

# Exchange Report

Sciences Po

Bordeaux, France

FALL 2017 SPRING 2018



I attended Sciences Po Bordeaux in the South of France from September 2017 to May 2018. At home, I am in the French Cohort Program where I study Political Science with a concentration on Public and International Affairs in both English and French. Preparing for my exchange year required a significant amount of planning, organization, and additional expenses that I had not anticipated.

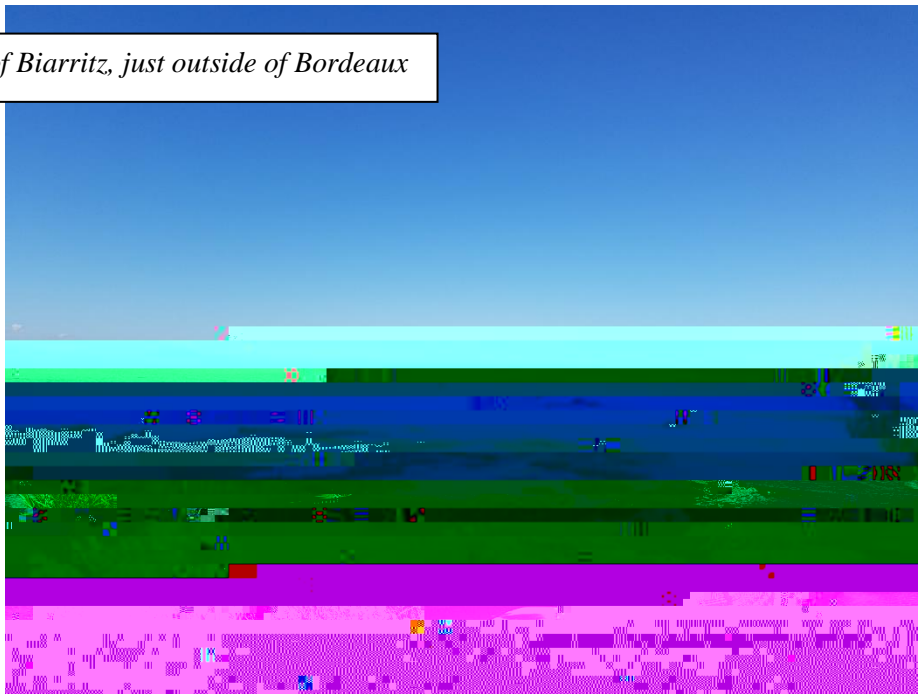
The amount of time that the entire application process demanded, along with the constant set of hoops and additional unexpected requests the French Bureaucracy system demanded, was oftentimes frustrating and stressful. However, much to my surprise and relief, the packing process was the easiest part of the preparation as

attended multiple courses on

evaluation. Additionally, the International Student Services team, Erasmix, organized a fieldtrip to Saint-Émilion for a wine tasting tour. During this week, international students completed various administrative duties such as obtaining French social security and student identification papers.

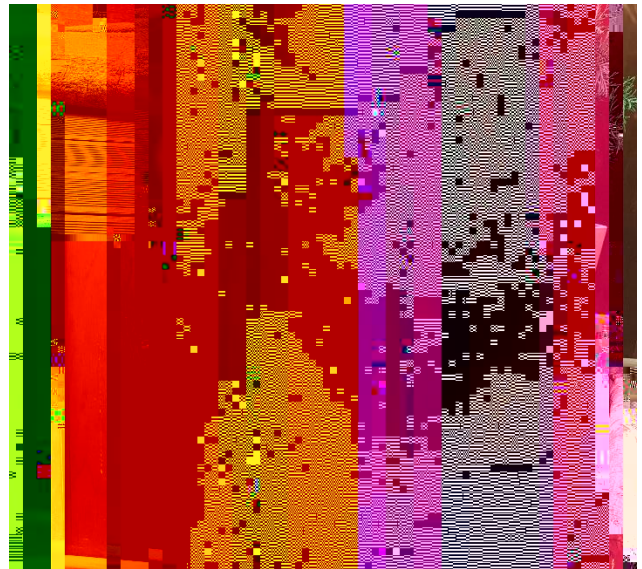
Throughout my time at Sciences Po Bordeaux, I lived on accommodation itself was much smaller than I had anticipated. At 9m<sup>2</sup>, my home for the year had a single sized bed, a desk, a closet, a mini fridge, one small hot plate, a few cupboards, and a bathroom complete with a shower, sink and toilet. In actuality the sink failed to fit the majority of standard sized dishes which meant that in order to wash the dishes I would have to bring them into the shower with me. When studies permitted, I would spend as much time as possible outside of my building since I would often feel trapped within the four white walls of my room. The thinness of my walls left little doubt as to what my neighbours were engaging in.

*Beach town of Biarritz, just outside of Bordeaux*



For future students of Sciences Po Bordeaux, I would strongly recommend finding accommodation off campus in an area closer to the downtown core. While the rent would be more expensive, the benefits would far outweigh the financial disadvantage. Moreover, after multiple long days of classes, I would have to make the time to take a tram downtown to pick up basic groceries, making multiple trips sometimes, due to the limited fridge space. Furthermore, the option of having an oven and microwave in a rented flat downtown allows the opportunity to eat

what you enjoy. On campus, food options are extremely limited to what the cafeteria serves, when actually open,



believed that because of the reduced hours of the courses in France, the amount of work required for the course is also reduced. While this is most likely the case for courses offered in the first cycle at Sciences Po Bordeaux or possibly at other partner institutions, I believe the courses I was second cycle did not reflect that diminished amount of work.

The evaluation setup at Sciences Po Bordeaux relies solely on the final exam. The specificities of the exam method vary depending upon the professor. Some may choose to do an essay while others may choose to do short answers or multiple choice. Contrary to Simon Fraser University, a few professors may decide to conduct an oral exam of either 10 or 20 minutes. I would advise future students to expect minimum free time, as you could be expected to know even the most irrelevant0.00 G4 nBTip

However, the city of Bordeaux is architecturally beautiful. Oftentimes the sun will set in

