



## **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. You are also very welcome to include pictures and contact information – but you need not.*

*Note that by filling in and sending the report you automatically consent to publishing it on ITU student.*

**Host university:** USI Lugano

**Study Programme at IT University:** MSc Computer Science

**Exchange agreement or Free mover:** Exchange agreement

### **Courses studied abroad:**

Advanced Java Programming, 6 ECTS

Software Performance, 6 ECTS

Computer Aided Verification, 6 ECTS

Software Design & Modeling, 6 ECTS

User Experience Design, 6 ECTS

**Period studying abroad:** autumn 2024

**If you wish to give advice to other students regarding your travels, please state your contact info here:** [williamforbrigd@gmail.com](mailto:williamforbrigd@gmail.com)

## **Your stay abroad**

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

Very happy with the experience. Tried to choose courses that aligned with my specialization. Many of the courses are interactive where the professors try to engage the students in the teaching. The courses at the faculty of informatics often have weekly or bi-weekly assignments that contribute to the overall grade. I would say the academic level is quite high, and like ITU. However, ITU has more oral exams.

I lived together with all the exchange students at USI home, which is a student accommodation. I would recommend this as you meet all the exchange students, and it is very easy to engage in social activities.

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

I already did an exchange at ETH Zurich three years ago. During this time, I travelled to Lugano which I found as

a very beautiful place with amazing scenery. There are many opportunities for hiking, skiing, being active, as well as traveling to other cities such as Milan. Since I had great memories from my last exchange, I wanted to do another one and I found Lugano as the perfect place to do so. Also, I read that USI Lugano was an upcoming university with great academics which I found motivating. The stay absolutely met my expectations.

**Please describe what you got out of your stay, both personally and academically, and how do you expect it to contribute to your further studies?**

Personally, I had the chance to meet new people from around the world. I got to live in a new place and experience a new culture. Lugano is inspired by the Italian lifestyle where people care about enjoying their lives and they often say that they live to work instead of work to live. Additionally, it made me more mature as a person since I had to step out of my comfort zone.

Academically, I had the chance to experience a new university that is quite young. It is regarded as one of the best young universities and I thought they had many great professors. It is always interesting to experience a new place to study and see how their learning methods differ. I would say that many of the professors are great in their field, and they were also quite helpful. Learning methods are based on interactive learning where the professors try to engage with the students during lectures. Therefore, you often complete activities together on a Miro board and discuss them out loud in class. Courses at the faculty of informatics have weekly or bi-weekly assignments that contribute to the overall grade. This made the exam period less stressful for me since I had to do less work during this time

## Arranging your stay

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

First was the pre-approval at ITU and arranging courses at USI Lugano that aligned with my specialization. Then it was applying for grants, I had one grant from Norway. Also, I would recommend talking to the other exchange students that are going to the same place. Next step was arranging the accommodation. When you arrive in Lugano, you must complete many steps with the authorities such as applying for the SEMP scholarship, health insurance, residence permit, etc.

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

The resources available at ITUstudent was quite helpful for me. <https://itustudent.itu.dk/Study-Administration/Study-Abroad/Exchange-Student>.

Additionally, USI Lugano had a page with information for incoming exchange students <https://www.usi.ch/en/university/info/relint/exchange/incoming-students>

### **How did you arrange practicalities such as accommodation?**

Arranging accommodation was quite easy since I got an offer in a student residence called USI home through the school. I recommend living there since you meet all the other exchange students.

I already had a Swiss bank account from my previous stay in Switzerland. This is not a necessity, but it makes paying rent quite easy.

You also must arrange practicalities with the authorities such as SEMP scholarship, health insurance, residence permit, etc.

## Expenses and Financing

### **Please comment on expenses connected to your stay abroad**

Lugano is an expensive place to live. Luckily, the rent was not that bad, I paid 600 CHF per month which is around 4700 DKK.

Buying groceries is also quite expensive, but I would say it is like Copenhagen if you go to places like Lidl. However, eating out in Switzerland is very expensive and I would rather travel to Italy to eat out.

Also, I spent lots of time traveling. I would recommend buying the Swiss half fare travel card since you get 50 % of every ticket. This deal only applies in Switzerland, and not in Italy.

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

I applied for a scholarship with a Norwegian fund called Fondsfinans. I would recommend applying for some scholarships if you perhaps have some connections.

## Recommendations for other students:

1. Buy the Swiss half fare travel card which makes travelling in Switzerland much cheaper.
2. Live at USI home or other student accommodations since you get to meet other exchange students.
3. Register for many courses in the pre-approval and sign up for many courses during the first 2 weeks of the semester. This way you can choose the courses you like, and you get lots of information during the first few lectures.
4. Participate in the ESN events during the whole semester.
5. Do lots of hiking and skiing.

