



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student Information

Field of study in Wageningen	Landscape Architecture
Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)	05-09-2022 until 17-02-2023
Country (exchange)	Italy
City (exchange)	Milan
University (exchange)	Politecnico di Milano
Faculty (exchange)	Department of Architecture and Urban Studies

2. Motivation for exchange

Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

It seemed to me of great importance to look at topics of my study from multiple angles so that I can make nuanced design choices. For this it is ideal to follow my free choice courses abroad because I will see a different angle on landscape architecture.

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

At Politecnico di Milano, in addition to Landscape Architecture, both Civil Engineering and Architecture are taught, so that more knowledge is available on this subject. Because I will be working with other engineers in the future, it is wise for me to have additional knowledge about their field. Also this university is highly ranked in the global top universities. I wanted to go to Italy because I feel like a large part of cultural history like the baroque or renaissance has originated from Italy. To learn about this by living in the country itself was perfect for me.

3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

Personally, I've went with my car on exchange. While you won't get the green travel bonus, it has absolutely been the best choice for me. Almost every weekend I've been able to use my car to visit many places in Northern Italy with others.

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	BUILT ENVIRONMENT AND LANDSCAPE DESIGN STUDIO	12	Studio about improving the open space in a typical historic Italian wine village.	4	It was a great opportunity to be able to design in a landscape that doesn't exist in the Netherlands.
2	CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF HISTORIC GARDENS AND LANDSCAPES	8	Course about learning how to correctly renovate a historic garden/landscape. Learns about trees and hardscape contents of a park.	5	It was beautiful to be able to go on excursions to several historic Italian gardens.
3	METABOLISM OF CITY AND LANDSCAPE	8	Course about improving isolation of buildings and energy efficiency of buildings in a city.	2	This course didn't feel like it fitted in my landscape architecture study, but I learned a bit about other topics.

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

Most of my courses took up an entire part of a day with long lectures. Mostly these started half an hour late because of the Italian relaxed way of living. I quite liked this because it gave the opportunity to wake up well before the lecture. One exam was oral and I was surprised to discover that I had to give a speech about the course contents while I was expecting the professors to ask me questions instead. So I failed this exam at first, but the second time I was better prepared.

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?)

Most teachers are quite approachable and clearly have a passion for teaching their knowledge to their students, but others sometimes come over as quite rude and disrespectful to students. This was strange to experience, but I learned to work with it.

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

On the university there is a mediocre sports facility, there is a catering and several places to sit for studying. The main building has a small exposition about all the inventions made at the Politecnico di Milano.

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?)

There are no opportunities from the university to get housing. But there are several websites which help you to find a room. I've found mine with housinganywhere.com. Luckily I was early with looking for a room so I still got a decent rent price.

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

It feels like everyone is generally enjoying the beauty of life in Italy. Food and beverages were incredible. Also no one is ever on time for an appointment because they are still getting coffee etc.

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

The price is generally twice as expensive for the same amount of space. 500-1000 per month.

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

There is a public transport card (like OV-chipkaart) on which you can get a subscription. A monthly subscription costs 26 euros for using all public transport in Milan (Metro, train, bus & tram). I also got a subscription for e-scooters on the street. This cost 10 euros per month and 1 euro per ride. This was only fun until temperatures became colder.

6. Free time

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

The cities Bergamo, Genova and Venezia. I don't recommend Como.

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

Sacre Monte di Varese and a ski trip at Piani di Bobbio (1hr from Milan)

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

The best way to spend your evening is to get aperitivo with other exchange students before going out.

7.Challenges & best moment abroad

What was a challenge you have experienced?

At first it was strange to live in a city without knowing anyone, but this changed quickly after joining all possible activities. Also I've tried for the first time to visit a city alone as a tourist and to go out alone. This is a unique experience and is fun because you will have to meet lots of people. But I prefer to go with friends.

What was your best memory abroad?

This is a difficult question because it felt like the whole experience to live on your own in another country was great. It was nice to feel like you barely have any responsibilities.

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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