



PRACTICAL INFORMATION

WINTOUR SEMESTER 2

ISVV – BORDEAUX (France)



wintour

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INFORMATION PROVIDED BY CURRENT WINTOUR STUDENTS



1. ACCOMMODATION AND INSTALLATION

WINTOUR students arrange their own accommodation in Bordeaux in the city centre (close to La Victoire) or they were allocated in the university of Bordeaux Residences.

Accommodation in Bordeaux is expensive:

- Sharing: 400€-600€/month (all-inclusive)
- Living alone: 600€-800€/month (all-inclusive).

These figures are based on the varying levels of rent paid by last year's intake students.

Finding accommodation in Bordeaux is not so easy. The first advice is to search in advance as it is a city with a large population and with significant growth of tourists – best European destination 2015!

Online searching is the best source but be prepared to do phone calls (works better than email) and French speaking will be a must since there is not a lot of people fluent in English.

CAF

Be aware that a proper contract with signatures is mandatory and in this case will help you to profit some financial aid from CAF – PUBLIC ALLOCATION FINANCIAL HELP. In case you apply for this help you must have all your documents and a lot of patience. The process is demanding and time consuming. You will be informed in the welcome session how this works and Agathe Lairy will help you on this. Have in mind that is a small help and not the same for everybody according to age, profile, nationality and other factors. Once again, French speakers will have to be around.

We would advise you not to build expectations about CAF funds. According to our sources, the distribution of the money is very random and most of us only received the money in the end of the semester. So consider these funds as an extra and don't count on it for choosing your flat discounting on the price. The financial aid can go from 40€ to 100€. People staying at Airbnb can exclude this option.

TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION (if needed)

- [Airbnb](#) around Corse de la Somme is cheap and you can find places 4/5 people.

USEFUL WEBSITES FOR FINDING FLATS

- [Le bon coin](#)

Airbnb and TripAdvisor also work well. WINTOUR students have found flats in Tarragona and Bordeaux in these platforms. Bordeaux landlord numbers from WINTOUR 2 will be provided in an Excel file.

LOCATIONS TO LIVE IN - CROUS

Village 1

- Located in Talence – half way from ISVV and center
- Close to Talence Campus
- Easy access from bus and tram B
- Small studios – private bathroom and small kichenette with frigobar and stove

Residence Pierre et Marie Curie

- Flats with 4 rooms with private bathroom and shared kitchen
- Located in Talence
- Different room sizes for different prices

Village 5

- Located in Pessac
- Tram B close by
- Shared bathroom and kitchen

The prices will be between 300 and 400 euros. According to last year experience the best tip is to apply only for the ones you are interested in and not randomly. All of them have Wi-Fi and all the bills included. At the reservation of the room you have to pay a deposit that will be returned to you. All the students that stayed there had to buy kitchen tools and bed clothes. Close to Talence or Pessac there is a laundry where you can wash your clothes (3€ to wash, 1,5€ to dry and you pay with student card).

To apply for CROUS you will need a guarantor. If you are under 28, CROUS can help you out on that. Otherwise, you have to have a guarantor in Europe or pay all the rents in the beginning.

2. TRANSPORT

2.1. GETTING TO BORDEAUX

- **Plane** - *Ryanair* and *Vueling* have daily flights. We recommend buying them in advance. From the airport to the centre takes you 45min and the ticket is very cheap. In case you are familiar with ESN - ERASMUS STUDENT NETWORK – you can get in contact with them and ask for an ESN card which will grant you a 15% discount on Ryanair flights with free checked luggage of 20kg. It is worth it. In Tarragona there is no ESN office but there is one in Barcelona. In case you are European you might be lucky and find one in your hometown.

- **Bus** - there are buses between Barcelona and Bordeaux for 37€ euro overnight. It's more suitable for people with a big amount of luggage. You will arrive to a train station with Tram C close by.



2.2. GETTING AROUND BORDEAUX

Bordeaux is a very flat city so most of the people use bikes to go everywhere. You can buy a bike in second hand in *Leboncoin* website (same as for accommodation) and should suite you for the time you will stay there. Prices range between 50€ and 150€. The most important tip we can give you about bikes is BUY A "U" LOCK. The amount of bikes stolen everyday is big and with these locks you will be safer. Find equipment on Decathlon. At the end of the semester it is easy to sell it the same way you bought it.

There is also a public system where you take the bike in a station and deliver it in another place that costs 30€ per month with a deposit of 200€. It is a very comfortable system used by us and one which we recommend.

So, the two options for biking in Bordeaux are:

- 1) Buy a bike on a website like leboncoin.com and you sell it when you leave. In this case make sure you buy a good lock because bike stealing is pretty common in a big city like that and avoid to park it outside at night.
- 2) Use the Vcub, the bike from the city, you can take a bike and return it to any of the several Vcub station of the city. You have to buy the card for 33€/year on infotbm.com.

Office of TBM (transports of Bordeaux--suitable for public bike renting or bus/tram ticket) where you can find someone who speaks English is in Gambetta

Besides bike, the tram can help you to move as well as buses. Tram B and bus 20 or 83 will take you to ISVV or very close - the schedules can be every 20min. In case you use these transports everyday take a month card for around 30€ and you will be very comfortable travelling around the city.

Be sure you don't ride your bikes on the rail road for the tram :)

3. MOBILE PHONES/INTERNET

Most of the students kept the same PHONE COMPANY / SIM CARD as in Spain since the roaming system makes it easier nowadays in Europe. In case you need more data, *Lyca Phone* is a good option as the SIM CARD is for free and you need to charge it with 15€ for 5G. Regarding *Wi-Fi*, it is available everywhere but keep in mind that if the contract of your flat or CROUS does not include the contract a company a new router and system, it is quite difficult because of the documentation process and it is also expensive, besides the 6 months of loyalty requirements.

4. WEATHER

The weather in Bordeaux is very unpredictable. It can be very sunny or cloudy but you should expect rain at any moment. Your rainy jacket should be with you at all times and you should pack winter clothes for the first months. Whenever the sun is shining you will see the parks and the river front full of people drinking and eating outside. You should do the same :)

5. SPORTS

The city is very nice for runners since you can run by the river. There are some marathons around the city some of them during the night which makes it pretty unique. If you are more into collective sports they can help at the University. You may also find help at the main campus where they will welcome you to practice. For gym lovers we recommend Basic Fit with pretty cheap fees (35€) and you can go any hour to any of their facilities around the city. They have several gyms.

6. OTHER TIPS/SUGGESTIONS

6.1. AROUND BORDEAUX

The city is full of bars and environment. Happy hour goes from 17h to 20h usually. The HMS was very frequented by us and on Thursdays happy hour lasts all night (be sure to take your student card). Keep in mind that after 23:00 there is nothing open to eat besides kebab and KFC but we can share with you a secret: close to the square of La Victoire there is a bakery open all night long :) Supermarkets usually close on Sunday afternoon. Make sure you visit the Capucin market for some shopping and oysters. You will attend classes at Ecole Du Vin which has also a bar and besides a constantly changing wine menu they practice the cheapest prices in town. You can find a Clément for 3€ à glass. In Bordeaux, where else? Make sure you follow the cultural activities of the city where you can find some things for free including free museums on Mondays.

6.2. RESTAURANTS/WINE BARS

Santosh	The bad mother fucker
Kokomo	The Rock School
Dick Turpins	Central Brazil
Peppone	House of Parliament
Café Japonais	Quartier Libre

La cité du vin

This place is one of the highlights of the city. You will go there with university but make sure you spend more time there once it's a very interesting museum and full of workshops. Once in a while they do sessions of presentations and tastings of different countries including yours :) for a price around 25€.

While in BDX make sure you attend *La fête de la musique* and *La fête du vin* in June. The first is a weekend wine festival with a lot of producers attending, wine to taste, environmental and networking and it's a very good wrap for the learning achievement at ISVV. The second one is a holiday that brings everyone to the street to listen music you should not miss it.

6.3. MAIN ATTRACTIONS CLOSE BY

Aquitaine is much more than Bordeaux and during your free time make sure you travel to the coast Arcacón and Dune du pillar which is the biggest in Europe. Besides this very tourist place there are other areas to explore such as Carcans Plage or Lacanau. Very close to the city by bus or bike you can discover on your own some of the châteaux in the closer apelations - the case of Pessac.

In case you like to snow sports you can visit the Pyrenees renting a car. The resorts are open until mid April. Last years students had a lot of fun going there.



7.TIPS ABOUT UNIVERSITY

University MEALS

ISVV does not have a cantine, only a food truck outside with snacks. We would highly recommend you take lunch to university and eat indoors or outdoors.

Health Center

BORDEAUX University has a very good system of health care. Just with your student card in case you need nurse care or a general appointment you can have it there for very low costs or even completely covered. For something more specific you should go to a private center where you will probably be able to activate your insurance.

WINTOUR adventure keeps going!

