



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student Information

Field of study in Wageningen	Landscape Architecture and Spatial Planning
Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)	03/09/2-21 until 17/02/2022
Country (exchange)	Italy
City (exchange)	Milan
University (exchange)	Politecnico di Milano
Faculty (exchange)	School of Architecture Urban Planning Construction Engineering

2. Motivation for exchange

Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

I choose to go on exchange because I wanted to experience how it was to live and study in another country and to do that all by myself. I was a challenge. Also experiencing new cultures and new ways of interpreting landscape architecture where reasons for me to go on exchange.

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

I choose Milan, since it was the only choose in Italy. I love Italian food and culture. Also Milan is a big city and I wanted to experience how it was to live in a bigger city then Wageningen, since I lived in Wageningen my whole life. Also I was interested in the Heritage part within landscape architecture that could be found in Milan.

3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

You can fly very easily, cheap and fast to Milan, yet if you want a more sustainable way of traveling or want to bring more luggage, going by car is also doable.

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	Landscape and infrastructure design studio	12	A normal studio on regional level but with more focus also on details.	3	Not that much about infrastructure and more about representation
2	Landscape culture and history	8	What is landscape architecture. Also very much about art and the reasoning behind landscape architecture	4	Very interesting. The course was really about talking and discussing with each other. Very inspiring and not that stressful so there was a lot of room for creativity.
3	Conservation and management of historic gardens and landscapes	8	What is a historic garden/landscape and how does one conserve them. Also you had to make an example on that.	4	Very interesting. You could really notice they have more knowledge in Italy on this part of landscape architecture.
4					
5					
6					

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

I have the feeling that the academic level is sort of the same as in Wageningen or maybe a bit lower, yet there was again a lot of study load. You have to deliver a lot and since the courses last half a year there is a lot of focus on details.

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 culture of the university is less intimate as the culture of the WUR. There are less nice working spaces and the connection between professors and students is less close and less open.

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

They have catering, sports, microwaves.

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?)

You can sign up for a room, but by forehand I was told there is almost no way you can get one. They have limited spaces and within half a second all the rooms where gone. You really have to arrange a room within Milan yourself.

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

People come late more often. They are less efficient in my opinion, especially because they are pretty old fashioned and still use very old systems of working. They have a nice cuisine and they eat late.

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

My room in Wageningen is about 350 euros, whereas a room in Milan (mine was single and near the university) is about 700.

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

I could walk to my university, so that was super nice. But as a student you can get a travel card for about 22 euros a month so you have free metro, bus and tram in the city of Milan.

6. Free time

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

In Milan there is a lot to see: the duomo, parks, musea, canals, older city center. You could go easily by metro and by walking.

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

La hora feliz. A nice aperitivo place.

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

For nice aperitivo you can go nearby campus or for a good/cheap dinner you can go to Navigli. Also there are a lot of vintage, antique and food marks every day through Milan.

7.Challenges & best moment abroad

What was a challenge you have experienced?

Workin with groupmates with a low academic level and who did not speak English.

What was your best memory abroad?

Going out to party/for dinner/ on trips with friends from my studies and my house. Drinking aperol spritz in the sun or talking about my landscape history course and finishing my studio and celebrating that.

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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