

**Exchange university**

Politecnico di Milano

Degree programme

TTMAM, Applied and Computational Mathematics

Politecnico di Milano and the Erasmus experience

Before departure

With an interest in languages and the beautiful surroundings of Lombardia, Milan and Italy was on my bucket list. Deciding where to apply for my exchange studies, Politecnico di Milano (Polimi) was not a difficult choice either due to the wide variety of courses related to my field. These parameters made the choice easy. There weren't any certain language conditions to attend at Polimi, all courses I chose were given in English, but I decided to start learning Italian early using Duolingo. This was later revealed to be a good start in daily life activities.

The most important part before going to Italy, according to me, is to apply for a Codice Fiscale. I do recommend doing this almost instantly from being accepted to the university. This is your personal number in Italy and will be used for e.g. housing contracts and metro cards. A mistake from my side was applying for the Codice Fiscale too late, resulting in trouble and delay in signing our apartment contract. This eventually got solved but it was definitely a headache that could've been avoided. Apart from this, I also recommend starting to look for accommodation early. It takes some time to find the perfect match.



Upon arrival

I decided to move to Milan about 2 weeks ahead of the school start. There are many events to attend for exchange students via ESN - Erasmus Student Network, and another large student network is IW - international week. They welcomed us during this time and had many events planned for us to get to know the other exchange students.

Financials

Overall, the costs of living in Milan could be quite close compared to the costs of living in Stockholm. In general, food is cheaper in Milan, however the accommodation prices were increased for me. I had more expenses in Milan than a normal month back home, mainly due to the wish to continuously explore the area with restaurants, museums and other activities, but also the surrounding cities. It is always nice to go to your local market situated all around in Milan to find fresh, Italian groceries.



Accommodation

Together with two other Erasmus students from KTH we searched for an apartment on Idealista. This page feels like a good way to find apartments, and even though we rarely received answers from rentals, we eventually got lucky. I do recommend doing a virtual tour meeting of the apartment, it increased our trust for the landlord. We were able to find an apartment in the nearby area around the university, and we also had the metro or tram close by.

We tried to search using Facebook groups, but rarely received any response apart from possible scammers, so we tried to avoid these groups as much as possible.



University and studies

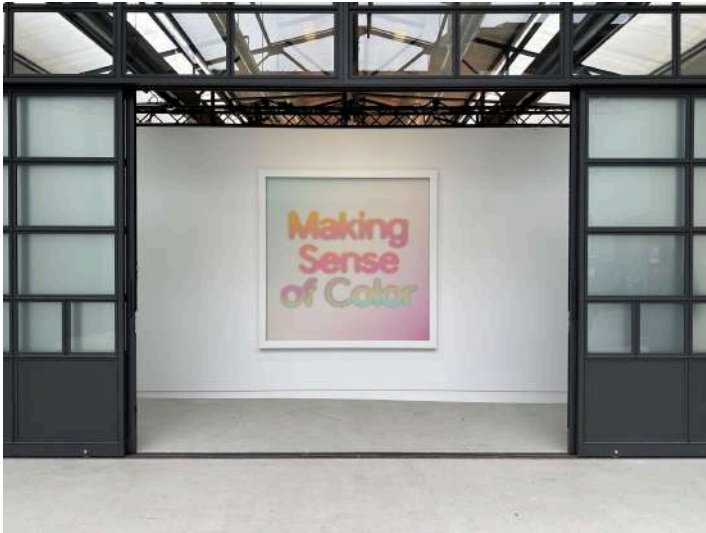
Polimi has, just as KTH, universities at different locations in Milan. Choosing courses, I eventually had to pick courses at two different universities of Polimi located about 40 minutes from each other. This was sort of a gamble to make the schedule work and I ended up spending the start of the week at one uni, and the end at the second. Both Polimi in Città Studi (Leonardo) and at Bovisa were nice study locations. Bovisa has more study locations than Città Studi but the environment at Polimi Leonardo campus is hard to beat. The lectures and exercise sessions are very similar to KTH.



All my courses were given in English, but on the side of my courses I attended an Italian course 4 hours per week. A course given by Polimi digitally. A useful course that put my Duolingo-skills to the test.

City and country

I said previously that Milano was on my bucket list, and I can happily say that it was well worth the stay. Except for meeting great students and people from all over the world via the ESN-network, the activities in Milan during spring are endless. I attended several events and worth mentioning are Milano Design Week and Concorso d'Eleganza near Lago di Como. These are held during the spring and are near free, very well organised events I would attend again. Here are a few mixed pictures from these events.



Leisure and social activities

Previously I mentioned the ESN, Erasmus Student Network. Joining their activities kept you as busy as you wished. Every week ESN organised many various activities such as hikes, pub evenings and other. This gave great opportunities to stay in contact with other Erasmus students.

Other recommendations and observations

Italy and Milano is a beautiful country well worth an Erasmus visit. Il Postino serves wonderful Napolitan pizza with great prices. A margarita for 5 euro is always a yes for me. Navigli is well worth a visit, and Porta Venezia is great for an evening with friends.

There are great train connections to the surrounding, well worth a visit, places. Lago di Garda and Lago di Como are about one hour and 10 euros away.

Don't skip out on aperitivo, and don't buy cappuccino after 12 - or do, could be a fun experience.

