UNIVERSITÉ MICHIEL DE MONTAIGNE BORDEAUX 3
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The University

The University of Bordeaux was founded on 7 June 1441 by Pope Eugene IV. It was originally composed of four faculties: arts, medicine, law and theology. The University was abolished in 1793 by the Revolutionaries and then reorganised by Napoleon Bonaparte, who introduced two separate schools of arts and sciences.

On 16 January 1886, the new University Palace was opened and Montaigne's tomb was transferred there. In 1896, ten years later, the faculties of arts, sciences, law, medicine and pharmacy were brought together to constitute the University of Bordeaux.

The University of Bordeaux was divided into three colleges in 1970, and its faculties moved in stages to the campus at Talence-Pessac in the 60s and 70s. Then, in 1995, it was further divided into four. During this process of separation, the University of Bordeaux 3 named itself in honour of Michel de Montaigne in 1990.

The University is faithful to the spirit of Michel de Montaigne, and its purpose is to contribute to the development of citizens of the world by sharing and utilizing the quality and depth of its different fields of research with its wide variety of departments.

Over the last fifteen years, the Université Michel de Montaigne has grown rapidly in esteem, reputation and influence. This can be attributed to the diversification of courses, the growth of research and a general opening up of the University.

Today the university is attended by 15,600 students, of whom 1,800 are international students.

Université
Michel de Montaigne
Domaine Universitaire
F33607 Pessac Cedex
Tél : +33 (0)557 12 44 44
Fax : +33 (0)557 12 44 90
The International Relations Office/International Education Office

The International Relations Department organizes and manages student and teaching staff from programs with partner foreign institutions. It mainly coordinates the outgoing French students and the incoming international students, as well as providing support services for students enrolled in exchange programmes. The International Education Office is there to help students with any enquiries or problems you may have. If you are in need of any assistance, please contact them.

The International Relations Office also offers students a mentoring service. BABAOE, an organisation that promotes international ties in Bordeaux, can pair international student with French residents. To find out more about this service, email the International Relations office.

The Office is directed by Patricia Budo and is open Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 10:00 till 11:45, and 12:30 till 17:00. On Wednesday and Friday the office only opens from 10:00 till 11:45.

Tel.: 05 57 12 47 47
Fax: 05 57 12 45 70 / 05 57 12 46 92
Email: relations.internationales@u-bordeaux3.fr
Location

Bordeaux is located near the European Atlantic coast, in the southwest of France and in the north of the Aquitaine region. The city is built on a bend of the river Garonne, and is thus divided into two parts: the right bank to the East and left bank in the West. Historically, the left bank is the more developed.

With an estimated population of over one million in the greater metropolitan area, it is the fifth largest city in France. While it is famed for its wine industry, it is also considered Europe's main military space and aeronautics research centre.

Bordeaux is a historical city with many tourist attractions. There are 6 main districts. Go to Les Quais for a nice walk on the shores of the Garonne, a ride on a ferry boat, a stunning view over the bridges of Bordeaux, or to dance the night away in the city's night clubs. La Victoire is where historical monuments meet student life and bars. The Pedestrian Center is where you want to be if you plan on shopping, or are looking for cultural activities. Gambetta Square is the richest district of Bordeaux. This part of the town is nicknamed "Little Paris". Quinconces Square is situated alongside the river, perfect to sit and watch the world go by. Lastly, Meriadeck is the administrative center of Bordeaux, with one of the biggest libraries in France.
In fact, the historic part of the city is on the UNESCO World Heritage List as "an outstanding urban and architectural ensemble" of the 18th century.

Bordeaux, with its world-famous wine, has about 117,000 hectares of vineyards, 57 appellations, 9,000 wine-producing châteaux, 13,000 grape growers, 400 traders and sales of €14.5 billion annually. With an annual production of over 700 million bottles, Bordeaux produces large quantities of everyday wine, as well as some of the most expensive wines in the world. Most Bordeaux wine is red, but sweet white wines have also contributed to the region's reputation, and dry white, rosé and sparkling wines (Crémant de Bordeaux) are also produced. You cannot leave Bordeaux without sampling its exquisite wine selection.
Accommodation

University Accommodation

The Cercle des Universitaries run by CROUS (Centre Régional d’ Oeuvres Universitaires et Scolaires) are the halls of residence offered to students in Bordeaux. They vary from flats to small duplexes.

All accommodation is equipped with fitted kitchenettes, bathrooms, desk and work areas, TV, telephones, and access to internet. Each complex also has laundry, left luggage facilities, and safes on request. They are also flats on the ground floor reserved for people with disabilities.

Reception opens from 7am to 9pm, Monday to Friday. There is a non-alcoholic bar and pool room located in the complex, and a park located near by.

The Cercle des Universitaries is served by several tramways which give you direct access to most of the city.

Rates vary from €514.84 to €550.71 per month for a stay of at least two months. It is common in France to be asked for a deposit of two months. The accommodation is located about 7kms from the campus.

While prices are very competitive, accommodation is basic and sparse in comparison to UCC.

The University will send you further information about housing and an application form for their accommodation.

Please bear in mind there is an accommodation shortage in Bordeaux and if you decide to stay in university accommodation please return this form as soon as possible.

For more information go to:


Private Accommodation

While private accommodation is generally of a higher standard with better facilities, it is much more expensive. Please note rented accommodation in France is usually unfurnished.
Prices range from €400 to 800 depending on location, size, state of repair, etc.

When looking for accommodation in Bordeaux, please research the areas they are located in and how you will get to and from campus. A district where lots of students live is the Victoire.

There are a number of ways to find accommodation in Bordeaux. You can use a letting agency – often they specialise in either furnished or unfurnished property. Do not pay the letting agency until they have found you a place and you have signed a contract.

You can look at local newspaper for the rental lists or keep an eye out for buildings with “A louer” (for rent) on them, and phone the landlord directly to set up a viewing.

Whatever way you decide to go about finding accommodation in Bordeaux, it’s highly recommended to arrive early, as a huge student population will all be trying to find accommodation at the same time.

**Housing grants (ALS)**

Like their French counterparts, international students may be entitled to a housing grant called ALS (Allocation de Logement Social). The maximum amount given for a single student living alone is about €135 per month (the first month is not reimbursed).

The procedure is long and complicated and you are unlikely to receive any money for several months. However, you will be reimbursed for the previous months if your application is accepted, and it can save you a lot of money in the long run.

As an international student, you will need to have obtained your residence permit and be able to produce a récépissé (acknowledgement of receipt).

*Caisse d’Allocations Familiales*

Telephone +33 (0)8 21 01 99 13

www.caf.fr
Transport

By plane

Aer Lingus and Air France fly directly from Dublin to Bordeaux; however, presently Air France’s fares are very expensive.

Alternately, you can fly to London and then direct to Bordeaux with British Airways and Air France. Again, Air France’s fares are very high, and changing flights in London can be challenging.

Of course, there is also the option of flying to Paris from Cork, Dublin, and Shannon, and then proceeding to Bordeaux by TVG or by taking a connecting flight.

Bordeaux’s Merignac Airport is located west of the city. It's a regional airport which serves mostly domestic flights, though there are also international flights connecting Bordeaux to the rest of Europe.

An express bus runs every 45 minutes to the city center, with stops on demand. The same bus runs back from Gare St. Jean to the airport with three stops:

1. Office de Tourisme, 12, cours du 30 juillet
2. Place Gambetta Arret, 50-16-13
3. Barriere Judaique (before le 9 av. de Rublique)

The fare is €7, a reduced fare for under-26 and over-60 is available for €6.

http://www.bordeaux.aeroport.fr/

By train

The main train station, Gare Saint Jean, is located about 4km from the center of town. Several trains per day go north to Paris (3 hours 30); south to Toulouse, Marseille, Montpellier (about 4 to 5 hours); east to Nice; and to the centre to Périgueux and Clermont-Ferrand.

Buses and taxis leave from in front of the station, and the tramway brings you to the city centre.

By car

You can reach Bordeaux by car from north (taking the A10 highway or N10), south (taking the A63 highway), and east. A beltway goes around the city.

If possible, avoid driving between 8-10 AM and 4-7 PM, as the beltway is usually overcrowded.
By bus

The bus station is located just in front of the train station. Eurolines provide bus service to the city.

Getting Around Bordeaux

Bordeaux is a relatively big city; however, most of the main attractions are located in the town center. It is not recommended to use cars to get around. It is always a hassle to park, car parks are expensive, and there are often traffic jams in the small, old streets of the city.

Walking is the most efficient and economic method of transport, and most of the town center is a pedestrian area. If you like sports, you can rent roller-skates or bikes.

A small ferry boat, Le Bus du Fleuve, goes from the western shore of the river to the eastern shore, and vice-versa. Three efficient tramway lines are also available (A, B and C). Tickets cost €1.30.

The bus network is organized around four main centres, where it is possible to take buses to almost every destination in the city:

- Gare Saint-Jean (railway station, bus lines going to town centre, university, and north of town, TBC agency)
- Place de la Victoire (bus lines going to town centre, to the railway station, to the University, north and south-west of town)
- Place Gambetta (bus lines going to la Victoire, the railway station, west, north-west, north of town, TBC agency)
- Quinconces (TBC agency)

Tickets can be purchased on the bus, but that can be expensive, and you cannot change buses with the tickets bought on a bus. The best thing is to buy tickets either at the TBC agencies (Gare Saint-Jean, Gambetta, Quinconces), at almost any tobacconist, or at the tourist offices (Quinconces, Gare Saint-Jean).

A 10-trip ticket will cost €8.60. Each trip comprises up to 4 bus changes within one hour. You can also buy tickets that will enable you to use the bus network freely for one to six days - those tickets cost from €3.75 up to €11.80. Students and elderly persons can buy tickets at a reduced price.
### Sample Monthly Budget

<table>
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<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electricity</td>
<td>€20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone bills</td>
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<td>Food</td>
<td>€100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transport</td>
<td>€40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel</td>
<td>€20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Textbooks/Stationery</td>
<td>€10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student life</td>
<td>€200</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Admissions Procedures

Your home university should announce your candidacy by mail to relations.internationales @ u-bordeaux3.fr

After your candidacy has been approved, you will receive a request for registration/application form.

The request for registration/application form is to be returned before 1 July.

Please consult the information on the University Michel De Montaigne’s website for further guidelines.
Academic Calendar

The first semester begins mid-September and runs until December. There is a two-week break for Christmas, but exams can be either in December or January.

The second semester begins at the end of January/start of February and runs until the exams in June. There is also a two-week spring break at the end of March/ start of April.

French National Holidays:
All Saints Day: 1st November
Armistice Day 1918: 11th November
Christmas: 25th December
New Years Day: 1st January
Easter: varies with the church calendar
Labour Day: 1st May
Thursday Ascension Day: varies in May
Armistice Day 1945: 8th May
Whitsuntide: varies in June
National Day: 14th July
Assumption Day: 15th August

French Language Classes (DEFLE)

The Department of French as a Foreign Languages offers courses on culture and language to international students throughout the term year and during the summer months. These courses are not free. There is a fee depending on the level and length of the course you take.

For more information, please go to: http://www.defle.u-bordeaux3.fr/english/default.htm

Technology Assisted Learning

The University Michel De Montaigne is committed to using the most advanced technology available across campus. The university is trying to build a digital network that will connect all aspects of the college online to support teaching, learning, and administration.

Through the student portal, you can access your student email and administration, an interactive learning programme similar to our Blackboard, the library catalogue, and e-resources such as Blackboard.
The nine language labs are state of the art and offer students the ability to fine-tune their language through both classes and e-learning.

The university has its own online television company that documents any important events on campus and broadcasts college news.

There are 18 computer labs, WiFi in all the college campuses, and the ability to loan laptops from the computer services.

**Library and Research Facilities**

The main library, *la bibliothèque universitaire de lettres*, has collections covering all disciplines of the university. Located in the same premises is the CADIST, a centre which specializes in the literature and languages in Latin America and Portuguese-speaking Africa.

There are also specialist libraries located throughout the campus organised by the subject or department they represent.

At the campus, Pessac-Talence-Gradignan, the following libraries are located:
- Library Henri Guillemin (letters and English)
- Library LE-LEA (applied foreign languages)
- Library Study Iberian and Ibero-American (Spanish - Portuguese)
- Library of Germanic Studies and Scandinavian
- Library Studies Department of French Foreign Language (DEFLE)
- Library Elie Vinet (history and art history)
- Joseph Moreau Library (philosophy)
- Library of Geography and Mapping
- Documentation Centre of the Institute of Management, Tourism and Urban Planning
- Documentation Centre of the Institute of Information Sciences and Communication (ISIC)
- Montaigne's Resource Centre: Social Careers (on the site of the Gradignan IUT)
- Resource Centre Documentation of the Institute of Multimedia Environment, Geo-Engineering and Development (EGID)
- Library Robert Etienne (House of Archaeology)
- Library Centre for the Study of Modern and Contemporary Worlds (CEMMC)
- Library of the Maison des Sciences de l'Homme d'Aquitaine (MSHA)
Practical Information

Residence Permit Application

French law requires all foreign nationals to apply for a residence permit within three months of their arrival in France, even if you are an EU citizen.

At the beginning of the academic year, application forms are given to the international students by the International Relations Office, who assists them throughout the application procedure.

Requirements for the residence permit vary from one year to the next but students are likely to need the following documents for their application:

- photocopy of a valid passport: pages concerning personal information, nationality, date and place of issue
- 4 passport photos (3.5 × 4.5 cms)
- Bordeaux registration certificate (attestation d’inscription)
- Fiche d’état civil or a certified translation of your birth certificate
- Proof of sufficient financial resources: €5160 minimum for the academic year (certified from your bank and/or student grant authorities, tax declaration….)
- Proof of adequate health insurance cover (e.g. EHIC/ European Health Insurance Card)
- Proof or residence in France, e.g. rent receipt (quittance de loyer) in your name or a photocopy of the identity card of the person with whom you are staying.

*It is a good idea to have multiple copies of all these documents.

Health and Insurance

EU students should bring a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) obtained from the health insurance services in their home country. If medical expenses are incurred, this will enable the student to be reimbursed by the Sécurité Sociale offices. In case of hospitalisation, presentation of this form will exempt students from payment.

Students also have the option of getting the étudiants internationaux de plus de 28 ans (The students Social System, which gives cover to students under 28). For an annual fee of around €186, they will cover 70% of medical fees and between 35 to 65% of medicines. In some cases they may even partially cover dental and eye care. In the Student Health Centre (SSC), you can avail of free consultations with GPs, without appointment; with an appointment you can see specialist physicians (gynaecologists, dermatologists etc). Family planning services and a counselling service are also available.

The Service Inter-University of Preventive Medicine and Health Promotion (SIUMPPS), offers free medical check ups, an immunisation service, a fitness certificate, and consultations with psychologists.
All care, immunizations, testing, and medical consultations are free upon presentation of the card.

Domaine Universitaire - 13, avenue Pey-Berland 33600 Pessac
Tel: 33 (0) 5 56 04 06 06 / Fax: 33 (0) 5 56 84 96 75
Open Monday to Friday.

Whatever their country of origin, the responsibility is on the student to take out insurance for such risks as accidents, repatriation, damage caused to third parties, etc.

Students in private rented accommodation are required to take out household insurance.

Organisations called mutuelles offer students all types of insurance at cut rate prices. There are numerous different mutuelles. For more information on the individual services they offer, simply search for “Bordeaux mutuelles” in any search engine.

**Student Matters**

**Student Societies**

There are numerous student societies in college. They are a great way to meet new people, indulge a hobby, or learn a new skill. The societies at Michel de Montaigne vary hugely and cover areas such as language, culture, music, art, and humanitarian aid. To see a full list of the student societies and to get more information, please go to:

http://www.u-bordeaux3.fr/fr/vie_du_campus2/vie_etudiante/associations_etudiantes.html
**Sports**

Michel de Montaigne is fully equipped for most sports with a state-of-the-art gym, swimming pool, sports fields, track, and tennis courts.

In fact, students are able to incorporate sports into their curriculum, and can be awarded 0.3 points to their overall average per term for attendance, participation, knowledge of the sport, progress, and performance.

Students can choose from 22 activities supervised by instructors including: trampoline, acrobatics, athletics, badminton, basketball, classical dance, contemporary dance, modern-jazz, salsa-merengue, climbing, fitness, football, artistic gymnastics, handball, kayaking, bodybuilding, swimming, rugby, tennis, and volleyball.

The University also welcomes any international students who would like to try out for any of the sports teams

**Student’s Union/Maison des Étudiants**

The House of Students (*Maison des Étudiants*) is the equivalent to UCC’s Students Union. It is a forum through which students’ concerns, information, and issues can be aired.

It reflects the determination of the Michel de Montaigne Bordeaux 3 to give a stronger impetus and greater visibility to the involvement of students in the running of campus. The Student Life Committee organises the cultural activities and associations to be held in the auditorium of the *Maison des Étudiants*, which include lectures, workshops, debates, and concerts.

The hall of the House of Students is open to all students, and includes a space for relaxation, the offices of the student representatives, WiFi, and a host of information on cultural activities and associations of the university and the Bordeaux region.
Student Tips

Erasmus is full of excitement and adventure, but also uncertainty and nerves. Although the International Education Office in UCC and the International Relations Department in Bordeaux will help you as much as possible, nothing can beat the experience of being in your shoes. So here are some tips and tricks from UCC students who have studied in Bordeaux.

Academic Matters:
- Take the chance to learn new things.
- Try and take some courses that allow you to learn more about French life, culture, history, or literature. You’ll never have quite the same opportunity in Ireland.
- The fact French is your second language is not taken into account in exams.
- Before beginning your courses, talk to the instructors. It may be recommended for you to take higher or lower courses.
- There are many libraries on campus: one main library, and each subject has its own smaller departmental library.
- Most French students generally only study one subject in their degree, not two.
- Keep up with your reading!

Accommodation:
- Accommodation is basic, space is limited, and facilities are poor. However, it is adequate and has everything a student needs. Plus it’s a great way to meet people, and much time is spent getting to know your neighbours.
- Bed linen is not supplied- a sleeping bag is handy when you arrive, and for travelling.
- Always look through the peephole before answering the door- security in the university halls can be lax, and you are responsible for your own personal safety.
- There is an accommodation shortage.
- Bring pictures of home to put on the walls.
- Bring a 2-pin plug for your Irish electrical products.

Travel:
- Remember generally the earlier you book the flights, the cheaper they are.
- Some clubs organise really cheap day and overnight trips.
- If you are coming home for Christmas, it is a good time to bring back excess luggage.
- Taxis are very expensive.
- From Bordeaux, it is easy to travel all around France, as well as Europe, especially Italy and Spain. Plus it’s near the Alps for skiing.
• SNCF’s under-26 discount is a good idea if you plan to travel by train. It will give you discounts up to 50%.
• Consider buying monthly or even yearly tickets for the trams, bus, etc. They will ultimately save you money.

Bureaucracy:
• Bring multiple photocopies of any documentation you might need, including many copies of passport photos.
• Bear with the bureaucracy. It’s probably more than you are used to in Ireland, but the majority of form-filling will be finished by the end of the first month.
• EU citizens do not need a Carte de Séjour.
• Patience is helpful.
• It is a good idea to carry some sort of ID with you at all times.

Social:
• If you intend to join a sports club, it is advised to get a medical cert off your doctor before you leave Ireland.
• Join a student society.
• Buy local newspapers and magazine, and listen to local TV, radio, and music.
• Immerse yourself in the culture!
• French students have a different manner than Irish students. Do not be offended if they do not come up to you – it may take some time to get to know them.
• There is a great international student community.

General:
• Bring a good French dictionary.
• Unlock your mobile phone before you leave Ireland if you want to put a French SIM card in it.
• Brings some books in English. Although you can buy some English language books in Bordeaux, they can be expensive, and it is handy to have some for travelling and for when you first arrive.
• Look into phone cards. They are one of the cheapest ways to phone home.
• If you have a laptop and internet access in your accommodation, look into getting Skype or other internet phone packages.
• Set up Internet banking.