

**Saint-Petersburg State University**  
**International Relations Office**

**EXCHANGE STUDENTS' REPORT**

Please complete this form and send it to Scientific and Academic Cooperation/Students Exchange Dept.  
nechaeva@ir.pu.ru, fax +7 /812/ 3240788. Thank you.

**TO BE FILLED OUT ELECTRONICALLY**

The international experience you have gained while the exchange period at St.Petersburg University is the unique practice you will remember all your life. It can also help other students when they are planning for their exchange. To make sure that prospective students have a chance to learn from your experience you are required to submit the **Exchange Students' Report**.

Please complete the form and **return by email to nechaeva@ir.pu.ru**.

When filling in the returned student report try to remember the sort of things that you wanted to know before you went on exchange, be honest in your responses and try to avoid simply giving yes/no answers.

Please do not hesitate to contact Scientific and Academic Cooperation/Students Exchange Dept. staff if there are any issues you would like to discuss regarding your exchange experience.

<b>Name:</b>	Polina Kotkina
<b>Home faculty at SPSU</b>	Economic Faculty
<b>Exchange Study Period</b>	6 months
<b>Host Institution</b>	Bologna University

Do you give permission for prospective exchange students to contact you if they have questions? **Yes**

If yes, please give your preferred email address: Polinakot86@mail.ru

## ***The Host Institution***

What influenced your decision to select the host institution that you went to?

I've read a lot about this University in the Internet. Bologna University has a very strong economic school. I also had a lot of good references from previous exchange students.

Please describe the location of the host institution.

Bologna is situated in the North of Italy, region Emilia-Romagna. Bologna is a unique city in Europe where everything is devoted to University. University is located in the center of the city.

Please describe the courses that you took while on exchange. What were their pros and cons?

I took the following courses: Project Management, Risk Management, corporate Governance, New Markets, Econometrics, Business Venturing. The strongest advantage of the courses is that they are aimed at practical application and all contain a lot of group tasks for student which develops important skills of a team work. At the same time sometimes I felt that courses could be enlarged with more wide theoretical base.

How did course content, class size, marking, etc compare with St. Petersburg State University?

Course content depends on the profile of Master Program, For example in St.Petersburg I specialize on WTO, so the courses devoted to international trade are very strong, while in Bologna course on international trade regulation is more short and less informative. At the same time courses on management are very strong. Classes size are equal to that of St.Petersburg. Marking is different. Marks are ranging from 1 to 30 points. The mark usually consists of final exam (50-70%) the rest of the mark students have to get by their active class participation, group works, presentations etc.

Did you find the academic and international office staff helpful?

Yes. They are very polite and always eager to help.

Please describe the resources available to exchange students (i.e. computers, the library).

All resources which are available for ordinary students are available for exchange students. There are a lot of libraries in University and they have one search base which is very comfortable. Libraries are quite big. I found almost all information I needed for my Master Thesis and for current studies. Besides on the territory of the faculty there is free WI-FI and a special zone for students to study. Comfortable conditions of studies give a lot of incentives to study more.

Did you experience any language or cultural difficulties at the host institution?

No

Do you think that going on exchange contributed to your academic and personal development? If so, how?

## ***Practical***

### ***Accommodation***

Please describe the accommodation options available to exchange students.

There is special organization called SAIS and Bussola which helps students to find appropriate accommodation. Beside that there a lot of private announcements on the streets, so if one has no language problems can search directly. But services of Bussola and SAIS are free and accommodations are checked and reliable.

How expensive were the accommodation options?

Rather expensive. A bit higher then in St.Petersburg. On average a room costs 300-350 euros.

What type of accommodation would you recommend?

I would recommend to rent a room together with another person. I would also ecommend to rent a room where communal costs are included in monthly payment since heating is very expensive and it's better to pay a fixed price.

### ***Food***

Did you have self-catering facilities or were meals provided with your accommodation?

No. I cooked for me and eat in University canteen.

Was food expensive?

Equal to the prices in St.Petersburg.

Where is the best place to shop?

Hypermarket COOP

How much does it cost to eat out at a local restaurant/café?

Depends on the type of café. To have a moderate lunch in a café would cost approx 7 euro.

### ***Transport***

Please describe the local transport options.

Public transport is well-developed. At night it doesn't work. Trains are rather cheap in comparison with other European countries.

Was it expensive to use local transport? Please give an example of the costs.

Buses – 30 eur per month for the month card.

### ***Personal Safety***

Did you find the city in which you stayed safe?

Yes

Do you have any safety advice for other exchange students?

Simple rules of safety: look at your bag properly everywhere. Don't think that there are no pick-pocketers in Italy.

### ***Highlights***

Briefly describe the highlights of your exchange experience.

It was a very important experience for me. I think each student should have such experience. I opened a lot of new not only in Italy but in myself as well.

### ***Problems***

Briefly describe any problems you experienced and any suggestions you may have to help others avoid them.

I had problems while searching for a flat since didn't know some regulations here in Ital. That is why I would advise everybody to address special agencies so to get all clarifications.  
I had difficulties with some courses chosen since they appeared to be different from what I expected. I strongly advice students before choosing courses contact your tutor in the Host University so to avoid these problems.

### ***Other Comments***

Do you have any further comments?

No

The information given in this Report CAN BE PUBLISHED on the Internet \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for taking the time to share your exchange experiences in this report.

Please save your report as a **Word document** and email a copy to [nechaeva@ir.pu.ru](mailto:nechaeva@ir.pu.ru)

Date: 11 March 2010  
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Name: Polina Kotkina  
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