



UU Report - Exchange

Faculty/college	Graduate School of Natural Sciences
Level (bachelor's or master's)	Master's
Name study programme	Mathematical Sciences

Destination city & country	Trento, Italy
How did you travel to your destination?	Train
Name university abroad	Università di Trento
Start date	01 / 09 / 2025 (dd/mm/yyyy)
End date	01 / 02 / 2026 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

How did you experience the exchange application process at Utrecht University?

Generally good, at the start it is a bit overwhelming and it is not so clear which documents you are required to submit, but if you start in time you can prepare everything correctly.

How did you experience the counselling & support from the International Office?

Good, usually you get a reply within a week, and you can also ask advice on what to do if your partner university is a bit unclear.

Did you do any language preparation? If so, what did you do?

Just Duolingo to pick up some basic words, as it was not required to learn Italian for my courses. I followed a language course at the university during my exchange.

How did you finance your exchange?

Since I don't receive a DUO grant, it was a combination of savings from working the years before, the Erasmus grant (which was halved in my year) and financial aid from my parents.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

How was the organisational process regarding your course registration?

- Was it difficult to find and/or change selected courses?
- Can you say something about the language of instruction for the courses available?
- Which courses did you end up taking?

It was a bit complicated to select courses because the study guide was not so easily comprehensible, so you really need to take your time to look through it and look several times, as information can change. I then selected courses based on the year before and asked the professors if this course was still offered in the upcoming year. The language of all my courses was English. Changing courses was not so hard, the university was quite flexible with it, and they recommend you to ask the permission for courses a bit later so you don't have to repeat all the steps of contacting both your home and partner university before you are sure what courses you want to do. I ended up taking three mathematics courses (Mathematical Modelling and Simulation (6 EC), Mathematical Biology (9 EC) and Machine Learning (6 EC)), the Introduction to Italian Culture (6 EC) and a language course (3 EC).

How was the academic quality of the courses?



Generally a bit lower than at home, the lectures were slower and the emphasis is on the end of the semester when you have to know everything, instead of having tests/homework throughout the semester. The course Mathematical Biology was of very high quality however.

How did you experience the counselling & support from the host university?

Good, the international office is quick to respond and was very helpful in sending me the tax code I needed to sign my housing contract even though they usually send them later.

STUDENT LIFE

How was the welcome & orientation programme?

There was no university welcome programme, only a short introduction meeting in which they explain the basics on how to register. The Erasmus Student Network hosted an introduction week in the third week of September, which was okay but very chaotic. I didn't really end up meeting my friends through ESN events but more through the different WhatsApp groups related to Erasmus.

How was the process of finding housing? For example, was it difficult finding housing, how was the rent, was it what you expected?

For me it was not so hard, I went to look through offers on Facebook and subrented a room. I really did not want to register with a big agency and risk being scammed, but many people I know found a room just fine that way. The university recommends a lot of housing websites on their site. It can also help to join the Erasmus whatsapp groups a month or 2 before your stay, because many students in the previous semester look for students to take over their contract. I already fixed my housing 4 months in advance because I was a bit panicked about not finding anything in time, but I think that was not necessary. My rent was €455 a month, the fee for the agency was about €500 (which is annoying but common) and my room was a bit small but in the middle of the centre.

What did you do for leisure & culture?

Trento's night life does not have much to offer, but there are a lot of bars to do an aperitivo and hang out with friends. It helps to subscribe to different Instagram channels to get an idea of what is going on, like Bookique, Sanbapolis, Basement and Simposio – there you find events and parties being promoted. ESN occasionally organises some nice events to meet people and some trips (this year the trips were all a bit chaotic). Other than that, Trento is great for hiking and outdoor sports, and there are a lot of helpful people that can help you out with the logistics and equipment you might need. I did not have any hiking experience before coming here myself. Trento is also relatively okay connected to cities in the north, so it's very doable to visit Rovereto, Bolzano, Venice, Verona, Padova and Vicenza in a day, and make weekend trips to Milan, Turin, Bologna, Ravenna, Rome, etc. With the high speed train also Napels is quite manageable.

CONCLUSIONS

Would you recommend this university/destination to others? Please explain.

I really would! It's a small place and it's very different from Utrecht, so I had to get adjusted to it a bit, but I've met so many nice people and the nature is truly beautiful. Trento has a lot of random events going on, the city is very clean and (relatively) well-organized and the weather is often clear and beautiful.

Do you have any additional advice or comments for students who would like to go here?

I can recommend to be friendly to Italian people in your courses and have a coffee or lunch with them. I ended up making a lot of Italian friends and found a really nice community here, and locals can recommend a lot of nice events and places to you (even though there is a bit of a language barrier). Another tip is to check out the Poplar festival, it's student organized and they do a big event in June and in September.