

Congrats on getting into Bocconi! You'll love it here! Here are a few tips and tricks as well as important information you will need to know before coming to Bocconi! This document may also be helpfully on making your decision whether you want to attend this school or not!

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## A) Program of study

**Management of fashion companies:** for this class I took the online version because it fit better in my schedule. At Bocconi, course hours vary from week to week but have a base schedule. This class was on Monday and Tuesdays, and we had maximum 4.5 hours of class. (3 hours normally but sometimes will have an extra class for guest speakers) The assignments for this class were a group project and a final exam.

**Principles of E-Marketing and E-commerce:** this class was a maximum 3 hours a week with no extra class time. This class time did not change throughout the semester. It was every Wednesday and Thursday. The class has an interactive simulation (in groups), a group project and a final exam for assignments.

**Psychology of Marketing:** this class is very interesting!! Surprisingly my favourite class of my semester! This class has a group project and a final exam. Class is also 3 hours a week and did not change time throughout the semester. Class was on Mondays and Wednesday.

**Entrepreneurship and strategic innovation in the fashion industry:** this class has lots of work! And changes multiple times in the semester which makes it hard to manage with other classes. For example, class was on Mondays and Thursday but halfway through the semester class switched to Wednesday which caused an overlap for me. (most professors are understanding and try to work with you for overlaps) it would be best to try and not have any overlaps. This class has a simulation, a group project, and a final exam. First month is 3 hours a week, 2 classes. Second month there was no classes to prepare for project. third month is up to 6 hours a week for the simulation online.

### Things to know:

- Most classes have a final worth 60% or more. You are evaluated on a final project and a final exam only. You can see course descriptions on this [site](#).
- Some classes may have a 100% final no matter if you are an attending student or a non-attending student. The only difference is that you may have different study materials. There is more information on what a non-attending student is in the course selection section of this report.
- Most classes have a mandatory attendance of 75%. If this 75% is not reached, you will need to become a non-attending student. Some professors are more understanding of the overlaps for exchange students. Talk to your professor and find a solution if you do not want to be non-attending and have overlaps.

## B) Timetable

For reference: leaving for exchange on January 20<sup>th</sup> 2024

Oct 18 <sup>th</sup> -24 <sup>th</sup> 2023	Registration date with the school.
Nov 9 <sup>th</sup> 2023	Registration for Aparto (exchange student residence) do it!!!!!!
Dec 15 <sup>th</sup> 2023	Suggested last day to go to embassy to get visa. I suggest this date because it took three

	weeks for mine. (Appointment on Nov 22. Got Visa on Dec 15)
Jan 11 <sup>th</sup> 2024	Class selection (very competitive. Have multiple back-ups)
Jan 20 <sup>th</sup> 2024	First day that you can check-in to Aparto
Jan 25 <sup>th</sup> 2024	First day of orientation on campus
Jan 25 <sup>th</sup> – 31 <sup>st</sup> 2024	Days open to book check-in appointment
Jan 25 <sup>th</sup> – 5 <sup>th</sup> 2024	Orientation activities (some activities require booking)
Feb 5 <sup>th</sup> 2024	First day of classes
March 8 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup> 2024	Midterm exam period. (most classes don't have exams)
March 28 <sup>th</sup> – April 7 <sup>th</sup> 2024	Easter break
May 10 <sup>th</sup> 2024	Start of exams
June 1 <sup>st</sup> 2024	End of exams

## C) Arrival

I recommend arriving two weeks before the start of classes. This will give you enough time to settle in before the first day of orientation which is 10 days before the start of classes.

**Permit of stay:** in addition to the visa you got before entering the country, you also need a permit of stay. The process of this permit must be started within 8 business days of being in Italy. During orientation, Bocconi will give you the documents that you need to fill out and submit.

- What you need:
  - The documents given to you by the school.
  - Bank statement
  - Bocconi acceptance letter
  - Picture of passport and visa
  - Stamp (get at any tabacchi)
  - Record of insurance

You will have to submit all these documents to the Poste Italiane. I suggest going in the morning on a weekday because they “run out of spots” at the end of the day. At the post office, they will give you a date for your appointment. This appointment is at the police station, and you will need to get your fingerprints taken.

**Please note:** the 8 business days within you need to submit your forms only starts when you enter Italy and not when you leave Canada.

**Orientation:** the activities that the school plans is the best way to meet new friends! Make sure to sign up for the activities that they have.

- **School applications to download:**
  - yoU@B: this will allow you to access your school email, attendance recording and much more!

- yoU@B Pro: you need the pro app to be able to book the different orientation activities under the appointment tabs. You can also see your full class schedule and exam schedule on this application.
- Blackboard: this app will allow you to see all your classes and the class content. It is essentially like what we use at uOttawa “Pulse”.

**Add/drop period:** after the first week of classes, there will be an Add/Drop period. You will be able to switch your schedule around with different classes during this time. Don't lose hope! Many classes become available during this period. If you don't get the classes you want during the first course selection period, you will most likely be able to get them during this period. Make sure you always keep the required number of classes in your schedule. Only drop one class when the one you want becomes available.

## D) Budget

Housing	Housing in Aparto: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Single room: 6200 CAD</li> <li>- Shared room: 4200 CAD</li> </ul> Other housing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ranges between 6000-10000 CAD</li> </ul>
Food	Budget around 70-100 CAD a week (food is less expensive than in Canada!)
Travel	6500 CAD <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- This allowed me to do 4 weeklong trips + 2 weekend trips + 5 day trips</li> <li>- Travelling in groups and hostels</li> </ul>
Flights from Canada and back	I strongly recommend getting a round trip ticket as it is much less expensive. Therefore, if you want to travel after your exchange, plan that trip beforehand and book a flight back at the end of your trip. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- My tickets: 900 CAD round trip</li> </ul>
Travel medical insurance	For insurance, look into getting it from your bank provider. CAA also offers travel insurance for long periods of time. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 500 CAD for whole stay</li> </ul>
Legal documents (visa, permit of stay)	Visa: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Visa (74 CAD) <b>cash only</b></li> <li>- 2 passport size pictures (25 CAD) can be done at shoppers.</li> </ul> Permit of stay: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Stamp (16 EUR)</li> <li>- Submitting permit of stay (70 EUR)</li> <li>- Appointment (30 EUR)</li> </ul>
Phone plan	25 EUR registration fee + 15 EUR monthly

Transit	10 EUR registration fee + 22 EUR monthly
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## E) Before arrival

### Visa process:

- Appointments at the Italian embassy are only on Wednesdays. You will need to book an appointment online beforehand. Initial embassy appointment should be scheduled before Dec 15<sup>th</sup>.
- By the date of your appointment, you will need the following:
  - o Visa application form filled out and printed ([form link](#))
  - o Acceptance letter
  - o Flights there and back
  - o Proof of accommodation
  - o Bank statement
  - o Proof of uOtt schooling
  - o Valid passport
  - o Passport picture
  - o Medical insurance
- You will have to give your passport to the embassy until your visa is ready to pick up. Make sure you do not have any travel plans between those two appointments.

### Application process:

- Make sure to always check your emails. Bocconi is very organised and will keep you updated on all the steps needed for your application.
- **Italian crash course:** I strongly recommend enrolling into the crash course! This was very helpful. At the time of your registration to the school (Oct 18<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> 2023) you will have the option to register for the Italian crash course. I recommend joining the course even if you already know Italian as it is a good refresher. There are multiple levels that you can be placed in, from beginner to intermediate. When you register for the course, if you state that you are beginner you won't have to do a test but if you enter that you know some Italian, you will need to complete a test to be placed in a certain level.

### Course selection:

- Course selection is very competitive. I recommend you have multiple back-up classes and back-up schedules. Before the actual registration date. You can make mock schedules. To do this you can go to the yoU@B website and click on the "Incoming exchange students: course & exam schedule" this will allow you to see the standard schedule of different classes and when their final exams are.
- **Overlapping course:** even if your standard schedule does not overlap you may still have overlapping classes later in the semester because some classes have added class time or simply change time from week to week. This [link](#) will allow you to see the week-to-week schedule for each class.

- **Non-attending student:** if you do have an overlapping class and both classes require attendance, you can become a non-attending student. This means you will only have a 100% final exam and are not required to attend class. As a non-attending student, you need to study the textbook whereas an attending student, you only have to study the professors' slides.
- **Overlapping final exam:** it is very important to make sure that none of the classes you take have any overlapping final exams.

**Facebook group:** Before your arrival, you will be sent an email about a Facebook group chat that allows you to connect with other students going on exchange at the same time as you. I strongly recommend joining as it is how I made multiple friends even before the exchange. It is also a great way to find roommates if you did not get the Aparto residence.

- On the Facebook group, the administrators will send a WhatsApp link for a group chat. The WhatsApp is the best way to stay connected and find out about different exchange events.

## F) Housing

Price of single room in Aparto Giovenale: 6200 CAD

Address: Via Col Moschin 18

### Things to know about Aparto:

- **Payments:**
  - To secure a room, you will have to pay a deposit of 1400 CAD in addition to the 6200 CAD. You will get this deposit back at the end of your stay.
  - The 6200 CAD must be paid in whole.
- Aparto may not be the best option for you if you are planning on having friends from home visit you and stay with you. They do not allow any guests staying over and are strict on this rule.
- **Aparto Pros and Cons:** While I still recommend Aparto as it is the easiest and safest way to find accommodation as well as make many friends that are going to Bocconi as well, it has some down sides as well. Here are some pros and cons about Aparto:

Pros	Cons
Best way to meet people	No sheets or towels
Easy to apply	While they say that the kitchen will be equipped with basic kitchen items (pans, spatula, big spoons, pots, bigger knives) there was barely any of these items in my kitchen. I would not count on any of these items being there.
Very close to Bocconi	Plates, bowls, cups and cutlery are not included
Great location from Centertown	No visitors allowed
Very safe	
Washer (3.50EUR), dryer (1.50EUR) and iron detergent included	

- **Aparto flea market:** this is a market that Aparto organises! It is all free house items that exchange students from previous semesters left behind. You can find pots, pans, plates, bowls, laundry baskets, decorative pillows, organizer baskets, rugs, etc....
  - o Best place to get most of your necessities for your room and kitchen would be Primark and Kasanova. There is an Ikea as well, but it is far from Aparto.

## G) Other comments and recommendations

### Applications for travelling:

- Skyscanner: allows you to see all flight options with different airlines.
- Train applications: I recommend looking at both sites when looking for trains.
  - o Trainline: for booking trains all over Europe.
  - o Omio: for booking trains all over Europe.
- Wanderlog: travel planning
- Airalo: allows you to buy data for different countries.
- ATM: application used for transit system. Tickets for bus, tram and metro can be bought on this application.

**Phone plans:** there are 3 main phone providers: Windtre, TIM, Vodatrone. They are all very similar. I have Windtre and pay 14.99 EUR per month. This allows me to get 200 Giga of data in Italy, unlimited minutes in Italy, 300 minutes of international calling and 15 Giga of international data. The phone plan does not include the UK and Switzerland. You will also need to pay 20 EUR + 5 EUR for the activation. The 5 EUR is put onto your account to be able to activate iMessage. iMessage will not work without putting the 5 EUR into your account.

**Transit:** unlimited transit is around 22 EUR a month. For the first month you will need to buy the card for 10 EUR. I suggest buying the card online (on the [ATM transit](#) website) and loading 0\$ on the card. To obtain the card, you will need to go to one of the metro stations and go to one of the red machines and follow the steps on the screen. Then going into one of the ATM info points with your card and load that card with the unlimited plan. For the next months, you will be able to buy the unlimited plan on the application and will not have to go to any of the info points.

**Italian tax code:** YOU HAVE ONE!!! As a non-EU student, you will automatically be given an Italian tax code (codice fiscale). You can find your personal tax code when you first sign up for your registration on the **Universitaly** website. This is the first process of the registration. You will receive emails from Bocconi on how to fill it out.

- Why do I need an Italian tax code:
  - o ATM transit card
  - o Booking appointments with doctors
  - o Permit of stay
  - o Online ordering (some stores don't require it)

**How to see a doctor:** At Bocconi, there is a doctor on campus on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 9am-2pm. To book an appointment, you will need to email [ambulatorio.bocconi@mc.humanitas.it](mailto:ambulatorio.bocconi@mc.humanitas.it) and book an appointment through them.



**Getting to Bocconi from the airport:** you will most likely be landing in MXP. I recommend booking a driver in advance to have a stress-free arrival. Most taxis waiting for people at the entrance will scam you. The airport does have a train “Malpensa express” bringing people into the city every 30 minutes but I do not recommend this with all the luggage you will have. Communicate with other uOttawa exchange students going to Bocconi as well and try to get on the same flight and book a car service together. It is much cheaper and safer than taxis.

## **H) My experience in Milan at Bocconi University**

I would recommend to anyone on going to Bocconi University! The school is very organised and cares a lot about their exchange students. They have planned multiple events for us and have tried to make our exchange experience as enjoyable as possible! As for Milan, this is a great city to live in! the location of the school is in a more suburb area but also very close to Navigli, a famous canal with lots of restaurants and night life. Milan is also a very central city, and it is very easy to get to other cities in Europe! Milan is a beautiful city and Bocconi is an amazing school, the courses offered are also very interesting and unique. If you like fashion, this is the school for you! They have so many different business fashion classes. Overall, this exchange has been amazing so far! I love every part of it, the school, the friends, the city and the travelling!