

AUTRICHE –FHW der WKW

Agenda¹

| | | |
|------|---|---|
| I. | Your overall feeling after your semester abroad..... | 2 |
| II. | Before the travel..... | 2 |
| A. | Preparation..... | 2 |
| 1. | Visa..... | 2 |
| 2. | The flight..... | 2 |
| 3. | My luggage..... | 2 |
| 4. | Bank account..... | 2 |
| 5. | Insurance..... | 2 |
| B. | Housing..... | 3 |
| 1. | Where to live..... | 3 |
| 2. | Find a flat or a room..... | 3 |
| 3. | Cost..... | 4 |
| III. | When I arrive at the university..... | 4 |
| A. | Inscription at the university..... | 4 |
| B. | Information on the university..... | 4 |
| 1. | Courses..... | 4 |
| 2. | Advice on “contrat d’étude”..... | 5 |
| IV. | When I life there..... | 5 |
| A. | Safety..... | 5 |
| B. | Phone and Internet..... | 6 |
| C. | Events..... | 6 |
| D. | Sports..... | 6 |
| E. | Eating..... | 6 |
| F. | Go to the university : bus, car, bike..... | 6 |
| G. | Travels..... | 6 |
| H. | Any other information you would have liked to know about..... | 7 |

¹ To update the agenda just click right on your moose

I. Your overall feeling after your semester abroad

It was a really a wonderful experience, I can say that I learned a lot about myself and learned to connect with different cultures and people around the world (such as people coming from America, Canada, Netherlands...). I really had time to explore the city even though I feel like there is much more to see, especially during summer. The university itself has an interesting program that really combines courses that were attractive to me. There were some courses that were like others, but overall, they really make sure to give you content that build ups a logical thinking related to International Business area.

A. Preparation

1. Visa

I didn't need a Visa to go to Austria as I already had a European passport and that passport allows you free circulation around European countries.

2. The flight

I took a Ryanair flight from Barcelona as I was currently there after Christmas holidays. It was quite expensive considering that I had two big luggage's and one small carry-on, but I believe that you can find cheaper ones departing from Marseille.

3. My luggage

Since I was rolling into a summer semester I arrived in Vienna during winter and for me, compared to Montpellier, it was cold, windy, and rainy so make sure to take big winter jackets, gloves, and hats as well as boots and socks for the winter. Also, proper skin care as in cream, sunscreen etc. Nevertheless, I also had to include in my luggage summer clothes so make sure to properly divide your luggage in two seasons.

4. Bank account

I didn't change banks I used BNP Paribas same cards in Vienna. The only thing is that you need to make sure to find proper ATM's that don't charge you a fee every time you withdraw cash, sometimes they can be quite expensive compared to the amount that you want.

5. Insurance

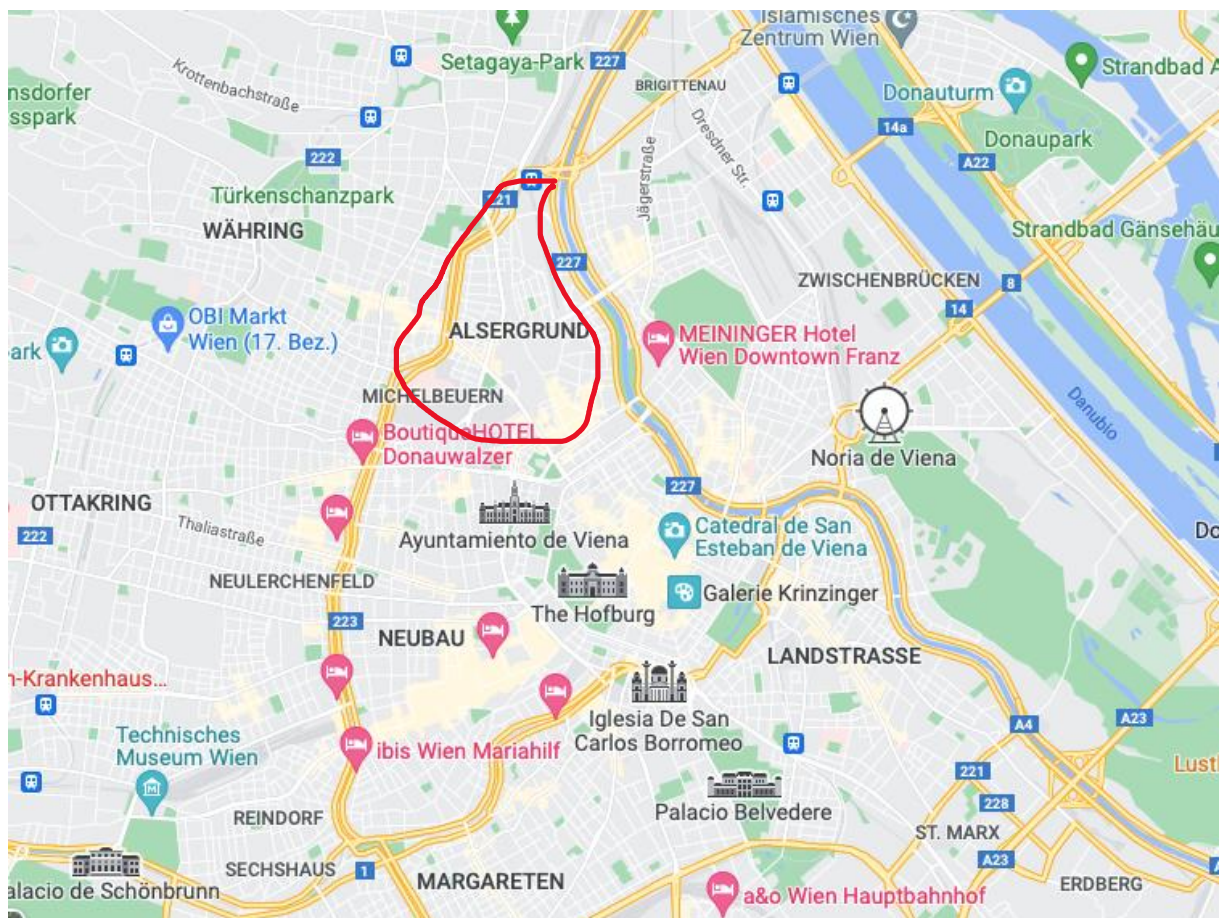
I used the same insurance company that I subscribed at MOMA, the company is called YVON and within the student insurance they also have international coverage.

B. Housing

1. Where to live

There is not an exact location where to live since all depends on the budget you have. It is safe to say that if you stay in the capital, all locations are reachable in no more than 40mi in ratio max and 20min ratio minimum. Public transport is effective and fast, and you have several ways to arrive to your destination.

Nevertheless, from my point of view I believe that one of the best areas to live would be around the university, you don't only save time to go to class but is also close to the city center and popular areas of Vienna are more reachable by foot. I also had some friends that were living in the 9th district that said that it was also an area close to the university and surrounded by parks, supermarkets, and close transport stations.



2. Find a flat or a room

I used the links that the university sent to find accommodation. I applied to several one's including all the available rooms as well from other students that were also going in exchange and leaving their rooms. At the end I choose one student dorm named Wihast in the 20th district, despite being one of the first ones to answer me, it was also one of the

cheapest ones. It was close to the Donau Island which is a frequented place during summer.

3. Cost

You can find affordable places in Vienna, especially if you find a shared flat. I would say that you need to plan for a budget for 320 minimum and for the shared flats you can find places up to 500-600 euros per month. It really depends on what you are looking for but make sure to choose with time, so you have enough options to choose.

II. When I arrive at the university

A. Inscription at the university

The university sends you an inscription email letting you know that you have been selected in the university. After that you will need to do some procedures online to create your student profile and be registered. The university also helps you to officially register in Vienna through the Meldezettel, which is a registration form confirming your stay in Vienna for the next 5-6 months. Once you got there the only thing you really need to do is to finalize your course schedule to make sure that you don't have any overlaps and pick up your student card all information that will be provided by the university.

B. Information on the university

1. Courses

The first class we had was Austrian Culture, in this course we learned about Austrian history and culture and the final exam was to make a presentation about our home university and city.

One of the first courses that I enrolled in was Business strategic and controlling, this course was intense for around 3 weeks, but the teacher was really experienced and taught us a lot of useful information that I believe is worth it. This course is intense but worth it at the end so I suggest that you really dig into it since you can learn a lot. The course is also composed by several case studies and one final case study at the end, make sure to pay attention from the beginning.

Change management was one of my favorite courses. Despite begin online, classes were interactive and make you think about the way you behave when there is a change. Final grade was class exercises at the end of each class that I was doing via moddle platform and one final paper and presentation at the end.

Cross-cultural management was also an interesting course since the teacher had a lot of experience. We were digging more the logical thinking on cross cultural scenarios rather than learning all the different terms and concepts in cross cultural relations. The final mark was composed by class exercises and one final case study.

I also enrolled in Innovation management. This course was also interesting for me since they make the link between theory and practice by inviting professionals on the course and giving us a deeper perspective about the different concepts. The course notation is based by several group homework's.

I also took Human resources class. The teacher was nice and experienced, she gave us a totally different perspective about human resources concepts and make sure that we understood the core ideas mostly by doing several cases studies along the program. She also makes sure that the information that we are studying is something that is going to be useful for the future, therefore she reorganizes her course and updates certain content.

Business ethics was one of the last courses we took. The teacher Is experienced but most of his class was doing examples and exercises based on the slides that he was presenting. It was an overall nice experience and I learned new information, nevertheless it was not one of my favorite courses since I already knew some of the concepts we were studying.

Public relations, crisis management and media training was an interesting course. It was self-paced which means that you have to make sure to not leave all the due assignments last minute, you don't necessarily have direct feedback, so you have to make sure to understand the instructions and then submit all the assignments or presentations on time.

I also took German class at a A2 level. The teacher is really understanding, and we always had fun during class, he didn't give a lot of homework since most of the exercises were done in class while he was guiding us through. The final exam was one oral and one written, if you pay attention from the beginning and do some of the exercise the course will follow just fine.

2. Advice on "contrat d'étude"

I choose an international business package to avoid any overlaps. Nevertheless, I also selected some courses that I was interested in so I mixed some of the programs to make sure that they were varied enough. It all depends on what you are looking for this semester. I strongly suggest that you try to explore courses that you didn't had the opportunity to explore on your career. Also make sure to read well all the course description since some of the course may be similar in content, so then you can select a large variety of courses that can teach you different things. The FHW der WKW program is complete in the sense that you can create your own program with the quantity of courses that fill your credits, just make sure to choose different ones and good back courses options since they will most probably be used due to overlaps

III. When I life there

A. Safety

Vienna is a safe city so I wouldn't say that there are places that you need to avoid. I would say that most of the metro terminals can be very lonely at night, but overall, there are always policeman's and lights everywhere, also metro works all day and night from Fridays to Sundays so you can arrive safely after a night out.

B. Phone and Internet

I use Orange phone server and in my package it was already included an international fee, therefore I already had internet and service when I arrived there. I suggest to, either change your phone server or upgrading It If you don't have this international feature.

C. Events

Since I arrived in winter, there was this nice ice-skating place close to the city hall I really recommend it! There is a lot of people and lights specially during the night so if you arrive earlier (before classes start) you will most certainly have the chance to do it.

D. Sports

I think that the university offers a list of sports/ teams that you can join. Is as simple as sending an email to the international relations office to make sure that you're on the list. If not, Vienna is a city surrounded by nature, so you will always have the chance to do some jogging or hiking.

E. Eating

Regarding restaurants, one of the most popular dishes I was eating was the kebab. You can basically find a Kebab stand near any plaza or the city center, they are not expensive. Other dish that is more typical is the wiener schnitzel sided with a potato salad. Also, a typical dish in Austria would be the Käsekrainer sausages, which you can also find in almost all the stands near the city center (stephanplatz).

F. Go to the university : bus, car, bike

For university I was either using the bus and then the metro or two consecutives' metros. As I already said before, public transport in Vienna is efficient and you can get anywhere in more less than 20-25min. For the public transport I paid a semestral ticket that allows you to use all the different public transports, I strongly suggest using it since it allows you to save a lot of money.

Another alternative to move around the city can be bike, there is an excellent bike system and bike routes everywhere allowing you to move smoothly and fast.

G. Travels

I didn't travel around Austria as much as I would have love to, I only hiked in lower Austria once and visited Graz during summer. I strongly advice to look in advance the places you want to visit in Austria before going, there are also events that ESN organizes trips around the country such as Hallstadt, therefore be sure to be attentive so you don't miss the opportunity.

Since Austria is a centric country itself, it is close to Budapest and Prague, places that aren't expensive in terms of transport and are no more than 3-4 hours away.

During my exchange I also visited Berlin and Belgium, via airplane and bus. A very popular destination in Erasmus was Croatia, but I strongly advice to visit It during summer since you can enjoy the nice weather and the beaches.

H. Any other information you would have liked to know about

Make sure to organize everything, especially with your landlord, for obtaining the Mezdeltelle. This can save you so much time and money since you need it for registering at the university and for the semestral ticket as well. Even if student dorms seem to be cheap, there are also cheap apartments that are in the city center or around the university where you can meet more locals and have your own place. So, unless you're running out of chances and time, take a step back and look deeper into shared apartments which I find more amusing and convenient.

IV. Photos