PREPARATION FOR EXCHANGE

ACADEMIC DETAILS
All the information for the Kedge International Summer Programmes is available online through the school’s website. The website outlines most things students need to know regarding the program, accommodation and other expenses, corporate and cultural visits offered, and admission and tuition fees.

WHAT TO BRING
Summer in France is hot, so bringing clothes for hot weather is a must, as well as a good pair of walking shoes. The Marseille campus is near the ocean, so swimwear and beach towels are nice to bring if you’d like to visit the beach. A jacket and pair of pants may be necessary on the off-chance there’s a cooler day. There is an awards ceremony at the end of the program, so it’s recommended to bring a more formal, or business casual outfit. I’d recommend bringing your own toiletries and medications as it can be a struggle finding certain things in French pharmacies.

TRAVEL AND TRANSPORTATION
Prior to departure, Kedge’s Interact team (comprised of student university representatives) will be in contact with students regarding travel and transportation. An RTM card can be purchased with the help of Interact and can be used to board buses and the metro. You’ll take the bus to and from school. Uber is also available in Marseille if needed.

FINANCIAL DETAILS
The cost of living depends on your choice to stay with a roommate or not (it’s less costly to live with a roommate), and accommodations are paid for before arrival. If paying through a bank transfer, pay as soon as possible. As for food, lunches are available for purchase at school, and groceries can be bought easily. Prices are comparable to those of Vancouver, and credit cards are accepted at most places. I’d still recommend bringing some Euros with you.
DURING EXCHANGE

ARRIVAL AND ORIENTATION
Kedge’s Interact team will be in touch in the weeks leading up to your time abroad and will be providing information regarding arrival, so it’s important to keep up with emails. You’ll land at Marseille Provence Airport and take a bus to St. Charles Station. The bus station at the airport is found outside the main exits and to the left across the street. Once at St. Charles, you’ll take a metro into Marseille, with the help of Interact. There’s no orientation, so keep in contact with Interact through Facebook and WhatsApp groups (included in the emails) and ask lots of questions if you’re unsure.

ACCOMMODATION AND LIVING
Kedge Business School recommends a couple places for accommodation as there is no dorm on campus (as of yet). Adagio Prado Perrier is one of recommended places where other students will most likely also stay. It’s located minutes away from grocery stores, pharmacies, bus stops, and a metro stop. Laundry is available on the main floor for 7 Euros to wash and dry. Breakfast is not included but can be requested.

ACADEMIC DETAILS
Classes comprise of lectures, group work, presentations, and finals. There are group presentations as well as solo presentations. Final grades are a combination of presentations and finals. There is no daily homework, only work that’s needed to be done for the presentations or studying for the finals. Finals aren’t difficult and the professors are good about telling students what to study.

COUNTRY INFORMATION
The South of France is definitely hot and there’s a lot of walking involved, so make sure you bring shoes that are comfortable for walking, and clothes for hot weather (casual but also nicer options for dinners and events). Speaking French is not necessary but appreciated. Be sure to visit the Notre-Dame de la Garde for incredible views of the city, and as a great place to watch fireworks if you’re in France for Bastille Day. Vieux Port is a classic place for cool restaurants, markets, and the shopping mall. Kedge Business School is located in Calanques National Park, which includes a great hike down to a secluded beach or a hike up to breathtaking views.

SOCIAL AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES
Most social and extracurricular activities are planned by Interact and are communicated with students on a daily basis. There’s always something to do, whether it’s a beach day, hike, or nightlife. I’d recommend participating in everything that’s offered and making the most of your time abroad!
REFLECTION AFTER EXCHANGE

Lessons and Challenges
The biggest lesson I learned from this experience is to start planning well in advance, especially when it comes to things such as currency, accommodation, and transportation. It was always better to get in touch with the Interact team than trying to tackle things on my own. As someone who’s not used to public transit, it was a challenge figuring out the metro and transit system in the first few days, but very convenient once I was comfortable.

What I Wish I Knew Before I Left
Walking shoes are so necessary. Sneakers and socks that go with a variety of outfits are essential. You don’t need to overpack but bring a variety of clothes – for the beach, for hiking, for class, for dinner/events, for going out.

Advice and Tips for Other Students
Make a friend! Being in a foreign country can be scary, so it’s nice to have someone to explore with. Get a roam-like-home plan for your phone so you’re always connected – this makes it easier to translate signs and google any questions you have. Most places close early and major groceries stores aren’t open on Sundays. Smaller chains such as Carrefour are, but again, there aren’t many stores open after 9pm.
PHOTOS

Vieux Port

Calanques National Park

Campus Luminy

Notre-Dame de la Garde