

ERASMUS Report

I completed my ERASMUS+ internship as my Master's Thesis for MSc. Molecular Science. I was already in contact with my supervisor before I applied for the Erasmus. Hence, for me, it was very easy regarding my choice of Bordeaux to do my Erasmus. The first planned date (August 2016 – December 2016) of the Erasmus could not happen due to a visa problem and the mobility was shifted to a new date (September 2016 – March 2017). However, the change of the Erasmus start date was very simple and efficient.

Regarding accommodation, I believe I was very lucky in one sense. I had applied for many shared flats, private rooms and student residence months before going for the Erasmus, but I had no luck. However, one week before leaving for Bordeaux I was offered a room from a student residence, and eventually got that room. In light of this, I suggest to students to look for accommodation in advance. One of the easy ways is to look via <https://www.messervices.etudiant.gouv.fr>, which is an official site for students, where they can apply for rooms in student residences run by “Crous”. Some other useful online sites are lokaviz, leboncoin and facebook pages for Erasmus students in Bordeaux. Another option is, to go to Bordeaux directly without having any apartment or room and then search for a room whilst there. To get a room or apartment in Bordeaux, a guarantor (someone who lives and works in France) is compulsory. So, if you do not have any guarantor, you have the possibility of applying for CLÉ (caution locative étudiante) by paying 67.20 € per year. You can also ask them for a refund if you are staying for less than 12 months and they will happily refund you when your rental contract ends.

My lab group consisted of people from various countries and we all communicated in English, subsequently I did not have the chance to learn the French language during my stay. However, I had the opportunity to learn different cultures. My daily activities were to plan and perform various experiments, supervised by my supervisor and senior scientists. The working hours differed daily according to the nature of the experiment

carried out each day. I had the opportunity to learn many biochemical techniques, gain independence in the lab, learn how to write project reports and to present my results.

Within Bordeaux, there is good public transport system and if you are under 28 years of age you can get a substantial discount i.e. only 225.6 € per year. The tickets can be used for buses, trams and even boats. There is also V3 service for bikes with stations all over the city and you can see the availability on real time with an application.

As I went to Bordeaux for my Master's Thesis, I was mostly focused on my lab work and couldn't meet any of the fellow Erasmus students and explore much of Bordeaux. From what I was able to see, Bordeaux is a very nice city, where you can find many things to do. You can visit Cathedrals, museums (Musée des Beaux-Arts, Musée d'Aquitaine), Le Grand Theatre, Place de la Bourse, Saint-Michel, Quinconces, Pont de Pierre, Miroir d'Eau, etc. You can also visit nearby places like Dune de Pilat, Saint-Émilion etc. As Bordeaux is known as the wine capital of the world, you must visit some wine museums.

To conclude, this Erasmus was a very good experience for me, mostly for my future academic and professional perspective. I believe that the rigorous training and theoretical knowledge gained during this Erasmus internship will help me to excel in my future endeavors. I would like to thank all the people, who made my Erasmus possible and my stay in Bordeaux beautiful.