

**A) Your program of study (courses, assignments, course format, exact number of hours per course)**

During my Exchange, I was in my third year of my BCom., specializing in Finance. At the University, you are considered a IBBA Exchange Student. I took 6 courses, worth a total of 30 ECTS credits. This is equivalent to 5 courses at uOttawa. Each course has 10 weekly session, that occur for 3 hours (for a total of 30 hours per course). Some courses contain final exams and others don't, in my case 4 of my courses had finals, while 2 did not. Group work is a huge aspect of the workload; it's really a neat experience for most classes with the mix of people from different countries. For the groups, they let you create them on your own during the second or third session and they usually try to make sure that each member is from a different home country. There will be quite a few presentations, so be prepared for that, usually they are in groups so it isn't as nerve-racking. In some classes your group will be working towards a final project that is due near the end of November, it's important to try and keep updating these until the due date to avoid last minute stress, but either way - you won't be stressing too much and will have plenty of time exploring your city and continent.

The courses that I took were International Law, Chinese Culture and Business, Project Management, Negotiation Technics, Luxury Goods Marketing (No Final) and International Trade (Online Course, with a Final you can decide when to take).

**B) The timetable (academic calendar, registration dates, orientation, the beginning and ending of classes, exams, holidays, number of semesters, etc.)**

Courses start during the second week of September and run until approximately the third week of November (This can be pushed back depending on if certain classes are postponed). You get a Fall break for a week at the end of October/early November (perfect for Travelling around).

Exams start up in early December, for courses with B2 in the course code, they will be between November 30th - December 7th, and courses with B3 in the Code will be between December 10th - December 15th, so it is important to make sure to choose courses with exams in December, as some will be in January.

The Registration for courses occurs in mid-July and it's beneficial to register as early as possible. With 18 hours of courses a week that occur in time slots of either morning (8:00-11:15), afternoon (12:00-15:15) or evening (15:30-18:45), you have some flexibility regarding your schedule, but each course only occurs once a week, so you have to try to prioritize the courses you're really interested in and the courses that make for the best schedule. Personally I went for a schedule that gave me the free time on weekends for travelling, having courses my first course on Monday evening and my last course on Thursday morning, allowing plenty of time to discover Europe - which was one of my greatest desires when deciding to do a semester abroad. The courses can only be changed after the first week of classes, so make sure you have confirmed them with the International Exchange Office at Telfer to ensure a great schedule.

The orientation week is the very first week of September, starting on Labour Day, they plan activities all throughout the week, so it is essential arrive in Marseille before the start of this week for both informational and social needs. I was at KEDGE Marseille for only one semester.

Procedures to follow up on upon arrival. List and description of services offered by the International Exchange Office of the host institute.

When you arrive in Marseille the welcoming team for KEDGE Marseille (called the Interact Team, which consists of a group of French students at the University), provides free rides to your accommodation/housing from Marseille's main Train Station (St. Charles, which has shuttles that frequently go to and from the Airport). During the orientation week, there are numerous orientation events planned by the University and the Interact Team. Kedge BS plans most of the information sessions, including ones about Courses and about you Visa, while Interact plans the social events that you can sign up for on the first day of Orientation Week. The events include tours of the city, bowling, a night out at a restaurant, a team-building event, and a day at a waterpark. All of these events helped me to meet and make friends with people from various countries, and it's important to sign up for as many as possible. The tour of the school that is given was not as helpful as it could have been, but the campus is fairly simple and you get used to it by the second or third week.

For your visa, because it is a stay of longer than 3 months, you have to submit forms and photocopies of certain documents (visa and passport) OFII office, located fairly centrally in the city by mail or in person. A few weeks after your initial submission of the forms, you will receive a letter confirming an appointment that will occur a couple week after your receiving date. At the next appointment you will need to bring your passport, proof of residency and a stamp you can purchase online or at a Tabac for 60 €. Once this appointment is done, you can apply to extend your visa if necessary (it was not in my case). An easy procedure that is necessary is to apply for social security in France once you've arrived. You just need to go to the website <http://étudiant-étranger.ameli.fr> and upload a few documents and then you are set. All of this explained during the orientation week, which is very helpful.

### **C) Budget outlining the costs of studying abroad (airplane tickets, housing, vacation and daily travel costs, textbooks, meals, etc.)**

Airplane Tickets - \$1250 - Booking early is key for this aspect, as soon as you know the key dates book the flights, can save you a lot of money

Housing - \$600-750 / month - This depends on the housing that you decide to go with, for me it was on the higher end because I left it until the last minute and was unable to get into the student houses (more on that later)

Vacation Travel Costs - \$1500 - \$2000 - This is budgeting in accommodation and meals as well, for my experience travelling a lot was vital. Booking things further in advance can save you quite a bit in this aspect - so make sure to try and organize trips with friends well in advance.

Daily Travel Costs - \$50 / month - A Metro Card from RTM is important for everyday travel in Marseille. After you've received your proof of registration from the school during orientation week, you can go to a metro station and get your student card and you will pay 36 € every 4 weeks. This allows access to the metro lines and the bus lines that will be important for your stay regardless of accommodation. You'll have to recharge monthly, and the card also allows you access to buses out of town to places such as Cassis for exploring.

Textbooks - \$0 - \$20 - None of my courses required textbooks, which is very common for most courses at Kedge. You may have to download some technology for some courses, but KEDGE provides you with Microsoft Office and other software. For math based course, you'll need to buy the CASIO FX 92 Calculator, as it is the only one that KEDGE allows you to bring into exams (they are sold at various stores and fairly easy to find).

Miscellaneous - \$500+ - There will be extra costs that come from enjoying nights out with new friends, trying new things and getting souvenirs to remember the once in a lifetime opportunity.

My total budget for the semester amounted to about \$7000, but that could easily have been lowered had I been more prepared or had different priorities. I saved up for this for a while and was willing to spend to the highest amount to maximize the experience.

#### **D) Application procedures before your arrival**

Before your arrival, it is important to get things done as early as possible to avoid stress. After you've been confirmed for the University, you need to be ready to start looking for housing and visa. Housing (which will be touched on in the next section) was the main problem for me, I left it fairly last minute - middle of June - which caused some unnecessary stress and some minute problems for my visa Application). Try and get your Visa application done as soon as you receive the mail from KEDGE with your proof of enrolment. For Visa Application to France, you need to make an appointment with them after submitting documents online.

#### **E) Address and description of housing. Cost of housing**

For Housing there are three main options that are most popular among the KEDGE students I have met:

Flat in the City (My situation): This was a situation that I made because it was last minute, but it also was very beneficial for me. I was able to find a room on Airbnb that rented for a decent enough price (a bit above \$800 / month) and was located central in the city. I lived with 2 flat mates who were a few years older than me, both could speak English fairly well and both were knowledgeable about the city. They were able to provide me with advice, help in my learning of French and had a very nice apartment with great views of the city only a few minutes away from the Perier Metro. It would be a tough decision if I were given a start over to choose between this and other options.

#### Alotra Résidence:

This is the residence that is closest to the school (in Luminy) because the school somewhat is outside of the city, the rent is nice at about 600\$ a month. Getting to class on the main campus takes about 5 minutes from the bus stop and getting to the Vaufrèges campus (where a few of my classes were held) is only a 30 second walk. It is filled almost entirely with International students and is they hold some fun social gatherings. The biggest drawback for students at Alotra is the fact that they live far away from the actual city (about 30-40 minutes by bus to the Metro and an extra 10-15 to Vieux Port). The fact that the Metro / busses only operate until around 12:30 pm, means that on a night out with friends lot of Alotra students will have to wait until 5:00 am until they get to go back home. The rooms are also quite small and I've heard complaints about the shared bathrooms.

#### Campus EA:

This residence is where a lot of International students also stay, but is farther into the city. It takes about an hour to get to campus from Campus EA, but is a lot closer to Vieux Port and is directly next to the Cathedral in Marseille. The rooms are slightly better than Alotra and the rent is about 675\$/ month. They also hold social gatherings and being a lot closer to downtown can walk to a lot of the activities and locations in Marseille. If I had not been at my place, this would have been my choice, it seems farther from the school than it actually is.

#### **F) Work Term (if applicable)**

N/A

#### **G) Other comments or recommendations**

#### **H) Add a description of five to seven sentences summarizing your experience**

Simply put, my experience abroad has been nothing short of amazing. Marseille has been a dream come true, a beautiful French city on the Mediterranean going to a school with people from across the globe. The friends that have made from all these various countries have given me a new outlook on many aspects of life and I am so blessed to be living this experience with them. This is something that I cannot encourage enough, stepping out of your comfort zone can be challenging, but at such an internationally-focused school like, you have hundreds of students going through the same experience as you, who are just as eager and excited as you are.