



## My Exchange Evaluation

### Basic Information

<b>Host University</b>	Università Bocconi
<b>Semester &amp; Year of Exchange</b>	Sem 1 (spring semester), 2023
<b>Otago degree(s)</b>	Bachelor of Commerce
<b>Major(s)</b>	Marketing and Management

### Academics/ course load

Which papers did you take whilst on exchange?

<b>Course title</b>	<b>Language of instruction</b>	<b>Otago equivalent</b>
Green Marketing	English	MART305
Sustainable Operations Management	English	MANT3XX
Managing Creativity	English	18 unspecified points
Critical Approaches to the Arts II: Art and Politics	English	18 unspecified points

Total Otago credits gained: ☒ 54 points ☐ 72 points ☐ 108 points ☐ \_\_\_\_\_

Any comments about these papers?

Green Marketing – a mix of marketing and sustainability. I enjoyed the content and the lecturers. There was no exam so it was easy to pass and the content was easy to follow.

Sustainable Operations Management – the lecturer was good and the content was interesting. We also had class trips.

Managing Creativity – I did this paper non-attending so I only studied off of the textbooks. But the course seemed fairly easy and the lecturer was nice.

Critical Approaches to the Arts II: Art and Politics – super interesting paper with a great lecturer. We also had a field trip.

You can be an attending or non-attending student at Bocconi. Attending means that you are required to go to the classes (need to go to 75% of them to pass), and you have to do the

assignments and final exam. Non-attending means that you don't have any classes, and one final exam worth 100% based on one or two textbooks. You can do a mix of attending and non-attending, it's up to you. I wouldn't recommend doing all non-attending as the textbooks are mind-numbing and the exams are harder. Also when picking papers, don't pay too much attention to the schedules as they change.

*How did the academic experience/ workload/ style of teaching differ from Otago?*

I would say Bocconi is pretty different to Otago. The lectures are at least an hour and a half, some classes also have double lectures (with a ten min break in between). All of the papers are run by experienced lecturers so they're all super passionate about their topics and the lectures are therefore more interesting. The workload is similar to Otago, but it all depends on your papers. There are three exam seasons, meaning that if you fail your first exam you can re-sit it later on.

## Accommodation

*What accommodation did you stay in? What were the pros and cons of your accommodation?*

I ended up staying in an Airbnb in Navigli. There were four of us in the apartment (two couples), so we shared a two bedroom apartment. It is really hard to find accommodation in Milan. We had signed an apartment months before arriving in Milan, but our landlord bailed on us. I would recommend trying to find a flat MONTHS before arriving in Milan. The websites we used were uniplaces and spotahome.

There is also a halls of residence called Aparto. Aparto is a new residence, so it's right on campus and has good facilities. I had a few friends who stayed there and they liked it. It can be expensive but I think its worth it, especially if you're going on exchange on your own.

## Money matters

*Please detail your basic costs, e.g. accommodation, flights, visa, food, insurance*

Since we extended our Airbnb and we were living as a group of four (two couples), our rent was a bit more affordable compared to other apartments in Milan. We paid €2300 per month between us.

Flights - \$1400 Akl -> Milan (stopover in Dubai), \$2697 Milan -> Akl (however we paid extra as I travelled back with my family who wanted a stopover in Singapore).

Visa – \$82.50

Food – food prices are similar to NZ. Some things are definitely cheaper, while others are more expensive. I think I spent like €40 per week on food (between two people).

Insurance – we got insurance through TINZ for 11 countries. It cost me \$554.47 (including \$35 of extra medical insurance).

The NZD is pretty weak overseas so be prepared to spend a lot of money. Come with lots of savings!

*What means did you use to access your finances? What would you recommend? (Credit card, Cash passport, foreign bank account, etc.)*

We all used Wise for our finances which I highly recommend. We used it for online banking and as a normal debit card. We chose wise as it has the best rates and can be used everywhere (you can

easily switch currencies and any ATM accepts the card). We ordered the cards before we left, which I recommend. Cash wise, you don't really need cash in Milan. But when travelling I would carry some cash on you as some places don't take cards.

## Visas & Insurance

*Did you have to apply for a visa? What was the process?*

Yes, we had to get a student visa, tax code, and a permit of stay. The student visa was relatively easy to get, you fill out a form and send your passport and form to the Italian embassy in Wellington. The tax code was pretty easy to get too, you just have to go to an appointment and get everything approved. The permit of stay on the other hand, was a complete nightmare. It cost €150 and required a lot of work. You have to fill out a form, buy a specific stamp to send it off to the embassy, go to the police station to get approved, and wait for the card to arrive. It's a long process. I didn't even get my permit card as they mucked up my application. But it's a requirement for travelling in and out of Italy so definitely do it.

*Did your host university have a mandatory insurance?*

They don't require it but they strongly recommend it.

## Extra-curricular/Social Activities

*What organised activities were available to students? What extra-curricular activities would you recommend to future exchange students?*

There were a few WhatsApp chats where admins posted a bunch of student run events and weekend trips. I would recommend going to those in the first few weeks as it's a good way to meet people. There are also WhatsApp chats for exchange students and for your specific papers. There's an Italian language crash course, but I didn't end up doing it as it's pretty intense and expensive.

*What was the university/city like?*

Bocconi is a really well known university in Europe and the UK so it looks great on your CV! The campus is nice but it can be really hard to find a seat to study. There are some great places to eat/get a coffee on campus (Daliah, Sandwich Kiosk, Delicious Baobing. Bocconi has a nice campus, all of the lecture rooms are modern.

Milan is a great city! The food and aperitivos are, the city has some good museums and art galleries and of course the Duomo. Milan is central to everything in Europe, so you can easily travel. The culture in Milan is completely different to Dunedin. You can never leave the house in a hoodie, sweats, wet hair, etc. Although, I actually enjoyed that aspect as I liked dressing up. Although it's a perk to know some Italian, it's not necessary to learn as everyone speaks English. I got away with just knowing the basics. The Google Translate app is always a good option if there's a language barrier.

*Any recommendations for things to do, places to visit, places to eat etc.?*

Yes!! I saved a bunch of places on google maps. Here's the link:

<https://goo.gl/maps/aKXFiyqhmZswJkzT8>

I also have maps for all of the different places I went (Croatia, London, Germany, Amsterdam, Lake Como, Genoa, Paris, Belgium, Naples/Pompeii/Positano, Rome, Vienna, Budapest, Spain, South of France (Antibes, Nice, Cannes, Avignon), so feel free to message me if you want the link for those too :)

*Any tips for future students?*

If you can, complete all of your required papers in Otago and do papers for points on exchange. This will take the pressure off of it and you'll enjoy it a lot more. Travel! You can go anywhere in Europe over a weekend and make it back in time for class, take advantage of that! Most importantly – do it! You will absolutely love it and make the most amazing memories. Experiencing a completely different culture is really eye opening and such a rewarding experience.

Tips

- For booking accommodation I used Airbnb and Booking.com
- For booking trains I used Omio
- For booking buses I used Flixbus
- For booking flights I used Omio and Sky Scanner
- For booking experiences I used Airbnb Experiences and Get Your Guide
- Travel as much as you can, try different cuisines, learn the language, see art, learn some history, meet new people, take photos!

## Overall Experience

*Please write one paragraph (or more) about your exchange experience. Please include some photos!*

I highly recommend doing an exchange!! I learned so much and gained some really valuable memories and experiences. You pay the same fees as Otago while studying at a renowned university which looks great on your CV. I travelled to eleven countries! My favourite places were Croatia, South of France (Nice/Antibes/Cannes), Amsterdam, and London.

Feel free to message me if you have any questions or want to know more! My socials are just Opal Jensen, and my email is [opal.jensen@hotmail.co.nz](mailto:opal.jensen@hotmail.co.nz). I hope you enjoy your exchange!! :)







