



Bocconi University

Fall semester 2014

Sirintra Rakmanusa 5402641327 BBA 20

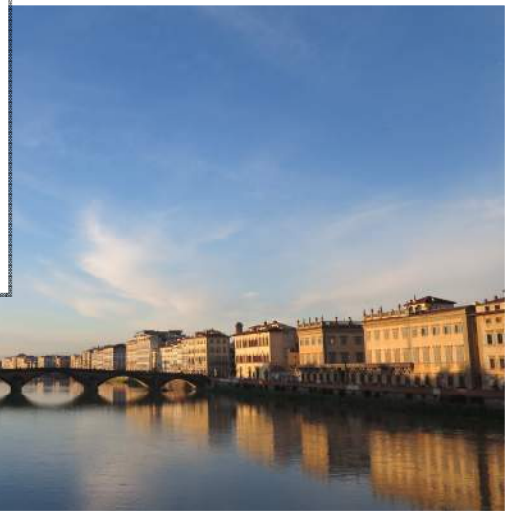
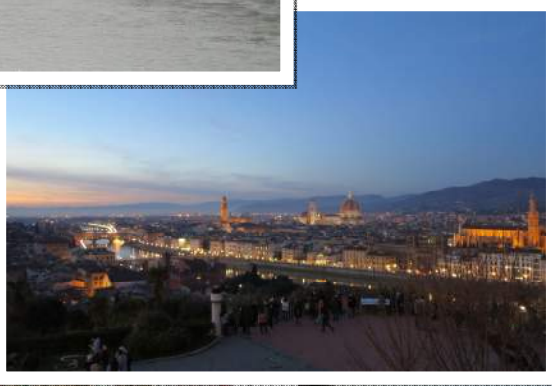
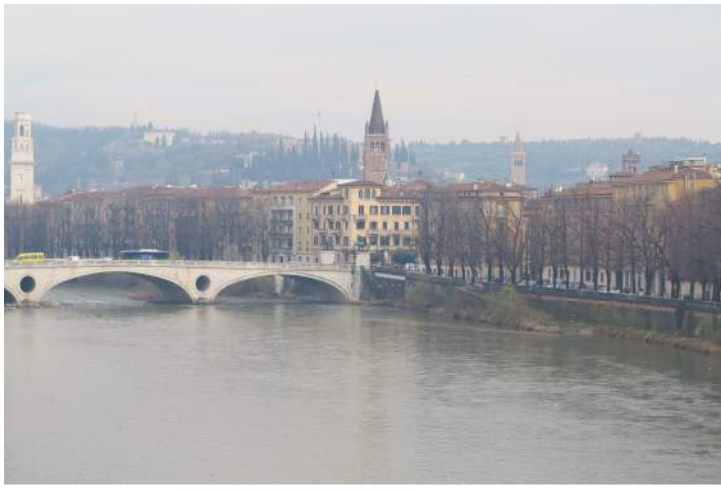
How to survive the first week?

First week in Milano,

You will be surprised once you have seen the university, there is no sign telling you that you are in the University territory and the university's buildings are not next to each other but dormitories and apartments surround them. The campus is very ordinary but somehow it has a very friendly and lively atmosphere.

I spent my first week trying to recognize the way from my apartment to the university and vice versa, I got lost a couple times due to my confusion of the tram stations. Anyways it is quite easy to go to the university with the public transportation. The university is very supportive to get all the exchange students to know each other even though there were about 600 exchange students; they arranged welcoming parties for two weeks straight. I went to one of the parties, a cocktail party, where I first met all of my good friends.

Making friends at the beginning was a little bit hard as it was only 2 Thai people, unlike others from the same country that they hang in a big group and it is easier to make friends with others. Anyways, That is not an excuse for not making friends so we tried to fit in with others by being ourselves, joining in conversations, adapting to fit in. Having some Italian friends is a great idea as they would know local stuff and tips that exchange friends cannot help you with. So if there is an opportunity to make friends with the locals, please do! (While clubbing, making any kind of friend is possible)



Bocconi University

Fall semester 2014

Sirintra Rakmanusa 5402641327 BBA 20

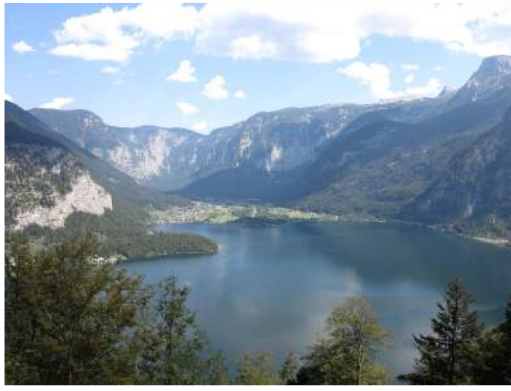
How to prepare for studying?

Be prepared! With the professor's Italian- English speaking accent. You have to pay more attention in class and get a 30 cents coffee from the coffee machine (to avoid falling asleep). Printing slides is not necessary and using laptop in class is totally normal. No signature is required in attending the class and you can choose either to be attending or non-attending in each subject which has different condition.

Planning your time wisely between traveling and studying, some classes require participation scores that mean you have to participate in class and turn in homework. Do not forget to check class schedules and notes from professor regularly.

Exams are tricky, they ask specific few questions and you better get them all right otherwise you can lose scores easily. Note that grading system when transferring back is tough, only 2 points can make your grade difference.

Bocconi library is very convenient in every way; there are rooms for private group study and for individual study. It is always quiet in the library as people respect each other so it is the best place to study during the exam period. with the locals, please do! (while clubbing, making any kind of friend is possible).



Bocconi University

Fall semester 2014

Sirintra Rakmanusa 5402641327 BBA 20

Lifestyle and activities?

Thai food is very hard to find and I have not been to Thai restaurant at once, I heard there is only one in Milano. You should prepare those instant noodles and lobos. I always cook Thai food in my apartment, so much cheaper than dining out. But be careful while cooking; make sure that it will not disturb your neighbors. I always go to Chinese and Japanese buffet called 189 wok every lunch on Sunday with my friends (only 9 euros and delicious). Also the pizzeria across the street is tasty as well. Everyday there will be people handing party brochures to you so that night you would know which club to attend. It is very special in Milano that there is a specific club that people go each night so it is most likely that you would meet all familiar people. Moreover, they always have ESN night out for exchange students and drinks are cheaper that mean our night outs were always fun and affordable.

It is very easy to travel from Milan to other regions in Italy (Tuscany, Verona, Venice, Rome) and other countries i.e. Switzerland, France and Austria. During the weekend, you can make a short trip to these places. I did many trips with my best friend during the semester. First country was Austria, we went to Vienna, Attersee (local lake town), Salzburg and Hallstatt. Then Barcelona, Spain followed by Zermatt, Switzerland. During the semester break we did one great trip started with Lucerne, Switzerland. Then we took a high-speed train which traveled by 280 kilometers per hour from Lucerne to Paris. Then we went with 'BlaBlaCar' from Paris to Berlin, driving pass Belgium and Netherlands to Germany. On Christmas and New Year, I spent my time in Austria at Wildenhag, we went up to Mauterndorf and Obertauern for a few days skiing then we went back to Milano. After that, I did a road trip with my family in Italy we went to Rome, Pisa, Florence, Verona, Venice and Milan. Our favorite city is Florence, a very beautiful ancient city.

It was such an eventful and enjoyable 6 months and one of the best times in my life. It was such a great experience that you would never ever forget and it is worth every euro you spend. Imagine that in this life would it be a time that you can travel anywhere you want and it can be done only a couple hours. You will have any kind of freedom you could ever ask for; use it well and use it wisely.