



Universita Bocconi, Milan Italy

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### **Intro:**

I signed up for exchange in Milan because I wanted to spend more time in Italy and because Milan is known as the industrial city and where much of Italian commerce and business takes place. It's also a very central location within Europe so flights to the rest of the European Union are exceptionally inexpensive.

### **Visa and Permesso:**

As an American the process was very easy for me. Bocconi provides all of the information necessary to complete the documents. It is a very good idea to get all the stuff done before entering Italy because it is terribly difficult to do once in the country.

### **Administrative:**

All of the administrative issues like health insurance, expenses, and official registration issues are handled by the International Student Desk (ISD) and they are very communicative and available.

### **Bocconi:**

The university is high powered and the students that attend are very determined and competitive. The accepted culture is to spend 30-40 hours studying outside of lectures. That being said, there are many ways to retake exams and submit coursework. The school is located on one square city block and is architecturally beautiful. They have limited spatial resources but a lot of professors and staff to help students. There are two dining halls on campus and the main point of contact for international students is the ISD desk. To study with MBA students one has to enroll in a seven-nine course regime that repeats a number of courses I completed in Israel. So all of my courses were spent in classrooms with other exchange students and not the MBAs. Their student portal is better than the one at Tel Aviv University. Make sure to sign up for ESN and attend a few of their events, great way to meet other exchange students.

### **Milan:**

Milan is a city that's surrounded by mountains so it receives little air flow to clear out sky and therefore is the foggiest city in Europe, averaging 343 days of fog a year. This also means all of the pollution and exhaust from the city stays put as well (if you don't breathe well then consider this). Nonetheless, the weather is often beautiful, sunny and the air is fairly clean.

The food in the city is mediocre on average. There are little cafes and places to grab coffee every ten steps but substantive restaurants for food are often expensive and don't live up to expectations. This being said, there are still many great places to eat.

There are two all you can eat restaurants that I frequented with students. Aperitivo is the Italian all you can eat buffet that is included when you get a drink at a restaurant (costing about 5-10 euros on average). Navigli and Porto Ticinese are lined with them. Throughout the rest of the city there are all you can eat "sushi and asian styled entrees" eateries that are priced 12-15 euros for lunch and 18-25 for dinner, on average. There are many pizza places throughout the city but most of them are not very high quality, they are fairly easy to distinguish.

I strongly suggest to find the large grocery stores around you and to make a habit of cooking for oneself. The pasta aisle is amazing! Also, the prices are incredibly low so you can eat like a king for pennies. The beer aisle is great too. Unless cooking, Kosher is almost impossible to find: pork is the country's national meat.

**Transportation:**

It is said that the Italian people don't believe in paying for public transportation. I for one, did not once encounter anybody checking for tickets on metro and trains that ran throughout the city. Nonetheless, they are on a tight schedule and well lit. There are trains that run between cities that are also very inexpensive, relatively.

**Housing:**

This is the troubling and difficult part of moving to Milan. Although students always find housing it is a troubling issue that plagues many people. I had the most success by contacting Airbnb listings and asking whether I could organize special arrangements. Short term leases for one semester are difficult to find.