



**POLITECNICO**  
MILANO 1863

DIPARTIMENTO  
DI INGEGNERIA GESTIONALE

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# THINK INTERNATIONAL

## General aspects

- **Language: often host universities offer language courses**

*“They offer here a very complete Russian course (free of charge).*

*Usually, the administration staff does not speak English and this spurs the students to learn a bit of Russian”.*

*“The language barrier is important, very few people are English-speaking (Moscow)”*

- **Eligibility: pay attention to each course’s prerequisites!**

*“Very often exam programs take for granted a lot of previous knowledge needed to pass the exam (KTH, Sweden)”*

*“I have checked with the department and unfortunately you aren’t eligible for the course xxx. However, you are eligible for the course yyy, do you want to take that course instead? (BTH, Sweden)”*

- **Grades: in Sweden a lot of courses have a grading pass/fail, not easy to convert**

*“A lot of my colleagues had to change their LA to insert courses with a different, more explicit, grading system (KTH)”.*

## General aspects

- **Pay attention to minimum-credit requirements at the host university!**

*“The KTH website does not provide info about this. We are then informed about this by the host coordinator: the minimum per semester should be 22 ECTS, the maximum 33 ECTS.”*

*“NO minimum credits in Moscow.”*

*“In my LA the 3 credit course will not be convalidated but it could be needed to reach the cutoff of 20 minimum credits asked by LUT University (Finland)”*

- **Overlapping course schedules and changes to the LA: very frequent!**

*“For some courses the lecture schedule changes once the semester has begun and sometimes we have some overlapping between courses and so we have to change our LA. Be ready to change your study plan! (Moscow)”*

- **Exam sessions not temporally in line with the Poli’s ones**

*“When I arrived here the Poli exam session was beginning and I didn’t manage to give my exams (I did not want to give up my first 2 months in Erasmus, these are the crucial months to meet people and to fully enjoy this experience). As a consequence, when in June I finished my exams abroad I had to immediately begin those at Poli while I was still abroad (BI Norwegian Business School, Oslo.)”*

## General aspects

- **Host coordinators very useful and available**

*“Very flexible to help us to deal with different problems (KTH)”*

*“Impeccable in following us (BI Norwegian business school di Oslo)»*

*“The Russian office for mobility is always flexible and useful”.*

*“Support from tutors to students during the exchange was very good(Aalto)”*

- **Finding the accommodation**

*“Maybe it was the biggest problem. Very often KTH does not give you an accommodation. Starting in advance with the search is crucial and finding contacts of people who live in Sweden.”*

*“It is very difficult to find home, and much more difficult to find a place in the student residence ■ if you go to Chalmers you should enroll to [www.sgs.se](http://www.sgs.se) e [www.chalmersstudentkar.se](http://www.chalmersstudentkar.se) (first come, first served)”*

*“The dorm is very cheap (20€/month), allows to socialize, and there are a gym, a ping pong room, study rooms (besides shared kitchen obviously) (Moscow).”*

*“Campus in Moscow are modern and well equipped. Inside you can find a cafeteria, shops, etc. The library is huge and well stocked, with a lot of books that can be read online.”*

- **Multi-campus universities**

*“KTH has different campuses, even very distant ones (more than 1h from Stockholm). If you are uncertain on the courses to select, I suggest to avoid very distant campuses.”*

# General aspects

- **Host universities: large or small?**

*“In large universities there are many Erasmus students and it is difficult to bond with people. Choosing a small university/city may help. (Chalmers)”*

- **Usually a smaller number of students per class**

*“The number of students per class is usually limited (only one course has more than 50 students) and, as a consequence, the professors get to know students personally and are generally more accessible (Mosca)”.*

*“Students are much assisted, as the university is rather small and this allows to support students (Hanken business school).”*

- **Before-you-go webinars**

“Very complete and useful to understand all the necessary bureaucratic steps. There is a lot of paperwork to do and it is important to have all the required documents (Moscow)”

# Country-specific aspects

- **Scandinavian countries:**

Remember that from November to January days are very short while from May to July they are very long (the dawn is at 3 a.m.)!

- **Russia:**

«Online resources (Zoom, Teams, their BeeP) very often do not work appropriately (Moscow).» Saturday is a lecture day in Moscow.

- **Finland:**

- **Aalto**

*«The link between courses and local private companies is very tight and there are a lot of opportunities of events, hackathon, jobs, internship. I appreciated very much the fact that you are very close to the nature»*

- **Hanken Business School**

«if you are attending the bachelor you cannot take their master courses.»

*«Being a business school and not a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) made the writing of the LA a not simple procedure»*