



RETOUR D'EXPÉRIENCE

Bologne, Italie



UNIVERSITÉ DE
MONTPELLIER

Montpellier
Management



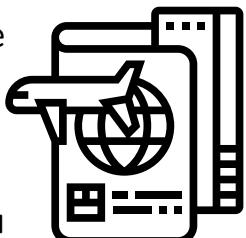
The Erasmus experience is more than what I could have wished for. I met incredible people, I visited places I never thought I could go to, and Bologna was the perfect city for it. Certainly not as big or as imposing as Florence or Rome, but it has all the perks of a medium city like Montpellier – a student city, full of life, strategically located (so all flights/buses/trains from Bologna to Bari, Sicily, Napoli, Florence are cheaper in comparison to other cities), and the quality of teaching at Unibo (one of the oldest – if not the oldest – in the occidental world) is excellent.

The pedagogical team is highly qualified in their areas of expertise, approachable, understanding, and open to new perspectives.



Practical informations

If you are a French or an EU student, you do not need a visa. I am from a non-EU country, so I had to go and get a visa directly in Paris (because the consulate in Marseille does not issue visas).



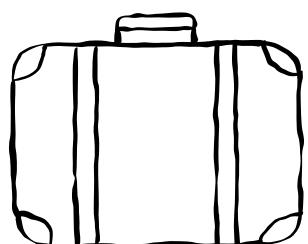
If you are in a similar situation (non-EU student), regardless of where you go in Europe (and all the more if you go to Italy since they have their own administrative processes for international students) I would strongly recommend checking thoroughly if you need a visa. For example, when you are doing for check-in at Unibo they state that you have to apply for a residence permit – which I found strange because I already had one valid in France – but for that you need to have a visa. Without proof of you starting the process of asking for the residence permit, they will not allow you to take the exams, so my strong advice for international students – **BE THOROUGH in your research.**

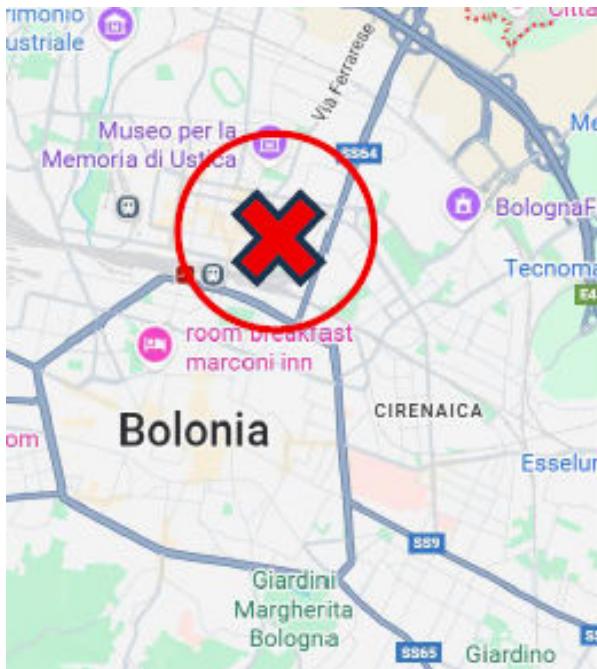


I took an Air France flight from Montpellier to Paris, then I had a stopover of around 2-3 hours and then from Paris to Marconi Airport, the one in Bologna. I traveled on the 6th of February since I started classes on the 10th.

I took a backpack, a 10kg luggage and a 23kg luggage, and I think it was enough (careful – even if you think you have taken everything and will not spend a single euro in clothes, you are lying to yourself, so I would recommend not to fill your luggage entirely if you do not want to come back by bus to avoid being charged extra for the weight of your suitcases).

Bologna is very rainy in February-March, so do not forget your umbrella and a good jacket. Also, it gets very warm in June, so do not forget to bring your summer clothes.





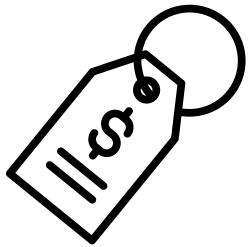
Bologna is like any other city, there are parts where you should be a little bit more careful than others. I personally never lived close to a dangerous zone in the city, however I had been told that it is better to stay away from the north of the city, Bolognina and surrounding areas.

Also, avoid peripheral zones like Pilastro, they are too far from the city, and it is not the nicest neighborhood.

I found my shared flat in one of the WhatsApp groups for students. Beware of scams – they are everywhere. If you do not have someone there to go and check if the flat exists, you could always try to do a video call before signing anything or committing anything. If the landlord does not seem to want to do a videocall, it is a red flag. They are very used to making video calls to international students as there are a lot.

Italy has a housing crisis, so the minimum you should expect for a double room (or a shared room which is common in Italy) is 350 euros with utilities (water, gas, electricity, Wi-Fi). I paid **405 euros per month** and had to share with another girl in a 2-bedroom apartment, but I know people who paid 800 euros in a shared flat to have their own room.

My recommendation: do not be afraid to try new experiences, and this is one of those. At the beginning I did not want to share a room (for obvious reasons – I did not know the girl I was going to share it with) but we ended up being friends and I had a great time with her.



Courses selection

Organizational Behavior

It is a subject that is composed of psychology studies, as well as sociology, a little bit of anthropology, among other social studies. In Italy the semester is divided into 2 seminars, and in the first seminar we had the opportunity to have visits to actual factories of Hera (Italian company) and see how they operate, as well as we had the chance to have an Airbnb executive to come all the way from San Francisco and give us a class on the subject, a Lamborghini executive too over a video call. The teacher is highly qualified and has a great network, which makes it even more interesting.

For the first seminar, you do have to read a very large manual so if you decide to take this class, do not hesitate to start the readings so for the exam you will not have to rush-read.

Computational Tools

You might think this class is as easy as the excel class we have in L2 and you might feel tempted to take it and not attend during the semester, but trust me, as the semester continues, the difficulty increases and on Virtuale (our Moodle) the teacher does not upload explanations on what he did on the excel files. My strong advice – if you are going to specialize in finance, data analytics, or similar fields, take it, and attend the classes. If you put in the work, you will find it interesting and will have a good grade (an “Idoneo”, as they say, because in some classes it is not about the grade, but it is all about PASS or FAIL system).

Financial Analysis

The professor is very qualified; he has taught in business schools in Paris and the topics covered are very interesting for a first-year class. He revisits topics covered in previous finance courses, so it's a good way to refresh knowledge.

Business Strategy

Truth being told, this class sums up all of the management theory we have seen so far over the 3-year period at MOMA. If you want to be more challenged in your classes, I advise you to take a different class. The teacher was adorable and explained everything passionately, and she will retire this year, so maybe the program of this course will change a bit for next year but still.

Notes

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Date: **July 2025**

Overall, I found the courses to be easier or at most at the same level in Italy, they work with a different scale – instead of your grade being determined on a scale of 1 to 20, your grade is decided out of 30. And the minimum you need to pass is not 15, but 18. Anything under 18 is an automatic failure.

In most cases, you have a midterm to pass at the end of March/beginning of April (which counts for 50% of your total grade), and a second midterm you pass in June, July or even September. If for any reason you did not do good in one of the midterms, you will have to present the final (which is normally scheduled for June too) and you will have to study the entire content of the course (not just 1 seminar).

You have the option to ask the teacher not to consider the exam you just submitted if you feel you did badly. If you decide to do so, it will not be graded, and your overall score will not be affected. You will have to take the final exam (in case you asked the teacher not to take into consideration the midterm you just decided not to submit).

During the semester you also could decline the grade you get up to 2 times.

Reminder

There are several opportunities for you to pass

the subjects.

Italy

TO DO LIST



- Follow Erasmus Student Network on social media and get the ESN card

- Bring your medical certificate from France for your gym membership / sports practice

- Go to Sfoglia Rina to taste pasta al ragu or to Il Portico San Donato for the best pizzas in town

- Plan many travels in Italy or go to Croatia

- Don't rely too much on public transportation if you're in a rush

