



# WUR Goes Abroad

## 1. Student Information

<b>Field of study in Wageningen</b>	International Development Studies
<b>Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)</b>	19/09/2022 until 31/03/2022
<b>Country (exchange)</b>	Italy
<b>City (exchange)</b>	Milan
<b>University (exchange)</b>	Università degli studi di Milano
<b>Faculty (exchange)</b>	Political, Economic and Social Sciences

## 2. Motivation for exchange

### Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

I wanted to find out how I would experience living abroad, out of my normal life in Wageningen. The combination of studying but also having enough time to explore Italy and Milan made me very excited to give it a chance. Next to that, I think it is a great way to go out of your comfort zone

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

Italy has always been my favourite destination for holidays and I really wanted to live here for a longer time period, also to learn the language and culture. The university of Milan is ofcourse less well organized than Wageningen but they have a wide variety of courses, different from the ones taught in our university.

## 3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

I took the airplane to reach Milan because it was most convenient considering the time you save and it is very nice with a lot of luggage. However, I also spoke to some people that took the train and they were positive about this as well.

## 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	International relations	9	The first theories that form the basic principles of IR today. Next to that, it touched upon current International problems like the war in Ukraine.	3	The teacher was not very engaged with the class, however he knew a lot about the topic which made it more interesting.
2	Employment, inequalities and discrimination in the global labour market	6	The international laws concerning employment discrimination on grounds of religion, gender, age, nationality etc.	4	I really liked this course because it touched upon law as well as reality. I never had law so sometimes it was a bit challenging.
3	Journalism, media and politics	9	Connecting the field of journalism to politics and how the two use each other for popularity and attention.	5	The connection between media and politics was new for me and really made me reconsider a lot of things. This course had the most engagement, meaning not only having basic lectures .
4	Global criminal organizations	6	The history of Italian-American mafia starting with the 'birth' of the Mafia in Sicily, the move to New York and New Orleans and the class ending around 1950.	4	The teacher was not very skilled in teaching as he was not that friendly/communicative. However, the course was very different than usual and it is about Italian mafia which I think makes it nice to study about it when in Italy. So I would recommend taking it.
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**How is the study formalized? (E.g. study forms, academic level, examination, workload, lesson material)**

This depends on the class. You have multiple examination moments which you can choose from, when you fail you can do the next one too.

**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?)**

This depends on the course as well. 2 out of the 4 lecturers I had were very approachable and showed interest to the views of the students. I think they are a bit less approachable than WUR lecturers but the difference was not that large. Engagement with local students depended on their ability and willingness to speak in English instead of Italian. In my experience, a lot of local students engaged with international students.

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

The faculty I was in (faculty of social political and economic sciences) we had one small café where you could get very cheap croissants, coffee and some bread. The main faculty, about 10 minutes by foot away, has a big catering with pizza/pasta/poke bowl etc. Sport facilities and laundry are absent.

## 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 didn't look into the possibilities of having a room via the university but I heard that it is scarcely available but far out of the city centre and the employees don't actively communicate whether you are allocated to a room or not. I would suggest to look at Roomie and HousingAnywhere for a room, you can either share one (which would decrease the price) or have a private one in a shared apartment.

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

In my opinion they are way better mannered in terms of elderly people. You always give them a spot in the public transport, let them go in front of you and say hello to them. Next to that, I really noticed the less equal gender roles, for example men are supposed to open doors for women.

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

650-800 euros inclusive when not sharing a room and not too far from the centre

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

Public transport was great and quite cheap, 20 euro's per month. I felt safe in metro's and connection was convenient. Metro's arrived every 2 to 10 minutes which made it easy to travel. Trains were also very good and clean, often not too expensive to travel to different cities outside milan. Buses and trams were often late but also fine.

## 6. Free time

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

Bologna, the mountains for a hike (Bolzano in winter, Lecco & Como in the summer), Florence, Venice, Verona

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

Padua (student city and aperol is founded there) & Parma (known for parmesan cheese and parmaham)

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

Cacio e pepe Bottega Romana (restaurant), Pizza AM, La Terrazza & Magazzinni (clubs), Once Upon a time (aperitivo), Modern Art Gallery, Shalimar (indisch), La schiscetteria (vegan lunch)

## 7.Challenges & best moment abroad

**What was a challenge you have experienced?**

My phone got stolen after a night out when I was travelling home by myself. I knew this could happen but it was still very scary.

**What was your best memory abroad?**

All trips away with friends, hiking in Lecco and drinking cappuccini everyday.

## 8. Contact details (optional)

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