

Interview with Alessio Martucci (Erasmus 2007–2008 & 2010 | Intercultural German Studies & Études Francophones)

At the end of April 2025, I had the pleasure of meeting Alessio Martucci and his colleague on the Bayreuth campus. Alessio currently works as the Erasmus Coordinator in the International Relations Office of the Università degli Studi "G. d'Annunzio" Chieti–Pescara, a partner of UBT in Italy. He is also a former exchange student who studied at the University of Bayreuth twice.

This time, he was visiting Bayreuth on a private holiday. Nevertheless, he stopped by our International Office to reconnect with his former language teacher, Thorsten Parchent, meet current exchange students from his home university, and kindly agreed to an interview with the Bayreuth International Alumni Services team. In the conversation, he reflected on his study exchange experience in Bayreuth and shared insights into this partner university in Italy.



Why did you choose Bayreuth for your Erasmus exchange?

In 2007, I heard about Bayreuth through my cousin, who had attended a summer school there. His positive experience inspired me to apply for an Erasmus exchange to the University of Bayreuth for the winter semester 2007/08.

What were your first impressions when you arrived?

The first thing I noticed was how well-organized everything was. All the course information and documents were available in advance. However, I also experienced some culture shock — for example, the strict bus schedules and the detailed recycling system, where glass bottles must be sorted by color before being recycled.

What were some of your most memorable moments in Bayreuth? And what was your favourite place?

The ISN (International Student Network) pick-up service was incredibly helpful when I arrived and even inspired me to get involved in the ESN (Erasmus Student Network) when I returned to Italy.

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I made many friends in the student dormitory and am still in touch with several of them today via Facebook and WhatsApp — yes, I belong to the “older” generation! I frequently played indoor football and was amazed that the university sports pass only cost €20 at the time.

One of my favourite places was the cafeteria in the Mensa. I know it might sound unusual, but rather than studying in the library, I found I could concentrate really well there and ended up spending a lot of time studying. Another unforgettable experience was taking five exams in a single day — something I’ll always remember!

Did anything interesting happen because of the language barrier?

Yes, definitely! Once, I went to the doctor, and the receptionist told me to wait in the Wartezimmer (waiting room). But I misheard it as Badezimmer (bathroom) and got completely confused!

Another time, I was at the pharmacy and needed hydrogen peroxide. It was before smartphones and Google Translate, and I didn’t know the German term, so I had a hard time explaining what I was looking for.

I also picked up some local slang along the way — for example, “Servus” and “Mahlzeit”.

You returned to Bayreuth again in 2010 — why, and what was different?

Yes, I came back in the summer of 2010 because of the wonderful experience I had in 2007/08. One major difference was that I didn’t have the Erasmus grant this time, so I worked part-time — both in the university cafeteria (my favourite place) and at the Mexico Bar Enchilada.

The cost of living felt higher during my second stay, but it was still a very valuable experience.

Could you tell us about your career path before you took up your current position?

After my studies, I began working as a German teacher at a private school and later at a university. I also worked at a hotel reception in Roccarsao — a beautiful mountain town 1,500 metres above sea level. Each of these experiences deepened my understanding of intercultural communication and strengthened my ability to work with international guests and students.

In addition, I was a football referee — even during my time in Bayreuth, where I officiated friendly matches.

What do you do in the International Relations Office?

I work in the International Relations Office, where I focus on Erasmus mobility, supporting both incoming and outgoing students. Since 2018, I’ve been working directly with Erasmus students and partners, including Bayreuth. The main focus of my work is Erasmus for Traineeships. I support and encourage students to look for internship opportunities abroad and assist them throughout the process to make their experience possible. To help them in their search, I also organise information sessions with experts in the field

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Would you like to introduce your university to UBT students and what can they expect in Chieti–Pescara?

Università degli Studi “G. d’Annunzio” is located between the Adriatic Sea and mountains, with national parks just 30 minutes away. The city is small and very livable. We offer courses in English — for example in Medicine and Psychology — and we also have several language courses, for example Italian preparation courses, English, and French. The admission requirement is Italian B1 level or English B2 level. Chieti–Pescara is a good Erasmus destination for students who want a high quality of life, warm nice weather, good food, and an authentic Italian environment. There are direct flights to Memmingen, which makes travel easier, and our ESN section is very active.

Final thoughts?

Currently, the exchange cooperation is limited to the Faculty of Languages. I look forward to the further development and expansion of the partnership between our two universities — with more students being sent and welcomed on both sides.

Photo & Interview conducted by Bayreuth International Alumni Services on 28. April 2025