



**Università  
Bocconi**  
MILANO



**Full name:** Roie Hofman

**Email:** [roiehof@gmail.com](mailto:roiehof@gmail.com)

**Degree Program at TAU:** MBA financial management

**Host University:** Bocconi, Milan

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### Exchange Experience

Bocconi University is a great option for anyone considering spending time abroad, trying a different study experience.

First, the university is located in the center of Milan, a cosmopolitan lively city, which makes you feel at home from the very beginning. Its location is ideal for traveling across Italy and Europe, with minimum funds and efforts. Personally, I chose going to Milan because I like the Italian life style, language and culture, and wanted to spend some time around as “a local”.

Secondly, Bocconi is one of the top universities and MBA schools in the world and in Europe especially. It is a private institution with a great reputation, specializing in finance and luxury.

As of spring 2020 the university opened its new campus. A modern and pleasant place to study in, with great facilities such as food area, sports center and much more.

Most of my class peers' age was around 24 years old, half Italian and half international. Although I had some group assignments, I cannot say I made any significant relationships with any of them. Luckily, I met a great group of Israeli exchange master students in this experience.

One of the main reasons I chose studying in Bocconi is its well-known business school, SDA. In the SDA programs you could study together with MBA, experienced and around your age students (27-33 years old). Unfortunately, they do not offer very convenient and attractive programs for exchange students and if you go eventually to Bocconi, you'd probably sit in MSc classes with younger students with not much professional experience. In case you do find the SDA programs attractive for you I'd highly recommend attending these classes and take part in this program. Also, I'd recommend in any case to try finding any connections to SDA students (through full time Israeli MBA students or in any other way) and take part in their extra-curricular and social activities.

## Studying Experience

The university offers a wide variety of opportunities and activities almost on a daily basis, relevant also for exchange students. The international students' desk (ISD) organizes social activities and tours around the city, professional workshops, guest lectures within student's union and many more. I'd recommend making the most of your exchange experience and take part in any event that may interest you or may be relevant to your career.

During my semester I took two courses:

### **1. Merger and acquisitions:**

This course was taken as part of my finance compulsory selection. Prof. Salvi gives a wide theoretical background about the M&A world together with practical knowledge given by industry professionals. Almost every second class we had a guest speaker such as bankers, hedge funds and family offices' executives, lawyers, insurance companies' directors and more. I really liked the mix between the two sides of this course and studied many new things, even as a Financial Management MBA student. The grade is made of a 100% exam which was very fair and needed 3-4 days of studying. I defiantly recommend this course if you would like to know more about that area and hear first-hand about great M&A deals made in Italy and Europe.

### **2. Luxury companies in the global landscape:**

First I must say I have no background or special interest in the luxury or fashion industries. Studying in Milan and Bocconi, a university specializing in the luxury industry, I knew I had to take one course in this field. During the class I was impressed how seriously Italians consider this industry. Again, prof. Lojacono gave some background about the relevant topics: business models, trends, marketing and more, while hosting guest speakers almost every second class. These guest lectures were unique and introduced me to luxury world. The guests were from top brands such as Ferrari, LVMH, BVLGARI, Dior and many more.

The course grade was comprised of:

- A group work in which we had to visit two given shops and write a comparative report about our luxury experience (I got Valentino and Dior).
- A group work in which we were asked to make a business plan for "Acqua di Parma" (LVMH group) and present it in class in front of the company executives. Chosen groups were invited to present their works in the company headquarters.

- Final Exam.

During the class we had a non-compulsory visit to one of the Gucci facilities nearby Milan, which was a very unique experience. In my overall experience, I defiantly recommend taking this class or any other class dealing with the luxury world, while studying in Bocconi. This field is very unique to Milan and Bocconi, very practical and probably very different from any other course you had at Tel Aviv University.

I also took two Italian courses offered by the ISD. These courses can give you the basics of the language which is nice during your time abroad and help you in your daily routine in the city. You defiantly won't be able to speak Italian after attending these courses.

### Transportation

I recommend purchasing the monthly pass as soon as you arrive. Download the ATM app (the local transportation company) and reserve an appointment at the beginning of the month in one of the main stations around the city, preferably not in the big ones like the central station or Duomo. The app is available also in English. Don't try going there without an appointment if you don't want waiting hours in line. For the next months you can charge your pass by yourself with no line.

### Housing

Most of the students I knew were living in the area between the Navigli and Porta Romana, on the route of tram number 9 (also where Bocconi is). I wouldn't recommend living outside the third ring circling the city – However it is of course also a matter of budget.

I lived in an Airbnb studio in the Navigli which was great. Airbnb may be a bit expensive, but you could find good, all furnished apartments in a wide range of prices and levels. Once you find a suitable place for you through Airbnb don't hesitate to contact the host, introduce yourself and ask for a special price since you're coming for a long period. Also, you could look for apartments through Facebook groups like 'Israelis in Milan' (keep away from other fishy groups or offers you may receive) or through agencies (such as 'Roofinders'). My advice is to start looking for a place and book it as soon as possible. The range of rent is 700-1000 euros for a shared apartment and 900-1400 euros for a studio, including bills. Yes, not cheap at all...

### Food

It's not a hard task finding a good Pizza or Pasta around Milan. However, I can recommend the following:

- Pizza AM (Porta Romana area)
- Be Bop (Porta Ticinese area, gluten free friendly)

- Spontini (many branches around the city)
- Pasta d'Autore (via Torino area)
- Trattoria Bolognese da Mauro (Navigli)
- Try also one of the 'Tigella's'/'Gnocco fritto' restaurants around the city.

Another common way for having a light dinner is Aperitivo where you usually get a free access to a buffet and one cocktail/wine for 8-12 euros. Don't expect the best food quality, but it's defiantly a nice and cheap way to have something light after school or before going out. Here, keep away from tourists' traps.

Some good options may be:

- Fonderie Milanesi (Bocconi area, reservation is recommended)
- Locanda Da Vinci (Navigli)
- La Hora Feliz (San Lorenzo)
- Madeira (Porta Romana)

For cocktail bars you should try Rita, Café Mag or Combo (all in Navigli).

For gluten free options try the app 'Mangiare senza glutine' but also don't hesitate to ask every place you cross by.

### Tips

- If you're interested in doing some sport or going to a gym during your stay in Milan, I recommend bringing with you in advance a certification from your Israeli doctor. A good option may be the sport center in the new campus. If you stay in the Navigli and into CrossFit, consider trying CrossFit Bullams.
- Pay attention that some courses have mid-term exam. During that mid-term exams period you'll have a break even if you don't have any exams. If you're lucky and don't have such exams, try make some plans in advance and go somewhere in Italy or Europe or just enjoy some days off in Milan.
- Try make the most of this opportunity and put yourself out of your comfort zone.

For any further questions or doubts don't hesitate contact me: [roiehof@gmail.com](mailto:roiehof@gmail.com).  
*Enjoy!*