

Destination: Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore
Exchange period: VT 2019

Choice of the destination and courses:

I've heard about other students going to Milan, but my school I found by the Erasmus agreement site. I chose it because of the country and the city. It was not easy to find courses to get a good schedule. But I worked it out when I arrived in Milan.

Describe shortly the preparation process before the departure:

I had to sign some papers and send some emails to get the stipendium, and take the english test. Otherwise it was not much preparation, just pack and book the ticket. Of course also spend a lot of time looking for accomodation.

Contact with receiving institution:

It was okay! A bit slow but they always replied.

Support from Umea University:

Yes it was good. Maybe be more clear about the stipendium things that has to be done. I did it a lot of time and then got an email that something was wrong. I think the process can improve a lot, to save time for the ones working at international office as well as the students. Maybe a session?

Arrival information:

Yes it was an orientation event, and also other information sessions so everything was very clear!

Accommodation arrangements:

Yes, but it was problem. I found it by myself in a facebook group. I lived in a shared apartment in the city center. Me and 6 other students, it was very good!

Transportation:

I walked everywhere since I lived in the city centre, just 15 minutes from school. The public transportation was very good and not so expensive.

Budget:

The rent is much higher there. The food in the supermarkets as well in the restaurants are way cheaper (and better). The gym-membership is very very expensive.

Social activities:

Milan is a very fun city, it is always a lot of events going on and the streets are never empty. Even the school/erasmus held a lot of events every week. It is easy to travel by train and bus to cities nearby, even to other countries

Recommendation :

I would definitely recommend it!! I loved the university and the city as well.

Practical things to think about:

Choose your accommodation wisely, the area is more important than the standard of the room/apartment (in my opinion)

General information about academia:

They have exams periods, so you will have all the exams in June/July. And there are also different dates so many economic courses started in March/April or in January, so look up when all the courses start, so you will have something to do during all your stay. Otherwise you will have no courses in the beginning then very much the second period... or the other way around

Courses attended*Course 1:*

Programming in R - fun course, but the other students had never worked with programming before, so it was very easy and a bit slow in the beginning. It was a lot of basics in the beginning. The professor was really good!!

Course 2:

Entrepreneurship - I did this one as a non-attending student. I.e I studied at home and took the exam, it was because it was held when I was still in Sweden. But it was okay! A very short exam about theories.

Course 3:

Advanced statistics and Big data - This was my fave course. You should have good knowledge about applied statistics before. The professor expects you to know a lot in the beginning of the course. It was a bit programming here as well, in R so the courses fit good together. The second module was about big data and business analysis, it was very fun. We worked with real business cases and discussed a lot! The professor was really good!! (same as the R course)

Course 4:

Diversity and cross-cultural management - It was an okay course. I think it was from the social/psychological department. So you will meet students from there. The professor was very kind. The amount of work was not so much and it was an oral exam that lasted for about 15-20 minutes.

*Course 5:**Additional Courses:*

Did the university provide language courses? Could you receive ECTS points for them? What was your experience of such course?

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