

ITALIE – Florence- Università degli Studi di Firenze

Agenda¹

I.	Your overall feeling after your semester abroad	2
II.	Before the travel	2
A.	Preparation.....	2
1.	Visa	2
2.	The flight.....	2
3.	My luggage	2
4.	Bank account.....	3
5.	Insurance	3
B.	Housing	3
1.	Where to live.....	3
2.	Find a flat or a room	3
3.	Cost.....	3
III.	When I arrive at the university.....	3
A.	Inscription at the university	3
B.	Information on the university.....	4
1.	Class	4
2.	Organization of the Class.....	4
3.	List of courses and recommendation.....	5
4.	Exam	5
IV.	When I live there.....	5
A.	Safety.....	5
B.	Phone and Internet	6
C.	Events	6
D.	Sports.....	6
E.	Eating	6
F.	Go to the university : bus, car, bike.....	6
G.	Travels.....	6
H.	Any other information you would have liked to know about.....	6
V.	After your semester abroad	6
A.	What are you planning do to?	6
B.	In which master was you accepted.....	6

¹ To update the agenda just click right on your moose

I. Your overall feeling after your semester abroad

This semester in Florence was wonderful, without any exaggeration. I really enjoyed this experience and if I could go back in time, I would definitely do it again.

Florence is a wonderful city, rich in culture and art, an open-air museum: there are a lot of places to visit, and you will never get bored! The city center is really amazing: there are a lot of monuments and historical places to visit, but also a lot of restaurants, pizzerias, bars, etc. where you can taste the traditional Italian food. Indeed, Florence's city center has been Unesco World Heritage since 1982.

I can definitely say that Florence amazed me and will always stay in my heart

The School of Economics and Management, where I spent my semester, is located in the Novoli campus, which is the most recent part of the city. The buildings here are more modern, so are the university buildings. It is located approximately 20-30 minutes by tramway from the city center. It has a very big library well furnished, but also several study rooms where you can study.

I really enjoyed studying at this university and definitely recommend to the future L3 IM to do so. A semester in a country like Italy is a memorable experience!

GRADE : 5

=> 0 (I do not recommend this semester abroad to my best friend) - 5 (I totally recommend this semester to my best friend)

II. Before the travel

A. Preparation

1. Visa

As Italy is part of the European Union, there is no need for a visa. Nevertheless, before arriving you will have to fill a document to request the Codice Fiscale. It is a sort of fiscal or tax code that works as the Italian Identification Code. It is very useful, and you will need for your enrollment, but also for any other administrative procedure or for buying your tramway subscription for instance.

2. The flight

I did not fly to Florence, I went there by car as it was easier and more practical.

3. My luggage

The second semester starts at the end of February, I think this year it started on the 21st. So, the end of February and all the month of March the weather can be quite cold and rainy sometimes, so I would recommend you have your jacket. Afterwards, there is no need to have heavy clothing as the weather gets warmer.

4. Bank account

I kept my French account and could use my card normally, there were no additional expenses as the currency is the Euro.

5. Insurance

There is no need for a specific insurance. However, the Erasmus Program requires you to have a Responsabilité Civile et Rapatriement insurance, but for this you can ask your personal insurance it should be completely fine.

Furthermore, before leaving you will have to request for your European Insurance Card (Carte d'Assurance Maladie Européenne), the procedure is done online and you will receive it within a couple of weeks directly at your house.

B. Housing

1. Where to live

Florence is a safe city, so there is no major issues about that. From my personal experience and what other Erasmus students did, it is better to live near the city center so that is more practical to access all the activities and the facilities located there. This was my case as I lived about 5 minutes from Piazza del Duomo which is a symbolical square in the city center. I had the tram station Fortezza nearby but also sever bus station in front of my residence.

For me, choosing this location was extremely useful as I could easily access all the other parts of the city.

2. Find a flat or a room

It was quite hard to find an accommodation in Florence, because it is a very busy city with lot of international students as well as thousands of tourists. After several attempts of finding an accommodation through websites and real estate agencies, I contacted the university accommodation service, I sent all my documents and could finally get an accommodation for my period of stay.

I think it is the safest, the easiest and the most practical option, but also the cheapest.

3. Cost

A room in a shared flat can cost between €400 and €700, depending on the location and any additional charges.

A room in a university residence can cost between €257 and €327. The Wi-Fi is included however, generally, the kitchen is shared with the other residents of your same floor.

III. When I arrive at the university

A. Inscription at the university

The enrollment procedure should be completed before arriving at Florence. The Relations Office will contact you and give all the information and the instructions to follow to successfully complete your enrollment procedure. Once you arrive, you will have to contact the Erasmus Desk Office in Florence in order to send them the document proving that you arrived in Florence (your flight ticket, train ticket, etc.). Once they approve it, they will contact you back to give your “matricola” number which is like the “n° étudiant” here in France and that you will need for your exams, to access the library, to access Moodle etc.

B. Information on the university

1. Class

I had four subjects, two of them were worth 6 ECTS and the other two counted for 9 ECTS each.

Three of my subjects were in English and one in Italian.

In Italy, grades go from 18 to 30, and you might get also a 30 e lode if you performance is excellent. To pass, you need to get at least 18.

The subjects are the following:

- **Economia e Gestione delle Imprese:** This class was in Italian. I enjoyed this course because it tackled all the fundamentals of management and was filled with concrete examples. As it is a very complete course, it is also very heavy in terms of content, but still very interesting.
- **Management of Innovation:** This course was very interesting and also new for me. I really liked how we both studied the theory but also dedicated several hours for practical case studies.
- **Organization Design and People Management in the Tourism Industry:** This class was very interesting as well. What I liked was the variety of topics that we tackled but also the classes that were dedicated to guests working in the tourism field. Nevertheless, it is a very tense program.
- **Topics in Human Resources:** It was a very complete course, and the teacher tackled all the topics related to HRM.

Overall, I liked the organization of the classes and also the length of each course. For instance, for subjects that accounted for 9 ECTS we had 4,5 hours/week and for those accounting for 6 ECTS we had 3 hours. However, these hours were distributed throughout the week.

2. Organization of the Class

- **Economia e Gestione delle Imprese:** this class was in Italian. We used to have two different professors, but they were coordinated. Moreover, there were 3 sessions of quizzes that allowed us to train throughout the semester and gain some extra points for the final exams. Finally, the final exam was written and was composed of two parts: an MCQ and 2 open questions.

- **Management of Innovation:** The course was constituted of a first part dealing only with theory and a second part in which we used to treat some case studies related to innovation and we dedicated a specific part of the class to discuss our answers. Then at the end of the semester, we had a group project which consisted of an oral presentation and counted for the 30% of the final grade. Then, the final written exam consisted of an MCQ and 3 open questions.
- **Organization Design and People Management in the Tourism Industry:** This class was combining both theory with specific classes in which the professor used to host guests working in the tourism field. The professor also organized some trips in the hotels of Florence, for instance the very famous Westin Excelsior and Saint Regis, but also the Five Seasons. Throughout the semester, we had to deliver two essays and an oral presentation to gain extra points for the final exam. The final exam consisted of 20 MCQ and 3 open questions.
- **Topics in Human Resources:** This class dealt with the different topics of HRM. Every topic we dealt with was divided into two parts: the first one was mainly on the theory and the second consisted of a practical application of the theory treated during the theoretical class. Throughout the semester we had to deliver an essay on the HR practices of a company of our choice and an oral presentation. The final exam consisted of 12 MCQ and 2 open questions.

3. List of courses and recommendation

- Economia e Gestione delle Imprese;
- Topics in Human Resources;
- Management of Innovation;
- Organization Design and People Management in the Tourism Industry.

All the courses were really interesting and overall I found that this semester was less stressful and easier than the one spent in MoMa. Regarding, what I liked and disliked about the courses, refer to the previous points.

4. Exam

Economia e Gestione delle Imprese: 1 hour on a computer at the university, 30 MCQ and 10 open questions. I got 28/30.

Management of Innovation: 1 hour on a computer at the university, 23 MCQ and 3 open questions. I got 30/30.

Organization Design and People Management in the Tourism Industry: 1h30 written exam with 20 MCQ and 3 open questions. I got 30 e lode/30.

Topics in Human Resources: 1h written exam with 12 MCQ and 2 open questions. I got 28/30.

IV. When I life there

A. Safety

Florence is very safe and there were no particular concerns about this point. However, it is always better avoiding walking alone in the train station at late hours in the night.

B. Phone and Internet

I decided to subscribe for an Italian phone operator to get extra internet in addition to the one provided by my French operator. I used to pay about 8€/month for 150 gigas. Furthermore, we had free Wi-Fi in the residence and at the university.

C. Events

Get in the Erasmus Groups on Instagram and Whatsapp. There are several ones and can be found easily on the Instagram.

D. Sports

I do not have information about this.

E. Eating

Italy is well know for its cuisine and in Florence you have access to plenty of restaurants and bar where you can taste Italian food, so no worries about this.

F. Go to the university : bus, car, bike

I used to go there by tram. The monthly subscription for students costs €35.

G. Travels

Italy is a beautiful country, you can visit cities like Rome, Milan, the Amalfi Coast, Sicily, the Garda Lake, Verona, Pisa, and the list is very looong!

H. Any other information you would have liked to know about

Nothing special.

V. After your semester abroad

A. What are you planning do to?

I am planning to do my master's degree with an apprenticeship.

B. Did you apply for master?

Yes, I did. I am doing a PGE in Grande Ecole de Commerce with an apprenticeship.