

Why Venice?

First of all, as I've been architectural student I found this city very inspirational in terms of environment and city poetics. The second, all of us know Italy as joyful country where you can relax and enjoy simple life moments. Perhaps, Venice is a very slow city, so if one needs a break from studies, it's achievable for future thesis students who just want to take a breath before the final dash.

The student lifestyle in Venice is quite relaxing and joyful, but if one has an intention to make "Project -X" here it's not an appropriate city. What was good news, that everything works until late night including supermarkets and small snack and coffee bars. In general, the city has very special vibe, providing with the live music, street performances and tasty food and drinks.



Accommodation. What one should be aware of.

It is problem to find a good accommodation in Venice, especially if one wants to live on the island. It is expensive, shared room in apartment costs approximately 400-500 euro depending on location. However, the price tag on the island is higher than in continental part, but it is really worth to find a place in the city in terms of safety and aesthetics. Venice has zero crime level, while continental part near the city has some specific moments one should be aware of. I strongly recommend to start looking for a room as soon as possible and get the room on the island.



However, the city of Venice is full of tourists, the city does not really speak English well. More or less it is possible to communicate in stores, and popular places. Warning to the future international IUAV students, mostly the classes in Italian and university doesn't really adapt to students from abroad. There is no Italian course taught in IUAV. One can take Italian course in Ca' Foscari university for free for the Ca' Foscari students and for 200-400 euros depending on course intensity for students from other universities. Application for course is closed super early, so it is important to do this thing as early as possible.

When it comes to leisure time, that is priority important for students, local bars are absolutely the most recommended places to go. It has very nice atmosphere with live music and Venetian drinks and snacks. Personally for me it was a big pleasure to drink and eat next to the channel. Usually nice music from the nearest bars and restaurants is accompanied the streets, so when it is warm sun bathes with food and drinks are highly recommended.

Venice: walking city and cultural "boom" of numbers of museums and architectural heritage

I walked as much as I could, I was curious and turned to every tiny street I saw. So what I would recommend to the students who decide to go there is to walk and explore a lot. Fondamenta San Giobbe next to the Ca Foscari provides you with amazing view on the mountains. Take a Sicilian 'cannoli' (famous Italian bakery). Gallery Tedeschi has incredible interior and terrace with panoramic view of the city. Almost every street has a nice view, as well as every bakery has super tasty bakery or snacks.



In February, during the carnival one can find performances and cultural events everywhere around the city. It is a perfect time to know Venetian traditions and the way people treat their culture. Certainly, there are super a lot of people, so better to avoid poplar streets, but once to find some secret ways which are used by locals, the walk can turn to incredible narration of Venice.



Would I recommend the city and the University of Venice to other students?

The city of Venice is great in terms of relaxation and opportunity even to be a bit lazy. However, the city is calm and slow I felt quite intense because of the tourists. Venice has been very touristic during whole year without any breaks. It was quite challenging for me to get used to it, but with time I started using local strategies in terms of how to avoid crowds of tourists it became a bit easier. Actually, living the local life opens the city from the different views and at some point I could see Venice for tourists and Venice for inhabitants.

When it comes to university, personally for me it was challenging to adapt to the its system. Despite that support team in mobility office did their best, most of the professors do not speak English well and even some courses which were mentioned in the program as English taught courses were taught in Italian. But I was lucky with chosen courses which were taught by professors who used to work in Switzerland and Germany. I was happy to participate in the workshop of professor Pascolo (pascolo@iuav.it) and his assistants. It was really nice to work with professor Romagnoni (pierca@iuav.it) and professor Munari (mariacristina.munari@epfl.ch) during their sustainability course. I was happy to take a course of professor Garbin (egarbin@iuav.it), who was the only one professor who strictly separated English taught course from the Italian one.

Another thing that worked completely different for me is time management. I strongly would not recommend to take fall semester in IUAV because of the overlapping with the Liechtenstein university schedule. The lectures start only in the middle of October and the end of semester is in the end of February, that does not work well with the schedule of future thesis students. In any case, I consider this experience as very unique and diverse.