



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: Politecnico di Milano (Polimi)

Study Programme at IT University: MSc Computer Science

Exchange agreement or Free mover: Exchange agreement

Courses studied abroad:

1. Business Information Systems (10 ECTS)
2. Process and Service Design (5 ECTS)
3. Formal Methods for Concurrent and Real-time Systems (5 ECTS)
4. Digital Forensics and Cybercrime (5 ECTS)
5. Cryptography and Architectures for Computer Security (5 ECTS)

Period studying abroad: Spring 2025

If you wish to give advice to other students regarding your travels, please state your contact info here: loda@itu.dk, or private e-mail lottejd@gmail.com

Your stay abroad

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

Polimi is a very prestigious university for Italians, and in general has a high academic level. Of course, there are courses that are easier than others, but beware that some classes require a good amount of work.

The courses are very theoretical, with most classes having no exercises sessions or projects, only lectures. Some courses are project based, which I would recommend if possible. Having only lectures means less work during the semester compared to ITU, but a more difficult exam session, since it requires a lot to both figure out what is expected in the exam, and to study for it on your own.

There are two campuses in Milan, the main one being the Leonardo campus. This is a really nice campus, with historical buildings with small green areas between. The classrooms can be quite different, but are all decent.

Regarding social life, there are a handful of student organizations, but I don't think it makes sense to join them

for just one semester. The ESN organization hosts lots of events for the international students, which is really nice. Go to those! Especially in the first month or so. But other than that, there are a handful of events happening on campus during the semester, but not as much as at ITU where you have both ScrollBar, Analog and more.

I also recommend the gym on campus (Giuriati). It is a whole sports arena, with a gym with classes, and classes external to the gym. The different gym classes are a great way to get to know some of the Italian students.

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

I wanted to go abroad to try living in another country and challenge myself. I also wanted a more relaxed semester.

I did definitely challenge myself, and I have learned a lot about myself, Denmark, Italy and Europe. I have also had so many great experiences and travels around Italy. The Italian culture was everything I was hoping for.

However, the semester was not as relaxed as I had hoped. It was pretty relaxed during the semester, but as I got closer to the exam period, the pressure rose. The exam period was not very fun, both balancing the many different exams, and studying for the exams themselves, since it can be difficult to know the expectations of the professors. But then again, exams are never fun.

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?

As mentioned, personally I learned a lot about myself and what is important to me. I have learned a lot about the differences between European countries, and about people. I have learned to push through challenges, and how great the reward can be.

Academically, I have learned how much I prefer having more exercises and projects, over just having lectures. I really like the way ITU teaches its classes. I have had a good mix of classes at Polimi, so I have learned a little on both software analysis, software architecture, and computer security., and the freedom to choose the classes was really nice, since Polimi has a lot of different classes to choose from.

Arranging your stay

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

I waited to book flight, accommodation and such until I got the final confirmation from Polimi, which I got in December. Before that, my focus was on all the practical exchange stuff, reading up on the university and the city, and applying for grants.

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

Polimi's website was really nice to give an overview of what needed to be done, as well as the ITU Student website.

The YesMilano website and online meetings were very helpful in learning about the practical stuff when moving to Milan, and also to learn more about the city. Luckily, as an EU student it is quite easy to move there.

How did you arrange practicalities such as accommodation?

For accommodation, I booked through the website SpotAHome, where my landlord was the company Neytos. I lived in the area Loreto, which I really recommend!

SpotAHome is a nice website for finding somewhere to live, and is pretty reliable, which is really important, especially since there are so many housing scams out there. It of course costs extra to book through them, but I think it was worth it.

Neytos are the landlord for a lot of the furnished rooms you can find on SpotAHome. They are a real company, which is nice, but they do like to try to exploit that a lot of the tenants are young international students, with few other options. They might require extra fees if the apartment is not how they like it, but on the other hand, if something breaks (and it was just broken by regular use), they come and fix it for free. Overall, I do recommend Neytos simply because they are not a scam company, you will actually get the room you book. To me, this is more important than the issues they have with trying to get more money out of their tenants. But I know a lot of people (including some of my roommates) were furious with the way Neytos operated, so keep that in mind.

Polimi has few student accommodation options, but these are booked within a few minutes, so I would not count on it.

Expenses and Financing

Please comment on expenses connected to your stay abroad

Accommodation is a little bit more expensive than Copenhagen, but not much. Groceries cost approximately the same. Transport is cheaper. Eating or drinking at restaurants/bars/cafés is cheaper (which is amazing).

No expenses related to the university, not even for books.

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

Applied, and received:

- Nordea fonden (10 000, but they stopped giving grants to exchange students)
- Knud Højgaards fond (10 000)
- ITU Travel Pool (1000)

Applied, but not received:

- Rudolph Als fonden
- Dansk Tennis Fond
- Stibo fonden
- William Demand fonden

Recommendations for other students:

Go for it! It is challenging, but so rewarding, and a really unique opportunity. I am not that much of a travel-person, but I really enjoyed my exchange, it is such a good way to try living in another country, while having so much support, both financially and socially.

Make sure you know what you want to get out of your exchange. Making international friends? Learning the local culture? Travel? Academic goals?

Use ESN, they host many great events. Also, the organization International Week is great for finding events with other international people in Milan.

I took an Italian class through the university, which I can also recommend. I felt like I got a better feel of the culture by knowing a bit of the language.

Finally, even though I loved my exchange, know that there will be difficult periods, and times when it feels overwhelming. Push through those, it will get better. And even though I had hard times, I do not regret anything.

If you have any questions, feel free to send me an email :)