

Tui Miller: Université Lumière Lyon 2 (Semester 2, 2010)

UQ Program: Bachelor of Science/Arts (French)

Coming to the end of my university exchange in France, I've realised what a great experience I've had. I spent my second semester of second year at the Université Lumière Lyon 2, progressing my French major. Studying in French was definitely a challenge; however the teachers and professors are generally very considerate of foreign exchange students. I completed a fulltime course (6 subjects) in French as well as participated in weekly rock climbing classes with the university. I found it great to really involve myself in the university and be open to new experiences.

As for the social experience, the international relations department at the university organised several events for foreign students every week so there's no shortage of things to go to. It's very easy to mix with people at such events; hence I met a lot of exchange students but unfortunately not a lot of local French people. The majority of my friends were the people I met at the Prune language course I did at the beginning of the semester, and then most of us ended up living in the same residence, so kept in contact.

When planning my trip, I was told that it didn't usually snow in Lyon, however it turned out we had a lot of snow this winter, so a big jacket was definitely necessary which I was able to buy quite easily in Lyon. As for accommodation, I stayed at a university residence called Andre Allix. It's about a 10 minute bus ride from the city centre (where one of the campuses is) and about 45 minutes from the Bron campus (where most of the students study). However it was close to the old city with had many great Irish and Scottish pubs and the residence is full of exchange students getting to know each other. Overall I think Lyon 2 was a pretty great choice for a university exchange and a great place to experience something different to Australian life.



Summertime in the city's main park



My last week in Lyon: in our kitchen with the close group of friends I made