
Erfahrungsberichte - INSEEC Grande École Bordeaux

Valon

Please provide a short quote about your stay abroad and your guest university

There is a saying: Bordeaux is the second Paris of France. After my stay, I can say with confidence: Bordeaux is the more enchanting Paris of France! The four months in Bordeaux were an incredible and eventful experience that I will always remember fondly.

Do you have any recommendations for future students?

Recommendations for accommodation:

As soon as you have received your acceptance letter from INSEEC Grande École in Bordeaux, make sure you find accommodation in time. There are various websites such as Studapart or Studently where you can find suitable accommodation for your stay abroad. However, there is a small problem. In France, it is customary to require a guarantee from a French citizen when renting such apartments. However, you can also buy this guarantee from the respective websites and still rent the apartments without knowing a French citizen. For me, this arrangement didn't make sense so I went for an AirBnB. There are apartments that are especially available for long-term rentals. If you start looking for accommodation early and inform yourself properly, options like Studapart are much cheaper! Important note: Because of the Garonne (the river that flows through Bordeaux), the city is divided into right bank and left bank. Definitely look for something on the right bank and ideally near the Business School. For example areas such as: BACALAN or CHARTRONS

Advice for mobility in Bordeaux: Bordeaux has a well-developed public transportation system in the form of buses and four tramway lines. The transport company is called "Transports Bordeaux Métropole" (TBM for short). Unlike our university in Marburg, the INSEEC Business School does not issue a semester ticket. You have to find out how to get a ticket yourself.

There are two options:

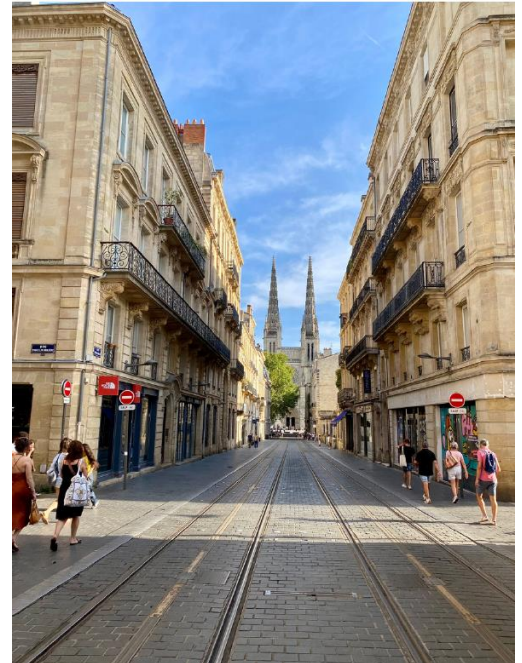


Bild: Valon I.. 1

1) You go to one of the TBM sales points and have a ticket issued by customer service. For this you need a passport photo, which will be printed on your physical card. There are various subscriptions, from one-way tickets to monthly tickets. Find out in advance which ticket is right for you. (Important: if you are under 26 years old, you will receive extreme discounts).

2) The second option is an online account with TBM via the official app. However, you will need a French mobile phone number to receive your online ticket. The advantage of this option is that you save yourself extremely long waiting times at the sales points at the start of the semester and you always have your ticket available on your cell phone.

What was the Highlight of your semester abroad?

The highlights were the excursions with my Erasmus friends to the nearby beaches in Lacanau and Arcachon (the sand dunes in Arcachon are particularly fascinating) and to the romantic wine stronghold of Saint-Émilion. We were very lucky with the weather, which is why we were able to do lots of outdoor activities.

Academic:

First of all, INSEEC is not a traditional university but a Business School. The teaching methods are therefore strongly oriented towards the classical school system. There are participation grades and compulsory attendance, which is checked before every lesson. The INSEEC in Bordeaux offers a Marketing track entirely in English and all the modules you choose for your Learning Agreement are guaranteed to be offered. That's why I didn't have to make any adjustments to my Learning Agreement. In almost all modules, students were required to work on a group project, which accounted for at least half of the final grade. What I particularly liked was the practical work on projects with a strong connection to reality. Compared to the University of Marburg, the level is somewhat easier, as the modules at INSEEC alone are not too extensive. However, if you choose all the modules, as I did, you end up being quite busy with the individual assignments, presentations, homework etc. I also liked the fact that the internationals were thrown together with a group of French students who will also be going abroad next semester. This was a great cultural exchange and we learned a lot about France and especially about Bordeaux and the Nouvelle-Aquitaine region..



Bild: Valon I. 1



Bild: Valon I. 2

Organizational Issues:

Regarding the organization, everything went smoothly. You notice the extreme difference between a state university and a private Business School. If there are any questions or problems, a solution is sought immediately for all parties involved. The International Relations Office is particularly committed. It is always available to answer questions and solve problems.

How was the housing situation during your stay abroad?

As I have already explained in my accommodation recommendations, it is not so easy to find a suitable accommodation. INSEEC does not provide accommodation, i.e. you have to look for accommodation early on.

In principle, it is advisable to find somewhere close to the Business School, otherwise you will spend a lot of time on the tram/bus. I went for an AirBnB in a suburb of Bordeaux because I wanted to live alone. It wasn't cheap, but I was very happy with my accommodation and knew I would be living there for a long time. A place where you feel comfortable is so important, especially in an experience like Erasmus.

How did you finance your exchange?

Before I went abroad, I was able to save money through my working student job so that I could finance my stay myself as much as possible. I also took advantage of the Erasmus grant. Both together made it possible for me to have this unique experience.

Non-Academic

I can recommend Bordeaux as a city and the Nouvelle-Aquitaine region to everyone. It is an enchanting region and there is a lot to do. The people are very friendly and you can get by very well in English. The cliché image of French people who can't/won't speak English hardly exists here. I am grateful that I was able to meet so many great people and make new friends in Bordeaux. Bordeaux will always be a special city for me and will always have a place in my heart.

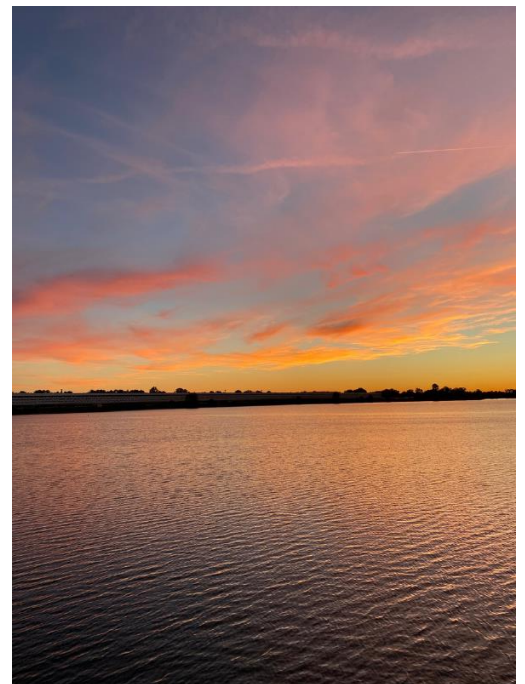


Bild: Valon I. 3