

Tali Ellenbogen
Student Exchange at Bocconi, Milan
Feb – Jun, 2017

General Experience

I had a fantastic experience studying in Milan. Studying a semester abroad opens your mind to different ways of living and new opportunities. Italy's history, interesting cities, nature, culture, arts, and even beautiful beaches, making it an ideal country for travelers. The Italians are welcoming, kind and helpful (although in Milan they're considered cold I didn't feel it) and of course, you get to know students from all over the world which is a very interesting and enriching interaction.

Country and city

Italy is an amazing country, with endless places to see, wonderful people and great food. Milan is the center of business, fashion, and design. Comparing to other places in Italy Milan is not so beautiful but it's a very fun city to live in. The atmosphere is vibrant, young and chic. The main attractions are the Duomo and Galleria Vittorio Emanuele- in the center of Milan, Sempione Park, Brera (restaurants and boutiques) and Navigli- the nightlife neighborhood with a lot of places to eat and drink near the canals. It is also very easy to visit places outside Milan by public transportation- Venice, Como Lake, Cinque Terre and more. It is recommended to travel outside the city on your free weekends, you can also find cheap flights to other places in Italy such as Naples and Sardinia (sometimes flight is cheaper than the train, try Meridiana airline) and of course to other location in Europe.

Bocconi

The university is considered the best in Italy. The level is very high and in the courses that I took there were a lot of group assignment and projects, so you study a lot during the course and not only in the final exam. In any case, there is a wide selection of English courses and you can check all the requirements in advance. There are also some 'Italian style' courses related to fashion and luxury products management. The professors are very nice and helpful, and everyone speaks English very well.

The atmosphere is very international, there are 800 exchange students, from them around 100 are graduates. Most of the graduates are masters and not MBA's, if you want to study with other MBA students you need to take courses with SDA Bocconi- the prestigious MBA program. I didn't take courses there but participated in a hackathon they had organized- Imagine Bocconi- which was an amazing experience. <http://www.imagine.cc/bocconi/2017>

The Bocconi buildings are not very impressive in my opinion. There are 2 cafeterias but I preferred to eat outside the university, there are a lot of restaurants and cafeterias surrounding Bocconi which are nicer than the Bocconi cafeterias and aren't expensive.

In Bocconi web-mail you can find a lot of special events. I went to a lecture of Starbucks CEO which was fascinating, so it is worth to check it out once in a while.

Administrative

All the administrative issues like health insurance and official registration issues are handled by the International Student Desk (ISD) and they are very communicative and available. They are organizing some nice events in the first week before the beginning of the semester, (special tours in the city) you can register and get all the information in the orientation day.

Visa

I didn't need a visa because I have an EU citizenship. For more information about the visa check other summaries.

Housing

It is not easy to find accommodation in Milan and it's much recommended to start looking in advance. A good way to find an apartment is by contacting Airbnb listings and asking whether you could organize special arrangements. I found a 2 bedrooms apartment (not far from Bocconi) and paid 600 euros but it took me almost a month to find it. Be careful from scams as they are common in some Facebook groups, and never pay anything without seeing the apartment (unless it's via Airbnb or an organized platform).

Transportation

The public transportation is called ATM, it includes the metro lines, tram, and buses. It is valid for a calendric month and you can pay for the whole 4 months in advance.

Food

The Food is usually cheaper than Tel-Aviv. In many restaurants courses cost 8-10 euros. Italians are very strict when it comes to eating hours. They eat lunch around 13:00 and it is hard to find a place to eat lunch after 14:30-15:00. Most of the restaurants are closed between 15:00 to 18:00. From 18:00 there is the 'aperitivo' - you buy a drink and get an open buffet in the price of the drink (~10 euro)- especially in Navigli.

General Tips

- **Italian language crash course-** I didn't take it and regretted it later, I believe it could be helpful
- **La Scala-** one of the world most known Opera house, it's very beautiful from the inside, nice to go for one evening
- **Fashion week-** if you are there during fashion week go to some places where there are fashion shows to get a feeling of the atmosphere.
- **Venice Carnival-** the Venice version of 'Purim'. Go on the weekend and book a place to stay in advance.
- **Sardinia-** beautiful beaches- Caribbean style, you can find cheap flights from Milan.

For more tips and questions feel free to contact me- taliellenbogen@gmail.com