

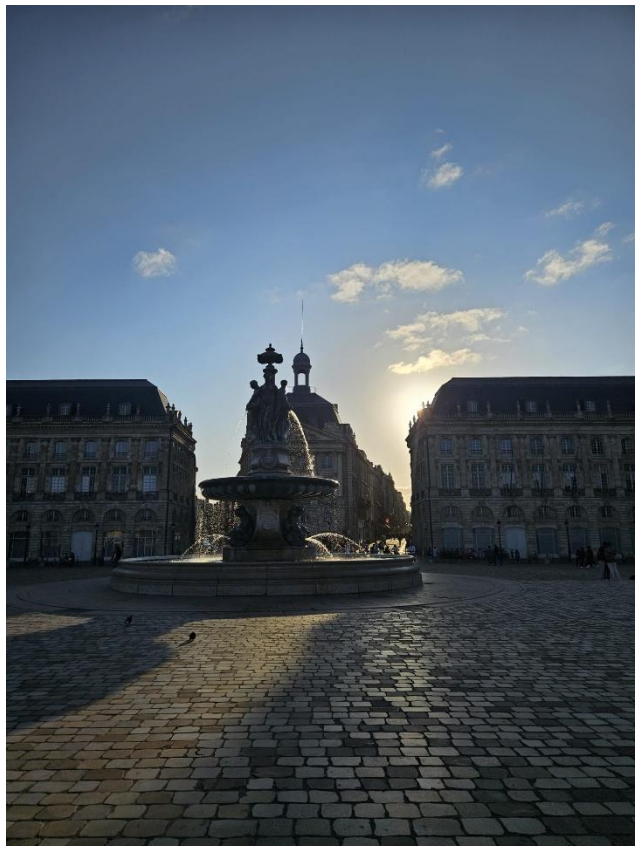
Experience Report: KEDGE Business School

France, Bordeaux

Academic year 2024, fall term, August – December

Business Administration (B.Sc.)

Completed courses: Accounting Management
 Advanced Financial Accounting IFRS
 Asset and Portfolio Management 1
 Audit, internal control and enterprise risk management
 Corporate finance 1
 Project Management
 Fle: French as a foreign language – intermediate B1



" Studying in the vibrant city Bordeaux surrounded by vineyards and the Atlantic coast, added an extra layer of adventure to my student life. The challenges I faced taught me resilience and adaptability, and the new perspectives I gained will stay with me forever."

- [REDACTED]

Description of the university: Kedge Business school is a private triple accredited school which not only has got a location in Bordeaux. It is situated in the district Talence which is a bit further from the city center in the south.

Completed courses: I was in my fifth semester in Cologne, so I was placed the Programme Grande Ecole "Master in Management" 1st year in Bordeaux. Consequently, I had to select a major and was unable to choose individual courses freely. My chosen major was Finance-Accounting-Control-Audit. However, I was able to enroll in a Project Management course and a French language course as additional electives. For proof of English proficiency, I submitted my Business English certificate. Since I did not enroll in any French-taught courses, no French language proficiency proof was required.

Project Management: This was an intensive course conducted during the first week of university, running daily from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Initially, I was disappointed as others had the opportunity to travel during this period, while I was occupied with classes. However, this course turned out to be a fantastic opportunity to meet new people during the first week and to complete 5 ECTS, thereby reducing my workload later in the semester. The instructor was excellent and shared a wealth of practical advice that will be valuable for my future career.

French Language Course (B1): I was eager to improve my French, but unfortunately, this course did not meet my expectations. One major issue was the irregular schedule, as classes were sometimes held only every two weeks, which hindered consistent progress. Additionally, the teaching approach was quite outdated and not collaborative, which made the learning experience less engaging. The quality of this course heavily depends on the assigned instructor.

Asset and Portfolio Management 1: I enjoyed this course as the professor was highly passionate about the subject and provided plenty of supplemental information to enhance our understanding. Although the course included regular in-class assignments, the workload was manageable.

Corporate Finance: This course covered topics such as long-term financing, cost of capital, and business valuation. While the material initially seemed straightforward, the exam was much more challenging than anticipated. This is likely because most exams at KEDGE are not prepared by the course instructors themselves. For instance, our professor could not provide any details about the exam structure, which made preparation more difficult.

Audit, Internal Control, and Enterprise Risk Management: This course was disappointing, primarily due to the instructor. Unfortunately, her English proficiency was limited, which was not the biggest issue. The main challenge was her inability to simplify and clearly explain complex concepts. Additionally, our questions were not adequately addressed, and the course structure was difficult to follow.

Management Accounting: I found this course particularly engaging because it allowed us ample time to practice case studies and apply newly acquired knowledge to real-world scenarios. The instructor was highly competent and approachable, making it easy to seek clarification or additional guidance when needed.

Advanced Financial Accounting (IFRS): This course was also well-structured and clearly outlined its learning objectives. The content was explained in great detail, making it easy to follow and understand. The only downside was the requirement to print out materials and complete assignments by hand, which I found inconvenient. A digital solution would have been preferable.

Preparation for the Semester Abroad: Once I was accepted at KEDGE Business School, I received a substantial amount of information from the university. They organized numerous online meetings covering various topics to help with the preparation process. Around the end of May, I was required to select my courses and submit several documents, such as my civil liability insurance certificate. Beyond these administrative tasks, there wasn't much to prepare apart from arranging my accommodation.

Accommodation: I made a significant mistake by delaying my search for accommodation. Although I began my search early, I was not satisfied with the initial offers and hoped to find something cheaper. Unfortunately, this strategy backfired, and I ended up renting an Airbnb as it was the most affordable option available at that point. However, this decision made me ineligible for CAF (housing benefit). In hindsight, I should have utilized Studapart, a platform recommended by KEDGE, which I initially avoided because it required a fee for access and verification services. Later, I discovered that you can get a free guarantor through Visale, which would have simplified the process. As for location, I do not recommend living near the train station as it is not considered a safe area—some friends of mine who lived there were robbed. I would advise choosing accommodation near the city center or between the city center and the university, ideally close to a tram station. The tram network operates at night, which is convenient. Since my accommodation was not near a tram station, I often had to rely on Uber, which became expensive over time.

How to Get There: I traveled to Bordeaux by train, which I found to be a convenient and cost-effective option. From Cologne, the train connection is straightforward and often

cheaper than flying. An added benefit is that you can bring more luggage without additional charges.

Life in Bordeaux: Life in Bordeaux was incredible, and I truly fell in love with the city. The beautiful architecture, excellent restaurants, and vibrant student atmosphere made it a fantastic place to live. During the summer, strolling along the Garonne River was a highlight.

The surrounding region also offers plenty of opportunities for exploration. I took trips to the Atlantic coast, visiting places like Lacanau and Arcachon, as well as the stunning Dune du Pilat. Tasting oysters in Arcachon is a must! Saint-Émilion, the famous wine region, is another destination worth visiting, along with Biarritz and Bayonne. I also traveled to Paris, as I had never been before, and visited San Sebastián in northern Spain, which is easily reachable by train. San Sebastián turned out to be my favorite city.

Living costs in Bordeaux are higher compared to Germany, particularly for housing and groceries. I found myself missing German supermarkets, which are generally more affordable. Despite this, my time in Bordeaux was unforgettable. I met people from all over the world, learned a great deal, and gained invaluable experiences that I will always cherish.

