

# Blended Intensive Program – Education Towards a Sustainable Future

Florence 5th – 10th May 2025

Experience Report [REDACTED]

The Bip started with an introductory online meeting one week before the trip started. They explained to us the timetable of the following week and we got a little time to introduce ourselves. In my opinion this was rather unnecessary as most cameras were turned off and we had little time to speak. Also the programm for the next week was repeated several times throughout the week and information was available on the online learning platform that we used. Nevertheless, it was good to see the faces that we will meet in near future.

The time on site was absolutely fantastic, we went to Florence two days before the program started to get to know the city. We stayed in a travellers hostel just outside the city center, where we could meet many great people. Later it turned out that some of the students from the bip also stayed with us, so we could walk to uni together.

We enjoyed the first days and saw much of the culture. I would really recommend to go there earlier or stay later if you don't know Florence as throughout the week after classes there was not much time to go to museums, etc.

The study program itself was super interesting and the people we got to know were really inspiring. The first days we had some lectures about sustainability and how to evolve your character to live more sustainably. In the following days we did several creative workshops applying those theories, working together and thought about the future and our way of thinking. We visited an ancient villa and garden outside of Florence and the botanic garden in the city. We got to see many "magical" places within the university and outside. After classes we often got a gelato or some other snacks with a group of people from the course and explored the city a little.

The stay in Florence was a truly inspiring experience, I learned a lot and formed some meaningful connections. Also the Erasmus funding that we received (+social top up) was enough to cover most of my expenses and the trip back and fourth.

Being back in Cologne we had a week to fill out a Portfolio about what we learned about sustainability and how we are planning to implement it in our future life. We had another online meeting talking about what we wrote and looked for similarities. It was sad to say goodbye.

I can only recommend it to everyone thinking about applying, it is absolutely worth it!!