



My Exchange Evaluation

Basic Information

Host University	Bocconi - Italy
Semester & Year of Exchange	First semester – 2019
Otago degree(s)	Bachelor of Commerce
Major(s)	Tourism and Management

Academics/ course load

Which papers did you take whilst on exchange?

Course title	Language of instruction	Otago equivalent	Otago credit value
30154 - Technology and innovation	English	MANT 301	6 ECTS
30221 - Management of fashion companies	English	MANT 2XX	6 ECTS
30259 – New Products and Product Management	English	TOUR 305	6 ECTS

Any comments about these papers?

The management papers at Bocconi are pretty straight forward; there are only about 2 – 3 hours of lectures per week and there are no tutorials.

At Bocconi, you can choose whether you want to be an attending student or non-attending. An attending student is like a normal student at Otago, where you go to lectures and complete internal assignments. A non-attending student has no assignments and no lectures, you only have an exam at the end of year based on the lectures (which you have access to the slides on Blackboard and a text book) which is worth 100% of the course mark. I completed 30259 as a non-attending paper as it clashed with my other subjects and I think it was a very good choice. The text book was not large at all and the lecture slides for this course were very easy to follow. It is worth considering being a non-attending student as it frees up more time during the semester but just be prepared to work a little bit harder during exam sessions. It is also worth noting that at Bocconi, to pass most papers

(whether you are an attending or non-attending student) you have to achieve 60% in the exam. It does not matter what your internal grades are.

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

In terms of internal assignments, the workload is a lot less compared to Otago; for most papers that I am aware of there are small group assignments and that is basically all.

Accommodation

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

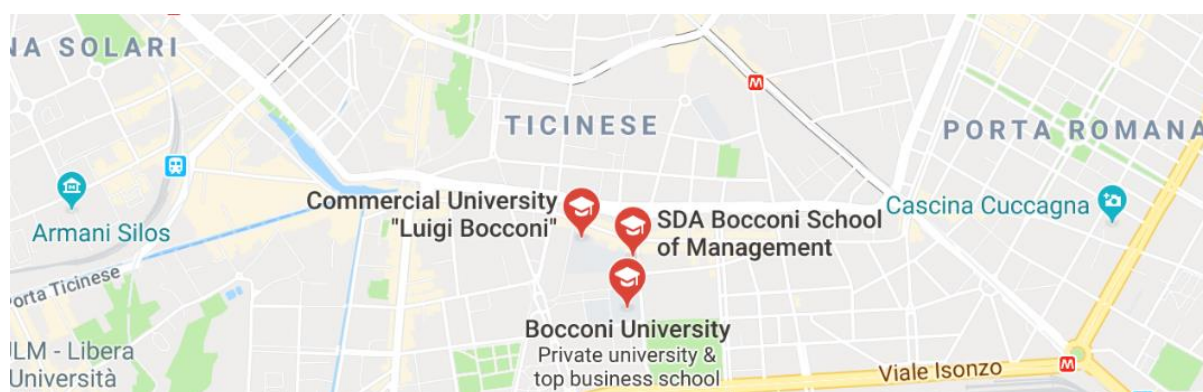
I stayed in an apartment in Navigli area with three other girls from Otago. We were extremely lucky with the apartment that we ended up living in as it was in a very central location and a very nice apartment. Navigli is about a 10-15 minute walk to uni and our apartment was right by the canals and a short walk/tram ride to the centre of town as well, so it is a very prime location!

Our apartment was extremely nice, however, it was only a three bedroom apartment so we did rotate and share a room for a short period of time. This did not bother any of us too much as during the semester we were travelling quite a bit and we all got along very well.

My advice for accommodation would to definitely be in your own apartment, DO NOT go into the university living accommodation! The university hall where exchange students are located is not in a very nice area and is 30 minutes away from uni by tram - they are nothing like Otago halls!! There are hardly any communal areas, the kitchen facilities are very poor (only a couple of stove top elements) and you have to provide all of your own kitchen utilities (pots, pans, cutlery, etc). We had some friends who lived in the hall and basically lived at our place!

When looking for accommodation, definitely look at sites before you arrive. We didn't have accommodation sorted when we first arrived and it was quite stressful trying to find a place to live in our first week! Good sites to look on are Airbnb, uniplaces, spotahome.

Good areas to look for accommodation are Navigli, Porta Romana, Bocconi and Porta Genova. Anything within this screenshot below would be a really good areas to live in!



Money matters

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

Accommodation costs are usually around 700 Euro per month. This is what we paid and it included, power, heating, wifi and laundry expenses. Paying anything much more than this would be quite expensive in Milan.

Flights – definitely book flights through STA travel. They have really good financing options where you can layby your flights and pay them off up to 8-10 weeks before you leave but have your seat

secured from the minute you put a deposit down. My flight costs were about \$1800 NZD, however, that was an around the world return flight as I also am doing an exchange in Canada after Bocconi. Travel insurance was also quite expensive. Mine was about \$1200 but again it was more expensive because of my second exchange.

From memory the Visa application was about \$150

When you arrive in Milan, you have to get a permit to stay. You get this at the local post office and it costs 100 Euro. It is quite a process so make sure you have all of your travel documents (passport, visa, insurance, etc) all photocopied to make this process easier.

Food in Milan is relatively expensive, purely because the NZD is not worth much in comparison to the Euro.

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

100% get a transfer wise card!!!

I started off using Cash passport, but all of our flat switched to transfer wise in the end! Transfer wise is extremely good because you can transfer other people in Euro or any other currency. It by far gives you the best exchange rates and it is really easy to load money from your NZ bank account onto your transfer wise card. The only issue with a transfer wise card is that you can't order it to a NZ address. So my advice would be maybe just get some cash out or use your NZ debit/credit card until you know your Italian address and then order a transfer wise card straight away!

Visas & Insurance

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

You have to apply for a student visa, this process wasn't too difficult. Make sure to allow enough time to get the Visa though because you have to send your passport to the Italian Embassy in Wellington and you want to make sure you have your passport back with plenty of time before you leave.

Did your host university have a mandatory insurance?

No they did not.

Extra-curricular/Social Activities

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

At the start of the semester, an organisation called ERASMUS hosts some university events at clubs. We didn't go to many of these events but some of them looked cool. They also host weekend trips away to different places, but again, I don't know of anyone who went on them.

Definitely do the Italian language crash course before the semester starts! I can't really say we learnt too much Italian but we met all of our friends in that class! Definitely the best way to start meeting people!

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

Restaurants

- Pizza AM (free pizza and prosecco while you wait in line). Tip – arrive before the doors open because it gets busy.
- Anywhere on the canal is very nice in the sunshine
- Best gelato – Gelateria Porta Romana!!

- Lubar (not many breakfast places around but this is very nice, again book)
- Gatullo - best pastries, have to go first thing in the morning when they are hot out of the oven before they sell out

Discover appetivos (pay for a drink and get access to the buffet). We found that most appetivos were not very nice and quite gross food in all honesty. However, we did come across a couple that we loved!

- Locanda Da Vinci – Best appetivo we came across, very Italian (cured meat boards, pasta and fresh fruit, meringues and chocolate for dessert)
- Fonderi – another good appetivo, you have to buzz in at the gates to get in, it's wise to go when the doors open or book a table

Places to check out in Milan:

- Duomo
- Galleria Emmanuel
- Armani Silos
- Prada Fondazione
- Villa Necchi
- China town
- DMAG – about 4 located in Milan, they are designer outlet stores, things that have been worn on the runway or in photo shoots but can't be resold for full price again, still have tags on them

If you are in Milan in Design week, get to as many events as possible! They are incredible, biggest week in Milan!!

Any tips for future students?

- TRAVEL as much as you can!!! It is such an amazing opportunity being in the heart of Europe, so it is so important to travel and get to see the world!

Overall Experience

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

My exchange experience was absolutely amazing! It provides the most incredible opportunity to travel and to just be immersed in a completely different lifestyle.

It's an amazing opportunity to travel, I went to 10 different countries and lots of different cities and I had an absolutely fantastic time! I definitely made the most out of the travelling experience and I think people who didn't highly regretted it! Just constantly look on google flights, sky skanner, Omio and search for the best deals and go! Weekend trips are amazing!



