

## **Getting education in Grenoble in the year of the pandemic**

It all started with the fact that in the spring of 2020, my classmates were studying at the Russian-French Bachelor's Program (SPbSEU-Grenoble Alpes (UGA)) and they were lucky enough to spend time in Grenoble and be in the atmosphere of studying in France. Having arrived from a study trip with positive emotions, they inspired me so much that I realized: "I also want to go there, and even more so to learn"!

There is a partnership between our universities, within the framework of which, by competitive selection, you can get a one-year full-time study in the program "Managerial Economics for International Markets", implemented entirely in English. Based on the results of the selection, having taken a one-year academic leave from a Russian university, we started processing documents for departure to France. The process of applying and collecting documents for full-time study abroad is not easy and it is quite difficult for a beginner (what I was) to understand everything, but if I had a question, I could always contact the partners from UGA University in France, who are responsible for the admission of foreign students. Madame Natasha Collet was always in touch in any situation and always helped to find a solution to the problem. Therefore, do not worry if you do not know something, there is always a person who is ready to help, from the Russian or French side!

When you arrive in France, of course, you will need to get used to it. However, do not think that you are alone here. There is a so-called "coalition" of students from Russia or "Russians in Grenoble", so you will not be left without friends. In addition, the person who initially acted as your supervisor when submitting the documents, in my case, this is Ms. Collet, will also help you deal with the issues of the hostel, public transport and the opening hours of the shops.

Being here in France, our main goal is to get an education. For my part, I can say that this is still an invaluable experience. The first thing I had to learn was to constantly work in a team that consists of different nationalities or nations, that is, representatives of different countries and cultures (one of the main conditions for teachers). This is done to strengthen inter-student integration. However, here you can meet a difference in mentality, so you need to be prepared for the fact that the views of people of different nationalities are different. In addition, such work disciplines you, you learn to delegate responsibilities and find a common language. I can say for sure-the French are quite closed and united among themselves, so it took

a lot more time to establish contact with them.

If we talk about the approach to education it is noticeably different from the Russian one. If here we first study all the necessary theory, and then go to practice, then here it is the opposite. From the very first days, you are absorbed by practical work, sometimes without even understanding how to do it. A lot of different projects in different disciplines are being implemented at the same time, you do not have the opportunity to miss something or not do it, because you are responsible to your team. At first, it seems unrealistic but then you realize that it is very a useful skill to work on several projects at the same time, and it will definitely come in handy in the future.

There are quite a lot of subjects to study at UGA, most of them are interesting and useful. Teachers always communicate with the audience, they like feedback. Personally, I do not feel the age difference between me and the teachers, thanks to their open communication. They always ask you not to hesitate and ask them questions in person or by email.

It is worth to notice that no one here likes to miss classes, as in Russia, but if this is really a valid and important reason, then the teacher will treat it with understanding.

In addition to completely economic subjects, there are those that develop you from cultural or intellectual sides. For example, Creativity tools. This is an absolutely interactive course where you need to develop your creativity, express solutions to global problems in different ways: through drawings, diagrams, maps, feel the world around you through smells, sounds and tactile sensations. Such subjects help to take a little break from quite stressful work and a large number of projects.

However, no matter how many subjects there are, the most important thing is the teachers. Sometimes, after classes you feel full of energy and inspiration for the rest of the day, because the teachers manage to create a working atmosphere in which you want to do something!

And, of course, in addition to our study in Grenoble, we enjoy the views of nature. Unfortunately, we were not able to visit many places this year, due to the current pandemic situation and I can't even imagine how much more wonderful it would be to study here if we had the opportunity to travel.

Thus, studying at UGA is, again, an invaluable experience, so when you get such an opportunity, you definitely need to take advantage of it!

**Yulia Tseveleva, student of L3 MEFIM UGA and SPbSEU**