

Exchange Questionnaire

- A) I am in the EBP program at Kedge Business School in Bordeaux, France. The EBP is a double degree program where each exchange student gets to choose one of several “tracks.” I chose the Supply Chain Management track, so my first semester of studies will cover four Supply Chain Management courses (20 ECTS), as well as a course called Diagnostic and Case Studies worth 5 ECTS and a Business Game course also worth 5 ECTS.

A course is worth 5 ECTS if it includes 30 contact hours throughout the semester – 27 lecture hours plus 3 hours for the final exam. Kedge has a very different system from the University of Ottawa in that many of these contact hours are held all at once. For example, my Diagnostic and Case Studies class was scheduled for 15 hours of lecture time in my first week of school, followed by 12 more hours in the second week of school and then the course was over for the entire semester.

At Kedge Business School at the bachelor’s level, 40% of the mark is continuous assessment and then 60% of the mark is the final exam. Continuous assessment often includes class participation, because the class sizes are much smaller than at uOttawa – often only the size of the typical DGD class or smaller and in the same sized rooms – not lecture halls. As well, Kedge Business School prides itself on having more experiential learning than most other institutions – meaning that instead of learning by rote and doing a lot of theory, you will be expected to do more group work, presentations, and case studies.

Important to note is that class attendance at Kedge is mandatory and a failure to attend 70% of lecture hours of a class will result in you being unable to write that class’ final exam.

B) a) Registration

I received confirmation of my nomination from Kedge via email on April 5th, where I was then directed to their online portal to apply myself.

The application was very simple, I needed only a PDF copy of my passport and a PDF of proof of French language proficiency if you so choose.

If I remember correctly, the application was due on May 31, so it was nice that the school gave ample time to fill it out online.

b) Acceptance Letter

I received an electronic PDF copy of my acceptance letter near the middle of May. Kedge then sent a hard copy to the Desmarais building soon after. It is important to retrieve the hard copy of your acceptance letter for your visa application.

c) Academic Calendar

This year, the international student orientation at Kedge took place from Monday, September 3 until Friday, September 7.

For bachelor's students, courses started on Monday, September 10. However, for masters level students (which the other non double-degree students from the University of Ottawa were registered to) the courses started on Monday, September 17.

There will be a break from October 29 – November 2.

My final exams as a double degree student take place from November 26 – November 30. However, after these final exams the Business Game begins. The Business Game runs from December 10 – December 13. Therefore, December 13 is my last day of school for the first semester.

Second semester begins on January 14.

C) Procedures to Follow Upon Arrival:

Join the Melting Potes Facebook group – they offer an airport pickup service which can be very helpful as my cab ride from the airport amounted to 50 Euros. This year, the pickup service ran up until August 31, so be aware of this when booking your flight. As well, the Melting Potes organizes informal events even before the orientation week starts! So it is a really easy way to meet other international students and to get to know the city.

Go to orientation. The Kedge Business School employees give extremely helpful information with regards to the next steps with your visa, as well as French Social Security registration information, and academic programme information.

Services offered by the Kedge International Exchange Office: answer all queries from international exchange students with regards to academic information, scheduling, and provide helpful tools for the French Immigration procedures.

Kedge Business School also offers a housing office, this service assists students in finding accommodation in Bordeaux, helps if there are exceptional problems with a students' landlord, helps if there are parts of a rent contract that the student does not understand (because they are all in French – with no exceptions), as well as assists students with their CAF (French housing subsidy) application. Please note that you are only a candidate for the CAF if you will be staying in the same apartment in France for more than 6 months.

Perhaps most importantly, after your arrival in France you must submit certain documents to the OFII office in Bordeaux located at 55 Rue Saint Sernin. The documents you must submit essentially confirm that you have arrived in France when you said you would, as well as confirm that you did in fact receive your visa. These documents are: a copy of your passport identification page, a photocopy of your French visa, a photocopy of the page in your passport showing the dated stamp of your arrival in France, and finally the filled in OFII form that should have been stamped by the consulate and returned to you when you were sent your visa. You can either bring these documents to the OFII or mail them,

although I would strongly recommend that you bring them in by hand as I have been told that the process is faster this way.

After this, you wait for the OFII to process your documents and then they will mail you a letter (usually two-four weeks later) stating that they have received your documents. You will then receive another letter approximately two-four weeks after that telling you your appointment date and time and what to bring. You **MUST** show up for this appointment even if it means missing class – Kedge even said so. After this appointment is completed you should receive the OFII stamp in your passport – your Carte de Séjour – which means that you will be free to travel again if it has been more than three months since your arrival in France.

D) Budget:

Flights: my flight was approximately \$970 from Ottawa to Bordeaux. I flew with Air Canada.

Food: I am budgeting 100 Euros a week which is \$155 Canadian. Some food is much cheaper in France even with the conversion rate, while other food can be more expensive such as popcorn. In terms of eating out, the cost of the food is approximately the same when you take the conversion ratio into account.

Travel: I am budgeting \$100 per week for travel/fun. This includes any events with school clubs, going out for dinner, and going out for drinks. On top of this I will also be budgeting \$550 for the Melting Potes' annual spring break trip. The destination has not been announced yet, but last year they went on a 7-day trip to Marrakesh and rode camels, and stayed in a beach resort all together.

Textbooks: \$0 Kedge does not use textbooks. Rather, some professors will provide you with a free e-book.

Rent: I am living in a residence for the duration of my stay. The cost comes to \$710 Canadian per month and this includes wifi and electricity. My cost of rent will diminish by 85 Euros because I have applied for the French government CAF subsidy which determines your allotted amount based on need.

Start-up costs: I budgeted \$500 for start-up costs including: kitchen utensils and equipment, pillows, blankets, and a public transportation pass. The public transportation pass for the entire year was 233 Euros.

E) Application Procedures Before Your Arrival

Visa: Canada has a special agreement with France for youths. The type of visa you will be applying for is called the 3B visa, if you google this or look it up on campusfrance, then

you are sure to find the PDF list that you will also need to take with you to your appointment. There is a very specific time window for when your visa appointment can be: no less than 6 weeks before you arrive in France and no more than 90 days before you arrive in France. The documents that you are required to bring to your visa appointment are:

1. Long stay visa application form
2. Checklist (the 3b checklist I talked about earlier), filled out
3. Valid Canadian passport, plus a copy of the first 6 pages of it
4. Two recent identity pictures (I got mine taken at shoppers drug mart and asked for the French visa size)
5. Photocopy of the front and of the back of your student card (your University of Ottawa student card)
6. Letter of admission from your home university (Ms. Brazeau will provide you with this, it is the document stating that you will still be a full-time registered student at the university of Ottawa while you are abroad)
7. Letter of Admission from the host university in France (you will need to bring the original, as well as a photocopy)
8. Proof of financial resources (your bank statements from the last three months)
9. OFII form
10. Proof of health insurance that covers repatriation and hospitalization (you need to bring the confirmation of this insurance, as well as the policy booklet because they want to see what it covers)
11. the 3b list says to bring an XPRESSPOST envelope but you don't actually need to, they ask you during your appointment if you would like to have your visa express mailed to you or not anyway and you just pay there.

Course registration: I did not need to register for courses. Kedge registers bachelor students in courses automatically.

Housing registration/deposit: I recommend looking for housing as soon as you get access to the housing portal as housing is extremely competitive in Bordeaux. When I received confirmation and signed the lease, I had to pay the first three months' rent up front. I had to *mail* the signed original copy of the lease along with proof of the global money transfer to the housing address.

F) Address and Description of Housing:

I lived in the Bordeaux Studea Centre 3 Residence in the Nansouty neighbourhood on 35 Rue Pauline Kergomard. I loved this location because it was only about 25 minutes from Kedge via tram, and also only 5-20 minutes from the city. There were many grocery stores nearby that were extremely accessible and made life easier. My only complaint was that I did not have an oven but only a stove top and a microwave. My rent cost \$710 per month before I received the CAF subsidy, which I am currently still waiting for the deposit as of October 31.

G) Work Term:

I will have a work term from May until August of 2019. The regular Kedge bachelor students complete a 6 month internship from January until June, so most student internships in France seem to be offered during this time period. However, Kedge offers an online job search engine and there are some positions available starting in May or June for 4 months.

H) Other Comments or Recommendations:

Get a prepaid Euro credit card. It saved my life until I had a French bank account set up. Talk to your branch back home before you leave.

Buy adapters before you leave. Also, take into account that the electric outlet voltage in France is double that of Canada, so it is not enough to just buy an adapter but you also need a converter so you do not fry your phone/laptop. MacBook chargers have a converter built into them, so I just bought an adapter for my MacBook charger from Apple and have been charging everything through that. For this reason, I do not recommend bringing a hair dryer or straightening irons from Canada, just buy them in France.

I recommend not living near Kedge, as Pessac is pretty quiet and not much is near it other than school. Victoire is a fun area, but also slightly more dangerous at night. I liked my happy medium in Nansouty, but you may prefer also to live even further north in the city center. The tram ride really is very fast, so do not take that into account when you are choosing a location. It is also important to note that at Kedge most of your courses will be back-to-back, so there will be no chance of you trying to go back to your apartment between classes anyway.

I recommend getting a phone plan with free mobile as soon as you can. You can even set it up using your prepaid Euro card. I am paying \$30 CAD for 100 gb of data, unlimited texts in France, and unlimited calls anywhere in the world.

I) Description Summarizing my Experience:

The hardest parts were by far the visa application, finding accommodation, and then moving in. After that, it was smooth sailing. The course load is significantly less than that at the University of Ottawa, and the club activities offered here are much more extensive. In the six weeks I have been here, now I have been on three club trips: to San Sebastián, to the Pyrenees Mountains, and for wine tastings in the chateaus of Saint Émilion. As well, my supply chain class organized a trip for ourselves to visit Italy. People are extremely friendly and open-minded here, as well the weather has been superb. Overall, I would certainly recommend Bordeaux as a destination to anyone.