



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student Information

Field of study in Wageningen	Bachelor International Development studies
Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)	08-09-2022 until 20-12-2022
Country (exchange)	Italy
City (exchange)	Milaan
University (exchange)	Università degli Studi di Milano
Faculty (exchange)	Political Economic and Social Sciences

2. Motivation for exchange

Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

I wanted to experience living in another country. I feel studying abroad is a accessible way of living in a new country, as the university will provide a sense of structure, utility and a way of meeting new people. Living in another country is also out of my comfort zone, and I felt that it would help me to grow as a person.

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

I had to choose I wanted to go at the end of winter, so all I wanted was to live in a warmer and sunnier area. I initially looked at Spain, but the universities there did not have a broad enough variety of courses that fitted to my taste. I then focussed at Italy and the university of Milan had the most interesting courses in my opinion.

3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

I went to Milan with the train and back with the flibus. Both took a long time and were not the most comfortable way of traveling. Still, I am glad I did not fly. The traveling took a day, which in hindsight is not that long and quite doable. It helped that both times I was not traveling alone.

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	Journalism, Media and Politics	6 (also option to do 9)	The class was very international and the first 30 minutes focused on a news post that we discussed together. The professor then continued to explain the science behind journalism and the link to politics. Meaning that we learned concepts and frames to study journalism. It is not a course that teaches how to be a journalist.	2	
2	Conflict Management and Negotiation	9	We learned some management frames (BATNA for instance). Around half of the time was focused on roll play, it was not interesting to me.	2	
3	Discrimination in the global labour market	6	It was an interesting topic. We looked at the European legislation of discrimination and studied cases. I appreciated the course, teachers also had a lot of knowledge.	3	
4					
5					
6					

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

We had to attend 70% of the lessons, it was obligatory if you subscribed yourself as an attending student. Apart from the lessons, we did not have to make any homework or read articles. I had to write one essay in total. The examination was done with 2 written tests and one oral exam.

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?)

I felt that the teacher – student relation was quite the same as in the WUR. It depends of course on who the teacher is, but engagement with the class was common and I felt a comfortable sphere to ask questions.

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

I would have appreciated a campus tour before classes started. I did not know where to go to or even where the toilets were.

The university has a cafeteria, coffee bar, sports facilities and probably a lot more.

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?)

It is possible to get a room via the university. I however rented a room by a private owner. The rent was expensive, 780 euros for a shared room each month.

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

I appreciated the eating culture a lot, eating late and appreciating good food. So much more to say about culture difference, but you will see once you get there 😊. In general, Milan is quite international and speaking English was okay to most Italians. This might have been different in other Italian cities.

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

780 euros for a shared room per month. In Wageningen I pay 400 euros for a room for myself.

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

I usually walked 20 minutes to the university, I liked doing so and did not feel comfortable cycling in the busy streets of Milan. The public transport card costs 22 euros each month for everything, really affordable if you ask me.

6. Free time

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

I loved to travel outside of Milan in the weekends. Lake Como is the obvious visit, but I would also suggest going deeper in the mountain area, the Dolomites for instance. I also suggest going to the sea on both sides or possibly smaller towns nearby that you would not normally go to as a tourist.

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

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

Try to find the places locals or fellow students go to. Might be hard in the beginning, especially because there is sooo much to do in Milan. Take it easy, you don't have to see everything.

7.Challenges & best moment abroad

What was a challenge you have experienced?

Missing my family.

What was your best memory abroad?

Having the 'vacation feeling' whilst going to university. I loved it. To walk out of class and to go to a museum or something else with friends. Appreciated the everyday life greatly.

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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