

## **KEDGE Bordeaux, fall 2017 – Patricia Zeidan**

As a student of the programme Global Management French, France was an obvious choice for me to improve my language skills and learn more about the French culture. Since I have lived in the northern parts of France before, I wanted to experience the southern parts this time and especially since the climate is much more appealing there but also in terms of cultural differences. Furthermore, I chose Bordeaux since I've heard it is a lively student city surrounded by thousands of vineyards and cities nearby such as Biarritz, Toulouse but also close to both Spain and Portugal.

### **The city of Bordeaux**

As I mentioned before, the city is a vibrant city with students everywhere and there are events happening almost every weekend, if it's not a wine- or food-event it is an open-air happening (at least as long there is summer-heat). One of the best things with Bordeaux is that you can walk everywhere in the city centre and at the same time admire the beautiful buildings and squares. There are also plenty of good restaurants and cosy cafés everywhere with not too expensive food and drinks, almost too many since one semester is not enough visiting them all!

### **Housing and where to live**

To find an apartment in Bordeaux is almost as difficult as in Stockholm, therefore it is important to find it as early as possible. I started to look as soon as I knew I got my approval from KEDGE BS in Bordeaux but didn't book anything until middle of June (which was almost too late). I found my apartment through Airbnb and after some communication with my landlord, we arranged a long-term contract outside the website (cheaper for both parts since Airbnb has some administration fees). This was the case for many of my fellow Erasmus-friends in Bordeaux since Airbnb is the best way to find a good place to stay. It is a bit more expensive (count 550-800 EUR/month), but Airbnb's are often located in the center with furniture included, so it evens out. When looking for an apartment, try to find something close to a Tram B-stop so you easily can commute to Talence where KEDGE is located. I would say living somewhere in between the stops Saint Nicolas and Quinconces is perfect – since you can walk everywhere from there. I lived at Victoire which is very central (almost too central since me and my roomie lived above a bar that was very popular and had parties every night).

Lastly, regarding housing, my best advice is not to rely on KEDGE finding accommodation to you, I don't know anyone who got their place with help from them.

### **Quality of teaching**

Regarding the education at KEDGE it is very different compared to the one at Stockholm University. The quality depends very much from course to course since it depends on how structured the responsible professor is. Despite being a Bachelor at SU, I took courses from the Master in Management program since it was more equivalent to our level. I took half of my courses in French and half in English, and I would say that the English one's were better since it was often more structured and more international students thus easier for groupworks (maybe I was unlucky but in all my groupworks together with French students I was assumed to do all the work since I was on exchange). One thing that I must say is good at KEDGE is that they have a lot of cases from the real work life, thus it is more aligned with what you will work with after graduation compared to SU where it is much more academic. Overall, I can't say that I learned a lot since the courses were mostly unstructured and with no course literature supporting the courses.

### **Welcome program and social activities**

All new, incoming students are welcomed by the student association called *Melting Potes*. They send you information some weeks before the arrival and invite you to a Facebook-group where all information for events that take place during the semester is published. All the *buddies* are very helpful and help you with your questions regarding life in France. The events they arranged were fun and a good way to meet other Erasmus-students. Sometimes, it was a bit frustrating since information about events was spread one or two days prior the event and it was hard planning. Other than that, you also have a possibility to join other associations at KEDGE in order to integrate even more in their student life. I joined the cooking-association Cook'it in the middle of the semester which was a fun experience and a good opportunity to hang out with French students, since you otherwise only live in an "Erasmus-bubble".

**To sum up**, the semester in France was a very intense but fun experience where I met a lot of great people and got a deeper knowledge and understanding for the French culture. What I learned the most in Bordeaux is to have patience and not get upset when things (like trams, electricity and school software) doesn't work efficiently, instead just embrace the French way of living and worry less. *C'est comme ça, la vie française !*

