

## Project - Choosing a Tech4 destination

My name is Thomas OTT and I am currently a third years student at Epitech, an informatic school.

Epitech is an informatic school who can be identify by its project-based learning approach.

Epitech include a five-year course named the Grande Ecole programme. It is characterised by multiples points: swimming pool, project-based learning, internships and a travel for the fourth year.

Swimming pools are intense immersion periods where which students are confronted with an heavy number of new concepts. They are create to quickly develop some informatic skills and the code logic, which are important for the year.

Project-based learning is the base of Epitech, allowing to work for concret projects and apply somes skills in real situations.

For the business side, internships are completed all along the programme, allowing you to get professional experience and make a first contact with the world of work.

But to learn this experience, we have the opportunity to go abroad for one year for the fourth year. This allows us to explore other cultures and develop international skills, which is essential in a world all of time more and more connected.

The main objective of the third year is to find the destination for our fourth year.

The goal is to select a destination that will maximise the enrichment of my educational road and the development of my relationships with the professional world.

The research phase can be a little bit complex and take a lot of time because of the large number of universities that we can choose.

So it is important to have a correct research methodology and to be a little bit organised at least.

I started by exploring specific online travel resources. The idea was to start to get a first idea of some destinations that I did not know a lot.

I give a lot of importance of personal experience, so I asked to be able to contact some of the students and hear their stories from several different destinations.

I think that it is important because they have lived the experience, so they are the only people who can give an opinion on what it was really like there.

Not only culturally, but also about of the university, the workload and life on-site.

It was by researching information about some destinations that I was able to start making a selection by criteria to help me to make a correct choice.

Those criteria were essential in guaranteeing an enriching experience from an educational, cultural, linguistic and professional point of view, while at the same time meeting my expectations.

A fundamental criteria was the reputation of the university, with attention paid to the courses on offer in line with my search, as I was looking to learn more deeper than what I discovered at Epitech.

The cultural dimension is important. I also had to take into account the importance of the cultural richness and international openness of the destination's informatic.

Control of the language was also an important element, as I was looking for a good expertise of English, which is essential for an informatic developer. It would give me an added value both personally and professionally.

The possibility of accessing at professional opportunities, whether an internship or even a job on-site, was a major factor in the selection of destinations. In addition to all these criteria, I had to take into account practical aspects like the cost of living, financial accessibility and the way of getting a student visa.

By using those criteria, I was able to evaluate each potential destination in depth, and find the ones that would match me best. This method allow me to refine my choice and prioritise the destinations that offered the best between each aspect of this fourth year.

With these criteria, I was able to begin a more precisely search for what I wanted. Countries I was most interested were the Nordic countries. So I researched different universities in this area.

Because Canada is a country that I like a lot, I started with this destination. The University of Laval propose and offers a solid academic reputation, but is located in a French-speaking region of Canada, which would not allow me to improve my English.

But this destination favours the bi-cultural environment, which can be interesting. The landscape and the possibilities for discovery are also interesting in my opinion, making as a potential destination.

An another Nordic country is Sweden, with Halmstad University. The reputation of this university for its informatic programmes, as did the landscape around the town. For the negative side, however, I found that studying there is quite complex and that living costs are much higher than in France.

Finland is a less expensive country, with just as much to see and discover. Its education system is quite reputable, and its innovative approach to technology can help me discover even more. That is why I was so interested in this destination.

The Nordic countries are quite expensive to live in, but have beautiful scenery. They all have a university with English as the basic language, except for Canada. I was however interested in possible epitech schools in other countries.

Barcelona is one of the cities offering an Epitech school, with the theme of robots and computing in our daily life. I thought it can be interesting to stay within the framework of Epitech and the project-based teaching that interests me more than university courses.

The living environment is urban, so not as natural as in the Nordic countries, but still

close to the beach and mountains. The cost of living is also the same as in France, which is important to note.

I have not finished my research for all height destinations, and have only been able to find a few destinations at the moment, so I have presented the ones that interested me actually.

Choosing my height wishes for my fourth year at Epitech required a strategic approach and prioritisation based on a number of criteria.

I started by drawing up an overall strategy for my wishes. This included make up the destinations that were close to my heart, such as Canada and the Nordic countries. But also other options to maximise my chances of getting one of my favourite choices.

Then I had to prioritise my choices according to a number of criteria. The cultural aspect is important. I wanted destinations where I could immerse myself in a different culture while enjoying the experience.

I considered mastering the local language, as improving my language skills was important. Also most universities have English as their basic language, there are still a few where French or even Spanish is spoken.

The cost of living is a factor to be taken into account, as it will have an impact on my ability to live comfortably abroad. Without this factor, it may be impossible to do certain things, and to enjoy your chosen destination.

Unfortunately, one mandatory factor is the difficulty to get a student pass, which can be an influential factor as it can complicate departure to certain destinations.

One of the last criteria, not the most important in my opinion, was the academia and the programme. I am counting on this fourth year to discover new things, visit and study less. But I still have to choose a course that is interesting for me. So I made sure that each destination offered courses that were relevant to my search, informatic things.

At the end, I taken into account the advantages and disadvantages of each destination. For example, Canada can offer me an excellent living environment, but school fees and the cost of living can be high.

Nordic countries offer high-quality courses, but at a quite high level, which isn't necessarily what I am looking for, although the cultural and discovery aspect is still very interesting in those countries.

Barcelona, on the other hand, can offer me a more simple cultural experience, but with a choice of courses that I know and which can be more relevant to me.

In short, my choice of height destinations is guided by a considered strategy, taking into account various criteria and weighing up the advantages and disadvantages of each destination. This allows me to create a diversified wanted list that meets my academic, cultural and professional objectives, while taking into account practical aspects such as the cost of living and getting a visa.

The first destination that caught my interest for my fourth year at Epitech is Laval University in Quebec, Canada.

This choice stands out for a number of reasons, in line with the criteria previously established to select my ideal destination.

Laval University is known for its high quality informatic programmes. This corresponds to my academic interests in relation to my course at Epitech.

The French-speaking region of Quebec offers an interesting bi-cultural immersion, allowing me to explore a new culture while keeping familiar linguistic aspects.

Canada in general offers a robust and dynamic job market, which can provide rewarding internship opportunities and professional contacts.

Canada is a French-speaking country, but English is still used in this country because it is bilingual. Those two language skills are highly valued on the job market.

Although Canada can have a relatively high cost of living, scholarships and other financial aid for international students can be an help.

And it will still be cheaper than a Nordic country like Finland.

To sum up, Université Laval in Quebec, Canada, become my favourite destination because of its high-quality informatic courses, multicultural environment, professional opportunities and the chance to speak French and English. However, the potential challenge associated with the cost of living and climatic conditions must be taken into account in my final decision.

This experience abroad for my fourth year at Epitech is more than an academic experience. It is an opportunity to discover a new culture, and to explore both personally and professionally.

I hope that this experience abroad will allow me to be develop culturally. Move forward professionally and improve my technical skills in informatic.

Ultimately, choosing these height wishes with time is an important decision that will have a major impact on my experience.

This requires careful analysis and thoughtful decision to ensure an enriching experience, aligned with my personal and professional goals.