POLITECNICO MILANO 1863
SCUOLA DEL DESIGN
DIPARTIMENTO DI DESIGN

RELAZIONE DI FINE SCAMBIO
End-of-exchange report

Istruzioni
Indicare di seguito tutte le informazioni che possano essere utili ad altri studenti che parteciperanno ad uno scambio. Preferibilmente in lingua inglese, lunghezza min. 2500 parole + possibili immagini, file di max. dimensione 2MB in formato PDF. Questo documento sarà pubblicato nel sito web della Scuola.

/ Instructions
Please indicate below any information that may be useful to other students taking part in an exchange. Preferably in English, length min. 2500 words + possible images, files of max. Dimension 2 MB in PDF format. This document will be published on the School's website.

Informazioni generiche / General informations

Anno Accademico di Scambio: *Academic Year of Exchange*	2020-2021	Nome della Sede in scambio: *Name of the Exchange School*	KAAKOIS-SUOMEN AMMA
Cognome e Nome: *Surname and Name*	Carolina Silva	Stato: *Country*	Finlandia
Matricola: *Registration*	936499	Codice Sede: *Exchange code*	SF MIKKELI07
Corso di studio: *Study course*	Design degli Interni	Tipo di scambio: *Type of exchange*	Erasmus
Anno di corso: *Year of course*	2°	Semestre di scambio: *Exchange semester*	2°
Email: *Email*	carolina3.silva@mail.polimi.it	Docente promotore: *Promoter*	Vittorio Linfante

Racconta la tua esperienza di scambio / Tell us about your exchange experience:

I applied almost a year before absolutely unaware of what I was going to do, then came the first coronavirus contagions and the first lockdown and my hopes of being taken collapsed all of a sudden, the possibility of being able to reach another state in the middle of a pandemic while being completely locked up at home seemed really impossible. A few months before my supposed departure, however, I received the letter of acceptance from the host institution and I was the happiest person in the world, I have always wanted to include this stage in my studies and Finland seemed to be the ideal destination to deepen the aspects of Scandinavian design. I was accepted by Xamk, and organizing my stay there was really easy, the university assigns you a shared apartment in a building with all the Erasmus students and even takes care of picking you up at the station to show you the building and give you the keys, they were all really nice and make you feel at home right away.
Unfortunately because of the outbreak situation I had mostly online classes and almost all the activities organized by the university were suspended. Luckily for me, however, I was able to take a course for which attendance in the lab was mandatory, so I was able, albeit briefly, to experience part of university life on campus.

I'll never stop repeating that I was really lucky and I'm extremely grateful to have been able to have such an experience in such a difficult period and to have been able to live a different university world and with a completely different educational method to the one I'm used to. But back to us, because of the different educational choice I found myself having to attend courses completely different from my studies at the Politecnico, such as a course of Game Design which is very far from what are my studies in Italy, but despite the initial fear, I am very pleased with my final result and to have had the opportunity to expand my horizons from the point of view of Design, discovering a new reality that I had never explored before. I've become aware that the ways of learning are really vast and you never stop learning and even if at the moment it can be disorienting, throwing yourself into new projects is very educational as well as extremely fun and challenging. Obviously, beyond the whole university part, I think it is important to underline the aspect of social relations, friendships and bonds that are inevitably created when you share the same experience, even if you come from different parts of Europe. I made friends with some wonderful people and it was wonderful to see how as the months went by we gradually managed to bond more and more, when we all managed to overcome the initial shyness and what could have been the language difficulties. I don't want to say too much and I don't want to reveal too much to the new students who will choose this destination for their exchange, because the beauty lies in experiencing, discovering wonderful places and people and living unique experiences.
I just want to say thanks finland for the cold and interminable snow but also for the sunny and warm spring days, thank you for each landscape and for the strangest but most wonderful light I've ever seen.
I can't say how grateful I am for this fantastic experience and for the people I shared it with. For upcoming students I can only say that you will surely miss it when you return home and that even if you lived in the quietest country in Europe you will have a lot of things to tell.

Firma / Signature: Carolina Silva

Data / Data: 06/07/2021