

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

Nome della Sede in scambio:
Name of the Exchange School

Cognome e Nome:
Surname and Name

Stato:
Country

Matricola:
Registration

Codice Sede:
Exchange code

Corso di studio:
Study course

Tipo di scambio:
Type of exchange

Anno di corso:
Year of course

Semestre di scambio:
Exchange semester

Email:
Email

Docente promotore:
Promoter

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

First of all, I need to say that my exchange experience was strongly influenced by the COVID-19 pandemic. Indeed, for the duration of the academic year, classes were entirely online. As a result, I visited the university very few times, usually to use the workshops. I found this to be a major factor in the success of the exchange because, from what I was told, the main feature of KISD is the social atmosphere within its walls.

Having said that, let's start with the description of the **academic experience**. At KISD you are completely free to choose the courses you want to attend and you can range over different areas of Design. Unlike Politecnico di Milano, at KISD there are no different courses within the Faculty of Design, but everyone studies Integrated Design. In addition, each student is required to carry out projects in all areas of design in order to have an education as varied as possible (international students are completely free to choose, regardless of areas of expertise, although it is advisable to range).

Settling in at KISD is quite difficult, especially if you come from Politecnico, as the system is diametrically opposed.

First of all, at KISD there are different types of courses, ranging from 1 credit to 12 credits, so in a single semester you can take a lot of courses.

In particular, it is recommended to take at least one AG per semester. They are KISD's characterising activities, where students perform different tasks for the university (running Gute Stube, the university café, managing KISD's social accounts, keeping in touch with alumni or international students etc.).

The other big difference from Polimi is that KISD does not give grades as a proof of passing an exam, which on the one hand decreases anxiety and stress, but on the other hand sometimes leads to KISD students becoming too relaxed.

If you go to this university, you have to take into account that classes and exams will end much later than at Politecnico di Milano. However, the professors were very willing to give us grades before the semester was over so that we could graduate on time here in Italy. The international exchange officers are also extremely kind to the exchange students and were always very helpful with any problems we had.

Life in Cologne

Finding accommodation in Cologne is quite difficult. During these months I lived in a shared flat with another MEDes student from Italy and another guy. In case you choose to live in a shared flat, my advice is to start looking for it at the beginning of the summer, to avoid having to change several flats during your stay, as it often happens in Cologne. I don't have any experience with students dorms, but from what I've heard, even though they are a bit out of the city centre, they are still a nice place and there are often many parties there. In times of pandemic it is definitely the best place to meet other students of the same age.


As I mentioned earlier, I was in Cologne during the pandemic, so the restrictions didn't allow me to fully experience the city. However, the city is full of parks and, especially in spring and summer, it is common to see people eating there, or walking or cycling or doing sports of all kinds.

A bike might be useful during your stay in Cologne and someone at the university will certainly be able to advise you where to buy one.

In conclusion, I would like to say that despite the many difficulties, this experience has allowed me to grow a lot personally. In addition to getting used to new rhythms and habits, in a country different from your own, whose language you don't even speak, what this experience has allowed me to do is to think about my future and compare my past experiences to this one, to understand what I want to keep and what I definitely want to leave behind.

As I said, it was a very hard experience, but I want to recommend it because, compared to my mates who stayed in Italy, I feel very grown up. For sure it would have been better without a pandemic going on :)

Firma / Signature:



Data / Date: