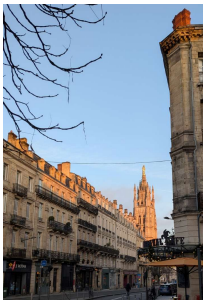
Lowri Keyse
BSc Natural Sciences
SYA 2025-2026

U-Bordeaux.fr (2025)



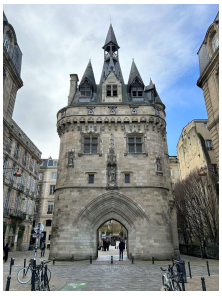


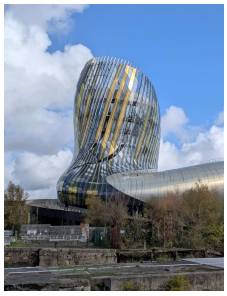
The University and City

- 7 campuses in the Bordeaux metropolitan area, as well as some further afield
- Main science campus in Talence, around 15 minutes from the city centre by tram
- The Garonne river runs through the city, so boats are included in the city's public transport!
- Recommendations – sunset at Dune du Pilat, Bassins des Lumières, Plage du Lac in summer, drinks by the Garonne, explore the bakeries

Classes

- Modules are made up of lectures, tutorials/workshops and labs
- French classes run 2 evenings a week for exchange students – these are a good way to meet people
- Homework and midterms → final exams often only worth 50-60% of the grade
- Labs were more closely supervised compared to Bath, and 'lab reports' tended to be worksheets rather than longer scientific reports
- French and English modules available, but far more options in French
- Masters modules often in English, and these can be taken if the incoming exchange coordinator agrees
- Bordeaux students going abroad in their final year take English science classes in first and second year, so some modules have an English and a French version
- Modules can be taken outside your science, but the number of campuses and timetabling issues can make this difficult
- Make the most of the different types of modules – I did lots of presentation-based modules as my course in Bath doesn't involve many presentations (and it means fewer finals…)



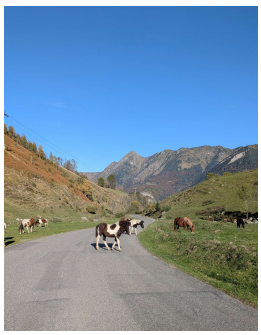




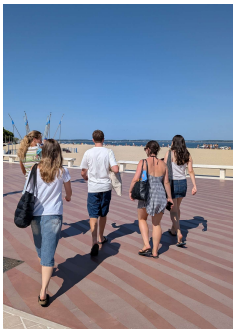


Accommodation

- I stayed in Crous accommodation in a 4 person flat next to the Talence campus
- Crous is their equivalent of student accommodation
- I paid €418 a month (compared to friends in the city paying €600+)
- Crous is easier to sort as you don't have to find anything yourself, but accommodation is confirmed quite last minute
- More choice in city centre and more convenient for nights out and socialising, but lots of exchange students seemed to live in Crous







Transport and Trips

- Annual public transport pass for about €250
- Airport 45 minutes from the city centre and generally has reasonably cheap flights to the UK
- Around 2 hours on the train to Paris, can be cheap if you're flexible on time of day
- Pyrenees mountains, Saint Emilion and Arcachon are all accessible by train
- Flix buses can take you EVERYWHERE cheaply - I went to San Sebastian and Biarritz by bus, but knew people who went as far as Italy on a Flix bus
- Holidays are short so make the most of weekends!



