



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student information

Study programme WU	BBC
Exchange semester (dd/mm/yyyy)	16/02/2024 until 28/06/24
Exchange destination: University	Universita Degli studi di Milano
Faculty	Agricultural and food sciences
Country	Italy
City	Milan

2. Motivation for exchange

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

A unique opportunity, to live in a different country and get to know that culture. I had heard a lot of good stories from friends. It is a chance to meet new people and experience new things and discover a different country. I was curious about the differences in education. I was also a chance to do something completely new and develop myself and my independence.

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

I have been on holidays before in Italy and I really love the country, the people, and the food. I didn't want to go to a completely new country or a big culture difference. I could see myself in Italy and that's why I chose it!

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

I had never been in Milan; it seemed a very cool and pretty city. Since I am studying in Wageningen which is a small city I was curious about living in such a big city. For my study this was the only university in Milan, so I mostly chose location but also because the courses were interesting.

3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

Milan has 3 different airports, make sure to look at which one is suitable for you. I got there by car from the Netherlands this was really nice as I didn't have the suitcase and packing stress as I would have had when I had flown. Milan also has a very big train station which is perfect and the public transport in the city is really nice!

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	FOOD INDUSTRY DESIGN TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION	6	Very broad course describing a lot of different aspects of the food industry, including packaging and how to make this more sustainable also why foods are spoiled and how.	4	Oral exam & project/presentation
2	FOOD SECURITY AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT	6	Interesting course in which you learn a lot about food security and insecurity in different countries and which elements affect this. Such as climate change effects. Learn to make more use of excel and data online	4	No exam if you follow the lessons then a final project about a country & a presentation
3	QUALITY AND FUNCTIONALITY OF DAIRY PRODUCTS	4	Really detailed course about the technical and biological aspects of dairy products such as cheese and yoghurt. Also about human milk vs cow milk and baby formula.	3	Not really suitable for my study but I still managed
4	ECONOMICS AND POLITICS OF THE AGRIFOOD SECTOR	14	This course was divided into two courses, each 7 etcs and needed to pass both. 1. Agrifood economics 2. International trade policies of the agrifood market Very interesting and added a lot to my knowledge which I had gained in courses during my study in the Netherlands	4	

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

Yes there were a lot of options, just keep in mind that almost all English courses are master courses and some have different locations, check this well!

c. I had sufficient possibilities to select suitable courses in my field of interest (Yes, No - Explain):

Yes, there was enough choice but sometime I needed to dig a bit more to find them

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

Yes, they were all master courses but I am proud that I passed them and the level was not too bad, mostly because the lesson periods were long and exams at the end.

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

No, when I got to Milan, I found out that 3/5 courses were not available for me because two had different lecture locations (Turin & Copenhagen) and one was only part of a master and not an individual course. So, I selected new courses while there, I am glad about the courses I chose but 1 course was very complicated for me due to my lack of history in this teaching region but I still am glad I got to learn something new.

f. What is it like to study there?

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

What was interesting for me was that I had multiple oral exams, which first stressed me out, but I ended up loving this type of examination as it is easier to show that you really understand the course materials. The academic level was high but not too high. I really liked that we had lectures for 4 months and exams at the end, some people had midterms, but my courses didn't have these. Due to this I had more time to discover the city and the country but also complete my courses. The lesson materials were mostly the lectures and articles.

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?

Everyone is so nice! Everyone is willing to help you and you can ask anyone for help, I mean other students, lecturers, people working in the university! The faculty I was at was also not as big and therefore more personal, I got to see familiar faces, I became friends with the man at the main office even though I don't speak Italian and he didn't speak English. Local students are also really nice and start a small conversation and are willing to help you, I felt welcome and one of the students at the end. The WU is way bigger and less personal

h. What does the university offer students additionally?

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

The university location I was at did not offer this, but outside the building during lunch there were always foodtrucks, also a pizza bus!

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?

I think on campus rooms were available but I don't know much about this. I found a room using a website. The rent rates are pretty high in Milan and there are a lot of shared rooms. I really liked my room, I shared my room and we had a bathroom for us two and then we shared the house with in total 10 international students which was really nice to make contacts.

b. What is the culture like?

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

The local cuisine is amazing, I love the food, the drinks and the coffee! The people are so nice, everyone greets you and wants to help you.

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 had a student public transport card and I paid €22 each month and then I could travel with the bus, the tram and the metro which was amazing! I used google maps to find my route each time, the old trams are a nice experience. I lived close to the university so I walked every day but took the public transport to the city center and other places.

6. Expenses

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

Category	Expenses
Travelling there	Fuel for the car
Visa - if applicable	-
Vaccinations - if applicable	-
Insurances (extra) - if applicable	-
Daytrips/sight-seeing	€100/150
Housing costs per month & type of housing/accommodation	€680 (shared room in a shared house)
Grocery costs per month	+/- €180
Public transport costs per month	€22
Restaurant/going out for dinner costs per month	+/- €100

b. The price levels were in general [higher; lower; equal] in comparison to in the Netherlands: Higher, it is a expensive city

c. Additional remarks regarding expenses?

7. Free time

a. What are must-sees in the area?

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

Lake Como is a must see, very short trip with the train. Bologna is also really nice and Genoa as a daytrip! The train system is great and once I took a flibus also good.

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

There is always something to see in the city, think of fashion week, I also experienced design week. But so many more things, such walking thru the city each week I saw something new

8. Challenges & best moment abroad

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

I can't think of a good example, but facetimeing home and building up friends in Milan really helped me with a lot of things.

b. Best memory?

Day trip to Lake Como with a girls group I met there and becoming a friend group that day.

9. Contact details

Is the reader allowed to contact the writer?	yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>
Name & email address (if yes)	Bente – Bente.smaal@wur.nl	