

My exchange experience

at Università della Svizzera italiana

Your reports are an essential source of information for future students considering to study in Lugano or Mendrisio Campus. The reports should contain information about your learning experience at USI as well as about people and culture. Your reports will be published in the International Relations Service web page (<https://www.usi.ch/en/end-study-reports>), submitting a report indicates that you agree to this, access to the reports is enabled with the Campus account.

Guidelines for writing the exchange report

Name: Florian Schinnerling

Home university: Ulm University, Ulm, Germany

Study Field: Master of Science: Business Economics / Finance

Semester abroad in Lugano

Why did you choose to come to Switzerland/Ticino?

When I informed myself about the exchange semester I liked the Università della Svizzera italiana with its study program. Afterwards, I also informed myself about the city of Lugano and the area around Lugano with its beautiful lake. You have a lot of possibilities for sightseeing and different other activities. For example, go hiking on the mountains of Monte Brè or Monte San Salvatore. Other reasons why I chose Switzerland: First, it is close to Italy, so there is the possibility to travel to Milan and other interesting cities. Second, Lugano also is close to the mountains so you would have the possibility of skiing, which I liked.

The university offers a very interesting Master program with different specialisation opportunities Banking and Finance, Quantitative Finance and Digital Finance. The University has also a very good recommendation. I liked the possibility to have lectures in small or medium size groups. So you have a different and more direct contact opportunity to the professors and / or teaching assistants instead of large lecture halls with hundreds of students.

About your learning experience at USI

I chose four different lectures from the Master of Finance program here in Lugano: Structured Products, Financial Econometrics, Advance Statistics and Financial Engineering. Some of these courses are not offered at my home university, so it was mostly new topics for me. All professors had different types of teachings style. Some liked to integrate students answering questions and solve problems, others liked to do group projects. It depended on the professor. All in all, I was able to improve my knowledge about the attended lectures and learned a lot.

In addition, I attended the weekly Italian Language Course during the semester, it was well organised and followed a good structure. The teacher, Susanna, was very kind and open minded for all questions and concerns. She encouraged you to learn the Italian language.

Accommodation:

I didn't get a room at the USI home so I had to search for a private one. It was difficult to find a room, because mostly they required me to sign a one year contract, but in the end I found a room in a private

flat. I shared it with 2 other people, a girl from the south of Italy and a boy from Brazil. It was very modern and new, but unfortunately a bit expensive. We shared the kitchen and the bathroom, but everyone had his own private room. It was very close to the university, about a 5-minute walk away.

About the International relations and Study abroad Service at USI

It was very good organised. I had to solve some problems before the university started and they already helped me very quickly. During the semester they also help you in every case if you have any questions.

The Welcome Day and the International Fair was well organised. I enjoyed getting in touch with other students from USI and was able to represent my home university. At the Welcome Day, I got an overview of the different IT platforms. We also did a short campus tour through out the university, where I had the opportunity to get in touch with other exchange students. During the semester you get to know a lot of students, because in some lectures you have to do some teamwork assignments or projects, where you have to work with the other students. I was able to socialize with some other exchange students during the semester. I participated in some events where also most of the exchange students attended. I sometimes met them afterwards and we had some nice evenings. Together we met at the Bar Oops and had a drink with nice conversations. In my free time I sometimes played tennis with other exchange students. I took the possibility of the USI Sport program, where I went climbing with some friends. USI Sport service also offers other activities like going to the gym or basketball.

Suggestions:

Lugano is a very good place to study but you also have a lot of possibilities for things you can do in your free time. On the one hand, most of the professors did a very good job and I liked their lectures and I learned a lot about Financial Economics. On the other hand the International relations and Study abroad Service offers different kinds of activities. When you are not studying you always have a possible event to go. I was in Lugano during the winter semester, I would suggest coming to Lugano during the summer term. Then you can enjoy the lake, go swimming or go up the mountains and can get a beautiful view over Lugano.

Some impressions



Lake of Lugano



Christmas market in the centre of Lugano



ESN welcome event – city tour