

HOW TO STUDY ABROAD IN MILAN



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Introduction

Italy's largest metropolitan area, Milan is one of the most prominent cities in Europe, both as a business epicentre and a tourist hotspot. It's also home to some of Italy's best universities, with a huge student population.

Due to the city's prominence in communication and marketing, creative industries and tourism, it's a great place to study if you want to pursue a career in these fields, with specialist courses at universities like IULM offering you expert tuition as well as stellar career advice, and those all-important industry connections.

International students coming to Milan will find a welcoming, buzzing city, with plenty to do, and plenty of graduate career opportunities.

In this guide, we will explore the best subjects to study in Milan, the best universities, how to apply for these courses, what student life in Milan is like, and how you can secure employment in Milan after graduation.

Andiamo!



Welcome to Milan

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Milan is a leading global city, particularly in the fields of art, design, commerce, communication, fashion, tourism and finance. It is the wealthiest non-capital city in the EU and is one of the world's four fashion capitals (the other three being London, Paris and New York City). It's also home to two of Europe's most successful football teams, A.C. Milan and F.C. Internazionale.

It has a huge student population of around

200,000

Located in the north of Italy, the city is in the region of Lombardy, and is the second-largest city in Italy by metropolitan area, and the largest in terms of the greater urban area. It has a huge student population of around 200,000 students, of which around 14,000 are from outside of Italy.

Strategically placed at the gateway to the Italian peninsula, Milan and the surrounding region of Lombardy have been the subject of constant disputes over the centuries. Celts, Romans, Goths, Lombards, Spaniards and Austrians have all ruled the city at some stage of its history and for the most part, the city has capitalised on its position and has emerged today as the undisputed economic powerhouse of Italy.

The seventh-most visited city in Italy, Milan's tourist industry plays a significant part in the economy of the city. However, it's very much a 'living city' – beautiful buildings and historic sites mingle effortlessly with international businesses, local bars and restaurants, and, of course, fantastic shopping.

The city is also ideally placed for exploring the rest of Italy, and indeed Europe, with the second-largest train station in the country the hub of high-speed rail lines in Northern Italy. Because of its position, Milan is also the main gateway for international passenger traffic to Europe. Daily international rail destinations include Bern, Geneva, Zurich, Paris, Nice, Marseille, Barcelona and Munich.



What to Study in Milan

Milan's prominence in the arts, tourism and communication means it's a perfect city for those wishing to study related subjects. Students can choose from a range of universities, from larger, public institutions like Politecnico di Milano, to top specialised private universities like IULM.

But where should you study?

It really depends on what course and university experience you're looking for, although you're sure to get a great education, wherever you choose to enrol.

Top public institutions in Milan

Two public universities in Milan feature in the top 500 schools in the world in the most recent QS World University Rankings: Politecnico di Milano and the University of Milan. The University of Milan Bicocca narrowly misses out on a spot in the top 500, ranked at 521-530 worldwide.

Politecnico di Milano

Politecnico di Milano is the highest ranked university in Italy according to the World University Rankings, at 137th place. The university offers undergraduate, postgraduate and higher education courses in three main subject areas: architecture, design, and engineering.

The university has seven campuses located in Milan and in other nearby Italian cities: Lecco, Cremona, Mantua and Piacenza. It is organized into 12 Departments and in 4 Schools, respectively devoted to research and education.

Politecnico di Milano offers innovative programmes at all academic levels. Almost the entire postgraduate academic offer is taught in English, thus attracting an ever-increasing number of international students, coming from more than 100 countries.



University of Milan

Founded in 1224, the University of Milan is a research-intensive university, offering high quality teaching at all levels in a broad spectrum of fields. Over the years, it has succeeded in maintaining a skilful blend of tradition and innovation, adjusting to the requirements of a fast-growing society without putting aside its distinctive traits.

The university is home to ten faculties, including:

- Faculty of Medicine
- Faculty of Humanities
- Faculty of Law
- Faculty of Exercise and Sports Sciences
- Faculty of Pharmacy
- Faculty of Political, Economic and Social Sciences
- Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences
- Faculty of Science and Technology
- School of Language Mediation and Intercultural Communication
- Faculty of Veterinary Medicine

The University of Milan possesses an important artistic and scientific heritage which is housed in various museums, libraries and archives.



Credit: IULM

Top private institutions in Milan

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Milan is also home to several private institutions which usually offer more specialised courses – for example, **Bocconi University** is known worldwide for its business courses, particularly MBA study.

Private institutions often have a smaller student population, meaning that students can develop closer relationships with lecturers and course-mates, and enjoy a small campus experience. For example, the **Università Vita-Salute San Raffaele** has around 2,200 students, compared to over 40,000 at Politecnico di Milano.

In contrast, Milan is also home to the largest private university in Europe, **Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore**, which has around 39,000 students.

If you’re looking for somewhere more in the middle, **IULM** could be the perfect fit for you. The university has just over 7,000 students, and gives a true campus university experience, whilst being close to the heart of the city. It specialises in programs that are directly related to some of Milan’s biggest industries (including communication, art, fashion and tourism), so has fantastic links to businesses in the city.



Undergraduate Programmes at IULM

IULM offers six undergraduate programmes (one of them taught also in English). IULM's three-year programmes are ideal for students hoping to work in the fields of communications, art, applied languages, tourism, fashion and creative industries.

- Interpreting and Communication
- Communication, Media and Advertising
- Corporate Communication and Public Relations (also in English)
- Arts, Media, Cultural Events
- Tourism Management and Culture
- Fashion and Creative Industries



To apply, you need a high school diploma, obtained after at least 12 years of schooling, a certificate declaring that you have finished secondary school or that you are enrolled in your final year and, if required by law by your country of origin, have successfully completed your university entrance exams. You will also have to be proficient in the language of tuition of your chosen course (English or Italian).



IULM offers many tuition reductions to outstanding students, covering 50% of their tuition fees in the next year.



Postgraduate Programmes at IULM

IULM offers seven two-year master's degrees (two of them taught in English) and several one-year master's degrees (with some taught in English).

Two-year master's degrees

- Hospitality and Tourism Management (taught in English - dual degree)
- Strategic Communication (taught in English - dual degree)
- Specialised Translation and Conference Interpreting
- Marketing, Consumption and Communication
- Television, Cinema and New media
- Art, Valorisation and Market
- Artificial Intelligence for Business and Society

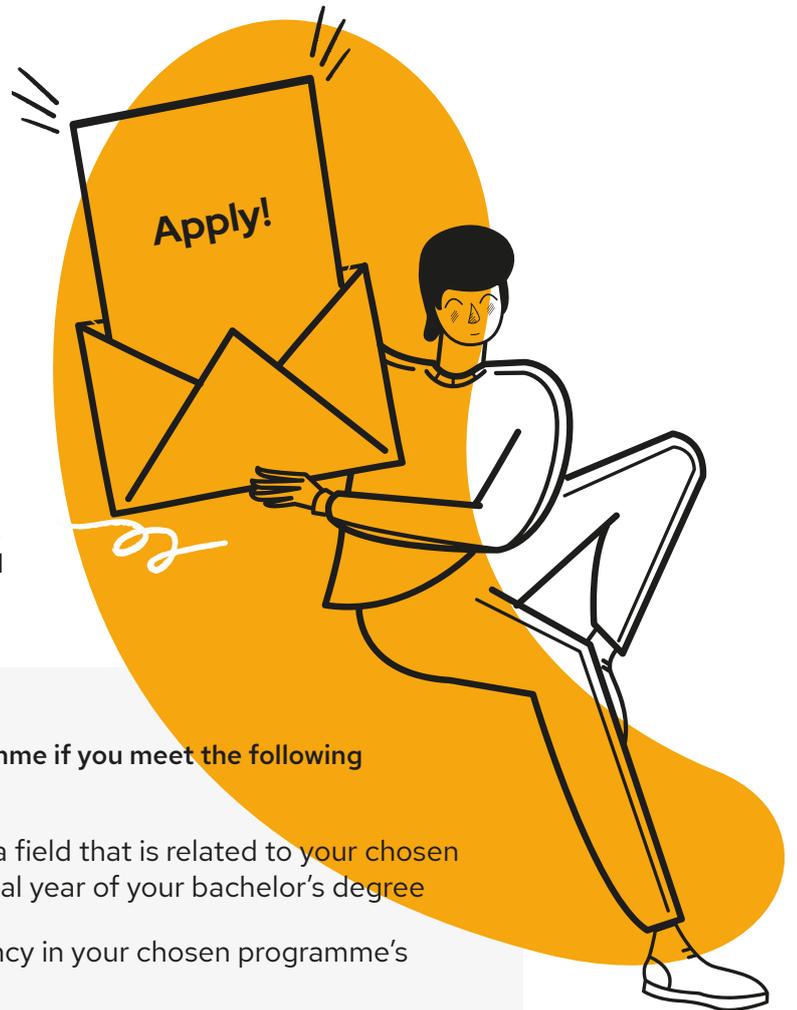


One-year master's degrees taught in English

- Communication for international relations (MICRI)
- International Communication (MIC)
- International Tourism and Hospitality (MITH)
- Museology, New Media and Museum Communication (Online)
- Food Design and Innovation
- International Marketing & Sales Communication +



Applying for a postgraduate degree at IULM is very similar to the application process outlined above for undergraduate students.



You can enrol in a Postgraduate Programme if you meet the following requirements:

- You possess a bachelor's degree in a field that is related to your chosen programme or are enrolled in the final year of your bachelor's degree
- You demonstrate language proficiency in your chosen programme's language of instruction
- You possess a basic knowledge of topics related to your chosen programme

Once it has been determined that you meet the curricular requirements, you will be eligible to take an **admission test** in order to assess your knowledge and competencies.



Milan for Students

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Credit: IULM

Milan is a dream city for students, with fantastic transport links, high quality of living, excellent nightlife, and a never-ending list of things to do. As a dynamic, international city, the mix of old and new means that you'll be living in a city that's always evolving.

Milan still holds something of a reputation for glamour and consumerism, and it's true that the city centre's range of swanky designer stores – especially within the stunningly designed Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II shopping centre – offer a taste of luxury and expense that's hard to rival, even if you're only window shopping!

However, Milan isn't solely a millionaire's playground – there's also a huge range of student-friendly activities and events, both

cultural and sporting (Milan is home to two of the biggest football teams in Italy, AC Milan and Internazionale Milano), as well as a vibrant nightlife.

Of course, immersing yourself in the local culture means getting to grips with the language too. Although many Italian universities offer English-taught degree programmes, it's still courteous to at least learn the basics. In fact, it'll be almost impossible to not find yourself speaking in Italian once you get to know it. Luckily, many universities offer Italian-language courses for foreign students, such as IULM, who hold courses before each semester in September and January/February to get you up to scratch.



Things to do and see

The great thing about being in Milan as a student, rather than just a holidaymaker, means that you have plenty of time to explore the city and its landmarks, like the Milan Cathedral and San Siro Stadium, as well as discovering hidden, local gems. We've rounded up some of the best spots in Milan below, but you're sure to make your own favourites during your time there.



Arts and culture

Milan is home to a vast array of museums, art galleries and cultural institutions. The epic Pinacoteca di Brera, the largest gallery in the city, includes paintings by Italian masters such as Caravaggio, Titian, Tintoretto and Bellini. One of the world's most famous artworks can be found in Milan, in the church of Santa Maria delle Grazie – Leonardo da Vinci's *Last Supper*.

The world famous La Scala opera house is another Milanese institution, which may be known for its opera performances but also has a superb orchestra and ballet company. The Piccolo Teatro di Milano is also one of Italy's most important modern theatres.



Food and Drink

Like most of Italy, Milan is a great destination for foodies, with restaurants, bars and cafes to suit all tastes and budgets. Milanese cuisine tends to focus more on ingredients like rice, meat and butter than other regions in Italy, with standout dishes including Risotto alla Milanese (a saffron flavoured risotto), Ossobuco (veal shanks braised in wine) and Cotoletta alla Milanese (fried, breaded veal cutlet).

As a student in Milan, you're likely to become very familiar with an Italian favourite – the aperitivo. An 'aperitivo' was originally defined as a pre-dinner alcoholic beverage, but in modern-day Milan it's not only a drink: it's also access to a selection of food, from small bar snacks to a full buffet. Generally, you will pay around €6-15 for a drink before helping yourself to some delicious pre-dinner treats.



Fashion and Shopping

For many, Milan is synonymous with one thing: fashion. The city is home to some of the most famous fashion houses in the world, including Armani, Dolce & Gabbana, Prada, Versace and Valentino. Over 20,000 visitors attend the Milan Fashion Week, of which there are four per year.

Even on a student budget, Milan is still a fantastic place to shop, with many designer sample sales and second-hand shops allowing you to snap up pieces from world-leading brands at a fraction of the cost. Alternatively, you can window-shop in the 'Quadrilatero della moda' (literally translated as the 'Square of Fashion'), which is full of upscale boutiques.



Nightlife

As you would expect from a city with such a large student population, Milan has some of the best nightlife in Italy. Bars and clubs are open most nights of the week, but the best nightlife can be found between Wednesday and Saturday. Wednesday is the traditional student night, with special discounts on drinks when you show your student ID.

There are countless nightlife centres in Milan, but one of the most popular is Navigli – the canal-side neighbourhood which is a hub for the aforementioned aperitivo. Watching the sun set over the water and heading to another bar or disco afterwards – what could be better?



Working in Milan After Graduation

The Porta Nuova is one of the most important business districts in Europe

As the economic and industrial hub of Italy, remaining in Milan to work after graduation is an attractive prospect for many students, both domestic and international. The Porta Nuova is one of the most important business districts in Europe, home to the Italian headquarters of numerous international conglomerates including AXA, Bank of America, HSBC, KPMG, BNP Paribas and Samsung.

Milan's highest score in the most recent QS Best Student Cities ranking was for employer activity, for which it's ranked 15th in the world. Corporate-minded students will find numerous internship and career opportunities within the city, with recruiters across Europe identifying universities in Milan as producers of highly employable graduates.

Most student visas will allow international to stay for up to a year after graduation to find employment. If you're from an EU country (or Norway/Lichtenstein), you won't require a permit to work in Italy. However, you will have to apply for residency with your local commune (town hall).

Non-EU citizens require a visa, residence and work permit to live and work in the country. There are different types of visa available depending on the purpose of your stay. When applying, you'll need to submit a completed visa application form, a valid passport, recent passport photographs and supporting documents, which will depend on the type of visa you're applying for.



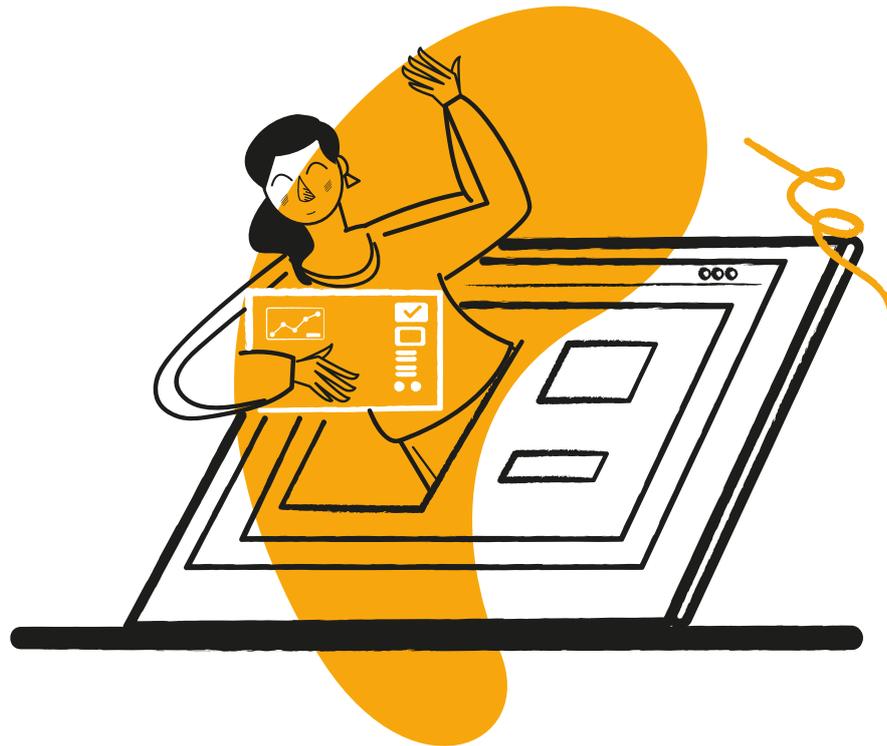
Top Employers in Milan

Whilst most people will automatically think of fashion and manufacturing when talking about careers in Milan, many of the top employers in the city are global companies in a broad scope of areas, such as finance, consulting and the automotive industries.

Italian companies UniCredit, Mediobanca, Pirelli and the Prysmian Group all have their global headquarters in Milan. However, there are also a huge number of international companies who have bases in Milan – the city is home to around 4,700 foreign-owned businesses' Italian headquarters, including:

- Alibaba (e-commerce)
- Amazon (e-commerce)
- BNP Paribas (banking)
- Coca Cola (beverages)
- Credit Suisse (banking)
- Facebook (technology)
- L'Oréal (cosmetics)
- LinkedIn (technology services)
- Microsoft (technology)

It's a good idea to look at these large multinational companies for graduate employment (particularly if you speak more than one language), but don't discount smaller companies and start-ups: Milan is fast-becoming Italy's start-up hub, and the tech sector is booming. Your university will be able to advise you on the best companies to apply for, as well as providing links with all sorts of industries.



Career services at your institution

Particularly for international students looking for work outside their home country, your university careers service can be invaluable in helping with job applications, CVs, mock interviews and networking opportunities.

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For example, the Career Service and Business Relations Office at IULM helps promote and maintain training and curricular internship experiences in Italy and abroad for students and graduates.

Through the university’s Placement service, students in their final year of studies and master’s students can find job opportunities as well as CV workshops, interview preparation sessions and job seminars.

IULM also promotes the learning of ‘soft skills’ throughout its degree programs, such as empathy and emotional intelligence, teamwork, stress and time management, problem solving, and strategy and innovation. The Placement service offers a counselling service aimed at supporting and preparing students for the interview process and to ensure appropriate mentoring for those doing internships.