



# Study Abroad Spotlight

## Former Student



### **Pierre Oltean**

Major: *International Business*

Semester Abroad: *Spring 2010*

Study Abroad Program: *Groupe ESC Pau (Pau, France)*

Graduated: *December 2010*

### **Please describe how your study abroad experiences has helped you launch your career and/or perform well in your job.**

There are two main things I gained while studying abroad that has helped me in my career. The first is the ability to be willing to step out of my comfort zone, there were several situations where I had to step up and out of my comfort zone to either find my way around town or a store. These situations just snow balled into being willing to speak up in class and social events, which was very rewarding. The other ability I gained was an ability to connect to people of different backgrounds and cultures. The class I was in had people from all different walks of life, Brazilian, French, Indian, Argentine, Mexican... etc. I can identify with a number of cultures now due to my experience in France and it has led to great experiences and opportunities in my career.

### **If you are currently employed, where do you work and what is your position?**

I am currently employed at Koch Industries. I have been working there for 6 years now and have held multiple roles. As of lately I am working at Flint Hills Resources as a petrochemical intermediates scheduler. I schedule trucks, rail and cargo ships full of product throughout the US and globally as well. Also, studying abroad has played a large part in me now having the courage to start my own company, Cafe Indigo, a specialty coffee roasting company doing direct trade with coffee farmers all over the world.

### **How did the study abroad experience in France impact your life?**

Studying abroad in France has been such a rewarding experience in my life. Being in a new situation with others that are experiencing the same usually means you will make lifelong friends. I still am in contact with my French friends as well as people I hung out with from Brazil and Turkey. It has struck a lifelong curiosity for travel and culture and has led to great memories and continues to serve me as I continue to grow as a person.

