



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student information

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| Study programme WU | Management and Consumer Studies |
| Exchange semester (dd/mm/yyyy) | 19/02/2024 until 13/06/2024 |
| Exchange destination: University | Universita delgi Studi Firenze |
| Faculty | Department of Economics |
| Country | Italy |
| City | Florence |

2. Motivation for exchange

a. Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

I wanted to live abroad for half a year and still do something usefull. This was the perfect opportunity. I broaden my horizon, made new friendships, learned more about different cultures, improved my English, and made some personal developments. I recommend going on exchange to everybody!!! It is an amazing opportunity.

b. What is the reason you chose for this country?

I wanted to stay in Europe and go to a country where there is nice weather. I love the Italian landscape, cuisine, and history.

c. What is the reason you chose for this university?

Because of the city, Florence is a big city but quickly doesn't feel big. You can walk through the city centre in half a hour. There is a lot to see, a lot of museums, restaurants, students, and shops. Beautiful city with a lot of history.

3. Accessibility to reach destination

a. Do you have any advice about reaching your exchange destination?

I went by plane. Florence has a airport which is easy to reach by tram.

4. University and studying

a. 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 | Design and Evaluation of Behavioral Policies | 12 | Based on two courses with | 3 | A lot of effort for what you get back. A short |

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| | | | different lecturers. Need to pass both parts. One part is more about practical examples and the other is more theoretical. | | exam what really doesn't test your knowledge. |
| 2 | Topics in Human Resources | 6 | Human Resource management a lot of information. | 4 | |
| 3 | Cognitive Economics | 6 | Explanation what it is and how it is used in research. | 4 | |
| 4 | | | | | |
| 5 | | | | | |
| 6 | | | | | |

b. I had sufficient possibilities to select suitable courses that were taught in English (Yes, No - Explain): Yes

c. I had sufficient possibilities to select suitable courses in my field of interest (Yes, No - Explain): Yes, but a lot of courses with focus on economics and my preferences ly with more consumer direction

d. I am satisfied with the level of the courses that I followed (Yes, No - Explain): Yes

e. I am satisfied, in the end, with the selection of courses I followed (Yes, No - Explain): Yes

f. What is it like to study there?

E.g. Study forms, academic level, examination, workload, lesson material?

There were lectures (what isn't recorded) and you had to give a presentation, make some assignments and hand them in for bonus. Also a lot of oral exams. You need > 18/30 points to pass.

g. What is the culture of the university?

E.g. How approachable are the lecturers, engagement with local students? What are the differences with WU?

There were not really any Italian students coming to the English courses, so it was mainly Erasmus students. Different than WUR because WUR teaches almost all their courses in English.

h. What does the university offer students additionally?

E.g. Catering, sports facilities, laundry facilities?

There is a cafeteria and furthermore they don't offer much.

5. Housing-traveling-living

a. What are the possibilities for housing?

E.g. Availability to sign up for a room on campus, private rooms, rent rates?

HousingAnywhere is the website I used. Furthermore, you also have a lot of whatsapp groupchats where only exchange students are participants. They also help eachother with finding a room.

b. What is the culture like?

E.g. Differences with home, local cuisine, habits, manners?

Very dependent on the Italian cuisines, so not really other cuisines. People are doing a lot outdoors. So they grab a quick breakfast or coffee outdoors, have a warm lunch, and eat dinner around 9.

c. Could you give some information about public transport infrastructure?

E.g. Cost public transport card, taxi prices, how to travel to the university?

I travelled by train or FlixBus to other cities in Italy. I travelled by tram to university. There are bikes around the city to grab with the use of an app on your phone. There are also busses but not through the city centre. 1,70 per person for 90 minutes in bus/tram

6. Expenses

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

| Category | Expenses |
|---|---|
| Travelling there | One-way ticket around 80 euros (without luggage) |
| Visa - if applicable | - |
| Vaccinations - if applicable | - |
| Insurances (extra) - if applicable | - |
| Daytrips/sight-seeing | Around 60 euros |
| Housing costs per month & type of housing/accommodation | 600 euros for 15m2 room, three room apartment with kitchen + bathroom, in centre |
| Grocery costs per month | No idea |
| Public transport costs per month | Around 60 euros for tram to university |
| Restaurant/going out for dinner costs per month | Really depends on how often you go. You can get a nice cheap meal for 25 euros (meal + drink) |

b. The price levels were in general [higher; lower; equal] in comparison to in the Netherlands:

Lower, especially pasta and coffee really cheap.

c. Additional remarks regarding expenses? no

7. Free time

a. What are must-sees in the area?

E.g. Nearby destinations, how do you prefer to travel, when to plan?

I travelled a lot in the near area of Florence. To sum up:

- Siena: beautiful, very small
- Pisa: has more than only the tower, a small Florence
- Cinque Terre: definitely recommend hiking through the cities around april, very pretty and not too much tourists
- Naples: alive and busy city, nice atmosphere, cheap, kind of dangerous but didn't experience this (I went with a group)
- Capri island: beautiful, nice to do a boat ride, very touristic
- Venice: must see, too touristic in my opinion
- Assisi: if you have time, beautiful religious city with an impressive cathedral
- Rome: beautiful, very big city, need multiple days, so worth it
- Perugia: cute city, small, nice to see but not really worth the effort
- Bologna: loved this city!! Nice atmosphere, a lot of students, nice to go shopping
- Castiglioncello: nice small beach if you want to go swimming/chill on the beach

b. What does not appear in a travel guide, but is definitely worth seeing/doing?

See above

8. Challenges & best moment abroad

a. Any challenges? How did you deal with them?

The only challenge I faced was the language barrier. I did not speak any Italian and in some situations was this a bit complicated. But overall can the population of Italy speak English, so I didn't face this as a big challenge.

b. Best memory?

Such a difficult question. I enjoyed everything of my semester abroad. But I think I had my most favourite moments at the end of my semester. I passed all my courses and I had two weeks of vacation before I went home. I had enough time to enjoy the city, travel around Italy, and made some deeper friendships.

9. Contact details

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|---|------------------------------|--|
| Is the reader allowed to contact the writer? | yes <input type="checkbox"/> | no <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Name & email address (if yes) | - | |