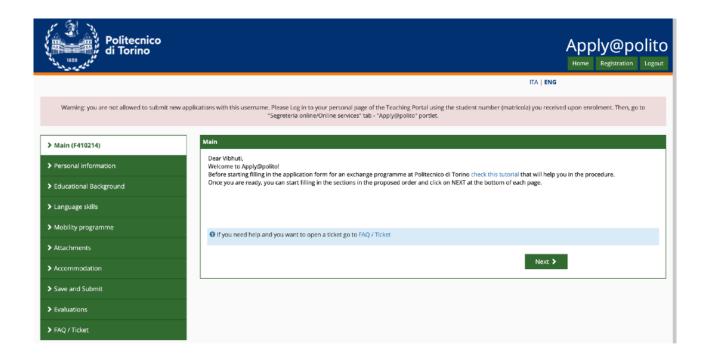
Erasmus+ Experience Report

Degree Program	M.A. World Heritage Study
Study Subject	M.Sc. Architecture Heritage Preservation And Enhancement
Host Country	Politechnico Di Torino, Italy
Academic Year	2020/21

Application and Arrival at the Host University

The application process was very well organised by the host university i.e. Polytechnico Di Torino. It required a little waiting time but once I received the login details for their portal it was very systematic. Despite the online presence, the reception into the university went quite smoothly. The procedure was quite simple in most aspects, if followed step by step with specific instructions from the university.



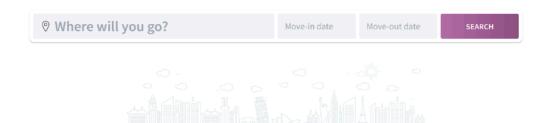
Accommodation

Since I came with another colleague from my university, we had started the process to look for an accommodation three month before our arrival in Turin together. We found that there were some student dorms available from the university, however the prices for those was higher than the prices for an apartment.

We searched through some of the sites provided by the college itself, and found many options for living in the city through the HousingAnywhere website. We chose one from the website which was in the city and included the rent with a fully equipped kitchen, electricity, water, washing machine etc. The price was good compared to other houses with same amenities.



Rent rooms, apartments & stay for months



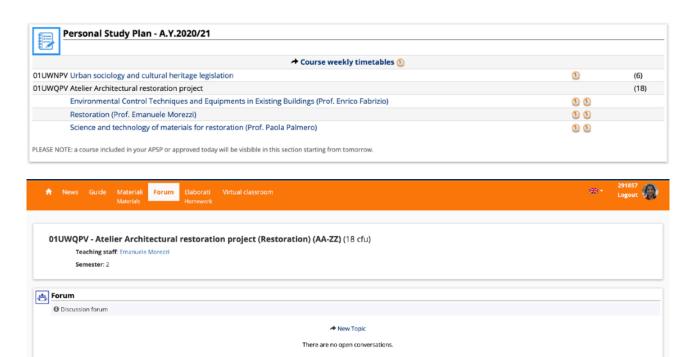
Studying at the Host University

Studying at the host university was quite different from my home university in Germany. It had majorly to do with the fact that the program at the host university was designed only for architects. It reminded me a lot of my bachelors degree.

Despite the online session, the professors welcomed us very well. Everything was clearly organised and you could see the entire timetable on the Portal Didattica. There was an app to manage everything as well called PoliTo App, All the professors were very nice and included us in the class activities, however, it was a bit tough to get in touch with students due to lockdown. All the work was done in groups and it was evident the students were very hardworking.

The modules were well organised and governed by the online platform where assignments had to be uploaded and also sent back for submission. We had weekly reviews for the design module. In both the modules, the professors also invited working professionals in the field to showcase their work and speak about their experiences, which was very helpful. Regular updates through the semester meant not everything was left for the end to finish and present.

At the end, two exam dates for each module i.e., one in June and other in July were provided. I opted for the earlier one (in June) to finish the studies as soon as possible.



Everyday Life and Free Time

Torino as a city is really beautiful and welcoming, especially for a student. It was a bit tough to be inside for about two months, due to the lockdown period around Easter. I could only attend online classes and there was very little possibility of meeting everyone from the class. However, Torino has a very active Erasmus Student Network called the ESN Torino.

After the lockdown was lifted, the group took the initiative to arrange a lot of activities to involve the students. It was lovely to meet new people from all around Europe. Getting to know Italian culture is one of the most fascinating experiences I have had so far and I would've liked to know more about.

Apart from that, we had a few exceptions organised by the professors at the university, which were quite informative. I travelled to a few castle near the city which were only 1-1.5 hour bus ride away.







Recognition of Study Achievements

I passed all my exams in Torino. As per the requirement from my university, I was required to pass 18 credits, However, PoliTO had the minimum credits as 20 credits. I took 2 modules amounting to a total of 24 credits.

The marks were conveyed by the professors at the end of the exams. I could download the credits by the end of July from the Portal Didattica.

The credits could simply be transferred as additional module in my transcripts.

Conclusion

In conclusion, I really appreciated the exchange semester. It was a lovely experience to learn from a different perspective of the professors in Italy. Despite some restriction by the lockdown, a few new contact were formed, which I really appreciate. I wish all students best of luck for their future plans, and please make the best of your semester abroad as you will live it only ONCE!