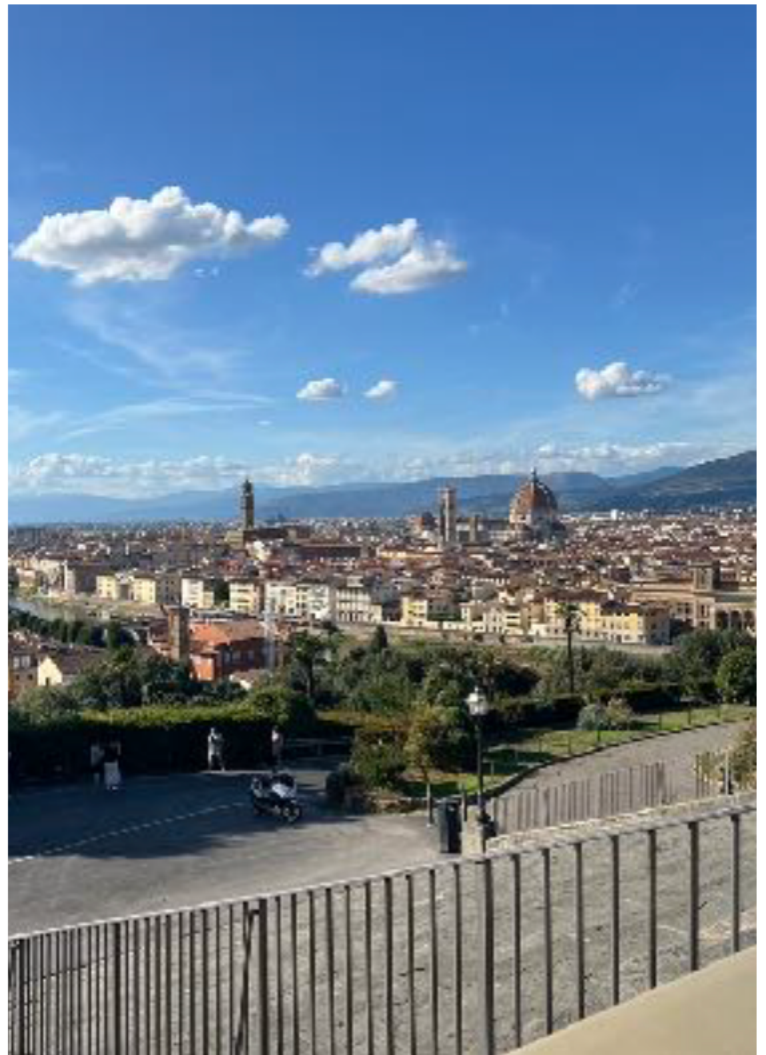


BIP Florence Experience Report

September 2024



Bachelor Information Systems



Before arriving in Florence

Accommodation

The university gave us some accommodation recommendations close to the university, but I decided to go for a hostel in the city centre. It is called PLUS Hostel and a lot of other students also chose to stay there. It has a great location, a pool area and a rooftop bar and is also very cheap compared to other places in Florence. It was also very clean. It took us half an hour to get to the university, but we didn't have problems to go out in the evening and it was only a 10 min walk to the train station. I would definitely recommend the hostel.

Transportation to Florence

I chose to take a flight from Cologne to Bologna since it is way cheaper than flying directly to Florence. From Bologna there is a shuttle which brings you directly from the airport to the main train station in Florence for 20€. Otherwise you can also take the macroni express from the airport to the Bologna train station and go from there by train to the train station in Florence. Flixbus and train from Cologne to Florence unfortunately would have taken more than 20 hours with a lot of changing trains/busses. I can recommend to arrive a few days earlier to explore the city and get to know the other students.

Transportation

From the hostel you could walk everywhere in the city centre, but there are also busses which you can use. There is an app called at bus, where you can buy tickets online and activate them, when needed.

University

We had university from Monday until Friday mostly from 9am to 7pm. We had classes on every topic important to building and financing our own sustainable business. Before arriving in Florence we had to think about a sustainable business idea which we then had to pitch in our group. You had to choose one idea which you will then work on the whole week. The days were very similar: first there was a lecture and afterwards we had to work in

our group on this topic with a presentation of our work later on. At the end there was a final presentation and we had to write an essay after our time in Florence.

There were also some activities planned like a university tour, an apericena (a mix of aperitivo and dinner), a city walking tour, a farewell dinner and a bus city tour (would definitely recommend to do the red line).

Life in Florence

Since the weekdays are mostly packed with classes, you won't have too much time to explore the city during the week. We still used the time left and went for dinner and gelato everyday and mostly a bar or club afterwards. Some really good restaurants we found where La Piazzetta di Lorenzo and Ciro & Sons. There was also a nice karaoke bar named Red Garter. For partying we went to the Central Club and Villa Vittoria, which host Erasmus parties and are both very chic open air clubs. We got the feeling that partying in Florence is very chic in general.

All in all, we had a great time in Florence and I would definitely recommend you to apply! If you have any questions, feel free to contact me.