



BOSTON COLLEGE
OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

UNIVERSITÀ COMMERCIALE LUIGI BOCCONI
2011-2012
Program Information Guide

Università Bocconi
www.unibocconi.it

Preparing for Study Abroad

- To maximize your study abroad experience, you should prepare yourself by learning about your host country, its history, and culture. You might want to begin with: www.economist.com/countries or <http://www.britannica.com/> for a summary.
- Know what is happening in the news in your host city by reading the local newspaper at: Corriere della Sera: <http://www.corriere.it/>
News on Italy: www.lifeinitaly.com/news
- Engaging with and adapting to a different culture is an inherent component of study abroad. You may find the following websites useful to learn about intercultural communication before you leave home: <http://www.pacific.edu/sis/culture/> and <http://www.peacecorps.gov/wvs/educators/enrichment/culturematters/index.html>
- Customs and traditions in your host country are different from those at home. To learn a little about the local customs and traditions you may want to visit the following website:
- <http://www.kwintessential.co.uk/resources/global-etiquette/italy-country-profile.html>
- You and your parents should refer to the Office of International Programs website (www.bc.edu/international) and specifically to the *Study Abroad Handbook* for more information regarding the abroad experience.
- Prior to your departure you will meet with your International Study Advisor at an orientation to help you further prepare for your study abroad experience.

On-Site Contact Information

- The International Student Desk (ISD) provides guidance, care and support to international students. The ISD offers services and activities that reflects and celebrates the cultural diversity of Bocconi. They will be your home away from home in Milan. You may address questions, concerns and problems while at the Bocconi with ISD staff.

International Student Desk
International Relations Office
Bocconi University
Via Sarfatti 25, 2nd Floor, room 223
20136 Milan, Italy
Tel: +39 02 58362236 or +39 02 58366412 (drop the 39 once you are in Italy)
Fax: +39 02 58362204 (drop the 39 once you are in Italy)

Travel Information

- You are responsible for making your own travel arrangements.
- Transfer from Airport: Milan has two main airports: Linate (domestic and European flights) and Malpensa (inter-continental flights). Both airports offer banking and exchange facilities, post office, car rentals, snack bars and restaurants.
Linate is approximately 10km from the city center
Malpensa is approximately 50km from the city center

There is bus service both to and from Linate and Malpensa Airports and train service from Malpensa.

Taxis- A taxi from Linate Airport to Bocconi will cost approximately 20 Euro. A taxi from Malpensa to Bocconi will cost approximately 120 Euro.

Train- Milan has two main railway stations: Milano Centrale and Milano Cadorna. Both train stations will take you near the Bocconi University. If you arrive at Malpensa Airport, then the Milano Cadorna railway station is most convenient.

Another alternative is the following: Take the “Malpensa Express” shuttle from the airport all the way to Stazione Cadorna. It costs approximately 11 Euro. From here, you can take a cab to your assigned residence hall- the cost is approximately 20 euro.

- Passport/Visa information: In order to study in Italy, you must have a passport (valid at least 6 months beyond your estimated return date) and a student visa. You may apply for a passport at any major US post office, but you must apply for your visa at either the Boston Consulate or the consulate nearest your permanent residence. Please visit the Italian consulate’s website www.consbooston.esteri.it for the most up to date information regarding the student visa application process. You will need your official acceptance letter in order to apply for your visa.
- Immunizations- No immunizations are required to enter Italy.

Academics

- Program dates and Academic calendar: www.ir.unibocconi.eu/calendar

Fall 2011

Arcobaleno Residence Check-in	August 29
Italian Crash course	August 30 – September 17
Permit of Stay session	August 31
Orientation Meeting	September 5
Beginning of Bocconi courses	September 8
Mid-term exam session	October 24-November 5
Special Exam Session	December 12-22
End of courses	December 15
Earliest Departure	December 22
Residence Halls close	December 24

Holidays: November 1, December 7-8

Spring 2012

Course Selection	December 13-January 19
Arcobaleno Residence Check-in	January (TBA)
Italian Crash course	Middle of January- Middle of February (TBA)
Permit of Stay session	TBA
Orientation Meeting	TBA
Beginning of Bocconi courses	February 13
Mid-term exam session	March 29-April 21
End of courses	June 6
Earliest Departure	June 30
Residence Hall close	TBA

Holidays: April 5-10 – Easter Break, April 25, May 1, June 2

- You will pre-register for courses prior to going. Your International Study Advisor will send you this information. You can begin to look at course offerings at: www.ir.unibocconi.eu/offer or at www.ir.unibocconi.eu/coe
- You are required to enroll in the Italian Language crash course and have then to select four university regular courses taught in English or in Italian. Please keep in mind that you must stay until the early departure date of June 30.
- BC will cover the cost of the Italian Crash course; however you will be responsible to purchase the text.
- The Bocconi has academic advisors available for students. There will be a mandatory meeting for all exchange students regarding the process for registering for exams. You are required to attend this meeting so that you know how to register for exams.
- Course approval information will be found at:
- <http://www.bc.edu/offices/international/academics/courseapproval.html>
- Information about Transcripts and grades is available at: <http://www.bc.edu/offices/international/academics/transcripts.html>

Housing

- Bocconi offers housing in five private student residences and two other residences- which are associated with the university but privately managed. Single and double rooms are available- prices vary. Some accommodations are located very close to the Bocconi while others are a 20-30 minute walk or bus ride away. Exchange students are eligible to apply for this housing. Students will be contacted by Bocconi regarding the housing application process and housing assignment. Since housing is assigned on a first come first served basis, it is important that students follow the housing application procedures and meet the deadlines set by the Bocconi in order to be considered for housing.
- You will make payment for housing directly to Bocconi. Reservations and payment are handled through Bocconi.
- In the past, the most popular Bocconi housing was the Arcobaleno Residence Hall. Most of the international students reside at the Arcobaleno. It is approximately a 30 minute bus ride to the Bocconi. The bus stop is within a 5 minute walk. It's a great place to make friends from all over the world and it's essentially a small campus of people. The rooms

are setup with two bedrooms and one bathroom within each suite. You have a suitemate but you still have your own single room which is fairly large. There's also a small kitchen with a mini fridge in your room. As far as cooking goes, there are common kitchens on the second floor for everyone to use. It's a good time because everyone ends up making food together and eating at the large tables they have. The grocery store (Esselunga) is literally a block from the dorm so food is easy to shop for.

- The other popular housing option is the Spadolini, which is located approximately 10 minutes from the Bocconi. Mostly Italian students reside there.
- Cell phones: You may want to consider getting an Italian cell phone. Most students use the WIND service and there is a store right around the corner from Bocconi. It costs approximately 5 euro a month for 2000 minutes and 2 Euro a month for 4000 texts. You can add money to your phone if you need to make international calls by going to any Tobacco store or even some bars.
- Housing payments are made directly to the Bocconi on a monthly basis. You will have the opportunity to pay in one lump sum. When you check in to your residence hall you will receive a bill with payment instructions. Please note that if you don't make your payment on time, you will be charged a late fee penalty. Refer to www.ir.unibocconi.eu/housingisd for additional housing information.
- Your International Study Advisor will give you specific information on how to apply for housing.
- Meals: Meals are not included in the cost of housing. A self-service cafeteria is open to students every day except for Sunday. In addition there is a coffee bar in the basement of the university building. There are also numerous snack-bars close to the Bocconi and plenty of restaurants and supermarkets in the area.
- Local Transportation: Milan is a big city. Public transportation is easily accessible. You can get around by subway, bus or taxi.
- Cultural Activities: During the period of the Intensive Italian course, the International Relations office will host a reception/orientation meeting for all exchange students. In addition, student associations host social activities for exchange students throughout the semester. Other activities offered at the Bocconi may include a reduced priced performance at the Milan's famed opera house, La Scala, tours of various places in Milan and northern Italy, musical performances and conferences/lectures.

Wellness, Health and Safety

- Make sure that you have had any required or recommended vaccinations for your travel destinations by consulting the Centers for Disease Control website at www.cdc.gov.
- HTH Worldwide Insurance Services is an emergency health and emergency services provider. All registered BC students are covered by our blanket policy while living and traveling outside of the United States. For more information, visit the following website: <http://www.bc.edu/offices/international/travel-health-safety.html>
- You are advised to visit the U.S. State Department website: <http://www.state.gov/> for important travel information including travel advisories.
- Adjusting to a new culture and environment can be stressful. You will have a smoother transition by making sure that you prepare to remain healthy. Following are some websites that provide important information and advice about how to have a healthy and safe experience abroad:
http://kidshealth.org/teen/your_mind/emotions/culture_shock.html

<http://www.kwintessential.co.uk/cultural-services/articles/cultureshock-stages.html>
<http://www.bravenewtraveler.com/2007/11/20/the-4-stages-of-culture-shock-and-how-to-beat-them/>

- Be sure to visit the OIP website for additional information about Health and Safety:
<http://www.bc.edu/offices/international/travel-health-safety.html>
- Alcohol and Drugs
In many cultures, alcohol consumption is an acceptable part of the culture and people are taught to drink in moderation at home. Many countries have a lower drinking age than the U.S. while other countries have drinking and drug abuse laws that may be more severe. You are subject to the laws of your host country, so if you choose to drink alcohol abroad, always drink responsibly and be knowledgeable about your host country's laws by visiting: http://travel.state.gov/travel/tips/tips_1232.html#drug_offenses
- BC emergency contact information:
OIP: (617) 552-3827 (Monday-Friday 9am-5pm)
BC Police: (617) 552-4444 (outside of normal business hours)

Finances

The OIP website provides information about estimated expenses for study abroad:

http://www.bc.edu/offices/international/meta-elements/pdf/0910_estimated_stude.pdf

- Banking information- in the past students will use their US bank, ATM card. Check with your local bank for international fees, etc.
- Scholarships and Financial Aid information can be found at:
<http://www.bc.edu/offices/international/financesawards.html>

Returning to BC

- Complete a Program Evaluation. Upon completion of your program OIP will e-mail the link to the evaluation
- Mentor an exchange student from your host university by contacting oipexchange@bc.edu
- Volunteer for Discovery Night, Pre-departure Orientation, Re-entry seminar by contacting your International Study Advisor at oipadvise@bc.edu
- It is not uncommon when you return from studying abroad to experience "reverse" culture shock. The following may help you transition back to home:
<http://www.cie.uci.edu/prepare/shock.shtml>

<http://www.studyabroad.com/guides/handbook/handbook5.html#shock>

References

- Suggested readings – I strongly recommend that you carefully review all materials you receive with your acceptance letter.
- Useful websites:
Bocconi University Guide Book: www.ir.unibocconi.eu/inexchange
- Student and parent guides at <http://www.studyabroad.com/guides/index.html>