

3rd year Bachelor, Physics
Paris, France
Mines PSL - ParisTech
16-03-2024 – 22-03-2024
Life-Cycle-Assessment for Energy Systems



Jardin du Luxembourg next to Mines -
Perfect for having lunch and discussions

Preparation

Organizing transport and accommodation independently was a valuable experience for someone like me, who had never traveled alone for a week before. I recommend exploring night train options between European cities; in my case, it was the most affordable choice for the journey to Paris. The international office (IO) at TU Wien was very helpful with any questions, and the application process went smoothly.

Study Program

The course was highly engaging and tailored to an intensive week. The ATHENS program is excellent for meeting like-minded students from other countries or diving into a new topic. The quality of the lecturers was good and the facilities as expected.

Funding & Financial Expenses

The scholarship (€ 470,-) from the IO didn't fully cover the trip. However, thanks to affordable transportation, I spent no more than 300 Euros extra – in Paris most museums are free for students. For seven plus two days in Paris, this was definitely worth it.

Free Time and European Dimensions Programme

The program included a two-hour guided city tour, which was enjoyable but brief. I had hoped for more interaction with participants from other countries in a European context. During my free time, despite the intensive course schedule, I explored Paris and enjoyed evening events organized by French students.

Conclusion

In conclusion, I highly recommend an ATHENS course to any open-minded student. It offers a wonderful, partially funded opportunity to experience a European city, engage in meaningful conversations, and delve into topics that might lie outside one's usual curriculum. A tip: since the course workload varies, consider extending your stay by one or two days to fully enjoy the city's culture without stress.