bring again the documents or send them with a registered mail with return receipt until they process your request.

ESC CLERMONT: Our study experience at ESC Clermont has been positive. Regarding classes and exams are not exactly like at Unipv. All the classes we attended required us to work in team with other students. The evaluation is in itinere meaning that almost every one or two weeks there are deadlines (the time given for each task is enough). At the beginning of the semester you will know your timetable until December, this will give you the opportunity to organize your time.

At the beginning in our learning agreement there were a lot of classes like “Cross cultural marketing”, “Managing in unpredictable situations” which we started to attend, but they are basic and not so different from other we attended in Italy. Therefore, our Academic Tutor (Kevin Metz) proposed us to change all these classes with only one, Business Intelligence, for a total of 18 CFU. We strongly encourage to follow this class, if it’s possible, because it’s worth it: you will study something different and specific, you will learn how to use a software for data visualization (MicroStrategy) and how to run a team project following the Agile Methodology. Moreover, the Professor, Sebastien DOUAILLAT, is a manager from Michelin, who really knows and masters this topic. He is always available to help and explain again. During this class, you will be asked to work in team on a data analysis and visualization with several deadlines and a final theoretical test.

In December, you will also have the Grand Oral: there are around 100 topics about management, business, economics and enterprises, you will randomly pick up three and chose one out of these. Then you will have one hour to prepare a discussion on this topic (thesis, antithesis, argumentations...). This is typical of French university. No reason to be worried, Professors will explain you clearly how to do it and you will make some mock test before the real one.

Internship: In the 2nd semester, you will have to make a 6-months internship in France or abroad. We suggest you to start looking for it as soon as possible, no later than October, since it takes time
to find one. You will attend a class “Atelier de professionnalisation” held by a HR professional, who will explain you how to look for an internship and how to prepare your CV, your presentation letter to best candidate yourself.

These are the advices I give to you after my experience and I consider important according to me. If you have any questions, doubts or you might just want to know something more, don’t hesitate to contact us, we will be very happy to answer.

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Buon Double Degree!