

**Ciao!** In Italian, that means hello. I am here to tell you about my month long trip that I had while in Milan, Italy through the College of Education! This trip was amazing - not only was I in Italy traveling around, but I was also in a classroom observing for clinicals, but also taking TCH 110 and 210! I traveled and experienced this trip with 18 other fellow Education majors, and two Education advisors, Sarah Dolan and Derrek Drenckpohl.



Our observations were held at an international school called the American School of Milan. I was able to see multiple different classrooms with students of all ages. This was so amazing due to how diverse ASM was. Now, in Europe, diverse has very different meaning than in the United States. I saw students from all over: England, Switzerland, Spain, Russia, France, Germany, etc. Some of these children were bi, tri, or multilingual! ASM was such an amazing experience that it made open my eyes to a different interpretation of ESL (English as a Second Language) students and a hope to teach internationally during my future career as an Educator.

The reason I enjoyed this trip so much was due to the balance that this specific program had. I was able to go to school and observe, do the weekly assignments for TCH 110 and 210, and still explore Italy. I traveled to so many locations in such a small amount of time which is such an accomplishment. I only ventured around Italy, but other students on the trip traveled to Spain, Greece, Switzerland, France, and England! In Italy, I visited Como, Florence, Venice, Cinque Terre, Modena, Verona, and of course, Milan.

Como and Florence were trips that Sarah and Derrek had planned for all of the students to travel to together. Como was only a day trip: I took a tour along the Lake and ate the best gelato I had while in Italy. Florence was two days of walking and exploring. We climbed to the top of Santa Maria del Fiore, saw the Uffizi Gallery and the David statue. My favorite church of Italy was located here in Florence, called Santa Croce. We also went to a leather school and

learned how leather is made since Florence is the city of leather. I traveled to Venice with my mom (who surprised me) and my aunt. Venice is all on water, so we used water taxis to mostly get around the 2 day we stayed there. Venice is known for lace and Murano glass. Cinque Terre ("five lands") was my favorite place that I traveled to BY FAR! It is located right along the coast of the Mediterranean Sea and has 5 villages. Modena was a stop on my travel list due to the fact that it is where part of *Master of None* was filmed. This small cute little town is known for producing Balsamic. Verona was not all that I wanted it to be - I ended up getting heat exhaustion in this famous Romeo and Juliet city. I got to see Juliet's balcony and tomb before I had to go home due to getting sick. Last but certainly not least, Milan.

Milan was where I called "home" while being in Italy. I lived 10 minutes away from the Duomo, which is the 5th largest cathedral in the entire world! Sarah and Derrek planned for us to see *The Last Supper*, which is painted on a wall in Milan church. They also planned for us to go to Teatro alla Scala, which is the Opera House; we watched *La Boheme*, which is the opera that Rent is based off of. My favorite part of Milan, however, was the Navigli canals. These canals were located 10 mins in the opposite direction of my apartment than the Duomo. My favorite of these five canals was the Naviglio Grande. A bridge is built over this, and depending on which way you face you either see a breathtaking sunset or restaurants and shops lit up during the nightlife. This was where I cried my last night when I realized it was time to leave.



Italy, I miss you dearly, but I know that we will meet again. "Non è arrivederci, vederti presto"