

My Erasmus Experience in Bergamo

My name is Yara, and I am thrilled to share my academic journey with you, pursuing a double degree at the University of Trier. After I completed my bachelor studies at the University of Bonn in "Volkswirtschaftslehre", I was searching for a master program that further deepens my economic background but also expands my knowledge in related topics and gives me a more practical perspective. I was fortunate to learn about the exceptional double degree program offered by the University of Trier in collaboration with the University of Bergamo in Italy.

Upon discovering this unique opportunity, I became aware of the program's structure, which deeply intrigued me. The program outlined a two-year plan, starting with the first year in Trier. During this initial phase, I engaged in lectures that provided valuable insights into the European and global economy, allowing me to earn 60 LPs. The second year of the program took place in the beautiful city of Bergamo, where I earned the rest of the necessary 60 LPs. The focus then shifted to data analysis and its integration within the field of economics and. The prospect of undertaking this double degree program not only appealed to my academic interests but also presented a chance to obtain two Master degrees in just two years; namely M.sc in "European Economic Integration" and M.sc in "Economics and Data Analysis"

Embarking on an Erasmus experience in Bergamo was absolutely memorable. The opportunity to immerse myself in a new culture, pursue a double degree, and make lifelong connections was exhilarating.

Arriving in Bergamo, I was immediately captivated by the city's picturesque landscapes, historical architecture, and welcoming atmosphere. The warm Italian hospitality made me feel at home from the very beginning.

The University of Bergamo provided an exceptional academic environment for my studies. The M.Sc. program in Economics and Data Analysis offered a comprehensive curriculum that combined theoretical knowledge with practical applications. I got the chance to expand my knowledge in the world of data and learn several programming languages. This helped me further understand economic patterns, relationships, and trends as we examined real-world data sets to identify meaningful correlations, and make informed predictions.

The double degree program with the University of Trier added an extra dimension to my academic journey. Collaborating with students from different cultural backgrounds, sharing ideas, and engaging in intellectual debates was truly enriching. Furthermore, studying data analysis combined with economics provided me with a powerful toolkit to analyse and solve real-world economic problems as well as make data-driven decisions.

Living in Bergamo allowed me to immerse myself in the vibrant Italian culture. Exploring the *citta alta* narrow cobblestone streets, historic landmarks, and charming piazzas became a daily routine. I quickly developed a fondness for Italian cuisine, indulging in delicious pasta, pizza, gelato, and, of course, espresso.

One of the highlights of my experience was the opportunity to interact with local students and the diverse international community. Whether it is going out for an aperitivo, skiing in the dolomites, pizza making class, karaoke night or game night, there was always an event planned by the ESN group. Additionally, several trips were organised to Rome, Parma, Brescia and many more cities around the area. It was wonderful to have the help and support of the Erasmus organisers as we could always turn to them in regards to any matters and find assistance.

My Erasmus year in Bergamo undoubtedly pushed me out of my comfort zone. The memories I made, the knowledge I gained, and the friendships I formed will continue to shape my future endeavours. Meanwhile, pursuing this double degree has definitely expanded my career horizons. Upon graduation, I was lucky to get offered several opportunities in my field of interest. For this and many more reasons, I am immensely grateful for this experience.