

HEC Paris DDP Experience Report: Titus Palivan

Double Degree HSG / HEC Paris, year 2018/19

Major Managerial and Financial Economics, HEC Paris class of 2019

Master in Strategy and International Management, University of St. Gallen



Introduction HEC Paris

Located in the outskirts of Paris, HEC Paris is accessible by bus, train or RER. Getting from one place of Paris to another usually take 20-30 minutes. Getting into Paris from HEC Paris easily takes 1h at least and 2h at most in case of traffic or bad connections.

At the masters level, the school is filled with masters students doing the Grandes Ecoles Program and MSc master students. In the French system, Grandes Ecoles is much higher regarded than any MSc program. The DDP with HEC Paris for St. Gallen students is the Grandes Ecoles Program. Any HSG student will directly enter in the M2 year, which is the last specialization year. For me, I have selected *Managerial and Financial Economics* as my major at HEC Paris.

Managerial and Financial Economics

I selected the *Managerial and Financial Economics* masters at HEC Paris in order to improve my quantitative skills, learn macro-economics and finance. It worked out well for me, as it enabled me to deepen my understanding of finance with classes such as Limits to Market Efficiency with Prof. Dr. Foucault, who's an adviser to the Norwegian Sovereign Fund, Banking Classes with Prof. Dr. Klein, who's the CEO of the largest French commercial Bank or M&A with Prof. Dr. Levyne, who's the Managing Director of M&A at CACIB. In terms of Economics, classes about Globalization and Financial markets with Prof. Dr. Michalski give students a strong understanding of the way the global economy is structured. Most classes have a mathematical underpinning, where professors will gladly solve equations on the blackboard. It's quite challenging at the beginning, but very interesting to learn. I am grateful for the opportunity to have joined this program and would join it every time again. There is also a closely knit class of students who take up opportunities everywhere in Europe from Paris, London, Frankfurt, Zürich, Madrid and more. Most students go to Investment Banking, some into economic consulting and others to management consulting. As the class is quite small (50 students), there's the opportunity to get closer to French Grande Ecoles Prepa students, which is difficult otherwise.

In the Managerial and Financial Economics masters, there's no large availability of class selection, but good quality courses. The Professors are either accomplished academically or professionally and most of them enjoy teaching at the school. For additional details regarding the curriculum, please contact me.

Again, for students interested in Investment Banking, I can also highly recommend this program, as it allows candidates to prepare for interviews and gives a similar visibility to investment banks as the International Finance program at HEC Paris. Next to that, it will allow students to develop closer relationships, while enjoying Paris and their last year of studies.

HEC Paris community

Joining the Grandes Ecoles HEC Paris program means becoming an integral part of HEC Paris as a student and in a way, joining the elite of France (as the French know it). In France, Grandes Ecoles are a ranking system, which define for many years after graduation the success of individuals. This implies that joining HEC Paris means joining a closely knit community, where everyone is glad to help and learns how to help other HEC students. For instance, upon joining the mentoring program, graduates

will develop a close relationship to their mentor who'll gladly invite one for dinner. This is quite a difference from Swiss culture, which might be more distant. I can only recommend to join and glad to talk with any interested candidate about the opportunities at HEC Paris. Indeed, if there's one key skill that one can learn at HEC Paris, it is the way to network and connect to various students and graduates having had a similar experience at HEC Paris. There's always a willingness to help each other, to host each other and to learn from. In France, once you join the school, you are considered an insider. Not always easy to discuss with French HEC students, as they are quite French in their style and discussions, but still possible. All in all, I can only recommend any HSG student to join HEC Paris and bring back with them some of their learnings and great memories.

I am glad to have additional discussion for any future student. Please reach out to me under titus.palivan@hec.edu or What's App as +41 79 961 30 58



Picture_1: HEC Paris Graduation Ceremony with St. Gallen Double Degree friends. The dress code is offered by the school at the graduation day. Different from St. Gallen graduation and highly entertaining. As the entire year graduates together, it's an opportunity to meet the class and other colleagues one last time before internships & co.



Picture_2: Going out in Paris with MFE friends. Despite the distance between campus and city, weekends are ideal moments to visit Paris. That includes delicious lunches and dinners, going out clubbing and drinking, visiting museums (to which as an HEC Student, most of us have free entry).



Picture_3: HEC Paris Ball, the largest part of being at HEC is being part of the community. The HEC Paris Ball is an incredible opportunity to dance in the room where Napoleon has celebrated over 2 centuries ago. It is similar to the HSG Ball, but with more drinks and a French touch. It's an opportunity to mingle among other French students.