

DM2 DOUBLE DEGREE PROGRAM – Student's Report

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HSG Degree Course: MaccFin (2018 intake)

Partner University: Università Commerciale L. Bocconi

Degree Course at Partner University: International Management

Period: Academic year 2019/2020

Basic information

I am Italian and decided to enroll in the MaccFin program to gain a set of relevant marketable skills; accounting as the language of business never goes out of fashion and provides a strong foothold to develop a successful career in a broad range of industries. What attracted me the most about the DM2 Double Degree at Bocconi was the ability to gain a solid understanding of the grand-scheme of things and, to be frank, the chance to get a 120 ECTS Master's Degree that would enable me to pursue Italian professional designations. As of today, I am in the process of submitting my thesis proposal but I am already working full-time so I cannot really complain about the toolbox that my academic background provided me with; in spite of the global pandemic and subsequent doom and gloom, my transition from academic to professional world was smoother than many Italian fellows with STEM degrees.

Host university

Università Bocconi was established in Milan in 1902, with a generous endowment from Ferdinando Bocconi, a wealthy merchant. Named after his lost son, Università Commerciale Luigi Bocconi became the first Italian institution of higher education to grant a degree in economics. Since its inception, Bocconi has stood for liberalism, pluralism, and social and economic progress. Today, Bocconi is a research university of international standing in business, economics, and law. Its research projects are funded by national and supranational institutions. By virtue of being a major node in the European and global network, Bocconi exchanges faculty and cooperates on large projects with like-minded European and American business schools. Bocconi has close relationships with major corporations and international agencies, as well as their managers and constantly interacts with the surrounding economic environment to assess new issues, implement new techniques, and start new research endeavors. In keeping with the ideals of its founders, Bocconi seeks to address the research and education needs of the European and global economy, by favoring cultural progress, international exchange, and economic integration. Bocconi conceives higher education as a continuous process that spans the entire professional life of an individual. The University promotes both economic advancement and civic values by instilling in students solid

analytical skills and a strong emphasis on ethics so that they can contribute to the innovation and development of the European economy and society.

The campus is continuously growing as a metropolitan campus and expresses, in terms of architecture and urban planning, the Bocconi's cultural vision, marked by innovation and avant-garde thinking, as well as an international calling that Bocconi has in common with the city. Each building on campus is the work of important architects and is intended as an integral part of the city fabric, prompting not only urban change, but also socio-economic evolution in the surrounding area. The campus is the stage for many cultural, sports and social events that are important opportunities for students to expand the horizons of their knowledge, cultivate their interests, exchange views on current topics and socialize. Special emphasis is placed on the activities organized directly by the students themselves and made available to the community. Through sports, theater, cinema, music, radio and TV, Bocconi students express their creativity and cheer up their time on campus and their university experience.

The campus features a multitude of classrooms in different buildings within walking distance, different PC rooms, a vast library and offers plenty of space designed to suit students' needs.

Campus VR Virtual Tour: <http://www.campusvr.unibocconi.eu>

Academics

The International Management curriculum gives students the tools required to understand the global world we live in, training prospective managers and entrepreneurs to make a major contribution to the performance of organizations of all types around the world, while applying the ideas of responsible and sustainable future to business operations in practice.

Main cornerstone of the program are the following:

Knowledge

- Critical awareness of discipline-based concepts and approaches to understand the complexity of managing an organization in the global business arena;
- Understanding of how acquired theoretical knowledge can be applied in practical international business situations.

Cognitive skills

- Ability to acquire and analyze data and information, to evaluate their relevance and validity, and to synthesize a range of information sources needed to develop a sophisticated understanding of a rapidly changing international business context;
- Skills in interdisciplinary analysis, drawing upon different empirical sources, analytical perspectives and sub-disciplines within management studies.

Professional skills

- Be able to communicate effectively and convincingly, working in teams, managing time and planning work assignments;
- Learn how to handle diversity in the workplace.

The study plan for DD students is not as flexible as it is for regular students as it features mandatory-only courses and, if you value modularity, you should definitely consider the Management degree course as it enables you to pick what interests you the most (majors in Fashion, Luxury and Made in Italy, Organizational Change and Consulting, Green Management and Sustainability, Entrepreneurship, SMEs and Growth Strategy and Finance). The program structure for DD students is structured as follows:

First year	CP
Semester I	
Global scenarios, Module 1 (Geopolitics and business)	6
International finance	8
Principles of business analytics	6
Performance measurement	6
Marketing Analytics	6
Semester II	
International Comparative Business Law	6
Organization	6
Global scenarios, Module 2 (Macroeconomics)	6
Corporate strategy	8
Global operations and supply chain management	6
Seminar on collaborative competences	2
Second foreign language (lessons only)	
Total credit points of the first year	66
Second year	CP
3 elective courses (free track)	18
Professional English seminars (lessons + exam)	2
Second foreign language (lessons + exam 1st semester 2nd year)	4
Enhancing Experience - Curricular Supplementary Activities	2
Internship or similar activities	8
Thesis	20
Total credit points of the second year	54
Total credit points	120

In my case, I was dispensed from the International Finance course, the one that every MaccFin Student must attend as it features guest lectures with bright alumni and practitioners such as football club owners, senior investment bankers who dealt with terrific Italian executives on turnarounds and megamergers and activist investors from undisclosed hedge funds; furthermore, three courses taken at HSG were acknowledged as electives. I suggest all prospective DD students to

enroll in the Performance Measurement course at HSG (offered in German at the time) to drop a weight off of their shoulders and enjoy more their staying at Bocconi; workloads are appropriate (notion-intensive though!) but sometimes do not reflect accurately the number of credits one course yields and are often time consuming because of team dynamics and behavior. Last but not least, do not underestimate the professional English seminars (compulsory for everyone without regard of your citizenship, fluency, certifications), secondary language (Italian for all foreign students) and curricular supplementary activities (they range from MS for Project Management to Python for Data Science).

Extracurriculars

Students at Bocconi have a leading role in animating life on campus with meetings, debates, events and recreation. Student activities are encouraged and supported by the University itself, which makes available space, funds and means of communication to associations and students so they can better organize and promote their ideas. There are more than 100 different student associations ([Student Associations List - Bocconi University Milan](#)) and many opportunities on campus to get to know potential employers, network with practitioners ([FACTS&FIGURES - Bocconi University Milan](#)) and alumni and, hopefully, land the job of your dreams.

Living expenses and accommodation

Last but not least, Milan might be considered a high-living cost area for some, really cheap for others! It depends but I would consider student housing as Bocconi features 8 university residence halls with the aim of making the most out of the vibrant academic environment ([Housing - Bocconi University Milan](#)); Accommodation can range from a €400 per month up to €1.000 but the market is experiencing a lack of demand due to the global pandemic and rent prices are driven down by it. Food costs are low compared to life in Switzerland and I would not set aside more than €50 for a good night out. Infrastructures to move around the city are good and a “Io Viaggio” monthly ticket takes you anywhere for €108 (allows you to travel in the Lombardia region with buses, trains and trams).

Closing remarks

I am really happy with the DM2 Double Degree overall albeit the circumstances that forced distance-learning and thus impaired my ability to connect to people. The transition to online-teaching was smooth but cannot really emulate in-class learning.

For more information about the program or life in Italy, please contact me at the above-mentioned email!

In conclusion, I desire to thank the Student Mobility Office for making this possible as much as the Swiss-European Mobility Programme (SEMP) to have granted me a scholarship enabling me to cover part of my living expenses.