

The cost of living and of doing research

A SURVEY CONDUCTED AMONG THE PHD STUDENTS
OF THE NASP – UNIVERSITY OF MILAN



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- Network for the Advancement of the Social and Political Studies:



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI
DI BRESCIA



UNIVERSITÀ
CATTOLICA
del Sacro Cuore



UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI
STUDI DI GENOVA



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI
DI MILANO



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI
DI TORINO
ALMA
UNIVERSITAS
TAURINENSIS

- 3 international PhD programmes (taught in English):
 - Economic Sociology and Labour Studies
 - Political Studies
 - Sociology and Methodology of Social Research



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- Started 29th «cycle»/«cohort» (2013-2014).

29° Cycle

ESLS	10
POLS	15
SOMET	11
Total number of PhD students	36

30° Cycle

ESLS	13
POLS	12
SOMET	7
Total number of PhD students	32

- Total number: **68** PhD students.
- Survey respondents: **61** (90%).

1. Housing question

- Place of residence:

- Milan 73%
- Within Lombardy region 10%
- Other region in Italy 5%
- Abroad 12%

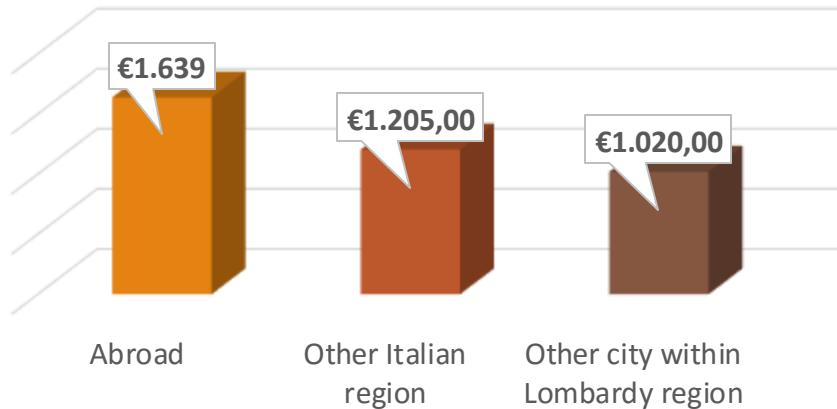
- 62% of Nasp PhD students **moved** to Milan.
- Average cost of relocation: **€ 1,380**
- Waiting time for first scholarship: **2-3 months**.
- **11** PhD students have **other people dependent on their income**.

1. Housing question

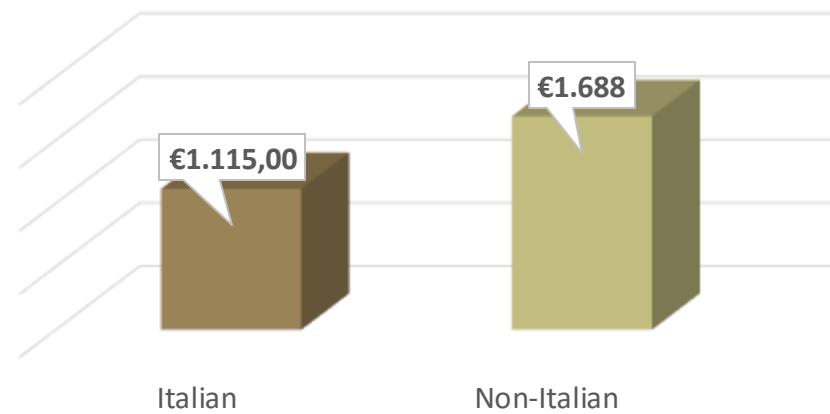
AVERAGE RELOCATION COST: **€ 1.380**

- Inclusive of:
- Transportation
 - Rent
 - Deposit
 - Visa/residence permit cost (non-EU)
 - Other expenses

By previous place of residence



By nationality



1. Housing question

- Residents in Milan:
 - Average housing cost € 491.16
 - **48.2% of monthly scholarship.**
- Overall:
 - Average housing cost € 479.82
 - **47% of monthly scholarship.**

(3 PhD students living with their family of origin not included.)

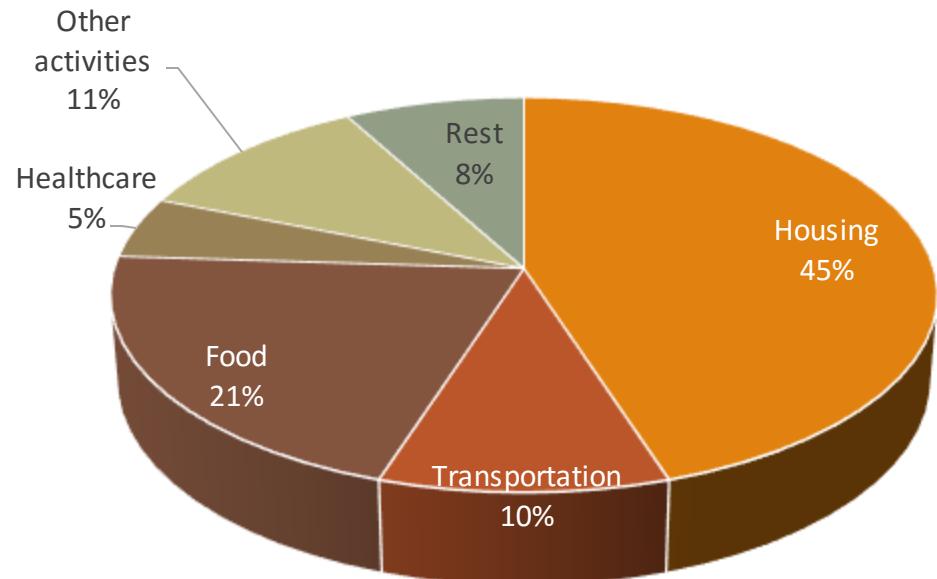
2. Transportation

- Monthly urban pass:
 - € 22 – € 35
- Average cost of transportation (inclusive of bus, train, season tickets):
 - € 105
 - **10.3% of monthly scholarship.**

3. Food

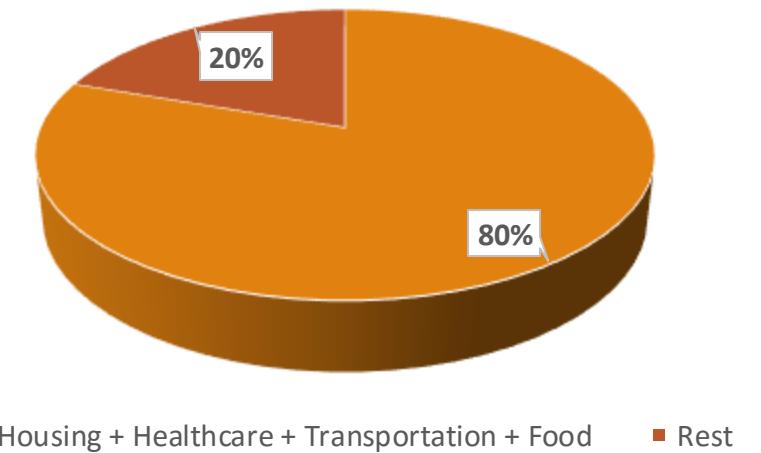
- Around via Pace (main venue for academic activities):
 - **Minimum cost € 4,50 per meal.**
 - The **average cost** of eating out once per day would add up to **€ 120 per month.**
- Average expense in food and eating:
 - Inclusive of the cost of food shopping.
 - Around **€ 210.**
 - Around **21% of monthly scholarship.**

Allocation of costs



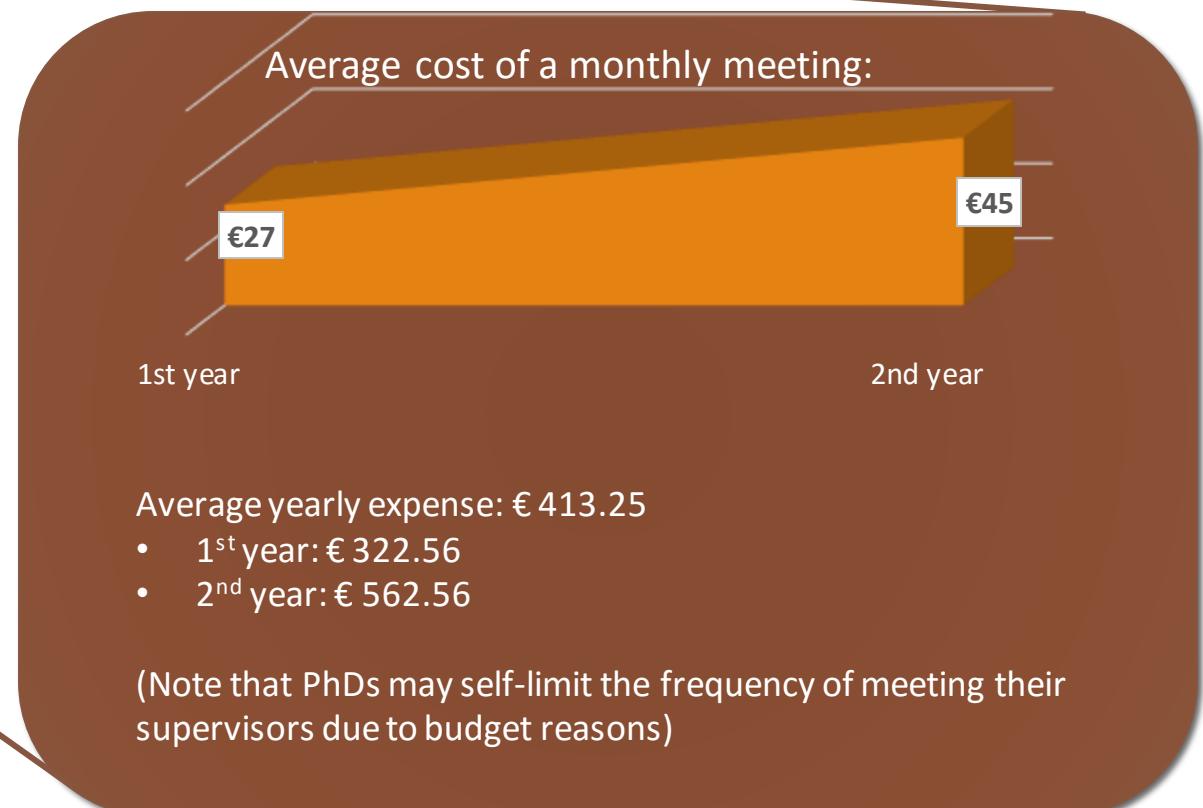
- Housing expenses (€ 456)
- Cost of transportation (€ 105)
- Food expenses (€ 210)
- Healthcare (€ 46)

require using over **80% of the monthly scholarship** (€ 817).



Cost of doing research

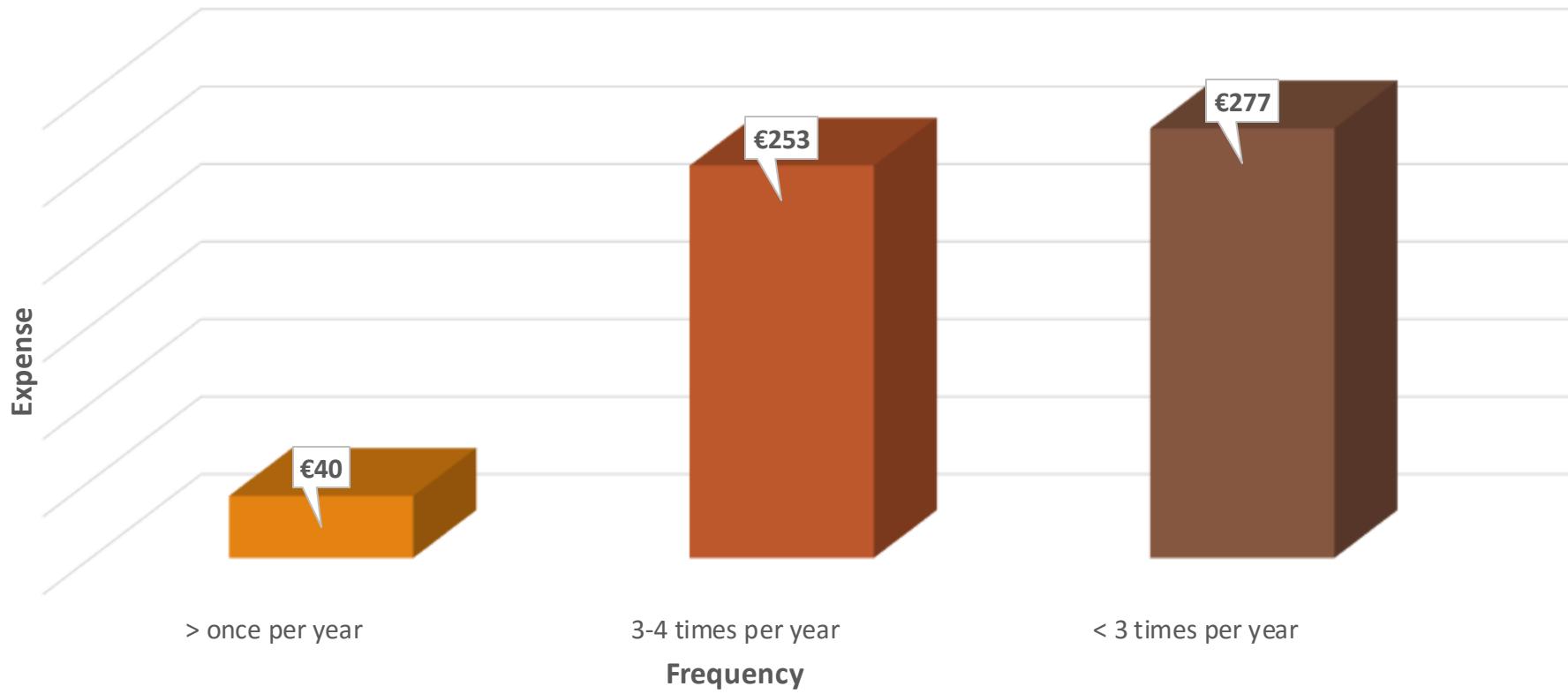
- Meetings with academic supervisor.
- Meetings, seminars, and other academic activities at Nasp partner universities.
- Other academic activities unrelated to the teaching activity of the PhD programme:
 - Courses
 - Summer/spring/winter schools
 - Conferences
 - Field research
- Costs refunded within 3-4 months, but paid in advance by individual PhD students.
- Visits to family of origin.



Cost of doing research

- Starting from the 2nd year PhDs are entitled to a **research fund** amounting to 10% of the yearly scholarship
 - € 1,364/year
- If the academic supervisors are affiliated to a different university, the bare cost of meeting them amounts to **41%** of the research fund.
- Research costs are refunded on average **3-4 months** after the date of application.
- To face all of the costs above, PhD students only have **8% of their scholarship** available.

Family visits



Money-related claims

- Increase of PhD scholarship.
- Refund of transportations costs to other partner universities for academic activities.
- Research funds starting from the 1st year.
- Relocation funds for moving to Milan at the beginning of the PhD.
- Lunch vouchers.