

REPORT ON MY ERASMUS EXPERIENCE

1. What is your name and which program did you attend?

Francesco Colcerasa, Erasmus+

2. Where and when did you go during your Erasmus program?

Sep '18 – Feb '19, KU LEUVEN, Belgium

3. How did you like living there?

Half of Leuven population is made of students and it created a nice and stimulating environment where to live. The city is small and cozy, it is possible to find all what is needed, and all kind of provided services are efficient. Everything can be reached in few minutes, thanks to a large use of bicycles and to a strong commitment against the use of cars. The international community is deeply rooted in the everyday life and the university provides events and rooms to favor the integration with other nationalities.

There could be plenty more positive aspects to stress, but in few words I can say with no doubt that Belgium and Leuven are the perfect places where to do an Erasmus experience.

4. What about *the University*?

KU Leuven is a well organized and efficient university. It provides students plenty of services and spaces, where to spend hours for studying and relaxing. There is the possibility to have the access to every library and space of the university through a magnetic student card, also useful for getting discounts and support outside the academic environment. There are central libraries other to each faculty library and in each one it is possible to print, scan, use computers and relax. There is a huge sport-campus where all kinds of activity are offered, often for free. There are some supervisors having the responsibility to assist the students for a broad range of issues, going from difficulties in studying to bureaucratic procedures.

5. What is the level of the courses? Did you find similarities to those in Tor Vergata?

The level is high, and a strong preparation is required, as lot of topics are considered as already acquired. Furthermore, there is more space for discussions about a broad range of topics, based on academic papers, especially in advanced courses. In some cases, there are similarities, like in Welfare Economics course, where the professor was explaining topics and the students taking notes. In other cases, there were no “classical lectures”, but there was a more interactive approach, where I was asked to study a paper and discuss about it during the class with my classmates. This was a part of the examination evaluation. I think that a mixture of the two extreme approaches could be optimal, reaching a strong theoretical background and stimulating students’ interest in economic topics, giving a more practical perspective.

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6. Is there any particular advise that you would like to give to another student who will go there in the future?

I would suggest keeping calm and to not be scared of what he/she could have been told about Leuven. The method is different, for some points, and the evaluations could be tougher, but we have a solid background, sometimes even more than other international students, and with a bit of effort good results are perfectly achievable.

7. Do you wish to be contacted for further information by interested students?

Yes, no problem.