

Exchange Report



POLITECNICO
MILANO 1863

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Architectural Technology and Construction Management

Host institution : Politecnico di Milano

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Period of study: September 2022 – January 2023

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

1. How helpful was the receiving school in the process of choosing classes and settling you in?



Before coming to Politecnico di Milano, my task was to choose my courses for the following semester in Italy. Choosing your courses is based on 'First come first served' so in specific time and date, all of the students that are attending Politecnico need to prepare courses they wanted to attend and be part of. Since I already knew that and my Italian is not the best, I wanted to pick all of the subjects in English and as well as the ones I'm most interested in, but that did not happen. On the specific date and time, my website crashed and later on I chose courses that were 'left'. One of them was in Italian, since the rest were already fully enrolled. In that case, the process of switching a course during

the semester lasted for almost one month where I took 'Urban Ethnography' in which I was a non-attending student. That means I was not following classes and I prepared myself only for the exam in January where I got 87%. Besides 'Urban Ethnography', I was enrolled in Interior Design studio, Spatial analysis and Building Physics where my overall grade was 28,25 on 30 point grading system.

While moving to Italy, I really appreciated how KEA and Denmark were organized and helpful in those kind of situations where replying to emails did not take more than a few week days, while in Italy it takes almost two weeks.

2. What classes/study experiences did you find the most rewarding? Why?

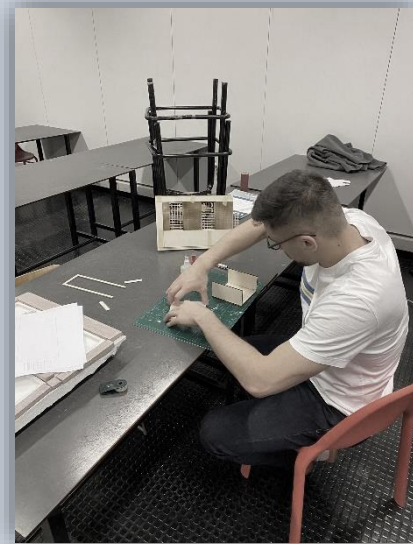
Architectural Technology and Construction Management at KEA is based on practical knowledge and learning where we use software as Revit, MS Project, Sigma, etc. while at Politecnico they did not guide us what software to use or how to use it, so basically, everything has to be done on your own or by drawing in Autocad and SketchUp. It is also worth mentioning that Architectural Design at Politecnico is Bachelor of Science, so in that case, there was a lot of reading, exploring and scientific knowledge that were amazing to learn.

3. What classes/study experiences did you find least relevant or least valuable to you? Why?

My experience with Politecnico is that professors are of big difference than at KEA. Huge classrooms, where more than 200 students can be seated, gives you an anonymous approach to professors and no space for questions in certain fields.

4. What classes would you advice other KEA students going to the receiving school to choose or not to choose?

Politecnico is a university where you can learn more about design, history and how to build a physical model of the project. So if you are interested in doing that, Politecnico is the right destination for an Exchange semester, but if you are confident in your BIM skills and in the programme we are doing at KEA, Politecnico is something completely different, therefore you might not like it because of that.



Building a physical model

CULTURAL/PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

1. What challenges did you experience culturally while being abroad?

Italy is way different than Denmark in many ways. Starting from weather, where during winter, Milano was around 12 degrees Celsius during the day. Food and people are always welcoming to the guest but the only problem could be communication since majority of people spoke English, but Italian is easy to learn. Since Milano is a huge city, there is a lot of places where you need to be careful about your safety. Being attacked on the street in the middle of the night can be dangerous and unsafe for people if they are alone in unknown area, so after midnight when metros stop working, the best possible solution is to take a taxi or other means of transportation that does not include public transport.

2. What was the best cultural/personal experience during your studies abroad?

In this area, I would definitely agree with food knowledge and how much Italians enjoy it. From snacks served with your drinks to preparing it for a friends. Pizza and pasta are the most common (obviously) and cheapest food, especially for budget students, where you can find cheap places around Politecnico.

3. What advice would you give other KEA students going to study abroad at the receiving school?

My first advice would be to find a accommodation first and check for scams while searching. Accomodation in Milano is really hard to find for a good price, especially around university areas where prices for a single room can reach 1200 Euros. Rent is almost the same as in Copenhagen or even more expensive in some areas, but deposits are much less, which is a good thing.

Also worth mentioning is that I was lucky to go there with my really good friend and classmate from KEA, so we helped each other in many ways, starting from university duties to navigating throught the city of Milan.

PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE

1. How was the application process?

The application process was really easy and smooth. Mobiltiy online has everything well described and the only thing you need to do is to follow steps correctly. Once you get enrolled, you will get your 'Polimi' email, University card and ESN card from the discounts, which is really useful while you are a student abroad.

2. Did you have any practical difficulties settling down in at your destination?

Since I'm from Rijeka, Croatia, coming to Italy was really easy for me and to understand the culture because Italy was only 40 minutes drive from my home, and Milano was 4 hours away with train, so I did not have any problems with that. From previously mentioned 'communication problems' with Italians and their understanding of English, my suggestion would be to explore the Italian language a bit since I did not find it difficult to learn and speak.

3. Where did you live?

I was luck to get an apartment 10 minutes from the Politecnico's Campus Leornado where architecture, engineering and other scientific disciplines take place and gym which was a part of it. In that case I did not pay for transport, but since Milano is also a flat city, it is worth it to bike, same as in Copenhagen. From the price perspective, I was paying a bit less than 600 Euros per month for a single bed room, which was below average of 750 Euros per room. Of course it depends of the neighbourhood, but Milan is a big city so you want to reduce your transport time as much as you can.

4. What kind of expenses did you have in general?



Final model for studio exam

I can say that gym subscriptions, groceries and stores in Milano are more expensive than Copenhagen, while restaurants and bars way cheaper. I think that is a perfect balance between cooking or going out for a lunch or dinner. Since previously mentioned, I did not spend any extra money on public transport, but there were expenses for printing your drawings and building a model for final exam. My group and I spent around 350 Euros building a model and printing A0 paper size posters for the exam, but at the end it was divided by five people, so it was around 60 Euros per person. At the end my expected budget for living in Milano and paying a rent was more than expected, but it was money I've saved up while having student jobs in Denmark and gaining the SU.

CONCLUSION

After spending 5 months in Milano, Italy, and attending Politecnico while studying Architectural Design, I'm happy to say that I gained a lot of knowledge and experience while living there. Seeing different approaches on the curriculum and study programme that Politecnico has from KEA gave me a perspective of where and what to do after my degree in Copenhagen, as well as about the area I'm more interested in. Also worth mentioning is when you are not busy with exams or any other Polimi activity, it is always nice to visit cities around Milan and in Italy in general, since trains and buses are not expensive.