



## Fachbereich Wirtschafts- und Sozialwissenschaften Nürnberg FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg

### Erfahrungsbericht Auslandsstudium

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Angaben zum Auslandsaufenthalt	
Studiengang an der WiSo:	International Business Studies (IBS), Bachelor Degree
Gastuniversität:	University of Turin
Gastland:	Italy
Studiengang an der Gastuniversität:	Business and Management, Bachelor Degree
Aufenthaltszeitraum (Semester und Jahr):	Winter Semester 2024/2025
Darf der Bericht veröffentlicht werden?*	( <b>Nicht</b> zutreffendes löschen) <b>JA</b> / NEIN

\*Veröffentlichung unter: <http://ib.wiso.fau.de/outgo/partneruniversitaeten/>

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## **Themenbereiche:**

### **1. Bewerbung und Auswahlverfahren an der FAU**

The entire preparation process was conducted through the Online Mobility Service provided by the home University. FAU also organized a session covering all topics related to the Erasmus exchange program. This provided important guidance on academic and administrative matters, helping students better understand the process before their departure. The requirements for the selection process was command of Italian language at the intermediate level.

### **2. Bewerbung / Anmeldung an der Gastuniversität**

Application was processed via UniTo website and online forms provided by the host University. The course selection for my department, SAA (School of Management), was very strict—I had to take all my courses exclusively from this department in my Learning Agreement. This made it a bit more complicated to find courses that aligned with those offered by FAU.

Before coming to Turin, the University of Turin organized an online Q&A session for incoming students. This was helpful in clarifying important aspects of the exchange. During the meeting, WhatsApp groups were already created for each department, allowing students to get in touch and support each other with the preparation process.

### **3. Vorbereitung auf das Auslandsstudium**

As a part of the preparation for my semester abroad, I took many Italian language courses and did research regarding the academic offer at the University of Turin. Furthermore, I register myself in many rental portals in order to familiarize myself with the housing market in Turin.

### **4. Anreise / Visum**

I decided to travel to the host university by train due to my personal commitment to sustainable travel and the program's encouragement to apply for the Green Travel refund, which supports ecological travel based on the straight-line distance to the host university. The journey was long, as there are no direct train connections from Nuremberg or Erlangen to Turin. I had to transfer in Munich and, upon reaching Italy, either in Verona or Bologna, depending on the connection. It is always good to keep in mind that booking in advance can significantly reduce travel costs. An alternative to taking the train is flying to Milan from Frankfurt or Munich with low-cost airlines or taking a direct Lufthansa flight from Frankfurt. From Milan, frequent and direct bus connections to Turin make the journey relatively fast and convenient, though it still involves multiple sections. Due to a train delay on the Bologna leg, my journey to the host university took up to 15 hours. It is always advisable to anticipate possible delays caused by construction work—such as in my case—and frequent public transportation strikes in Italy, which can significantly disrupt travel plans. Since I arrived in Turin late at night, there were no direct public transportation connections to my temporary Airbnb accommodation. I had to rely on local taxi services. Although FreeNow operates in Turin, it is not very efficient, and no drivers accepted my ride request at that hour. As a result, I had to take a local taxi available near the Porta Nuova main train station.



Based on my experience, it is advisable to check taxi service providers in advance, as Bolt and Uber do not operate in Turin and FreeNOW is not reliable in many cases. Based on recommendations from my Italian colleagues and my personal experience, I suggest using the Wetaxi app, which is the most used app in Turin for a booking taxi.

## 5. Unterkunftsmöglichkeiten (Wohnheim, privat)

Before moving to Turin, I planned to stay in a university dormitory. However, the university announced that dormitory spots were very limited and even advised students to look for private accommodation. I started looking for an apartment about a month before arriving and registered on Idealista, one of the most popular rental websites in Italy (recommended by the host university). However, I didn't receive any responses to my messages until I was already in Turin. The demand for rooms is very high, and landlords seem to prefer tenants who are already in the city and can visit the apartment immediately or are planning to stay for at least one or few years. In the end, after a few weeks spent at the Airbnb apartment while looking for a final accommodation, I found my room through a Facebook group (Affitti a Torino). Many rental offers in Turin are posted there, but most are only in Italian. This makes the search even more difficult for those who don't speak the language. Without knowing Italian, it can be challenging to understand offers, communicate with landlords, and go through the rental process smoothly so it is advisable to take some Italian courses before going for a semester abroad. What is also worth mentioning, I was warned about scams in Italy by the host University, so I made sure to double-check everything before signing a contract or sending any money.

Another important thing to know is that rental deposits are often high, sometimes up to three months' rent. Renting a private room in Turin turned out to be quite expensive—comparable to Nuremberg. I paid around 800 euros for a single room, which is a lot for student housing. Overall, finding accommodation in Turin was not easy. It required patience, being careful, and, ideally, knowing at least some Italian to navigate the process more easily and looking at the same time in many different sources (portals and Facebook or WhatsApp groups).

## 6. Einschreibung an der Gastuniversität

Enrollment procedure was conducted through online forms provided by the host University and UniTo website. Even though the Business and Management program was fully taught in English there was no requirement to hand-in the English certification or similar document issued by home University on language proficiency. One of the important requirements was to be enrolled in business-related field at home university.

## 7. Fachliche und administrative Betreuung an der Gastuniversität (International Office, Fachstudienberater, Buddy-Programme, studentische Initiativen, etc.)

The International Office organized a welcome meeting during which exchange students were introduced to the grading system, examination types, and other important organizational matters, including the Learning Agreement process at UniTo and the requirements needed to complete the program abroad. A local coordinator was assigned to assist with all Learning Agreement matters.

For other concerns, the student network, particularly the official WhatsApp group, proved very helpful in quickly obtaining updates and responses regarding university and student life matters. There was also an option to apply for a Buddy at the host university, but due to the limited number of student helpers, I was not assigned one. However, it is always a good opportunity to meet a local student who can navigate and help with all the organisational matters.

## 8. Lehrveranstaltungen / Stundenplan an der Gastuniversität



As an International Business student, I was required to complete 20 ECTS in business-related courses. I decided to take Financial Markets, Public Management and Economics, as well as Business Law courses, among others. The SAA department at the University of Turin operates a bit differently from other departments. Its exams are spread throughout the semester, as the department follows the American approach to assessment.

The semester started on September 16, and my first exam was scheduled for October. Unlike in other systems where exams take place at the end of the semester, each course here ends at a different time, depending on its schedule. Classes are usually held twice a week for each course, making the learning process more continuous rather than concentrated in a short exam period.

Aside from my business-related courses, I also took part in an Italian course specifically designed for Erasmus students. This was a great opportunity not only to improve my language skills but also to meet other students from different countries and share experiences.

### 9. Sprachkurse an der Gastuniversität (kostenlos, kostenpflichtig)

Language courses at the host University were free of charge. The University offered Italian courses dedicated especially for the Erasmus students. There were many levels offered, from beginners to advance.

### 10. Ausstattung der Gastuniversität (Bibliothek, Computerräume, etc.)

The SAA department is relatively small and does not offer many places to study. The best option is to book the place in the library or study hall via online platform Affluences or a university application to make sure that there is an availability. In Turin there are also some of the coffee places where students are allowed to study.

Regarding the classrooms, they are also very small without the capacity for a huge number of incoming students. That is why usually students are divided into 2 up to 3 groups to make it possible to attend in person classes and facilitate the interactivity of the seminars and exercises.

### 11. Freizeitangebote

Regarding leisure time, one of the most popular places among students is Costadoro Coffee Lab Diamond, where international students can meet and study together in a pleasant atmosphere. Dining in restaurants is relatively affordable, and meeting friends for breakfast can be a very budget-friendly option, with an approximate cost of around 5 euros. The university also offers a canteen for students, providing good prices and a different menu every day. On the downside, commuting in Turin is challenging.

Public transportation operates inefficiently, with frequent delays and unexpected route changes that are not announced in advance. Additionally, the public transportation app GTT does not function smoothly, so it is recommended to purchase paper tickets at metro stations instead.

### 12. Stadt (Sehenswürdigkeiten, Feste, Museen, etc.)

Turin city is hosting International Turin Film Festival, many cultural and culinary events. It is worth to see Museum of Cinema as well as Egizio Museum. There are plenty of charming coffee places where local students can meet with the international ones and spend time together.

### 13. Alltag (Geld-Abheben, Handy, Jobben)

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Regarding payment methods, almost everywhere payment by credit card is acceptable so there is no need to withdrawing money. Although it is recommended to have some petty cash always in case of some unexpected event.

#### 14. Finanzielles (Lebenshaltungskosten, Stipendien)

The cost of living in Turin is relatively high, particularly when it comes to accommodation. Renting a single room costs approximately 600–700 euros per month, including utility bills. As a result, the basic scholarship is insufficient to cover even the rental expenses. The monthly ticket for a public transportation is although relatively cheap (below 30 euros). The meals at the university canteen are also very affordable (about 5 euros).

The top-up was very helpful in covering living costs, making it possible to afford rent despite the high accommodation prices. The total amount was sufficient to cover rental expenses, easing financial concerns during the stay. Additionally, the Green Travel support provided extra financial relief, encouraging sustainable travel while helping to offset some of the overall costs. These additional funds played a crucial role in managing expenses, especially given the limitations of the basic scholarship. As a result, financial planning became more manageable, allowing for a more comfortable experience abroad.

#### 15. Wichtige Ansprechpartner und Links

Accommodation: housing anywhere, idealista.it., Facebook groups (Affitti a Torino) Booking libraries: app Affluences, university application (UniTo app), Traveling: FlixBus (extra discounts for students of Erasmus program), taxi app: Wetaxi Commuting to university: GTT application.

#### 16. Fazit (beste und schlechteste Erfahrung)

My experience at the University of Turin has been a mix of academic growth, cultural exchange, and practical challenges. The unique exam structure in the SAA department allowed for continuous learning, while the Italian language course provided a great opportunity to connect with international students. Despite the high cost of living, particularly for accommodation, affordable dining options at the university canteen and inexpensive public transportation helped balance daily expenses. The basic scholarship, however, was not sufficient to cover rental costs, making financial planning essential. Additionally, commuting in Turin proved to be a challenge due to frequent delays and inefficiencies in the public transportation system what encouraged me to often take a walk to my final destination.

#### 17. Sonstiges

Turin is a beautiful city, full of culture places and events, offering many opportunities for both personal and educational growth. It can be a great destination for a short academic experience abroad.

***Vielen Dank für Ihre Unterstützung!***