



IT University Travel Report – Exchange in Milan 2025

Host university: Politecnico di Milano

Study Programme at IT University: MSc Digital Design & Interactive Technologies

Exchange agreement or Free mover: Exchange agreement (Erasmus+)

Courses studied abroad:

UX Design (6 ETCS)

Advanced User Interfaces (6 ETCS)

Inclusive Product Design (6 ETCS)

Digital Art (6 ETCS)

Trendforecasting and Strategic Innovation (6 ETCS)

Period studying abroad: semester (autumn/spring): Autumn 2025 (September 1st – February 1st)

If you wish to give advice to other students regarding your travels, please state your contact info here: You are welcome to reach out at hako@itu.dk or private hannah.keller@live.dk

Your stay abroad

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

My general experience of the university was very different from I'm used to at ITU. This includes the workload, structure and academic level and exam procedures. So, I would say: be patient 😊

A 6 ETCS course in some cases felt like the double in regards of workload. However, the exams are more relaxed and informal than we are used to at ITU and this chill approach also reflects the amount of information provided regarding exams – very little information and very last minute.

Social life really depends on the effort you put in it yourself. I had five different courses, meaning five different groups and only seeing the people on each course once a week, so it takes time to become familiar. In general, I experienced it being easier to connect with other exchange students rather than with the Italians.

Also, the organization ESN (Erasmus Student Network) arranges a bunch of events and trips that you can join with other Erasmus students from all over the world. It's a nice way to meet others in the same situation as you, especially in the first months.

Personally, my social life was primarily outside of campus with other Danes from different universities in Denmark.

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

My initial motivation was to try something different. After four years at ITU (which has been great), I saw this as an opportunity to shake it up a bit and my last chance in the context of study to get the possibility to live and learn in another country. Also, I was curious to explore other approaches to design and technology.

Arranging your stay

Please give a short description of the process of arranging your stay:

I went in the autumn, and the process started in February and was ongoing for the whole semester. It takes some time; there are deadlines and paperwork and waiting time. But all questions I had, Anna was always good at responding emails and setting up a meeting if needed.

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

Besides Anna at ITU who was just very helpful throughout the whole process, I can recommend reaching out to the organization called Uniclub. They had a seminar at ITU in the autumn before I went and they provided materials and examples on grant applications and budgets, that helped me a lot when I had to do grant applications.

How did you arrange practicalities such as accommodation?

I was very lucky regarding accommodation. I was recommended – and now I recommend to you – to join the facebook group called “Danskere i Milano”. In end of May, an apartment was posted on the group which I was lucky to have. It was a two-room apartment, and I paid 1350 euro per month. Quite expensive, but in general prices are pretty much the same as in Copenhagen for rooms and apartments.

Most of the other exchange students I talked to found rooms in shared apartments with other students from all over the world through the page called www.spotahome.com. Also, some found roomies and connections through another facebook group called “KU udveksling Milano 2025” and there is a group for every year. A good place to connect with other students from Denmark, because there are not many going from ITU.

Expenses and Financing

Please comment on expenses connected to your stay abroad

Besides accommodation, which is by far the biggest expense, I think Milan is a cheaper city to live in than Copenhagen. Going out is cheaper; coffee, drinks, food and wine which is just really nice. Transport is very cheap also, I can recommend buying the monthly ATM travel pass, which costs around 300 kr per month (if your 25+, even cheaper if you are younger) and it allows you to use busses, metro and trams as much as you want all over Milan. It can be bought in the ATM app, which is really nice to have.

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

I spent a lot of time applying for grants since I didn't have savings beforehand to the trip and I was lucky to get three besides Erasmus+ which got my stay fully covered.

I can recommend Knud Højegaards Fond, William Demant and Stibo Fonden, they are all a very good fit for IT-students.

My best advice is to start looking and preparing the materials needed in good time. However, the letter of acceptance from Polimi was quite late, so it was difficult to finalize the applications before that. www.legatbogen.dk offers a list of all different grants, so take your time and simply look through all and their requirements, to see which ones fit your situation. Many of them requires a budget, recommendation and CV, so it's a good idea to also start preparing that early, so you can send them as soon as you have the university confirmation letter.

Recommendations for other students:

- Just do it!! It's a great experience
- Be patient. Italian time is something different and it takes some time to adapt.
- Don't rely on busses, they come when they come.
- Be careful if you decide to bring or buy a bike. The bike lanes are not as we know them or non-existing.

My apartment was in Città Studi which I really liked, it's calm, safe and central and close to a lot of good cafés, bars and good restaurants. Also, it's very close to the campus if you are going to the Leonardo Campus. Otherwise, Porta Venezia and Isola are very vibrant and nice places to live.

And be prepared to get odd looks and attention on your feet if you wear Havaianas in the summer.