

**Experience Report**  
**Università degli studi Roma Tre, in Rome, Italy**  
**By Nehel Sancho Soldevilla**

**1. Introduction**

I am a student enrolled in the International Business program (PO21) at Hochschule Trier. I had the opportunity to attend Università degli Studi Roma Tre (UR3) in Rome, Italy for my semester abroad. Due to the limited availability of English-taught courses, I primarily studied Economics, as these courses were the closest to my field and met the requirements for credit recognition at my home university. My time in Rome offered a mix of challenges and learning experiences, both academically and personally.

**2. Academic Aspects**

The application process for UR3 was not particularly difficult; however, navigating their HelpDesk system, which was entirely in Italian, proved to be quite challenging. Communication was often frustrating, as there was no dedicated Erasmus coordinator to assist international students effectively. Once enrolled, I took four courses: Sustainable Design Thinking, International Trade and Migration, Strategic Management in the Public Sector, and Economic Law and Innovation. I would not recommend Sustainable Design Thinking, as the final grade was solely based on a presentation after weeks of completely different project work—something that was not disclosed upfront. On the other hand, I highly recommend Economic Law and Innovation for students interested in corporate law, as it provides valuable insights, with a mix of purely theoretical frameworks and actual Italian court cases. However, students should manage their expectations, as some professors provided important information only in Italian (as a side note during class) or did not upload any material at all. The welcome day was another disappointment, as despite being designed for international students, the session was, at some point, conducted in Italian, and staff members were unable to provide clear guidance on class registration, document submissions and answering questions from fellow incoming students.

**3. Accommodation**

Finding accommodation in Rome was similar to my experience in Spain—I used SpotAHome, which I recommend booking as early as possible due to the limited availability of quality options. Also, as of now, there is a cooperation between the website and the UR3, which offers a discount

code for bookings through SpotAHome. I lived 15 minutes by bus from the university, but getting to the city center took nearly an hour, which proved to be a concern later on during my stay. Housing costs in Rome are significantly higher than in Trier, Germany; renting a room in a shared apartment close to the city center can cost at least €1,000 per month. Planning ahead is crucial to securing an affordable and convenient place to stay.

#### **4. Financial Aspects**

The cost of living in Rome is generally lower than in Germany, particularly when it comes to groceries, which are noticeably cheaper. Eating out, however, can vary greatly depending on the area—tourist locations are expensive, while local spots offer more budget-friendly options. Public transportation was another significant challenge, with frequent strikes occurring at least three times a month, mostly on Mondays and Fridays, which made commuting unreliable. Despite these challenges, Rome offers many affordable leisure activities, such as exploring historic landmarks and local culture.

#### **5. Conclusion**

Overall, my Erasmus experience in Rome was good but somewhat disappointing. I initially had a romanticized vision of living in Italy, and while the city's beauty exceeded my expectations, many practical aspects fell short. The limited course options in English, lack of student support, and chaotic administration made it a challenging experience. However, it taught me to become more independent and resilient. I would recommend this experience to students who are self-sufficient, adaptable, and passionate about Italy or have a strong desire to live in Rome. If you are considering studying at UR3, be prepared to navigate challenges on your own and embrace the "learn by doing" approach.