

# Mobility Scholarship Questionnaire and Photo

## Program of Study

I have enrolled in the Kedge Business School, Bordeaux Campus, in their 3rd year bachelor program for my international exchange. My full exchange is double-degree, thus includes 2 semesters at Kedge and 1 mandatory internship of 12 weeks anywhere in Europe. Last semester (semester 5 according to the brochure) Kedge offered 6 specializations to choose from, 2 just in English or French and 4 in either, but uOttawa only provided a choice between Supply Chain and Marketing (which is the one I chose). All courses are taught in English, mostly by foreign professors. In the semester there are 8 classes total, 30 in-class hours each with each session 3 hours long with a 15 minute break in between. The classes are split between 4 for the specialization, for me; Luxury Marketing, Digital Marketing, Marketing Data Collection & Analysis (just basic statistics) and Marketing Shaping Strategies, and 4 other mandatory classes; Business Simulation (one week long before exams), Strategy and Business Diagnostic (doing case studies), Introduction to Applied Research (online class in writing research papers) and French as foreign language if your level is below B2. For all the specialization classes you're in the same group for the whole semester in all classes (it was a class of 51 for me with roughly an equivalent number of French and international students), and for the mandatory classes you're with only international students (but mostly the same people). Each course is worth 5 ECTS credits, but uOttawa does not provide any credits for French although it's still mandatory for Kedge.

In this second, winter semester considered semester 4 by Kedge, I was placed in a class of only international (mostly from across Europe) students. There were also 8 classes, conducted just as the previous semester. They were: Corporate Strategy, Supply Chain Management, Cross Cultural Management, International Marketing, Globalized Human-Resource Management, Applied Finance, Regional Business: Wine management, and French.

Every session of 3 hours is usually first a lecture for 90 minutes, then group work (usually some class presentation on Canva) for another 90 minutes. Lunch is always between 1:30 to 2:30pm with no classes, so your one session could be split up. You will find plenty of people on the ground floor by the (affordable) cafeteria, vending machines and chatting in the outside campus courtyard under the rooftop cover. Keep in mind, people smoke and vape a lot more here.

## Timetable

- Orientation: January 8-10, 2025
- Classes begun: January 13, 2025 (but varies for all other programs' students)
- Exams: April 21-25, 2025

April 14 - 18 S4: Exam revisions week (Break / No classes)  
June 10 – 13 S4: Spring semester re-sit exams  
(Just consult the Kedge brochure)

The classes are arranged in a much different manner than at uOttawa. Every week is much different as classroom locations and days/times change every week. Some weeks you could have; the same class for 6 hours (2 sessions), same class multiple times a week, extra hours added, etc. It's pretty much necessary to always check the 'Campus Virtuel' (and they also have a convenient app) to know where you're going and what you will have. Administration said that classes could be rearranged up to 2 days in advance, without notice, but I have experienced receiving emails the day-of that classes are cancelled or room moved. So no week is the same, but they try to keep Fridays usually free. Most students take weekend opportunities to travel. You see your classes schedule after the orientation week. Attendance is also very strict, it's taken in every class by scanning a QR code on the board. If you miss a class, you must submit a response with proof and if you miss more than 2 classes of the same course in a semester you cannot write the exam, thus you fail the class unless you come back in June to re-write the exam. Most classes have exams and they are worth about 60-70%, but you still need to complete all other assignments as well.

## **Procedures and Services**

Before arrival, Kedge's office for international students sends you many emails regarding all the services provided to you. First, there is a housing team which makes many (recorded) Zoom calls explaining all the nuances and bureaucratic process' of acquiring housing and living (legally) in France.

First, you obtain a student visa for 3 months (~50 euros) or a VSL 1 year residence permit (technically free), and you also need to pay a 50 euro tax and submit more information online once you arrive here. As a Canadian citizen I was also made to sign up into the French government's education system (Etude en France, EFF) for \$150CAD which basically requires you to submit many visa and education documents to them online, wait for a month and get a positive response with your 'code' which only then would allow you to proceed with obtaining a visa. It was also mandatory.

Another key service offered is a student-run association made for integrating international students into cultural life at Kedge called 'Melting Pots'. They are mostly local French and known for organizing most of the parties, events and other fun things for students throughout the semester. Most importantly, they organize free pick-up service for international students from the airport or train station during a whole week prior to the orientation week. They also have a large group chat on Whatsapp for all international students (you will use Whatsapp plentifully to communicate with peers for group projects here). Aside from them, Kedge is very heavy with many student run and made associations, about 30, in all interests; different sports, business fields, leisure time activities, etc. They will all be presented to you during the orientation week, organized mostly by the Melting Pots, and you will need to apply to get into any one of them on

days in the first 3 weeks when they get their booths open outside. Some associations have their presence on Instagram, where most information is shared.

Other support available includes IT support, which is located in the student office on the ground floor and through a request on 'Campus Virtuel', and your administrative coordinator assigned to you and other uOttawa students to answer all your questions and concerns. She will also arrange to meet you and your other uOttawa peers in-person several times throughout the semester to confirm that you're currently on your assigned study path which is approved by Kedge and Telfer.

The only choice I made was my specialization path - Marketing, no other choice is given for you to make. All classes are already pre-selected for you according to your specialization (which you do need to send a list of to uOttawa at the beginning of the semester as they request) and unlike in Telfer you do not select the times/days of your classes either as you are only a small group and have all the classes together.

## **Budget**

It is obvious that budgeting would vastly differ by the person, but the following are my living costs of independent living which are average overall:

- Airfare YOW-BOD: As low as \$900CAD in the off-season with AirFrance with a connection in Paris. But closer to \$1300 during busier times. Baggage is additional at about \$50 a bag. You can also try Air Transat for cheaper, which fly directly from Montreal.

- Housing: Varies between 500-800 euros per month. If you share a place and split bills, then you could maybe find something closer to 500-600 euros. I am personally living at the Sweetly I-Art student residence for 795 euros a month which was built in 2022 and includes all fees and bills (water, electricity, insurance, security, annual taxes) in the total monthly cost at it's technically a para-hotel. It's a small 22 sq. meter fully-furnished and equipped studio, 2 km away from campus through a nice park. Finding rent is difficult in France, you need: a guarantor (someone living in France who would cosign with you or a company you pay 30-40 euros per month to be your guarantor like the popular Gurantme), 2 months deposit, European or French bank account (I use Wise, its quick and free to setup and very easy use. Setting up a French account takes several weeks, it's all in French and very outdated), passport, and Kedge's acceptance and housing letter. Don't worry, Kedge's team explains all this in depth on the previously mentioned Zoom calls. They will also mention CAF financial housing support from the French government that every student is eligible for. After you submit all the documents and wait ~2 months, you should get 100-200 euros for free per month deposited into your bank, for me it was 191 euros. It's not necessary to submit any income information as long as you indicate that you're a foreign student.

- Daily living expenses (food, transportation, etc.):

Public transportation, called TBM, is 35 euros per month for students or 0.80 euros one-way if you buy individual tickets through the app. Includes all buses and trams. It could sometimes be unreliable as delays and strikes are often.

Food varies by the product. Some products like wine (2-4 euros a bottle), cheese and bakery products are much cheaper. Other products like cereal are more expensive. Stores are mostly small and many typical North American products/brands are simply missing. Products are more natural overall. Lidl and Leclerc are cheapest, but other known grocers include Monoprix, Auchan, Intermarche and Carrefour.

- All course materials are provided for free and posted on Learn (like Brightspace). No textbooks are needed.

- Travel and leisure activities differ greatly in cost. Many people seize the opportunity to go to nearby Arcachon (beach and dunes town, 60km away), San Sebastian (across the border in Spain), Biarritz, La Rochelle, Marseille and Paris. Buses like Blablacar Bus and Flixbus are cheap at 10-30 euros each way, trains are 20-50 euros each way and flights are mostly to Marseille (by Ryanair) or abroad. Dining out would mostly include bistros at 15-20 euros per meal.

## **Application Procedures**

Applications for the place of exchange for the Fall semester open about the start of December and end in March. Then there is a conference between exchange students and returning students at Telfer where you have the opportunity to connect with other students going abroad. In my case, there was only 1 other person going to Kedge for a double-degree program as well.

Everything else for me happened on auto-pilot, I just followed up on the emails I received. I knew that I got in in the middle of April.

See the information above for visa details, but consult official sites for specific requirements. Required documents for me included: passport, acceptance letter, proof of financial means, housing letter, languages level letter and Etudes en France confirmation.

## **Housing**

My specific housing details were provided above. In addition, KEDGE offers assistance in finding accommodation but does not have any residence's of their own. Common options include student residences, shared apartments, or homestays. Costs will vary depending on the type of housing chosen.

## **Experience Summary**

Studying at KEDGE Business School in Bordeaux as a double degree student will offer you a unique blend of academic rigor and cultural immersion. You'll have the opportunity to experience a very different life in one of France's most charming and historical cities. Bordeaux's rich

history, renowned wine culture, and proximity to beautiful beaches and the Pyrenees mountains will enhance your exchange experience. The international environment at KEDGE will allow you to network with French and international students from around the world, broaden your global perspective and perhaps prepare you for a career, internship or masters in European business. I would certainly recommend it if you're looking to tie your career and/or life to France or Europe as a whole!