

The cost of living and of doing research

A SURVEY CONDUCTED AMONG THE PHD STUDENTS
OF THE NASP – UNIVERSITY OF MILAN



- Network for the Advancement of the Social and Political Studies:



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI
DI BRESCIA



UNIVERSITÀ
CATTOLICA
del Sacro Cuore



UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI
STUDI DI GENOVA



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI
DI MILANO



UNIVERSITÀ DEL PIEMONTE ORIENTALE



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI
DI TORINO
ALMA
UNIVERSITAS
TAURINENSIS

- 3 international PhD programmes (taught in English):
 - Economic Sociology and Labour Studies
 - Political Studies
 - Sociology and Methodology of Social Research

- Started 29th «cycle»/«cohort» (2013-2014).

29° Cycle

ESLS	10
POLS	15
SOMET	11

**Total number of
PhD students 36**

30° Cycle

ESLS	13
POLS	12
SOMET	7

**Total number of
PhD students 32**

- Total number: **68** PhD students.
- Survey respondents: **61** (90%).

1. Housing question

- Place of residence:

- **Milan 73%**

- **Within Lombardy region 10%**

- **Other region in Italy 5%**

- **Abroad 12%**

- **62%** of Nasp PhD students **moved** to Milan.
- Average cost of relocation: **€ 1,380**
- Waiting time for first scholarship: **2-3 months**.
- **11** PhD students have **other people dependent on their income**.

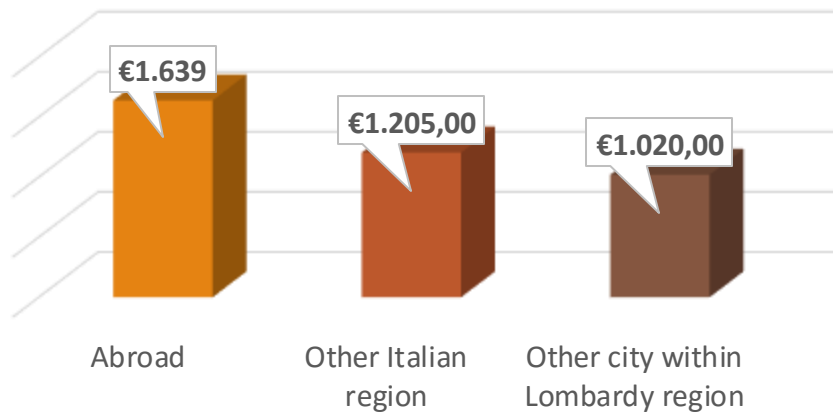
1. Housing question

AVERAGE RELOCATION COST: € 1.380

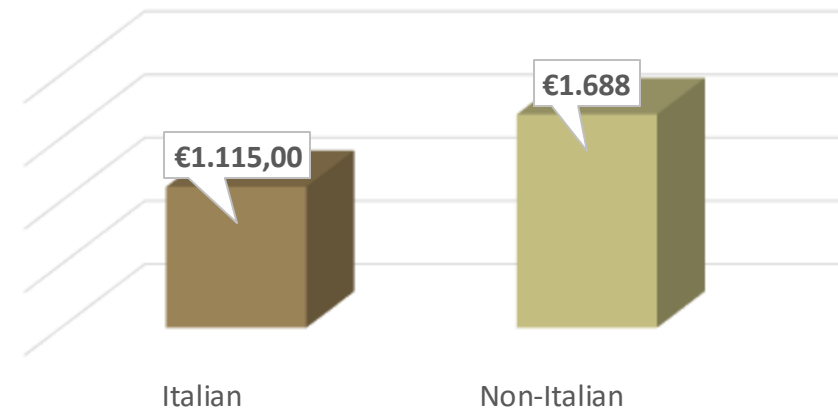
Inclusive of:

- Transportation
- Rent
- Deposit
- Visa/residence permit cost (non-EU)
- Other expenses

By previous place of residence



By nationality



1. Housing question

- Residents in Milan:
 - Average housing cost € 491.16
 - **48.2% of monthly scholarship.**

- Overall:
 - Average housing cost € 479.82
 - **47% of monthly scholarship.**

(3 PhD students living with their family of origin not included.)

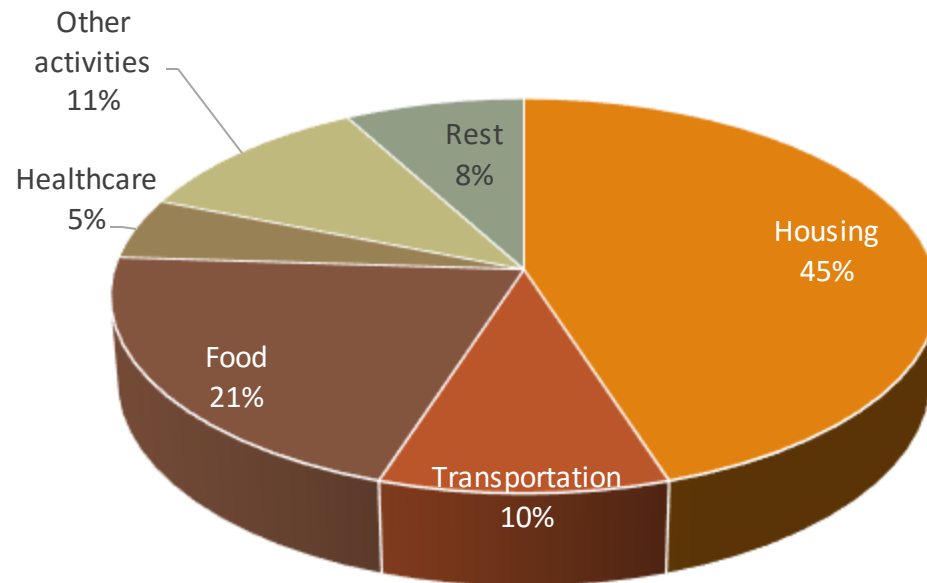
2. Transportation

- Monthly urban pass:
 - € 22 – € 35
- Average cost of transportation (inclusive of bus, train, season tickets):
 - € 105
 - **10.3% of monthly scholarship.**

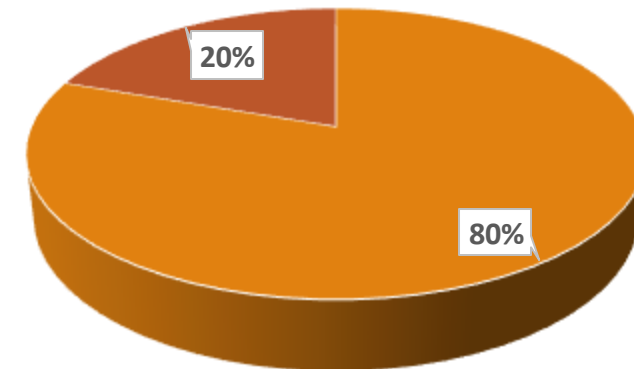
3. Food

- Around via Pace (main venue for academic activities):
 - **Minimum cost** € 4,50 per meal.
- The **average cost** of eating out once per day would add up to **€ 120 per month**.
- Average expense in food and eating:
 - Inclusive of the cost of food shopping.
 - Around **€ 210**.
 - Around **21% of monthly scholarship**.

Allocation of costs



- Housing expenses (€ 456)
 - Cost of transportation (€ 105)
 - Food expenses (€ 210)
 - Healthcare (€ 46)
- require using over **80% of the monthly scholarship** (€ 817).



■ Housing + Healthcare + Transportation + Food ■ Rest

Cost of doing research

- Meetings with academic supervisor.
 - Meetings, seminars, and other academic activities at Nasp partner universities.
 - Other academic activities unrelated to the teaching activity of the PhD programme:
 - Courses
 - Summer/spring/winter schools
 - Conferences
 - Field research
- Costs refunded within 3-4 months, but paid in advance by individual PhD students.
- Visits to family of origin.

Average cost of a monthly meeting:



Average yearly expense: € 413.25

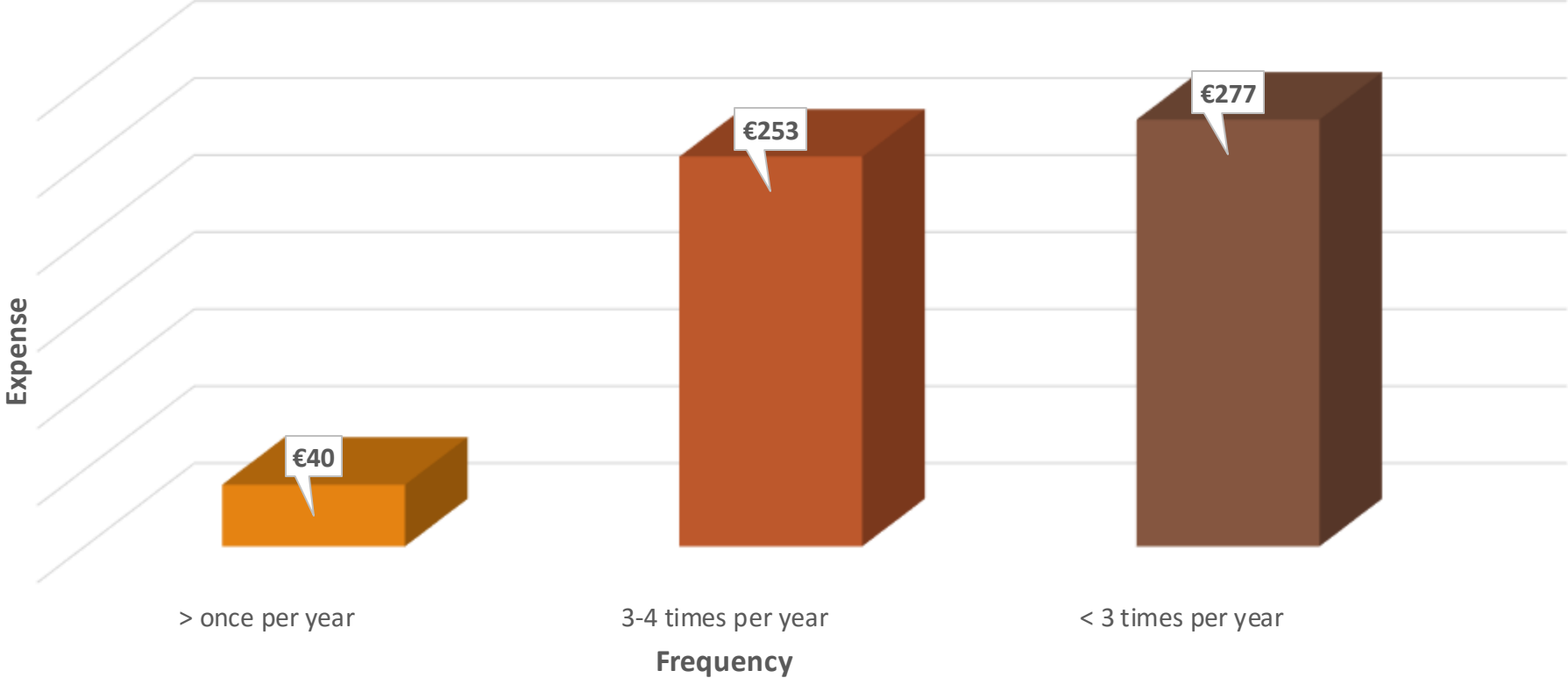
- 1st year: € 322.56
- 2nd year: € 562.56

(Note that PhDs may self-limit the frequency of meeting their supervisors due to budget reasons)

Cost of doing research

- **Starting from the 2nd year** PhDs are entitled to a **research fund** amounting to 10% of the yearly scholarship
 - **€ 1,364/year**
- If the academic supervisors are affiliated to a different university, the bare cost of meeting them amounts to **41%** of the research fund.
- Research costs are refunded on average **3-4 months** after the date of application.
- To face all of the costs above, PhD students only have **8% of their scholarship** available.

Family visits



Money-related claims

- **Increase of PhD scholarship.**
- Refund of transportations costs to other partner universities for academic activities.
- Research funds starting from the 1st year.
- Relocation funds for moving to Milan at the beginning of the PhD.
- Lunch vouchers.