



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student Information

Field of study in Wageningen	Landscape Architecture & Spatial Planning
Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)	31/08/2021 until 07/02/2022
Country (exchange)	Italy
City (exchange)	Milan
University (exchange)	Politecnico di Milano
Faculty (exchange)	Urban Planning and Policy Design

2. Motivation for exchange

Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

I did chose to go on study exchange because I saw this as a once in a lifetime opportunity. As I am not planning to leave my home town in the future, I had to do this to have an experience I will never forget. Also, having the chance to experience living in a different country with a different culture and meeting new people from all over the world is rare, and thereby definitely one I would advise to take.

What is the reason you chose for this country/university?

I chose for Milan, first of all because it offered me courses I was interested in. When going on an exchange for studying, the first important thing is enjoying the courses you follow. Thereby, everything was clear for me when I entered their website. The country and culture was a reason equal to the university.

3. Accessibility to reach destination

Do you have any tips to reach your exchange destination? (E.g. bus, train, etc.)

You can easily go by plane. On the trip to Milan, I combined it with a 3-day city visit with my family who brought me by car.

4. University and studying

Could you provide some general information about the followed courses?

	Course	ECTS	Short description of the contents	Appreciation of course: 1(low) – 5(high)	Remarks
1	Housing and Neighbourhood	12	This course focusses on one aspect of housing which changes, if I am correct, every year. We focused on affordability of (public) housing and got guest lectures of multiple European cases.	3	Interesting course with a lot of presented cases. Half of the course was group work in which we focussed as a group on one small aspect. Although it was fun and interesting, the help of the professors was a bit lacking and caused frustration. Just group work.
2	Contemporary City: Social Change and Policies	8	In this course the urban development since the industrial period and the topic of gentrification will be presented.	5	Very interesting course, one of the best I have had! Very dense in information and I learned a lot. Easy exam.
3	Conflicts Management and Resolution	6	This course presents theories on conflicts in the urban realm. The theories will form a specific focus on how you can look at certain urban conflicts.	4	A lot of theories about urban conflicts are presented by a very motivated and helpful professor. Can be a bit much in the amount of information but very interesting. Easy exam.
4	Urban History	4	This course provides some lectures but mostly a selected book on urban history. With group work you will analyse a part of the urban history.	4	Fun course, maybe because of the small workload. Did not learn too much, but during Erasmus it is a nice and easy way for 4 credits. Just easy group work.

How is the study formalized? (E.g. study forms, academic level, examination, workload, lesson material)

I think the study in general was good. Everything was clear and all materials and deadlines were perfectly provided. The academic level was not too difficult but also not too easy, although the exams were very easy and high marks are easily received when putting in a good amount of effort. The workload is (for Dutch terms), I think, quite good. However, as I said, in the end high marks are guaranteed if the effort is put into the work.

What is the culture of the university? (E.g. How approachable are the lecturers, engagement with local students? What are the differences with the WUR?)

The professors are very helpful and you can ask them anything. They are a bit more direct and straight to the point, but I think it improves the way of studying in some ways. I did not really have to adjust a lot to the culture of the university, although it is more urban instead of the rural situation of the WUR.

What does the university offer the student additionally? (E.g. Catering, sports facilities, laundry facilities?)

The university has a nice little outdoor bar with drinks and food for the breaks. Also, some street food trucks are present outside. For sports there is a huge complex including athletics track, football/basketball field, padel courts, a gym and additional activities.

5. Housing-travelling-living

What are the possibilities for housing? (E.g. Availability to sign up for a room on campus, private rooms, rent rates?)

I do not recommend to follow the instructions by the university, but rather to look for a room yourself. I found a room through Uniplaces, which was very easy and quick. Finding a room near the university was convenient, but public transport is good.

What is the culture of the country like? (E.g. Differences with home, local cuisine, habits, manners?)

The day felt a bit longer. I cooked for example at 9-10pm, but that was maybe also because of my Spanish roommates. I think everybody knows the Italian culture and you can expect that. However, Milan is also very international so English and international cuisines and habits are common as well.

Could you give a general price indication of the place of residence compared to living in Wageningen?

I do not live in Wageningen, but I paid 650 euros a month. In terms of residence and overall living costs I assume you can compare living in Milan with Amsterdam.

Could you give some information about public transport infrastructure? (E.g. Cost public transport card, taxi prices, how to travel to the university?)

In my experience the public transport was very good. Metro's, busses and trams drive a lot and are quick. A monthly public transport (ATM) card costs around 24 euros, if I am correct, and includes every mode of public transport. I lived 10 minutes walking from the university, so I didn't use the public transport. However, busses and a metro stop are next to the university which drive regularly.

6. Free time

What are must-sees in the area? (E.g. nearby destinations, how do you prefer to travel, when to plan?)

Must-sees in Milan is definitely the whole city. More specifically, nice places to visit and have a drink and some food are Navigli and Brera. However, all the other places are nice too and have lots to offer! Outside of Milan I suggest to visit Como, Bergamo, Verona and Florence, but there is so much more. The most important thing is to discover it yourself.

What does not appear in the travel guide, but is worth a visit?

A visit to a football match in San Siro is highly recommended.

Do you have general tips and tricks about leisure time (E.g. recommendations for restaurants, going out?)

In Milan clubs to visit are Magazzini Generali and Alcatraz. There are much more but these two were super fun. Additionally, especially in the warmer periods of the year, every Friday evening the whole square in front of the Leonardo campus is full of (international) people. That is a perfect opportunity to get to know lots of new people and broaden your Erasmus social network.

7.Challenges & best moment abroad

What was a challenge you have experienced?

A challenge which is the most obvious but applicable to everyone is making new friends. Luckily this problem was solved very quick and I didn't have to struggle with this. I suggest to go to (and register for) the Campus Tour in the introduction week. Everyone is in the same situation as you.

What was your best memory abroad?

My best memory was when Max Verstappen won the Formula 1 World Championship. For me this was the best memory because I got to share it with my roommates who have become my friends. I will never forget these guys. Sharing the same passion and interests, this championship means more to me than it would have been as just a Max Verstappen fan.

8. Contact details (optional)

Is the reader allowed to contact the writer?	yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>
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