



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student Information

Study programme WUR	International development
Exchange semester (dd/mm/yyyy)	18/09 /2023 until 22/12/2023
Exchange destination: University	Università Degli di Studi Milano
Faculty	SCIENZE POLITICHE, ECONOMICHE E SOCIALI
Country	Italy
City	Milano

2. Motivation for exchange

Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

I wanted to go on exchange, to switch my usual life up, with studying in a much bigger and different city. It is also an incredible opportunity to learn another language, meet new people, learn more about the world, and be on your own.

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

I honestly wanted to go to a place where there was a lot to see, nice weather and socio-political courses. Therefore, I really wanted to go to Italy to explore it's culture, food and people.

3. Accessibility to reach destination

Do you have any tips to reach your exchange destination?

Not specifically, it is a very approachable city. So by flifbox, train, car and airplane it is do-able.

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	6/9	It is largely about the interplay between media and politics, for democracy, truth and journalism.	5	I really loved this course, personally I'm really interested in this topic and the teachers were amazing. They were really engaged with the students and it was a very news-oriented course, which made it really relevant.
2	Languages of the media	6	About manifesto's and the sort of language journalists use to gain a following, or write news.	4	Also interesting, really specific about the topic of manifesto's this year. But the professor is a really highly ranked and amazing guy, with a lot of knowledge and funny stories about the topic. Great course!
3	Human Development and mobility in a changing world	6	This was about migration and migration policies.	4	Really relevant, and interesting course about all the different forms of migration and its political/worldwide impact. Really interesting articles and teacher.
4	History and institutions of East-Asia	9	This was really plain just history about China, Japan, Korea, Vietnam and Cambodia.	2	This course was honestly really boring, though I love history, they thought it really boring without any clarity and non-cronologically which made everything really vague.

What is it like to study there?

The studying part is different, the libraries are really old and unpractical. And the lectures are honestly mostly really boring because they talk for about 90 minutes, without breaks in a monotone voice on end. So, this wasn't educationally sublime. The workload was okay, usually no homework, and for the tests the lecture slides and articles are to be studied. With most courses if it's 6 credits, that would only mean an exam, and with 9 usually a essay or something else was needed. And the examination was really 'stampen' like not applicable or insight was examined, but mostly just reproduction of the theories or slides.

What is the culture of the university?

The teachers at my faculty were really kind, approachable and always helping to make sure it fits in the schedule. I think they really love Erasmus students, or they think that we're really smart, because they would always help with everything if it didn't work in the schedule or with Erasmus stuff.

What does the university offer students additionally?

Not that much, it's known for having like not that much facilities. It did depend on the faculty, I think I was at the oldest and most poorest, because we also didn't have a big libraries and study places.

5. Housing-travelling-living

What are the possibilities for housing?

There are housing opportunities through the university, however they are limited. There are a lot of different websites that are great and easy as well, for example, housing anywhere or spotahome. If you start early with finding housing it is fairly easy, but it is expensive compared to other cities.

What is the culture of the country like?

They have specific (funny) manners, like culture wise with food. And they eat a lot later than Dutch people, in Milan everybody is a bit more individualistic and a high nose. But you get used to it quickly.

Could you give some information about public transport infrastructure?

Every student/person younger than 26 years, could buy a public transport card for 22eu each month, and this can be used for all public transport. And Milano is really easily travelable therefore, with trams, metro and busses. But it is also not that big, so cycling and walking was (for me) usually possible as well.

6. Expenses

Can you give an indication of your expenses for/during your exchange?

E.g. you can also indicate price differences (higher/lower/equal) in comparison to the Netherlands.

Ticket there: -

Visa if applicable: -

Vaccinations if applicable: -

Insurances (extra, if applicable): -

Housing costs per month & type of housing/accommodation: 600, higher

Groceries: equal

Public transport: 22 (per month), equal

Restaurant/going out for dinner: 12 (per dinner), lower

Daytrips/sight-seeing: higher

Additional remarks regarding expenses?

7. Free time

What are must-sees in the area?

Areas: Navigli, brera, ticinese. And all the museums.

Day trips: Como, Verona, Florence, Turin, Cinque Terre, Naples

What does not appear in a travel guide, but is definitely worth a visit?**Do you have general tips and tricks about leisure time?**

Not right know, but there is so much to find about Milan everywhere on the internet. It's your biggest friend if you want to know about bars, restaurants, cheap activities or things happening in the city.

8. Challenges & best moment abroad

What challenges did you encounter and how did you overcome them?

At first, I really struggled to get a fiscal code, which you need for renting a home, but I just spammed the government and then it worked.

What is your best memory of your time abroad?

Just making a lot of trips with my girlfriends there, and exploring random things of milan.

9. Contact details (optional)

Is the reader allowed to contact the writer?	yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>
Name/e-mail	Nadine Waalkens Nadine.waalkens@wur.nl	