



My Exchange Evaluation

Basic Information

Host University	Universita Bocconi, Milan Italy
Semester & Year of Exchange	Semester 2, 2024
Otago degree(s)	Bachelor of Commerce
Major(s)	Accounting

Academics/ course load

Which papers did you take whilst on exchange?

Course title	Language of instruction	Otago equivalent
30024 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS ANALYSIS	English	ACCT310
30526 FINANCIAL ANALYSIS AND PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT	English	ACCT302
30498 PRINCIPLES OF E-MARKETING AND E-COMMERCE	English	MART200 Level
30066 ECONOMICS - MODULE 2 (MACROECONOMICS)	English	Unspecified 200 Level credit

Total Otago credits gained: 54 points 72 points 108 points _____

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

The teaching style was similar to Otago, with lecturers speaking to slides and there being in class activities, mid term exams and final exams. Although I found Bocconi exams to be way shorter and less intensive than Otago, exam times ranged from 45 minutes to 1.5 hours for my exams, which was a nice touch when on exchange.

Accommodation

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

I stayed in a private apartment located in a student residence with two other people, other random students. This was organised by me through a platform called Spotahome, not by Bocconi, nor was any help given. The offered student hall Aparto fills up quickly and its like a lottery system to get a spot, with only 150 spots, there is definitely a shortage of accommodation, not to mention if you do get a spot its very overpriced.

I stayed in an area called Stadera near Pizza Abiategrasso station on the M2 green line. Accommodation tends to be cheaper here, and there are two tram line connections 3 + 15 to Bocconi, a 15 min tram ride which I didn't mind. Although this area can be a little rough.

Money matters

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

Flights \$3K NZD

Rent 600 EUR/month (4 months = 2,400EUR) + admin/cleaning fees of 500 ish EUR initially

Visa \$85NZD + (Permesso Di soggiorno to apply when in Italy 103EUR)

Gym membership (180EUR for 3 months + one month free promotion) - "20 Hours Club Gym medeghino" Although this is crazy expensive this is the cheapest you'll find in Milan. The gym within Bocconi campus charges 180/month or 80 EUR if you are on exchange 12 months (yearly plan price)

Food varies Supermarket 30-50EUR/ Week

Pizza 6-13EUR, Pasta 9-20EUR, Aperol spritz, good price 5-6EUR (upscale 9-12EUR), Gelato 3-5EUR 1-2 scoops. - all that is important 😊

Insurance would be about \$500-800NZD depends how long you go for, my plan was for 5.5 months (incl my travel) was \$780NZD with the 25% Otago discount.

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

I used Wise card (can apply online, its a online multiple currency card, low fees which is good, and then if needed I took out cash from local ATMs, posteitaliane (post shops of Italy) their ATM was free withdrawals with this card)

Visas & Insurance

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

Yes, apply with the Italian embassy in Wellington, easy process to send passport by courier and get it returned by courier saves the trip to Wellington which I was grateful for. But be wary, the staff at this embassy expect things to be done a certain way and it can be difficult over the phone. Make sure you are clear on what you require and be patient.

Did your host university have a mandatory insurance?

No, but Otago did, and I went with Student Outbound insurance for ease.

Extra-curricular/Social Activities

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

There are many clubs and societies just like at Otago, but just like at Otago, some exist but don't really do much. For the ones that had regular activities because exchange felt so short only being four months and I was always with friends, traveling to other countries, recovering or studying, I didn't end up going regularly enough to any. They have some cool clubs that I was interested in such as Travel@B, that plan trips around Europe, AstraBocconi. In the first week there is many welcome activities, parties, hangouts to meet new people, make sure you get yourself into the whatsapp channels for international welcome week, as they have pub-crawls, aperitivos, disco nights, pizza and wine nights. Maggazine generali and Alcatraz (both clubs) were always fun nights out.

What was the university/ city like?

The university is pretty central. The university campus is smaller than Otago with less green spaces. The campus is modern, but lacks student facilities like UniPol gym equivalent etc. The library will get crowded and its hard to find a seat. The classrooms are all nice and modern.

Milan is a bit rough on the edges, at least that was my first impression, but as you travel Italy you'll realise why Italians call it the most modern efficient and cleanest city of Italy. Milan is stunning with the colours and architecture and history, I loved it, but be prepared for Graffiti everywhere, and watch the pick pockets.

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

Explore the city! Duomo area obviously, Brera area, Navigli Area, Parco sempione, Sforzesco castle,

Amazing Gelato shops: Gelateria La romana, Rivareno Gelato, Pave Gelati, Gelateria Umberto 1934, VERO Gelateria cremeria

Best Aperitivo place, Deamicis Uno, Bar La Hora Feliz (cocktail + unlimited buffet for 12EUR! A bargain!

Good pizza near Bocconi: Johnny Take Ue, AUuM (Viale Sabotino), Pizzeria da Mamma,

Any tips for future students?

-Finding accommodation is hard, use online websites like spotahome, dovevivo, idealista, airbnb, pay the expensive admin fees sadly but secure your place in advance and this way you won't get scammed, Facebook marketplace is notorious for scams in Italy, I knew two people that got scammed out of deposit money and they arrived with no official place to stay.

-Your best friend for budget supermarkets is LIDL, for a mid-range and good selection Esselunga is all over the city. Carrefour and Conad are pricier but can be convenient.

-When in Italy, try all the food! Try all the pizza, Gelato and Spritz/ cocktails you can! You will miss it when you leave!!!!

-Milan is so cheap to fly around Europe with 3 international airports there are many options, make use of this!

-Sign up for the Italian crash course + follow up this will elevate your experience in Italy and at Bocconi, this is where I made my initial and strongest friendships, just reserve budget for this they are 250EUR, (500 total for both courses)

-When in North Italy, you must visit Venice, Turin, Cinque Terre, Bologna, Genova. And if your into nature/ hiking the dolomites region will blow you away!

Overall Experience

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

I had the best time on exchange, definitely worth the initial struggles of visas, saving money, packing, planning etc. There will be a lot of planning!! but don't worry!! Italy is the most stunning place you can go on exchange in Europe, especially if food, architecture, history, art and learning a romance language are some of the things you are interested in.

I found it was even better due to Milans central location in Europe and the cheap flights with EasyJet, Wizz air, and Ryan air. Make use of this, and also travel internally within Italy, the train system is really good and pretty cheap comparing to other European countries. Also you can utilise Flixbus, itabus for cheap bus deals, like a quick trip to Turin can be like 2.9 EUR one way. I made so many friends and lived the exchange dream and it was all worth it. At the end of the day the experience is what you make it, be open minded and friendly to others and go on some adventures to make those memories.