

Most of the reviews I read start like this but if you are thinking about going on an exchange DO IT. You will not regret it. I can't recommend Grenoble enough as an amazing place for an exchange. It was so much better than I had expected. And honestly the best six months of my life. I met lifelong friends and cannot recommend Grenoble enough.

I knew basic French but most of the exchange students didn't know any at all. You will improve though. Mine definitely improved – for example, when I went to stay with one of my French friends in Biarritz at the end of exchange I could understand a lot of what him and his friends were saying.

There is an awesome culture with the exchange students as well. Everyone is up for making new friends and doing fun things be it travelling to Scotland on a whim one weekend or simply heading out to get some pain au chocolat and a coffee. I made great friends both those who were on exchange as well as French friends because of the nature of the school and classes. Also a requirement to do an exchange as a student in any of the International Business streams so all of the French students are really friendly and accommodating because they all know what it's like!

The town: Grenoble is a town located at the base of the French Alps. It is beautiful and I miss it so much a lot. I miss seeing the huge snow-capped mountains walking down the street every day, sound of the tram dinging at you as you run in front of it and the smell of fresh croissants and baguettes. It is also a very short bus ride to Geneva which makes flying to other places in Europe *extremely* cheap as it is a hub for many different flights. I visited Scotland, Italy, Prague, Spain, Poland, Ireland, The Netherlands etc etc.

The school: The course you will most likely take is the Bachelor of International Business (BIB) you can take different majors of this – I took International Management. There is also Finance, Marketing and Fashion streams. The course is actually very interesting and there are great classes. The lecturers are all really talented as they often fly them in from around France. Because of this, you sometimes have block classes which means you might have a heap of class one week and two classes the next which makes it ideal for travel as you get lots of time off. The classes are three hours long but you get used to it really quickly and everyone goes out for coffee half way through the class. There is also a lot of group work so the time goes quickly. I should say here as well the classes are kind of like high school in the fact that there are about 25-30 students in the streams and you do all of your different classes together. THIS IS PERFECT FOR MAKING LOTS OF FRIENDS. I loved it, instead of huge lecture theatres filled with 300 students on their phones everyone is so friendly and chatty and up for making friends in class. We would go skiing with our friends from class in the weekends or to French parties etc.

There is a bar called Star café directly across from the school where students spill out onto the grass drinking cheap beer after a day of classes – many great times were had here and I miss this bar so much!!

Friends and Fun: I met lifelong friends at GEM and you will too. I am meeting up with lots of them in South East Asia about a year after we left Grenoble! I would say Grenoble is one of the best school's or making friends on exchange and especially with French students.

GEM has an amazing student organisation culture. They organise so many activities, I had friends that joined the volleyball, football team etc. The best thing I have done in my life to date is go to Altigliss. It is a week-long ski trip to Val D'iser (one of the best and biggest ski resorts in the world). You stay in accommodation with your friends, ski all day, open bar snow bar made especially for Altigliss participants at night and meet students from all around France. We partied at après ski, played bubble soccer and jumped from a crane into blow up mattresses. I CANNOT RECOMMEND THIS ENOUGH. It was around 500 euros which covered a week's accommodation, food, alcohol, ski passes and transport. All in all, it was the highlight of my trip to Grenoble and if you go here for exchange please go!!! Also I can't write this without mentioning the Open Bar Parties – they called them OB's. Each student organisation puts one on every semester and basically they are in different locations, flying alcohol is provided all night – and are so much fun. My favourite one was WoodStock themed, everyone dressed up and they bussed everyone out to a location in the forest.

Accommodation: I stayed at Europole. It was ridiculously close to school, really close to the Tram station which we used all the time (especially in winter). It was also ridiculously expensive. I had friends that arrived in Grenoble and then found a flat – if I were to go again I would do this as it is far cheaper and fun to be able to have your friends around to your flat. Although I know I read reviews like this before I left and thought no way in that's way too stressful to do. If you do pick student accommodation they are all pretty similar all of the accommodation is not bad. They are all quite expensive for what you get. I did like Europole as I had friends that lived there and it was 30 seconds away from school. But if you flat live as close to Victor Hugo as you can (or more so I would say stay away from St Bruno).

In conclusion please go on exchange and please go to Grenoble I made the most amazing friends, had waaaay too much fun, loved uni and loved every day of my exchange. I literally cannot recommend it enough.

I'm more than happy to have a chat to anyone that's considering Grenoble (or France) and answer any questions you might have!

I've included some photo's below as well for you to have a look at!



The French firefighters that who invited us in from the snow and made us espresso at 2am on the way home from an International party at Bukana Bar.



One one of the last nights before semester finished at one of my friend's flats.



My International Management class out for drinks after class at an Irish Bar in Grenoble.



View from the top of the Bastille in Grenoble. And half way down overlooking the Old Town.

