

Report

In September 2020, I started my Erasmus exchange program in Milan as a Master degree student. I chose the University of Milan (Università degli Studi di Milano) as my host university. Milan is the largest city in Italy and one of the largest metropolitan areas in the world, one of the most developed regions in the world and one of the regions with the highest GDP. It is also the most economically developed region in Europe. In this report, I will introduce you to Milan and universities from the five aspects in terms of transportation, gourmet, leisure activities, accommodation and study.

1. Transportation

Milan's urban transportation is extremely convenient. Milan currently has four metro lines (METRO) and 11 underground railways (LINEA S), among which Metro Line 2 (green line) is the longest metro line in Europe. There are more than 200 buses covering the entire city.

Milan's trams are very famous. Milan has 287 kilometers of tram tracks in operation. Milan's trams have become one of the symbols of the city. I highly recommend trying the tram in Milan, it will give you a gorgeous and retro experience. The monthly student transportation card only costs 22 euros, and you can take all the transportation in Milan city. You can get the card at Central station or at Duomo ATM point. Check this out: <https://www.atm.it/en/ViaggiaConNoi/Abbonamenti/Pages/TesseraElettronicaStudenti.aspx>

Milan has three major international airports, Malpensa Airport, Linate International Airport and Bergamo International Airport. Milan Central Station is the largest railway station in Europe and Italy, and one of the largest railway hubs in Europe. I also suggest that if you are departing from Heidelberg, it is best to take a train to Milan, it only takes about five hours to arrive and you can enjoy the scenery along the journey.

2. Gourmet

Milan is a paradise for gourmets. The cuisine includes but is not limited to risotto, polenta, Ossobuco and Risotto allamilanese. These dishes match with Oltrepo Pavese Barvera, the representative local wine. Milan restaurants can be seen everywhere, and each restaurant has a very unique flavor. You can choose according to your favorite tastes.

Here, I really recommend The Roof Milano, the address is Piazza Giuseppe Missori, 3, 20123 Milano MI. From this restaurant you can see the panoramic view of Milan. It is best to go at sunset in the afternoon, you will see a stunning view.

3. Leisure Activities

In Milan, the indispensable activities are to visit attractions and shopping. Because of Covid-19 epidemic, many museums and exhibitions have been closed and cancelled. This is also my little pity. But my favorite leisure time activity is to go to vintage shops. Milan's vintage shops are one of the best in the world. You can find furniture from hundreds of years ago or jewelry and clothing from the last century. These retro

products are particularly dazzling after the precipitation of time. If you also like to go to retro shops to have some fun, I suggest you can directly use google map to search for retro shops near you.

4. Accomodation

I chose the dormitory of Università degli Studi di Milano as my residence in Milan. Università degli Studi di Milano has many dorms, but for Erasmus students, the main ones are Residenza Bassini and Residenza Ripamonti. These two residences have their own advantages respectively. Bassini is more convenient while Ripamonti is quieter.

I chose Residenza Bassini. You will have your own room, but you will share the bathroom with your roommate. Before going out each time, you need to return the key to the receptionist, and each time you come back, you need to go through temperature monitoring and ask the receptionist for the key.

Generally speaking, I am very satisfied with this accommodation. The receptionist will help you collect courier and help you fix various problems in the room.

This residence charges 300 euros per month as rent. This price is already a great choice in Milan, and in the residence, you will also get to know other Erasmus students and local students.

5. Study

The curriculum of Università degli Studi di Milano is very different from Heidelberg. Here, a year is divided into three primary trimesters, and each trimester is about two and a half months. The exams for each course are scheduled six times a year, and you can refuse to take the result every time if you are not satisfied with the results.

In principle, as an Erasmus student, you can choose any course you want to take. The specific situation depends on yourself. I mainly chose the courses from Finance and Economics (MEF).

Since the courses I participated in were all remote teaching, I did not have the experience of actually taking classes on the university campus, which also made me feel a little sorry.

6. Conclusion

All in all, this experience of living in Milan will be unforgettable for me, and Università degli Studi di Milano provides high-quality teaching in all fields and levels. I highly recommend that you choose Italy as your destination for Erasmus exchange.