



IT University Travel Report

Dear Student, this is a template – the aim is to inspire other students who may wish to follow in your footsteps. You are free to give your report the shape you want and to go beyond the questions, as long as you cover the information asked for below. You are also very welcome to include pictures and contact information – but you need not. Remember that the report will be made available on the intranet.

Host University: Politecnico di Milano.

Study Programme at IT University: MSc in Data Science.

Exchange Agreement or Study Abroad: Erasmus.

Courses studied abroad: Data & Information Quality, Recommender Systems, and Biomedical Signal and Image processing.

Exchange Period: The autumn semester of 2022-2023.

If you wish to give advice to other students regarding your travels, please state your contact info here:

Your stay abroad

What was it like to study at [the university] (including choice of courses, academic level, social life at campus)?

There's an international student organization, ESN, which arranges a lot of events for international students throughout the entire semester like parties, yoga, hiking, cooking classes etc., meaning that you have the chance to meet a lot of other international students, and it's very easy to get new friends. By chance, two fellow students from my study programme at ITU also applied and got accepted to go to Politecnico di Milano the same semester as me. We ended up becoming part of a friend group consisting primarily of other international students. The friend group kept expanding as we were introduced to new people through each other. We often went for drinks, dinners, clubs, and parties together and learned a lot about different cultures.



The lectures at Politecnico di Milano are similar to what they're like at ITU. However, the professors and the administration at Politecnico have a more casual approach to rules than what we're used to at ITU and in Denmark in general. You can pass each course in multiple different ways, e.g. by doing projects, competitions, oral- or written exams, and in some courses it's even possible to take the exam earlier if you're an exchange student. Also, be prepared that it's not uncommon to never get a reply when you email the professors or the university administration.

What was your initial motivation for going abroad and did your stay meet your expectations?

My motivation to go on exchange was to get a break from everyday life in Copenhagen and to get to know a new culture. I went to France as an au pair before university, and I wanted to have a similar experience again in Milan. I didn't get to know the culture in Italy as much as I did when I was an au pair, mostly because we primarily spent time with other international students. However, I got to know a lot of other cultures and really enjoyed being a part of an international environment where there's a lot of curiosity towards other people.

I would highly recommend other ITU students to go on exchange at Politecnico di Milano, since Milan is a very nice city, the University (mostly the old part) is beautiful and has a wide range of interesting subjects, and there's a lot of other international students and events specifically for international students.



Arranging your stay

What resources did you find helpful in planning your stay and which people did you use (if any)?

I primarily used the study abroad section of ITU student (<https://itustudent.itu.dk/study-administration/study-abroad>) and the exchange student section at the website of Politecnico di Milano (<https://www.polimi.it/en/exchange-students-incoming>).

How did you arrange practicalities such as accommodation?

I found an apartment at Airbnb and made an agreement with the owner outside of Airbnb. It's definitely possible to find accommodation with a lower rent than the one I found, but I do recommend paying a little more to prevent having to use DoveVivo if possible.

I bought a single trip travel insurance through Gouda for 1,760 DKK.

I sent one box with things like clothing and toiletries and one with dumbbells using SendMyBag. Sending one cardboard box of 23 kg from Copenhagen to Milan and back again is 791 DKK.

I traveled by both train and bus (Flixbus) between Copenhagen and Milan (including going home to Denmark for Christmas). I preferred going by bus because it's much cheaper and less stressful than train.

Expenses and Financing

Please comment on expenses connected to your stay abroad

Rent: €7,556

Groceries: €957

Social activities (restaurants, drinks, clubs etc.): €665

Renting bike for 3 months: €56

Travel insurance: €234

Return trip from Copenhagen to Milan: €287

(Going home for Christmas: €257)

Sending boxes: €243

Other: €454

In total: €10,710

Did you apply for scholarships and would you recommend any ones in particular?

I didn't apply because my expenses didn't exceed my income.

Recommendations for other students:

Learn some Italian before you go. It's nice to at least understand what is said to you by the cashier in the supermarket and shops, and there's quite a few people in Milan that don't speak English. I did a bit of Duolingo before my stay, but it wasn't enough to communicate with the concierge at my apartment who only spoke Italian.

Don't buy a bike, rent it. I bought a cheap bike when I arrived through Facebook Marketplace that I wanted to sell again when I left, but even though it was old and ugly, it got stolen from a crowded square. After that,

I rented a bike through Swapfiets which was rather cheap, and it seemed like the chance of them getting stolen is lower. Biking in Milan is possible; however, I wouldn't necessarily recommend it. The traffic is crazy and when you finally arrive at your destination by bike, you feel very lucky that you survived. Instead, public transportation is probably to prefer, since it's cheap and effective.

The intro week was very intense (and expensive) with many events planned for international students. It can feel a bit overwhelming, but in my case, it didn't represent the remainder of the stay, which was more relaxed. So don't hold back in the intro week, you will get the chance to rest later. It's a possibility to form new friendships that might remain throughout the entire stay.

Go to lake Como to hike or swim whenever you have the chance. It's very beautiful and easy to reach by train in 39 min. from the main station, Milano Centrale. You can find a lot of nice hiking routes using the app Komoot.

