

**REPORT AL RIENTRO DELL'ESPERIENZA DI SCAMBIO -  
A.A. 2013/2014**

<b>_Cognome</b>	<b>LIU</b>
<b>_Nome</b>	<b>LINGZI</b>
<b>_Matricola</b>	<b>797563</b>
<b>_Anno di corso</b>	<b>2.LM</b>
<b>_Corsi di studi</b>	<b>DESIGN DEGLI INTERNI</b>
<b>_Sezione</b>	<b>I3</b>
<b>_e-mail</b>	<b>lingzi.liu@mail.polimi.it</b>
<b>_Sede di scambio</b>	<b>Kymenlaakso University of Applied Sciences</b>
<b>_Stato</b>	<b>FINLAND</b>
<b>_ID ERASMUS (per sedi in EU)</b>	<b>SF KOTKA06</b>
<b>_Semestre svolto all'estero</b>	<b>2°</b>

**Testo**

From January to May 2014 I spent one semester at the Kymenlaakso University of Applied Sciences in Kouvola, Finland. It has been a great experience and left me a wonderful memory. I chose to go to Finland because I was very interested in Scandinavia design and I was hoping to learn something about wooden design. I also found out a lot of trips were organized for foreign students in Finland universities, so it would be a great chance to be close to the nature and get to know the Finnish culture. Finally, in this country people speak English currently, and improving my English was another goal for which I chose to participate the Erasmus programme.

**University**

The university is situated in Kouvola, a small city in the south of Finland. Life was not very convenient in that little town especially for the foreign students, but luckily, the university took care of everything and provided me a student flat. KYAMK organized a tour of the campus and they gave a lot of information about the school and the city. I fell in love with the campus of KYAMK as soon as I got there. There was a group of beautiful red brick buildings situated right in the middle of the forest. The school provides great facilities for both the students and the teachers. In the main building there're lots of computer rooms with internet access for everyone. And you can find printers on each floor. Further more, there's a big mensa which offers meal with very reasonable price. Thanks for the tutorial system of the university, I didn't have any trouble fitting in the new environment and I felt welcomed by the school and the Finnish students.

**Study**

I chose Art and Design History and Color Studio in the semester. Even though both of them are in Finnish, the professors are very nice to me and they would stay after class to explain the subject and give me some instructions about the work I need to do. The education system in Finland is quite different from Italy and my home country, the content of the lectures is not very difficult compared to those in Politecnico. Nevertheless the Finnish educational system has some great advantages. The students are divided into small classes (never more than 20-30 people), so the teachers could have more time with each student to help us with the works. And there's always a really good relationship between students and teachers. Also, independent work has a really high

standard in Finland so that it depends on you how much work and effort you put into projects and the teachers would give us a lot of freedom to work on our project.

Although it was a pity that I haven't got the chance to take part of the wood academy course in KYAMK. I still found the course I chose useful during the my master period since they're both theoretical course and the basic art and design theory can back me up when i work on my project and thesis in the future. Also I'm very grateful for all the help the teachers and the students gave me during the semester. And learning from how the Finnish student study and work was also a very unique experience for me.

### Life

It was the nature of Finland and the amazing people I met there that I miss the most about the Erasmus life. The suburban areas of Kouvola offer many possibilities for sports and relaxing. The student union organized some trips for the Erasmus students, which are a great opportunity to enjoy Finland's beauty. I've always been attracted to foreign countries, I believe being a design student, I can benefit a lot by seeing more of the world and different cultures.

### Conclusion

The Erasmus life definitely changed my life. It has been 6 months full of experiences, discoveries and adventures. I gained self-confidence by realizing I was able to manage on my own in a totally new environment. And it is wonderful to meet people from different backgrounds and cultures all over the world. Above all, not only I learned from the lessons I took, though this unforgettable journey I also learned more about myself.

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Autorizzo al trattamento dei miei dati personali ai sensi del Decreto Legislativo n. 196/03 da parte del Politecnico di Milano.

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