



## EXCHANGE REPORT

Name

Year and term for exchange

Leonardo Leorato

2021 Autumn

Exchange university

Politecnico Milano

Degree programme

MSc Management Engineering

## It was a challenging experience!

### Before departure

I chose to apply to Politecnico and come to Milano because of the quality of the university and the reputation as well, and of course to experience living in a European capital.

### Upon arrival

I arrived in Milano during the intro week because I preferred until the last moment to come to be sure that everything was safe in term of COVID before travelling there. At Politecnico, the exchange students were welcomed by the staff where they explained how the university works there and gave tips about everyday life.

### Financials

I didn't receive any scholarship from Sweden apart from the Erasmus student grant. Life in Italy is cheaper than Sweden, but unfortunately in Milan rents are very expensive, even more than in Stockholm in my opinion! My advice is to try to find apartment not exactly in the city centre since the metro system covers the whole city and works pretty well.

### Accommodation

I found the accommodation on my own through internet portals. It took me a while. There are a lot of scams there. As said previously, apartments are very expensive.

### University and studies

Politecnico is a big university with a broad spectrum of programmes. The academic year starts and finishes a month later compared to KTH, and this creates interference with the courses of the Spring semester at the home university when students are coming back.

### Courses

I chose the courses at Politecnico based on similarities with the curriculum of the programme at my home university. Since at Politecnico there is not a programme with the same curriculum as my programme at KTH, I tried to find similar courses at Politecnico. I chose Management Engineering – Finance Track but not all courses that I attended were really connected with my education, but I didn't have many choices since Politecnico didn't allow me to attend courses at two different departments (initially I was hoping to attend some courses also at the department of Architecture and Built Environment).

A side note for the exam session. The way the exams are structured changes a lot between courses, but I found that some of them have really insane expectations for students to just pass (I am not talking to

get the highest scores, but just to pass the exam). As a result, the exam session did stress me a lot and I really hated it because I found it unnecessary.

### **City and country**

Milan is a city where you can experience a lot of feelings. People are very active and if you are looking for things to do, there are always opportunities for you. A downside is the high level of air pollution, especially during the coldest months of the year, which is not really pointed at before coming here.

### **Leisure and social activities**

I personally did not do so much social life. I am more of a quite person. I just enjoyed to attend some events and practice some individual sports around the city.

### **Sustainability**

I did not do anything particularly relevant. I actually felt that the courses were not focusing on sustainability issues. That's something that surprised me because at KTH in Sweden you can really feel that the university is focusing on trying to address sustainability issues. At Politecnico they do not.

Write here! Do you have any other recommendations or tips? Feel free to insert pictures into the text.