

Michał

Medicine, V year, academic year 2022/2023



Università degli Studi di Firenze, Italy.

E+: General information about the Host University, the organization of the academic year, the offer for students coming under the Erasmus+ Program and is it possible to "receive" Buddy?

M: The organisation of the year is similar to ours. The issue of examinations is slightly different, as you can already be taken during the semester, and there are usually several deadlines (more than 3). The offer of subjects for Erasmus students is rich, you can choose from all the subjects from year 3 onwards and create your own plan from them. The difficulty is going for 1 semester, as the choice is limited to only those subjects that take place in it. At university there is a "study buddy" system, the link to enrolment appears at the beginning of the of the academic year on the university's website.



E+: Language in which classes were conducted?

M: At Italian medical schools, classes are divided into a theoretical part and a practical part (tirocinio), which is more like an internship than a class. The theory in Florence is only in Italian, while at the tirocinio it all depends on the doctors you come across in the hospital.



E+: In the case of classes conducted in the national language, was it possible to take exams in English?

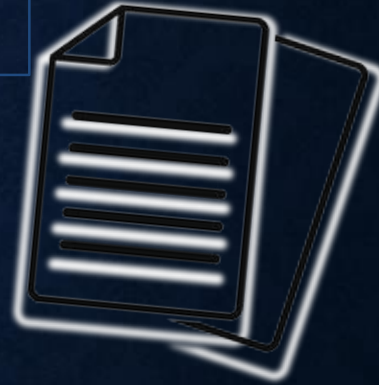
M: By default, examinations are held in Italian (as are classes).

E+: During the application process, did the University ask for a language certificate confirming the knowledge of the language of instruction? If so, what level was required?

M: During the recruitment process, the language level had to be indicated, but no certificate was required. At beginning of the semester, there is a free language course with different levels to choose from. The course is compulsory for those below B1. It is possible to continue the course, but only one (30h) is free.

E+: Curriculum (were there major curricular differences? Did the syllabus more or less overlap with that in SUM? Was it difficult to match the subjects and create a Learning Agreement?):

M: The curriculum differences were quite large which was mainly due to the division of classes in Italy into theoretical and practical parts (each has separate ECTS credits). You have to do a bit of work, but you can choose classes from different years of study, which makes things a bit easier.



E+: Accommodation (does the Host University have dormitories? If so, how far were they from the places where the classes were conducted? Was it difficult to get a place in the dorm?):

M: The academics are there, but unfortunately not for Erasmus students. Accommodation is a big problem in Florence. Prices are high and, during the student turnover period, apartments/rooms disappear quickly, so I recommend getting down to it as soon as possible.





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E+: How was public transport like?

M: The most convenient way to get around the city centre is on foot or by bike (city bikes are available). The bus line is quite extensive - you can get practically anywhere, and a 90-minute ticket costs €1.5. In addition to the buses, there are two tram lines (including to the main clinical hospital - Careggi).



E+: Food (was there a canteen for students? Discounts on meals?):

No info.

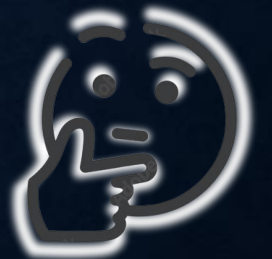
E+: Difficulties encountered and tips on how to deal with them

M: The biggest problem is finding a room/apartment. It is compulsory to get down to it well in advance and it is best to use intermediary sites/agencies, as scams do happen. Below are the websites we used with friends.

<https://housinganywhere.com/>

<https://www.immobiliare.it/>

Given a choice of winter or summer semester (in case you only go for 1 semester) - I recommend choosing the latter. Winter in Florence is not the warmest (around 0 - 10 degrees) and leaky windows in flats are rather standard.



E+: Useful information/contacts to help organize mobility?

M: Florence's location offers the opportunity to explore virtually the entire northern part of Italy. Milan, Pisa, Venice, Bologna and more are all within 1/2h by train. As I mentioned earlier, it is worth joining local Erasmus organisations and enjoying the activities they organise.



E+: Attractions in the area worth seeing :

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E+: Overall mobility experience and advantages of participating in the Erasmus+ Programme:

M: Whatever your expectations, there is something for everyone at Erasmus. I definitely recommend it :)





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