



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, Data Management for the Web, Computer Ethics

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:
Ida Thrane, idth@itu.dk

Your stay abroad

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

The academic level naturally depended on the chosen courses. I followed four courses at Politecnico di Milano, which varied a lot in the level of difficulty. In my opinion, this was a nice balance between learning and having time to explore Milan. I don't think the academic level was that different from the academic level at ITU, but again, this depends on which courses you follow. In general, the administration and exams were quite different from what I've experienced at ITU. Mostly, the written exams were without aids and required memorizing the course material.

The international student community at Politecnico di Milano was great, and it was clear that they cared that the international students had a good experience. There was a lot of social initiatives through the Erasmus Student Network throughout the semester, especially in the beginning. It was very nice and easy to get to know other students both from Denmark and other countries.

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

I have always wanted to try to live in another country and experience another culture. This was the last

chance for me to go before writing my thesis and ending my education. The stay did meet my expectations. I gained a new network of international friends from a lot of different countries, I experienced another culture, and I learned from being out of my comfort zone.

Arranging your stay

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

I used ITUstudent to gain an overview of the different opportunities to stay abroad, and I talked to people who had either studied abroad themselves or were planning to as well. When I had decided that I would apply for Politecnico di Milano, I also used their website a lot (<https://www.polimi.it/en/exchange-students-incoming>).

How did you arrange practicalities such as accommodation?

I tried to get accommodation through the university, but unfortunately not enough spaces were available. Therefore, I used the resource Spotahome (which was recommended by the university) to find accommodation. Through the site, I found a shared apartment with three other people that I didn't know. Finding accommodation was quite difficult and if possible, you should go to see the apartment before transferring any money. I heard a lot of stories about scamming.

Expenses and Financing

Please comment on expenses connected to your stay abroad

The accommodation was 845€ per month.

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

Recommendations for other students:

Throughout the semester, there are a lot of social events. I would recommend going to some of these to get to know other international students. Especially if you don't know anyone in the city you're going to, it's nice to gain new friendships early on.

It is nice to visit other places close to Milan, e.g. Lake Como. It can be reached from Milano Centrale (train station) in about 40 minutes. You can visit the small towns, go for hike or a swim.