Studying in Russia was a wonderful experience for me to be familiar for other cultures, you should consider that when you start an exchange program, most of your class mates are not Russian and they came from several countries, mostly from Europe and East Asia so it will give you the opportunity to understand different type of living and behaviors. Analyzing how they see the world and how they manage their issues, changed my view a lot and helped me to think better and more realistic about world.

**Saint Petersburg or Moscow:**

It was my second experience in both this cities, I came to Russian in 2018 for the two weeks summer school and this time for the one semester. The two experience are not comparable, the first one I were like a tourist and just enjoyed my time but in my second experience I lived in Russia and I experienced the difficult situations and also weather! If you think that Moscow is warmer than Saint Petersburg you are wrong. Also Saint Petersburg is cheaper and more enjoyable. Both cites are well organized and developed, however, saint Petersburg people are more like European and honestly I liked them more. For example in Saint Petersburg each time I wanted to pass the street even if the light was red! All the cars wait and they didn’t even complain, but Moscow is like Tehran! In Moscow you can find Iranian people everywhere, each time I were in the metro or even street, I saw several Iranians, but in saint Petersburg in whole my study I just meet few ones.

I don’t know about actual cost of living in Moscow but for saint Petersburg I Know, if you apply for Saint Petersburg state university, depending on your factually you should study in saint Petersburg or Peterhof , where is about one hour distance form Saint Petersburg. In Saint Petersburg most probably they will send you to Kapitanskaya 19 dormitory, which is the best one they have and it’s for international students! It cost 5600 ruble per months which is about 90 USD

After first week they will give you student card, which you can use to get your metro card and pay 1000 rub per month and use unlimited time of metro and big buses! There are lots of minibuses which have numbers starting with K (like K-30), you should pay 40 rub for each ride.

**Food:** there is no self-services like we have in Sharif or other universities, there are only some buffet in some part of buildings which you can find the cheapest and normal quality food. That will cost around 200 rub. If you eat in MacDonald or some Russian fast food it will go up to 300 rub and if you want to try some normal restaurants! You should pay at least 400 rub for a meal and drinks. If you can cook, there is enough facilities for cooking, the dormitory has refrigerator and in some apartment microwave. One Kg chicken wing costs around 200 rub, 1 kg potato is around 20 robles, good rice 100 rub and a loaf of bread exist form 13 to 100 rub. Also you should buy water!! Because the tap water is not drinkable, the 5 liter bottle of water will cost you from 30 to 100 ruble, depending on the quality, be careful! There are some fuzzy water which are hard to drink! Also you can buy some special pitcher that have filter and you can pure tap water inside and it filter and makes it drinkable, the puts are 400 rubles and each filter will cost 100 ruble which you should change monthly.

**Study:**

I think Depending on your program it will different, however my experience in graduate student of management (GSOM) were great. Honestly speaking the quality of teacher are not higher than the professor we have in Sharif, but their method of study are better and I learned from them how to teach and make it enjoyable for students. The main source of learning for me were in the group works with the other exchange student, mainly European and I reach to a point that we need to work a lot harder if we want to reach to European students. How they see the task and how they manage to solve the homework or project problems are much more clear and professional than we used to do in Sharif. I learned form them that the main product of managers and the students who studying management is to make the problems and situations clear for others and help the organization to work better and more efficient. Also I learned the way they do it and tried my best to be at the same level.

