



# UNIVERSITÀ BOCCONI

Milan

## Summer School 2024

On-Campus Course – Sustainability Transformation, ESG  
Finance and Energy Management

## **Preparation**

Università Bocconi is generally very well-organised in its dealings with summer school students. After receiving the acceptance letter, the acceptance process begins in the same system in which the application took place. In addition to accepting the offer, this also includes the possibility of renting accommodation near campus. For the Summer School, Bocconi works together with the private student accommodation 'aparto Giovenale'. You can book various room options here. I had a single ensuite flat, which means that I had my own one-bedroom flat with a private bathroom. The facilities include a shower towel as well as bed linen and duvet covers, comparable to a hotel. You share the kitchen with the other residents in your area, which usually comprises ten parties. You can move into your room one day before the start of the summer school (Sundays). Check-out is the day after the exam (Saturdays).

In total, a room costs €1,517, which seems expensive compared to Cologne, but is reasonable in relation to the rental prices in Milan. Other fellow students opted for Airbnb, but the only way to get a better price was to accept a significantly worse location. I would clearly recommend 'aparto' here. As 'aparto' becomes a hotel in the summer months, the rooms are cleaned regularly. During the three weeks, you can expect two cleanings, which are announced well in advance by e-mail.

As far as transport is concerned, you don't have to worry about anything in advance. I would recommend travelling to Milan Linate Airport, which is the city airport with the shortest route into the city. The transfer into the city is either by metro or taxi. A tip: a normal taxi costs about half as much as an Uber. The Summer School also includes an ATM Card (Azienda Trasporti Milanese), which covers local public transport in Milan. This card allows free travel by bus, train and metro for the entire duration of the Summer School.

Further steps, such as registration in IT systems like Blackboard, will be clearly communicated and organised in due course. There were no problems here.

## **Università Bocconi**

The Università Bocconi is characterised by its location, its campus and its magnificent buildings, which give it a very special character. There is also a modern sports centre and several canteens on campus. The food in the canteens was okay, but there are many alternatives near the campus where you can get very good food for the same money. The sports centre is very expensive, which is why I chose the fitness room in the 'aparto', which is absolutely sufficient for three weeks and is included in the rent.

The Bocconi is generally well-prepared for guest students. At the beginning, there are introductory meetings where all the important information and contacts from all areas are provided. In the first week, there are also introductory events such as a cooking class followed by a dinner and a bus tour of Milan. These events are included in the course fee. A highlight in the last week of the summer school was an all-white party, where you could see all your fellow students from the other courses again.

## **Course: Sustainability Transformation, ESG Finance and Energy Management**

In general, it can be said that the course was very interactive and flexible. The course instructor Andrea Biancardi encouraged discussions with the students, which was very interesting, especially in such a geopolitical subject area. The fellow students came from all over the world, which opened up new perspectives. Overall, there was a very good atmosphere on the course, which meant that group activities were also organised outside of lesson times. Each course had a student supervisor who, alongside the professor, was available to answer questions and provide information.

In terms of content, the course dealt with the challenges of sustainable development, climate change, the energy transition, corporate sustainability, ESG and sustainable financing. Particular attention was paid to the innovation processes of companies, new business models and the development of sustainable values.

Specific examples of content in the area of climate and energy were the Anthropocene, planetary boundaries and tipping points, causes and consequences of climate change, the voluntary carbon market, the energy transition and the future of energy. In the area of corporate sustainability, we dealt with the importance of ecosystem services and the dependence of companies on nature. We discussed the Task Force on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD), the EU Reforestation Act and the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD). On the topic of sustainable finance, we analysed the EU Sustainable Finance Disclosure Regulation (SFDR), the difference between Article 8 and 9 funds and discussed impact investing.

The course had one or two lectures per day, with each lecture lasting three hours with a break. These were not only traditional lectures, but also guest lectures, company visits and in-class assignments. Classical lectures therefore only made up half of the time. The grade was made up of two parts: 50% in-class assignments and 50% a final individual written examination. The in-class assignments included group work and general participation in the class. The final exam consisted of a one-hour written exam consisting of ten multiple-choice questions and two open questions. The exam took place on the last day, the Friday of the third week. The Thursday before was scheduled as a study day, which was sufficient to successfully pass the exam. To take part in the exam, you needed an attendance rate of 80%. The exam was passed if you achieved 18/30 points.

In principle, there is the possibility of credit transfer at the University of Cologne. I therefore had this course recognised as 'SM Studies Abroad in Management II'.

## **Life in Milan**

Life in Milan is strongly characterised by Italian culture. The long nightlife in particular offers a good opportunity to do something in the evening. However, as with rents, you should also be prepared for a slightly higher cost of living.

The city itself offers numerous activities. In addition to the tourist attractions such as the Duomo di Milano, the Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II and the Castello Sforzesco, the Prada Foundation, Porta Nuova and Brera are particularly recommended. A good district to go out in the evening is Navigli.

For a weekend trip, it is worth taking a trip to Lake Como, which offers fantastic nature and a welcome cooling off from the warm city, especially in summer.