

# Experience Report: Bocconi University, Milan

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## General information

Program	Partner University Exchange
University	Università Commerciale Luigi Bocconi, Milan
Semester	Fall 2016
Major	Business Administration
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## Practical Information

### Milan:

Milan is Italy's second biggest city with approximately 1 346 000 inhabitants and is the capital of the Lombardy region. It is a very dynamic and prosperous city which stands out as a major hub for the fashion and design industry. Moreover, Milan's business district hosts Italy's Stock Exchange as well as the most important local and international financial companies. Over the semester, the weather in the city was very sunny and warm in summer but rather rainy and foggy in fall and winter.

### Host University:

The Bocconi University is one of Europe's leading business school and regularly appears in the most prominent rankings covering its areas of expertise in economics and management. For instance, it was ranked number 6 in the 2016 Financial Times European Business School Ranking. The university hosts around 14'000 students and its campus is located in downtown Milan.

The atmosphere on campus is rather relaxed but gets quite serious as the exams approach. Students are very committed and study places are hard to find all year-round.

The Bocconi International Student Desk is responsible for helping incoming exchange students make the most of their stay on campus. I found the office extremely helpful, professional and efficient in answering my different requests and questions.

### Students and social life

The ESN (Exchange Student Network) student association is very active on campus and organizes events and parties throughout the semester. Moreover, Milan is a very lively city and hosts a myriad of nice restaurants, bars and clubs.

### Accommodation:

Finding an accommodation in Milan is not an easy task and I would therefore recommend to start searching early. I rented a room in a shared apartment located in the Navigli district close to the University. Most apartments in the area close to Bocconi are slightly overpriced but generally speaking, accommodations in Milan are expensive. The University offers housing opportunities to exchange students but the residencies are located quite far away from campus and are not particularly nice. I found that Facebook was the best tool to find a room considering that many exchange students come and leave each semester and post their offers on dedicated pages. These two were very helpful: *Bocconi International Student Housing* and *Exchange Your House*.

### Phone:

I opted for a prepaid SIM card with a phone plan from WIND (There is a shop right next to the University) including unlimited calls and SMS in Italy and 5 Gb of Internet for € 12 per month. It was absolutely sufficient for me and I thus highly recommend it.

### Exploring and Travelling:

Touristic attractions in Milan include the Duomo, Il Cenacolo, Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II, Castello Sforzesco, Pinacoteca di Brera, Prada Foundation and the HangarBicocca to name a few.

Many beautiful cities such as Turin, Verona or Venice are only a couple of hours of train away. Furthermore, the high speed train network in Italy (Frecciarossa) is well developed and Milan is optimally connected to big cities such as Rome or Florence.

## Courses

Course	<b>30017 - Corporate Finance</b> (6 ECTS)
Credited as	Corporate Finance
Course description	The course covers the foundations and tools needed for corporate investment and financing decisions: CF, budgeting, valuation, how to measure risk and return, ...
Exam	The final grade is made of the assignments and quizzes taken throughout the semester, the midterm exam as well as the final exam.
Recommendation	Highly recommended: very interesting course, very interesting and passionate professor, highly dynamic and interactive classes, fair exams. Only concern: big workload during the semester.

Course	<b>30263 - Organizing Entrepreneurship</b> (6 ECTS)
Credited as	Wahlbereich or Contextual Studies
Course description	The course provides concepts and tools for understanding and crafting entrepreneurial structures and strategies in modern innovative economies.
Exam	The final grade is made of many different assignments and group works during the semester. No final exam.
Recommendation	Not necessarily recommended: very fair grading but the course was a bit chaotic at times.

Course	<b>30154 - Technology and Innovation Management (6 ECTS)</b>
Credited as	Wahlbereich
Course description	The course aims to provide a coherent framework to integrate the management of technological, market, organizational, and activities change.
Exam	The final grade is solely based on the final exam. Attending students can obtain up to 1.5 bonus points (out of 30) on the final grade for participating to 7 in-class assignments.
Recommendation	Recommended: interesting course, taught by two different professors (one more focused on economic questions, the other on managerial topics), extensive but fair exam.

Course	<b>30221 - Management of Fashion Companies (6 ECTS)</b>
Credited as	Wahlbereich or Contextual Studies
Course description	The course gives an overview of the fashion system and an in depth understanding of the strategic, managerial and organizational features of fashion companies
Exam	The final grade is made of a group work (30%) and a final exam (70%).
Recommendation	Recommended: very interesting course, very experienced professor, dynamic classes, many guest lectures, very fair final exam.



Bocconi University



Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II



Duomo di Milano

Lake Como

