

Italy – Università degli Studi di Bologna

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¹ To update the agenda just click right on your moose

I. Your overall feeling after your semester abroad

My experience was truly incredible. Bologna is a beautiful and vibrant city, rich in history as home to Europe's oldest university. The academic quality is excellent, and since Bologna is a popular Erasmus destination, there are always events and activities happening.

GRADE : 5

=> I would recommend this Erasmus to a best friend

II. Before the travel

A. Preparation

1. Visa

If you are an EU citizen you do not need a visa.

2. The flight

From Montpellier, you can choose to travel either by bus or by plane. However, if you opt for the bus, the trip will take around 10 hours. If you decide to fly and are looking for a more affordable option, Ryanair offers flights from Marseille or Toulouse to Bologna.

3. My luggage

I only brought one large suitcase, which was more than enough. Classes in Bologna start in February, when it's still a bit chilly but not freezing, so pack warm clothes—just don't overdo it. By April, the weather starts warming up, so lighter clothing is essential as well. I highly recommend bringing a leather jacket; it's perfect for the in-between weather and was my go-to throughout most of my stay in Bologna.

Regarding utensils, sheets, and other home essentials, I didn't need to bring any since my rental was already furnished. However, if you want to save space and maybe get these items at a lower cost, you can easily find second-hand options from Erasmus students who are leaving at the end of the previous semester.

4. Bank account

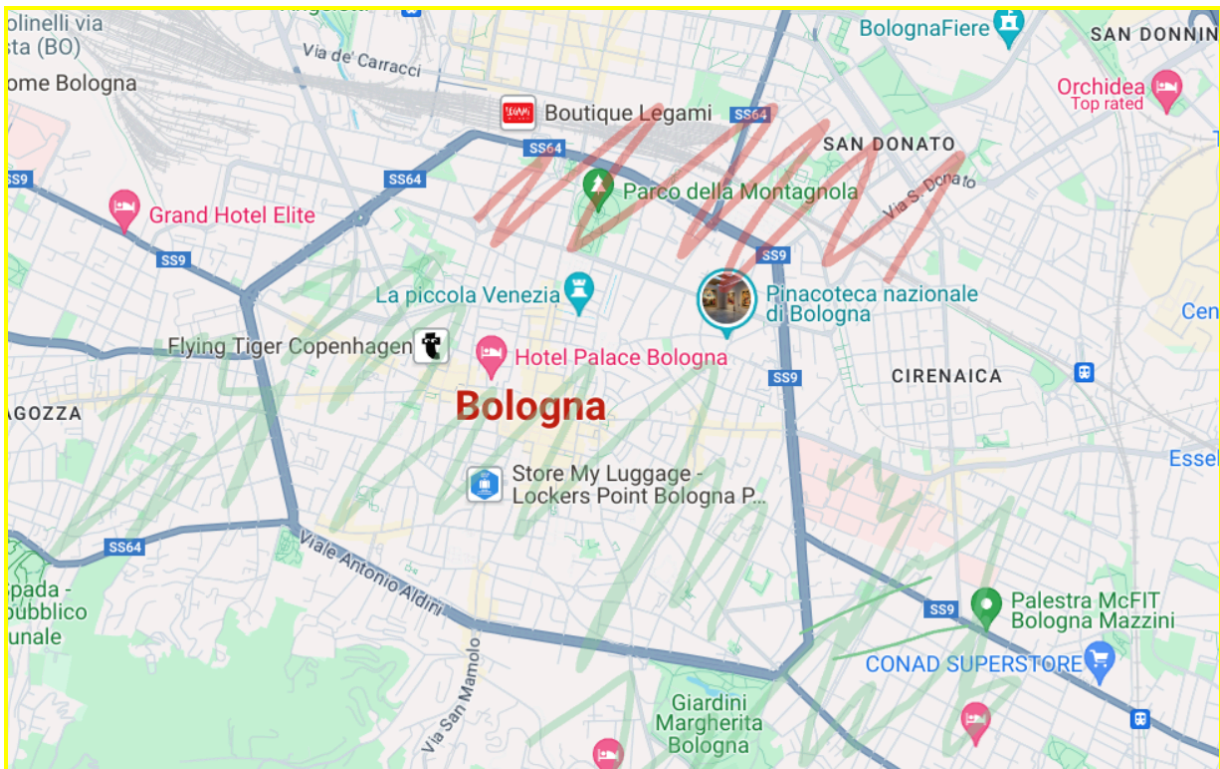
I used the same bank account as I used in France.

5. Insurance

I kept the civil insurance that I already had in France.

B. Housing

1. Where to live



Bologna is generally a safe city, and most areas are good to live in. If possible, I recommend staying within the city center. The green areas are particularly pleasant; I personally lived near "Giardini Margherita" and really enjoyed that neighborhood. The only area I would avoid is around the central train station, as it can feel unsafe at night, the red area.

2. Find a flat or a room

The best way to find an apartment is by joining Facebook and WhatsApp groups dedicated to Erasmus students or room rentals. Another option is to contact Bologna's international office and ask if they can connect you with students going abroad for Erasmus—there might be opportunities to sublet their rooms (an idea I just thought of but haven't personally tried).

Be cautious of scams, as these online groups can sometimes be risky. The safest approach is to visit the apartment or room in person. If that's not possible, make sure to arrange a video call to verify everything.

3. Cost

Housing in Bologna is quite expensive. For an individual room you should expect 500 - 750. Or for a shared room 300 - 400.

III. When I arrive at the university

A. Inscription at the university

Easy process. The whole Check-in is done online through a video call. the university will email you with all the steps.

B. Information on the university

1. Class

Organizational Behavior : Not my favorite class, personally I didn't find it as interesting as I expected this course to be.

Financial Analysis : If you are interested in Finance, this professor is very skilled and will delve into great details about the financial market.

Markets and Ethics : Very interesting course, the professor is incredibly knowledgeable in the ethics behind our economic system. Although be aware, it has very low credits and you have to write a 7000 word essay to pass it.

Principles of management : Also a very interesting course. Although in MOMA we have learnt quite a lot of the theories taught by the professor, this professor teaches them in a new and very interactive way .

2. Organization of the Class

Most classes last 3 hours, similar to the ones in MOMA. The ones I chose were bigger classes with up to 100 students.

3. List of courses and recommendation

Organizational Behavior : I don't recommend it.

Financial Analysis : If you are interested in Finance, I recommend it.

Markets and Ethics : I recommend.

Principles of management : The professor is very good, I recommend it.

4. Exam

Grading typically consists of a Midterm and a Final exam, each accounting for 50% of your final grade. In some classes, you may also need to give a presentation or complete an assignment, which will contribute to your final grade as well. Most exams are multiple choice, (with no negative points) .

IV. When I life there

A. Safety

It is mostly safe, but as I mentioned before, I would recommend avoiding the central train station area at night.

B. Phone and Internet

I used the same phone plan I had in France.

C. Events

I recommend following ESN Network on Instagram, they plan a lot of fun events and you can get to know people easily. My favorite one was Pub night Tuesday at the Irish Pub.

D. Sports

There are quite a few parks if you like to go on a run. Giardini Margherita was my personal favorite. I also bought a used bike and bikes everywhere. I recommend doing that instead of public transportation.

E. Eating

Valerio is the restaurant where I had my favorite Bolognese Lasagna in Bologna. As for my day to day meals between classes I had a lot of pizza. Near the university, in Via Zamboni, there are restaurants that sell slices of pizza for 2 euros.

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

As I mentioned before I used my bike to go everywhere in Bologna. A lot of people do because the city is well structured for biking. If you decide to do this you can easily buy a pre-owned bike from Erasmus group chats for less than 50 euros.

G. Travels

It is very easy to travel in Italy with the train, you can do a lot of day trips.

Day trips from Bologna : Venice, Florence, Verona, Milan, lake Como

Longer trips : Puglia (my favorite), Sardegna, Rome

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

Nothing specific although just make sure you go to Erasmus events at the beginning because it is when people tend to meet others.

V. After your semester abroad

A. What are you planning do to?

I am going to do a Masters in Paris.

B. Did you apply for master?

The Master I was accepted in is the Master CARF in Paris Dauphine.

